

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



Friday, 23 April 2021

LATEST GRANT ROUND OPENS FOR EMERGENCY VOLUNTEERS

The Andrews Labor Government is continuing to ensure the state's dedicated emergency services volunteers have the essential equipment and vehicles they need to serve their community and protect lives.

Acting Police and Emergency Services Minister Danny Pearson today announced the opening of applications for the latest round of *Volunteer Emergency Services Equipment Program* (VESEP), with \$14.4 million available for our dedicated volunteer agencies.

VESEP is an ongoing, annual program that provides emergency services volunteer groups with grants to help fund operational equipment, including the purchase of new vehicles, trucks, tankers, watercraft and trailers.

Volunteer groups can also put the money towards minor facility improvements, including refurbishments and amenities, such as kitchens and change rooms.

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

Over the past seven years, VESEP has provided more than \$90 million to volunteer groups around the state.

Recent grant recipients include Beechworth fire brigade receiving a grant for an Ultra-Light Tanker, while Mallacoota's SES Unit received a grant towards a generator trailer, including an electrical upgrade. Mallacoota's lifesaving club also received a grant for two outboard engines, equipment and a beach trailer.

Mr Pearson commended the work of the state's emergency volunteer groups and encouraged volunteer organisations across the state to apply for grants as part of the latest round.

Volunteer organisations have until 17 June 2021 to apply for the latest grants, which includes:

- more than \$10.4 million for volunteer CFA brigades
- more than \$2.35 million for Victoria State Emergency Service units
- more than \$340,000 for Marine Search and Rescue, including the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Association
- more than \$820,000 for Life Saving Victoria clubs
- more than \$380,000 for other volunteer agencies.

For more information about VESEP and to find out how to apply for a grant, visit emv.vic.gov.au/vesep.

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

"Every day, Victorians witness the invaluable contribution our emergency service volunteers make to keep the community safe."

"Through the Volunteer Emergency Services Equipment Program, we'll continue to ensure our volunteers are well supported and have access to the best available equipment and facilities to continue their incredible work."

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