

STATE BUDGET

2018-19

MINISTER FOR POLICE, EMERGENCY SERVICES AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES COREY WINGARD MP MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday 4 September 2018

Boosting the delivery of emergency services

South Australia will be bushfire ready thanks to a \$18.4 million funding boost of funds over the next four years, which will include an increase in the state's aerial firefighting fleet from 18 to 26 aircraft.

The Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Corey Wingard MP said an additional \$2.3 million per annum will be allocated to the Country Fire Service (CFS) over the next four years, starting this fire season.

"This funding will provide South Australia with access to more aerial firefighting resources as part of a national strategy," Minister Wingard said.

"This means there'll be a significant boost to the number of firefighting aircraft available to the CFS to support ground-based volunteer firefighters across the state."

The initiative coincides with the establishment of a new CFS aircraft base in the Mid-North.

"This is where firefighting aircraft would be placed on standby to respond to fires in the region and nearby areas and will alleviate the need to redirect planes and helicopters from the Adelaide Hills" Minister Wingard said.

The CFS currently has three zones where aircraft are stationed in the Mount Lofty Ranges, Lower Eyre Peninsula and the South East.

"This government is investing to create more jobs, by lowering costs to provide more resources and ultimately protect all South Australians by delivering better emergency services" Minister Wingard said.

Further initiatives for the emergency services sector announced in the 2018-19 State Budget, which also deliver on the Marshall Liberal Government's election commitments, include:

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- \$2.6 million plus ongoing funding of \$866,000 each year (indexed) from 2019–20 towards the development of the new Alert SA app to deliver a reliable public safety and warning information service.
- \$2.5 million per annum over the next two years for CFS station upgrades, including incident control centres and backup power generators.
- \$190,000 to equip surf lifesaving clubs with drones to enhance their shark spotting surveillance capabilities at South Australian beaches.
- \$5,000 in annual grants for each of South Australia's 22 surf lifesaving Clubs for upgrading key rescue and emergency response equipment.
- Improvements to service delivery and community engagement through police stations in Norwood, Glenelg and Henley Beach by extending their operating hours.
- The use of civilians in suburban police stations will free up more police officers for operational duties and enable SAPOL to re-direct sworn officers to a new rapid response capability, to prevent and respond to terrorism-related incidents, domestic higher risk incidents and to safely manage major events in South Australia.
- The establishment of a new firearms control system part-funded through an increase in firearms licence fees from \$85 to \$94 for a one-year licence and from \$2,127 to \$2,340 for a five-year dealer's licence, from 1 January 2019.
- A new police reporting service to enable residents to more easily report instances of hoon driving on South Australian roads.
- New funding provisions to free-up police for operational duties by appointing 22 civilian lawyers to undertake prosecutions for SAPOL in the Magistrates Court which was previously performed by sworn-police officers.
- \$1.75 million in 2020-21, and \$700,000 per annum from 2019-20 for the establishment of a retained staffed MFS station at Mount Barker.
- Provision for a new CFS and SES command centre and headquarters, constructed by the private sector and purpose built to meet best practice operational requirements.