

Media Release

The Hon Daniel Andrews MP
Premier



Friday, 28 October 2022

REBUILDING ROCHESTER'S CFA AND SES STATIONS BACK BETTER

Rochester's VICSES and CFA facilities will be rebuilt after being severely damaged by the recent floods, to ensure the hardworking volunteers who have kept their community safe can have an appropriate home base.

Premier Daniel Andrews and Minister for Emergency Services Jaclyn Symes visited the Rochester CFA today to announce the Government will invest more than \$8 million to rebuild the units.

Consideration of what the units will look like and where they will be located will be worked through in partnership with the VICSES unit, the CFA brigade and the community. Construction will begin as soon as initial scoping works can be completed.

It's expected the new facilities will meet the growing demands of the Rochester community, with enough room for the current units and to help attract more volunteers.

Female-friendly change rooms and showers will be a priority, along with training and operations rooms, space for current and future vehicles, administration offices and areas for volunteers to meet and unwind.

Since the beginning of the flood event on October 12, VICSES has received more than 8,000 Requests for Assistance, with Rochester one of the busiest areas for rescues and building damage.

Rochester VICSES and CFA volunteers also played a pivotal role in commanding the local flood response along with Victoria Police – making sure their local knowledge and skills were front and centre to help respond to the immediate emergency and inform the recovery of the town afterwards.

The rebuild is part of the Government's response to help flood-affected communities recover after the recent floods, which also includes several support packages for road repair, health services, business and agriculture, and temporary accommodation for displaced Rochester residents at the Elmore Events Centre.

Quotes attributable to Premier Daniel Andrews

"We said we would stand by our flood-affected communities every step of the way in rebuilding – these unit rebuilds are one part of that journey."

"Rochester's volunteers are the lifeblood of the community – they deserve to have new facilities that help them continue their incredible work and attract more more people to a rewarding experience as a volunteer."

Quotes attributable to Minister for Emergency Services Jaclyn Symes

"Rochester's VICSES and CFA volunteers have put everything on the line to defend their community's homes – at the expense of their own home base."

"We're helping them build back better and have facilities that reflect the amazing work volunteers have done to respond to this emergency and keep Rochester safe."

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