

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Question No: 1

Portfolio: Emergency Services

Witness: Hon Jaclyn Symes MP, Minister for Emergency Services

Committee Member: Mr Danny O'Brien, Member for Gippsland

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Question: The total budget for EM capability is on page 155,153 of BP3 is \$1.729.2 m. Can you provide total spending breakdown of this for VICSES, FRV, CFA, TZV and LSV?

Reply:

The 2024-25 Budget of \$1,729.2 million for the Emergency Management Capability output cost on pages 155 and 153 of BP includes, but is not limited to, grant payments to Emergency Services Organisations.

The estimated grant payments to Emergency Services Organisations in 2024-25 include:

- VICSES \$74.9 million*
- FRV \$797.6 million*
- CFA \$337.6 million*
- TZV \$126.5 million
- LSV \$17.3 million

*Inclusive of budget managed by the department directly on behalf of Emergency Services Organisations, such as for Emergency Management Operational Communications.



Jaclyn Symes MP
Minister for Emergency Services

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Question No: 2

Portfolio: Emergency Services

Witness: Hon Jaclyn Symes MP, Minister for Emergency Services

Committee Member: Mr Danny O'Brien, Member for Gippsland

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Question: Can you provide a full breakdown of the CFA fleet and vehicle ages – how many we have got and how old they all are?

Reply:

Country Fire Authority (CFA) emergency response vehicle age profile (as of 1 July 2023*)

The below table includes emergency response vehicles only and includes both brigade-owned and CFA-owned vehicles.

	0-5 years	6-10 years	11-15 years	16-20 years	21-25 years	26-30 years	31-35 years	Total
Pumpers	13	38	88	48	15	14	2	218
Pumper tankers	1	0	19	1	9	7	1	38
Tankers	220	345	386	300	235	212	227	1,925
Specialist Response	30	45	23	23	10	11	0	142
Total	264	428	516	372	269	244	230	2,323

*In line with CFA's reporting processes, fleet age profile data is extracted annually. As such, the next data extraction will occur on 1 July 2024.



Jaclyn Symes MP
Minister for Emergency Services

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Question No: 3

Portfolio: Emergency Services

Witness: Kate Houghton, Secretary, Department of Justice and Community Safety

Committee Member: Mr Danny O'Brien, Member for Gippsland and Mr Nick McGowan, Member for North East Metropolitan

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Question: Can we ask for a breakdown of VICSES Fleet and vehicle ages?

Reply:

Victoria State Emergency Service (VICSES) emergency response vehicle age profile (as of 24 May 2024)

This table includes the full VICSES fleet and includes both unit-owned and VICSES-owned vehicles.

	0-5 years	6-10 years	11-15 years	16-20 years	21-25 years	26-30 years	31+ years	Total
Transport	97	25	12	9	1	1	0	145
General Trailer	115	72	40	12	4	3	3	249
Specialist Trailer	45	56	66	0	0	0	0	167
Driver Reviver Vans	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Rescue truck – light	5	26	14	0	0	0	0	45
Rescue truck – medium	32	22	40	0	0	0	0	94
Rescue truck - heavy	3	18	48	6	0	0	0	75
Operational support	149	128	10	10	1	1	1	300
Boats	37	27	15	3	0	0	0	82
TOTAL	489	374	245	40	6	5	4	1,163



Jaclyn Symes MP

Minister for Emergency Services

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Question No: 4

Portfolio: Emergency Services

Witness: Kate Fitzgerald, Deputy Secretary Emergency Management, Department of Justice and Community Safety

Committee Member: Mr Danny O'Brien, Member for Gippsland

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Question: How many firefighters are currently unable to perform their full duties due to the ongoing COVID-19 vaccine mandate with FRV?

Reply:

The Victorian Government and Fire Rescue Victoria take the health and safety of emergency service members seriously. FRV ensures its workplaces are, so far as reasonably practicable, safe and without risks to health and safety. Vaccination requirements for FRV firefighters is a matter for FRV.

I am advised the number of FRV employees currently not working due to non-compliance with the FRV COVID vaccination requirements is 18.



Jaclyn Symes MP

Minister for Emergency Services

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Question No: 5

Portfolio: Emergency Services

Witness: Hon Jaclyn Symes MP, Minister for Emergency Services

Committee Member: Mr Nick McGowan, Member for North East Metropolitan

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Question: Minister, on the FRV, I can see here from some of the statistics they were not able to meet their target response time – that is, 90 per cent for structural fires – in 2022. The actual was 83.7 per cent. There was some discussion within the department. I know there was a document released in respect to whether this was as a consequence of the cyber attack that occurred. Are you able to shed any light on that and whether in fact the paper operation that had to occur after the cyber attack has now ceased entirely and we are back up and running? So you resorted to using pen and paper because of a cyber attack on FRV's system.

Reply:

The cyber-attack in December 2022 shut-down the electronic and automated Station Turnout System (STO). Following the attack manual processes such as pagers, were temporarily used to dispatch crews. The STO was restored in August 2023. The decrease in Fire Rescue Victoria's response time performance in 2022-23 was caused by an increase in the time taken to 'turn out' (mobilise). This is the time it takes firefighters to depart the station after crews are dispatched to an incident. The time taken to arrive on scene, after leaving the station, remained constant. FRV's response times have improved since reinstatement of the STO.



Jaclyn Symes MP

Minister for Emergency Services