

Media Release

The Hon Danny Pearson MP

Assistant Treasurer

Minister for Regulatory Reform

Minister for Government Services

Minister for Creative Industries

Acting Minister for Police and Emergency Services



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\$14 MILLION BOOST FOR VOLUNTEER EMERGENCY SERVICES

Victoria's hardworking volunteer emergency services have received another annual boost following the announcement of the 2020-21 *Volunteer Emergency Services Equipment Program* (VESEP) grants.

The Andrews Labor Government has invested more than \$14 million to provide essential operational equipment, vehicles and appliances and minor facility improvements across Victoria's volunteer emergency services.

Acting Minister for Police and Emergency Services Danny Pearson today announced that 240 grants have been allocated to units across Country Fire Authority (CFA), Victoria State Emergency Service (VICSES), Life Saving Victoria (LSV) and Volunteer Marine Search and Rescue (MSAR).

Of the 240 grants, 145 have been allocated to the CFA, 42 to LSV, 29 to VICSES, 13 to MSAR and 11 to other organisations, including St John Ambulance, Red Cross and Bush Search and Rescue Victoria.

Under the program, the Labor Government matches every \$1 paid by volunteer groups with a \$2 co-contribution up to \$150,000 per project.

The annual grants program gives volunteer emergency service groups the opportunity to apply for grants of up to \$150,000 to purchase equipment including vehicles, trucks, tankers, watercraft and trailers, and for minor improvements including refurbishments and amenities, such as kitchens and change rooms.

Other operational equipment that can be funded includes chainsaws, generators, quick fill pumps and inflatable rescue boats and engines, to name a few.

Units such as Wangaratta CFA received a grant for a Field Command Vehicle, while Mallacoota's grant will go towards a generator trailer, including an electrical upgrade.

Clubs including the Cape Paterson Surf Life Saving Club will be putting their grant allocation towards an Inflatable Rescue Boat (IRB) hull, motor, fuel cell and surf rescue kit.

Quotes attributable to Acting Minister for Police and Emergency Services Danny Pearson

"We're ensuring our emergency service volunteers are well resourced with the tools and facilities they need – these grants mean they can continue their excellent work effectively responding to incidents and saving lives."

"Emergency service volunteers make selfless contributions to their communities every single day, and the Volunteer Emergency Services Equipment Program supports their ongoing dedication to keeping Victorians safe."