

Media Release

The Hon Vicki Ward MP

Minister for Emergency Services
Minister for Natural Disaster Recovery
Minister for Equality



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FIRST LOOK AT NEW FOOTSCRAY VICSES FACILITY

Hardworking VICSES volunteers in Melbourne's west will soon have a new home, thanks to funding from the Allan Labor Government.

Minister for Emergency Services Vicki Ward today joined members of the VICSES Footscray Unit at their current home to unveil the first renders of the new facility.

VICSES Footscray is one of the busiest units in Melbourne's west, having recently led a massive response to the 2022 floods. It responds to more than 500 requests for assistance each year and their current facilities are unsuitable for this kind of demand.

Backed by more than \$14 million in this year's Budget, the new facility on Hampstead Road in Maidstone will have room for 90 volunteers – helping the unit to attract more people into a rewarding role as a VICSES volunteer.

It will feature five motor bays to house more vehicles, dedicated training areas, communications and wellbeing rooms and modern office spaces to support better operational planning and a faster emergency response.

The 5,000-square-metre site also holds strong local significance, having previously housed the Maribyrnong Migrant Hostel, which helped resettle thousands of displaced people after World War II.

Construction is expected to start after project approvals are in place later this year.

The new VICSES Footscray facility is part of a \$2 billion investment from the Labor Government in this year's Budget for our emergency services – making sure they have the facilities, equipment and vehicles they need to keep Victorians safe.

Part of that investment includes funding from the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund, which will see VICSES share in \$70 million for a rolling truck replacement program, \$29 million for extra training and \$62 million to double the popular Volunteer Emergency Services Equipment Program (VESEP).

Quotes attributable to Minister for Emergency Services Vicki Ward

"Footscray is one of our busiest VICSES units and their current home is not up to scratch for the demand they're under so we're making sure they have room to grow and support the safety of their community."

"In the face of increasing demand for our emergency services, we're making sure they have everything they need to do their vital job."