

Media Release

Jaclyn Symes MLC

Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council

Attorney-General

Minister for Emergency Services



Friday, 14 September 2023

NEW SES UNIT AT COBRAM DELIVERS COMMUNITY SAFETY BOOST

The Victoria State Emergency Service (VICSES) Cobram Unit will provide strengthened support to the community during emergencies with a new dedicated home base on the Victorian side of the border.

Minister for Emergency Services Jaclyn Symes today joined members of the VICSES Cobram Unit to mark the official opening of the new facility.

The Andrews Labor Government has invested more than \$6 million to give the Cobram volunteers a permanent home for the first time.

The Unit had previously operated out of temporary facilities and utilised the SES facility in Tocumwal to store their appliances and equipment.

The new facility on Cobram-Koonoomoo Road includes four motor bays, a well-equipped office space, and dedicated communications and training rooms.

The facility will help the unit respond even more effectively to emergencies by enhancing coordination between Victorian-based members, ensuring the local community is well protected.

Established in 1975, the VICSES Cobram Unit has 23 members and has responded to more than 440 requests for assistance over the past five years, including responding to fallen trees, flood incidents, road rescues, building damage and assisting other emergency services.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Emergency Services Jaclyn Symes

“VICSES Cobram volunteers now have the purpose-built facility they deserve, right here in town, allowing them to keep the community safe without having to go over the border.”

“We’re proud to open the new VICSES Cobram Unit and deliver a permanent base for our members in Victoria, where they belong.”

Quotes attributable to VICSES Chief Officer Operations Tim Wiebusch

“This new, fit for purpose, smart and modern facility is befitting of a professional emergency service. Not only will it better equip our existing volunteers to perform their role, but will provide additional space for training, and help support the retention of current volunteers and recruitment of new ones.”

“Where we’ve seen an investment in VICSES facilities, we’ve seen a boost in volunteer numbers. Given our volunteers aren’t paid to have the appropriate facilities and equipment to train and manage responses from both attracts and retains community members.”