



State Recovery Coordination Group Partnership Forum Communique – 9 September 2021

It has been an honour to chair the State Recovery Coordination Group Partnership Forum since its inception in February, in the immediate aftermath of the fire. The forum has enabled stakeholders from across government agencies, local government, non-profits and other philanthropic groups, to actively share information and work together for the benefit of the community impacted by the Wooroloo bushfire.

The latest meeting took place on Wednesday 9 September, with the City of Swan and Shire of Mundaring providing comprehensive updates. The City advised of a new temporary building installed in Tilden Park as a recreational room. Including books, games and a kitchenette, the building provides airconditioned respite for residents in temporary accommodation. Further outreach by the Red Cross is also currently underway, with staff and volunteers visiting residents in the area to ascertain what other community needs exist.

The local governments and agencies are aware of the need to consider both Christmas and the one-year anniversary of the bushfire on 1 February, as affected community members may need extra support during these times. Residents will have the opportunity to provide their thoughts on appropriate ways to acknowledge the anniversary through conversations with their local recovery officers.

It was wonderful to hear an update on the Wooroloo Bushfire Residential Coordinated Clean-up Program, with work now complete on all 135 registered properties. This marks the end of the demolition and waste removal phase and is the result of a remarkable effort from all parties involved. An end of clean-up community event was held on Tuesday 7 September which provided an opportunity for residents and contractors to mingle and acknowledge the conclusion of the program.

Another exciting development is the organisation of a forum in late October to increase collaboration between all parties involved in operational recovery, as part of response and long-term State recovery. This follows on from a recent informal discussion between myself, Governor of Western Australia, His Excellency the Honourable Kim Beazley AC and the Australian Defence Force's (ADF) Brigadier Brett Chaloner CSC. An invitation will be extended to Brigadier Chaloner to speak to key stakeholders regarding ADF capabilities for future emergency events. Local governments will be invited to the Forum to share their on-the-ground experience.

Members of the Partnership Forum were also fortunate to receive a presentation from the Department of Communities on emergency preparedness, detailing the extent of their response to various emergencies across the State and many and varied challenges involved, including those brought about by COVID. I would like to thank the department for their commitment and dedication throughout the Wooroloo bushfire recovery thus far.

This was the last meeting of the SRCG Partnership Forum. In the absence of the Partnership Forum, the SRCG will continue to meet as required to ensure the State Government's involvement in recovery efforts remains coordinated. I wish to sincerely thank all members for their contributions and their dedication in supporting those community members impacted by the Wooroloo bushfire.