

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee 2024-25

Budget Estimates Hearings

Jaclyn Symes MP

Minister for Emergency Services

Friday 24 May 2024





Investment for critical projects in Victoria's emergency management capability

The 2024-2025 Victorian Budget includes:

- Funding to deliver new fleet assets for the CFA and FRV
- Significant funding boost across government to continue clean-up and recovery from the Summer Floods, Fires and Storms
- Funding to support the State Control Centre and the delivery of public warnings and communications
- Funding for VICSES training and facilities
- Investment in key water safety initiatives

Supporting Volunteers

Investment in VICSES Volunteer Training and Facilities

\$6.95 million to support training for volunteers, Incident Management Team training, cost for commercial leases and volunteer support programs.

More volunteers for CFA & VICSES

- Increase over the Summer period for CFA
- Increase over the Summer period for VICSES
- Increase in volunteers upskilling from Support to Operational
- Increase in women's participation

Volunteer grants

Almost \$15 million Volunteer Emergency Services Equipment Program grants awarded in 2023-24, further **\$15 million** available 2024-25 with applications close 14 June.

\$1.38 million in grants is available annually under the Valuing Volunteers Program for initiatives that strengthen and encourage volunteerism in Victoria.

Upgrading volunteer appliances

- Upgrading radio appliances for the CFA





New fleet for Victoria's fire services

Country Fire Authority – New urban pumpers

- **\$18.58 million** to replace 15 CFA primary response urban pumper appliances
- The vehicles are medium sized, designed for domestic structural firefighting with provision for breathing apparatus

Fire Rescue Victoria – New aerial platform pumpers

- **\$15.39 million** for replacement of 5 FRV aerial pumper platform appliances
- The new appliances will expand capability for elevated fire suppression and rescues to a height of 25 metres, road crash rescue support and emergency medical response

Disaster Relief and Recovery

The 2024-25 Victorian Budget provides over **\$300 million** across government for fire, flood and storm recovery from recent emergency events.

Key DJCS initiatives being funded include:

- **\$1.70 million** for the continuation of temporary accommodation for people impacted by the October 2022 flood events
- **\$2.03 million** for the 1800 Hotline and **\$22.35 million** for state led clean-up for communities impacted by the December 2023 – January 2024 Victorian floods and storms
- **\$1.41 million** for regional coordination and **\$56.21 million** for state led clean-up for communities impacted by the February 2024 Victorian bushfires and storms





Supporting Victorians during emergencies

Emergency Management Radio Network

- Investment to support improvements in Victoria's emergency management operational communications by uplifting Victoria's mission-critical Regional Mobile Radio and Metropolitan Mobile Radio networks

Critical Emergency Management Information and Warnings Systems

- **\$9.49 million** to continue Victoria's critical emergency information services, including the VicEmergency, and Emergency Management Common Operating Picture systems

State Control Centre Workforce

- **\$24.78 million** to enable the State Control Centre to continue leading Victoria's response during significant emergencies

Triple Zero Victoria - Next Generation Computer Aided Dispatch

- Work progressing to develop a more reliable and secure system to meet needs of Victorian community. Request for tender issued late 2023, vendor selection underway

Other key emergency management initiatives



Life Saving Victoria

\$9.11 million to continue Life Saving Victoria's public water safety interventions, including:

- volunteer and paid lifeguard services
- rescue watercraft
- aircraft and drone services
- support for public information, relations and messaging



Triple Zero Victoria established

- *Triple Zero Victoria Act 2023 (Vic)* commenced on 15 December 2023
- The Act establishes TZV as the new triple zero call taking and dispatch entity
- A new Interim Board and Operational Committee established



Rollout of VICSES heavy rescue trucks

Funding provided in 2023-24 budget for 35 replacement HRTs

- cab chassis and truck parts have commenced arriving.
- prototype is under production and will be tested in Q4 2024
- production will then commence with builder through new builders panel.
- deliveries of HRTs from later in 2024

Thank you

