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MORE SUPPORT FOR OUR EMERGENCY SERVICES

A new coastal and two river vessels for the State Emergency Service, breathing apparatus for the Country Fire Service, an enhanced mobile phone emergency alert warning system, and frontline training for our volunteers all form part of a **\$8.3 million** boost over four years to the state's emergency services.

Treasurer Jack Snelling said tomorrow's State Budget would provide a significant boost to the state's emergency services.

"The CFS, SES and MFS do an amazing job in protecting our community and it's important that the Government continues to support these organisations," Mr Snelling said.

"To keep the community safe, these organisations need to invest in training as well as making sure their equipment is modern, safe and be able to be accessed in times of emergency."

SES

Emergency Services Minister Jennifer Rankine said the existing coastal vessel, located at the Kingston in the South East SES Unit, is more than 25 years old and has reached the end of its operational life.

"The new vessel will have the latest technology in design and fit-out, and will significantly improve response capabilities to 30 nautical miles in most weather conditions," Ms Rankine said.

"Two inland waters vessels have also reached the end of their operational life, and will be replaced by vessels that have been purpose built. They are technologically advanced in design and fit-out and have satellite navigation and an extended range of operation."

Ms Rankine said the vessels will be involved in the medical evacuations from houseboats, search and rescue and retrieval of recreational craft.

"All of the vessels will be used for search and rescue operations under the coordination of SAPOL and they also assist boats in distress and often provide non-emergency functions such as towing broken down vessels back to safety. SES and Volunteer Marine Rescue Organisations respond to more than 600 requests for assistance every year," she said.

CFS

The CFS will receive **\$1.5 million** to replace volunteers' breathing apparatus.



“CFS has 1200 breathing apparatus sets across the State that will be replaced. They are used by CFS volunteer fire fighters in building fires, vehicle fires and hazardous material incidents. CFS has the largest number of breathing apparatus sets of any organisation in South Australia,” Mr Snelling said.

“Breathing apparatus provides a supply of clean air that allows fire fighters to carry out their work within a hazardous smoke filled environment. Fire fighters carry compressed air in a tank harnessed to their back which is connected to a full face mask. The new cylinders will be lighter with a larger capacity to provide air over a longer duration.”

SAFECOM

The 2012-13 State Budget also includes **\$1.7 million** over four years for South Australia to access the national Emergency Alert Location Based Solution (LBS) system during emergencies. The LBS allows an emergency warning message to be sent to mobile phones, based on the phone’s location, rather than just to a customer’s registered address.

“The LBS alert system is part of the National Emergency Warning System Project and will be used in bushfires, floods and other emergencies. The LBS is intended to be implemented in phased stages, with the first national stage expected to be in place in late November,” Mr Snelling said.

MFS

Emergency Services Minister Jennifer Rankine said the MFS would receive an extra \$2 million over four years to accelerate the upgrade of fire fighting appliances and support other priority capital projects such as upgrades to Wakefield Street Fire Station.

“Within the MFS fleet, there are five aerial fire fighting appliances with a replacement value of \$1.4 million each. This extra funding will be used in part with existing capital funds to upgrade equipment on the fleet,” Ms Rankine said.

“They are fitted with a fire pump and water tank and have the capacity to carry a standard supply of MFS rescue equipment and four officers. They also have a hydraulic boom equipped with a high volume, water discharge monitor. The boom is used in fires in high density buildings and industrial complexes.

“Skyjet aerial appliances are based at Adelaide, Oakden, Woodville, Mount Gambier and Whyalla MFS stations. On average, the Adelaide appliance is called out five times a day.”

TRAINING

Treasurer Jack Snelling said frontline volunteers of the Country Fire Service (CFS) and State Emergency Service (SES) will receive extra training so they are better placed to respond to emergencies.

“The CFS and SES will receive **\$2.6 million** over the next four years for the nationally endorsed training. There will be six frontline training staff to bolster frontline support to volunteers,” he said.

Both the CFS/SES are required to provide training in areas such as fire fighting, road crash rescue and marine search and rescue.

