



RURAL FIRE DIVISION

WORKING TOGETHER TO MAKE OUR COMMUNITIES SAFER



**HON FRANCIS
LOGAN MLA
MINISTER FOR
EMERGENCY SERVICES**

For the first time ever, the Department of Fire and Emergency Services will have a division dedicated to rural and regional bushfire management.

The creation of the Rural Fire Division is a significant step forward for Western Australia to broaden and improve the focus of our emergency services to help keep our communities safe.

The Rural Fire Division is a new structure within the Department of Fire and Emergency Services, with its own Executive Director and its own budget.

It has been developed to meet the needs of our geographically diverse State and demonstrates the commitment from the McGowan Labor

Government to improve community safety and strengthen our emergency services.

At the heart of the division will be the greater coordination of resources and knowledge, and improved collaboration.

These are important components in improving bushfire management for our State.

The Rural Fire Division will focus on:

- Improved communications - including more support for volunteers and a greater focus on volunteer relations.
- Unprecedented mitigation funding with a \$35 million boost, bringing the total to an historic almost \$50 million. This funding will be targeted where it is needed most.
- Enhanced bushfire fighting skills and research - a first-of-its-kind \$18 million Bushfire Centre of Excellence will enhance volunteer training and develop new initiatives in fighting bushfires by leveraging local knowledge and bushfire science and research.
- Safer WA communities - spatial computer planning to identify the highest bushfire risks across local governments.

This division meets the intention of the Waroona Special Bushfire Inquiry to enhance rural and bushfire risk management at a State, regional and local level.

In a State as large and diverse as WA, it is critical that we all work together to address the bushfire risks that our communities increasingly face.



DARREN KLEMM
AFSM
FIRE AND
EMERGENCY
SERVICES
COMMISSIONER

The Rural Fire Division provides a new direction for emergency services that will enable greater collaboration between the Department of

Fire and Emergency Services, government agencies and bushfire volunteers.

The establishment of this new division is the first step towards a united approach to bushfire prevention and management across our vast, bushfire-prone State.

The Rural Fire Division will ensure we are tapping into that knowledge and expertise, and working alongside bushfire volunteers across the full scope of rural bushfire management. It will also give volunteers greater input into the decisions that are made at a State-wide level.

I'm excited to see this new chapter take shape and the impact it will have on creating safer communities. I look forward to collaborating with volunteers and government stakeholders as we work towards making Western Australia a safer and more resilient State.



MURRAY CARTER
EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR

The establishment of a Rural Fire Division is a historic investment into WA's bushfire resources, and one that puts a greater emphasis on mitigation, bush fire management, and listening to volunteers.

It will help us move the emphasis from responding to and recovering from major destructive bushfires, to better managing the risk of such bushfires occurring. Bushfires are inevitable but the work of the Rural Fire Division will mean we can increase efforts at minimising the scale and destruction of them through better risk management, planning and training.

Incorporating a Bushfire Centre of Excellence, the Office of Bushfire Risk Management, increased investment in Bushfire Risk Management Planning, and a focus on strengthening volunteer relations, the division will bring a more holistic approach to the way we tackle bushfires.

I am honoured to undertake the important role of harnessing the expertise and wisdom of the experts, the bushfire community, and I look forward to working with them all.

