

State Emergency Service **Media Release**



Tuesday, 12 June, 2012

SASES crews to assist clean up in Western Australia

The SA State Emergency Service (SES) is providing urgent support to its Western Australian counterpart as a major storm front is expected to hit the south west of Western Australia, from Geraldton to Eucla, tonight.

Twenty-four (24) SES volunteers, along with two staff members, will fly to Perth tomorrow morning for a five-day deployment. They will be split into five crews specialising in working at heights and storm damage work.

SASES Chief Officer Chris Beattie said South Australia was always willing to provide assistance to its interstate counterparts.

“We expect Western Australian SES crews to be extremely busy tonight as a deep, low and intense cold front hits Perth and the south western parts of the state,” Mr Beattie said.

Mr Beattie said SASES volunteers had responded magnificently to the call to provide assistance.

“Within a couple of hours, we were able to put together a twenty-four member deployment from units across the state,” Mr Beattie added.

The SASES crews will start their shift on Thursday morning.

SASES crews have been kept busy in recent years attending a number of major incidents across Australia, including the 2009 Black Saturday bushfires in Victoria. More recently, in March, 2010, SES crews were deployed to Queensland to assist with the clean up after Cyclone Yasi. That same year, SES crews were also deployed to Brisbane and Victoria to assist with flood relief efforts.

“This deployment is yet another example of the high regard SASES volunteers and staff are held within the Australian emergency services sector,” Mr Beattie said.

Media opportunity: The SASES deployment will depart Adelaide Airport on two Qantas flights tomorrow morning (Wednesday). Media are invited to be at the Qantas departure lounge at the airport at 10am to film the departure and interview SASES volunteers.

[Ends]