



Media Release

2 October 2018

Sod turned to start work on new Jandakot Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade station

With the ceremonial turning of a sod of earth last Friday (5 October), work has begun on the much-anticipated new Jandakot Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade station.

The 51-year-old brigade made good use of its former station – a 15m by 15m farm shed built in 1988 – recently demolished to make way for a much larger 625sqm Colorbond replacement, due for completion by the end of the year.

The new station will include a 225sqm vehicle bay for the brigade's 3.4 litre Urban Tanker and fire tenders, while the remainder will comprise offices, and training and storage space.

The \$578,000+ facility will be built on the brigade's current site on the corner of Liddelow and Oxley roads, with fit-out due for completion by the end of February 2019.

Funds of \$328,000 have been provided by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services through the compulsory Emergency Services Levy included in the 2017-18 rates notices, and the remaining \$250,000 has been contributed by the City of Cockburn.

Brigade Captain Jarrad Fowler said the Banjup and Jandakot community was excited to see the project come to fruition.

"The Banjup Fire in 2014 showed us that this area is at heightened risk of bushfire, so having the resources based close to the risk and a modern facility to train our volunteers is a great result for the community and the City of Cockburn," Capt. Fowler said.

City of Cockburn Rangers & Community Safety Manager Michael Emery said the new station would cater for increased diversity within the brigade, including separate change rooms for male and female volunteer firefighters.

"The new building is not just a shed for vehicles," Mr Emery said.



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“It showcases the direction of fire management in bushfire prone communities, empowering volunteerism, and providing the equipment and resources to be safe and effective.”

Local volunteers looking forward to the station’s completion include JVBFB mother and daughter team, training officer Karli Hicks and 17-year-old Kelsey Saundry-Hicks.

“The new station will be a centrepiece of community respect and ownership to help others with fire emergencies, as well hazard reduction burns, other education and awareness activities, and especially the fun stuff like the Santa lolly run on Christmas morning,” Miss Hicks said.

“I started with the brigade in 2010 when I shifted into the area. I realised if I wanted to live a rural lifestyle, I had to understand how to be prepared for myself and help protect others. I’ve never looked back.

“I love being part of the brigade, learning new skills, making new friends, the feeling of being part of something valuable, the comradery and self-worth in helping others.”

Her 17-year-old daughter Kelsey was nine when her mum became a volunteer and recently began her first season as a vollie on the fire ground.

“To be honest, I was a little bit sad to see the old station go; I’ve spent half my life hanging around at that station so it has an important place in my childhood memories,” Kelsey said.

“But I’m grateful. The original base has been around for years so I agree it’s about time the old girl got an upgrade so there’s more space for our babies (the trucks!).

“It will be beneficial to the brigade, increase efficiency in turning out to fires and for essential training.

“I have been a member for a few years, but when I turned 16, I stepped onto the fire ground for the first time at a controlled burn.



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“There's a great feeling knowing you've helped your community and protected them and their things from fire, and also helping the community bond.”

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For more information contact:
Media and Communications Officer
City of Cockburn
T: 08 9411 3551
E: media@cockburn.wa.gov.au