

Speech by Mayor Logan K Howlett, JP
Jandakot Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade Station
Official Opening
Cnr Liddelow Road and Oxley Road, Banjup

Thursday, 16 January 2020

Good Morning ladies and gentlemen and welcome to the official opening of the Jandakot Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade Station.

I thank Betty Garlett for her 'Welcome to Country' bringing knowledge to us all about the need to respect Mother Nature and to enjoy all that it has to offer in the balance of life; respecting the land, waterways and oceans and our amazing flora & fauna that make Australia's landscape so unique.

I acknowledge the Wadjuk people of the Nyungar Nation, the traditional custodians of the land on which we are gathered today and I pay respect to their Elders past, present and emerging.

I extend that respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are with us today and particularly Betty Garlett.

I also acknowledge the presence of:

- The Honourable Francis Logan, MLA; Minister for Emergency Services; Corrective Services;
- Mr Yaz Mubarakai, Member for Jandakot;
- Deputy Mayor Lara Kirkwood;
- Commissioner Darren Klemm, Department of Fire & Emergency Services and other members of DFES;
- Mr Jarrad Fowler, Captain, Jandakot Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade and members, including the Hon Joe Francis;
- Mr Stuart Downing, A/Chief Executive Officer;
- Mr Daniel Arndt, Director Planning & Development;
- Ms Gail Bowman, A/Director Governance & Community Services;
- Mr Travis Moore, Manager Recreation and Community Safety;
- Mr Michael Emery, Rangers and Community Safety Manager;
- Mr Peter McCullagh, Project Management Team;

- Mr Aaron Higgins, Community Emergency Services Manager and other members of staff with the City;
- Mr Chris Ferreira, The Forever Project;
- Ladies and gentlemen, one and all.

The Jandakot Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade are responsible for fire response within the City's non-gazetted fire district in Banjup and parts of Treeby and Jandakot.

The Brigade also assists DFES with numerous operations throughout the year and provides training to the volunteer bushfire service at a regional level.

The City's officers and leaders of the Brigade successfully applied for State Government funding to renovate the old Station.

Due to the complexity of the renovation and lack of vehicle space, it was decided the renovation would change to a completely new construction and demolition of the old building.

As a result:

- DFES increased their initial funding from \$328k to \$570k to cover the additional scope in works noting that the DFES commitment is considerably higher than funding provided to other new station builds.
- The City provided approximately \$500k to finish the build
- Replacement cost is \$1.1m and including internal changes the Station project was \$1.5m in total.
- The Station is the first in Western Australia to have a community education space to highlight fire resilient plants and ground covers that involved the input of Chris Ferreira from the Forever Project;
- The brick rubble ground cover and timber used in the landscaping was all sourced locally from recycled products.

With recent fire events across our nation there is global attention on how we manage fires within our country and the preventative actions that are necessary to minimise the loss of lives, property, livestock and our native flora and fauna.

Whether it's climate change or not, one thing has come to the fore front, we have a continuing reliance on volunteers to fight these fires.

Volunteers who give up their time, are taken away from their families and put themselves at risk to protect others.

Our Bushfire Brigades Volunteers generally don't ask for a lot;

- they come to their training days,
- train hard;
- assist at community events,
- are always the first to put their hands up to support fire crews whether it be in Cockburn, around the State or Nationally.

As we know, a Station for a Bushfire Brigade is not just a building, it becomes the heart and identity of the unit.

The Old Jandakot Station served the Brigade well since their move to Banjup from South Lake going back to the 1980's – those memories will live on forever more with the family of volunteers who over time have contributed so much.

A sod turning ceremony held on 5 October 2018 began the process of constructing the new station that we see before us today.

The new Station has been purpose built for the next generation of volunteers that can now train, prepare and respond to bushfires for many years to come.

Some of the unique features of the Station are:

- a designated wash down area for facemasks;
- An air lock style design allowing fire fighters to change and shower before entering the main office areas;
- A dedicated communications area where a Western Australian Emergency Radio Network base station has been installed.
- Room to house the brigade's vehicle fleet;
- Two separate training rooms and office and kitchen space to support the Brigades operations; and
- Secure carpark with CCTV to ensure the volunteer's vehicles are safe while they are out on the fire ground.

I acknowledge and thank the following people and organisations for their significant contribution to the new Jandakot Volunteer Bushfire Brigade Station:

- Jarrad Fowler and Shane Harris – for providing volunteer input into the design
- Peter Raykos and the LGGS team at DFES - for their support and assistance throughout this project.
- Terry Wegwermer and other DFES South Coastal Regional Staff.
- Aaron Higgins – for assisting with the move-in and transition of the volunteers to the new building.

City of Cockburn staff –

- Mike Emery
- Peter McCullagh
- Tammey Chappel
- Caron Peasant;
- Janaya Meneghini; and
- Travis Moore

who were responsible for key aspects of the planning and delivery of the project.

The opening of this facility provides a significant increase in capability for the Jandakot Volunteer Bushfire Brigade, which will benefit not just the local community, but the region.

In closing I thank;

- The Honourable Francis Logan MLA, Minister for Emergency Services for his continuing support for emergency services volunteers and the wider community, and for this project in particular.

- Commissioner Darren Klemm and his team at DFES for their commitment to volunteer emergency service volunteers and the application of resources to meet the demands of the community; and of course our
- Emergency Service volunteers who are highly valued and respected in all our communities for all they do and have done to protect life and property and to contribute to the growth and development of our great state and nation.

Thank you.