



## OPEN ACCESS Q3 2018 SCHEDULE

### PORTFOLIO: MINISTER POLICING AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

No.	Folio	Description	Date	Status	Reason for non-release or deferral
<b>Sitting Week 31 July to 2 August 2018</b>					
1	1-2	Minister for Police and Emergency Services Question Time and Oversight Brief Index	July/August	Full release	
2	3-4	Summary of Budget Initiatives	July/August	Full release	
3	5-7	Wellbeing and support for frontline emergency responders	July/August	Full release	
4	8-9	Assaults on ACTAS Emergency Services Personnel and ACT Police	July/August	Full release	
5	10-12	Serious and Organised crime response	July/August	Full release	
6	13-15	OMCG incidents and Taskforce Nemesis	July/August	Full release	
7	16-18	COMCARE Mental Health Presumptive Legislation	July/August	Full release	
8	19-21	Key Data ACT Policing	July/August	Full release	
9	22-25	ACT Policing Crime Statistics	July/August	Full release	
10	26-28	Safety of Women in our Community	July/August	Full release	
11	29-31	Firearms and Family Violence	July/August	Full release	
12	32-33	Hospital Shooting	July/August	Full release	
13	34-36	Public Safety CCTV Network	July/August	Full release	
14	37-40	National Security Issues including crowded places strategy implementation	July/August	Full release	
15	41-46	Key Data ESA	July/August	Full release	
16	47-49	JACS Staff Survey – Fire and Rescue	July/August	Full release	
17	50-52	ACTAS Resourcing	July/August	Full release	
18	53-58	Election Commitments	July/August	Full release	
19	59-64	United Firefighters Union – Budget Submission and ESA Round table meetings	July/August	Full release	
20	65-73	PFAS issues	July/August	Full release	
21	74-75	ComCen Update	July/August	Full release	
22	76-77	Molonglo RFS upgrades	July/August	Full release	
23	78-80	Independent Review of Bega Valley Fire	July/August	Full release	
24	81	Firearms and Firearms Amnesty	July/August	Full release	

No.	Folio	Description	Date	Status	Reason for non-release or deferral
25	82	Terrorism	July/August	Full release	
26	83	Aggravated Robberies	July/August	Full release	
27	84	Independent Integrity Commission	July/August	Full release	
28	85	Tasers	July/August	Full release	
29	86	Recent Dog Attack on Police Officer	July/August	Full release	
30	87	Arson at Stockdale Gym	July/August	Full release	
31	88	Police Pursuits	July/August	Full release	
32	89	Liquor Reform Package	July/August	Full release	
33	90	Bail Laws	July/August	Full release	
34	91	Social Media pages /RBT and Speed Cameras	July/August	Full release	
35	92	On-road cyclists – A metre matters	July/August	Full release	
36	93	Controlled House Burns in Monash	July/August	Full release	
37	94	Aerial Ladder Appliance (Bronto) - Beard Fire	July/August	Full release	
38	95	Bushfire Risk and Planning at Ginninderry	July/August	Full release	
39	96	Bushfire Abatement Zone	July/August	Full release	
40	97	Strategic Reform Agenda	July/August	Full release	
41	98	Blueprint for Change	July/August	Full release	
42	99	Volunteer Concerns	July/August	Full release	
<b>Sitting Week 14-16 August 2018</b>					
43	100-101	Minister for Police and Emergency Services Question Time and Oversight Brief Index 14-16 August and 21-23 August 2018	July/August	Full release	
44	102-103	Summary of Budget Initiatives	July/August	Full release	
45	104-106	Wellbeing and support for frontline emergency responders	July/August	Full release	
46	107-108	Assaults on ACTAS Emergency Services Personnel and ACT Police	July/August	Full release	
47	109-111	Serious and Organised crime response	July/August	Full release	
48	112-114	OMCG incidents – shootings	July/August	Full release	
49	115-117	Key Data ACT Policing	July/August	Full release	
50	118-120	OMCG incidents – shootings	July/August	Full release	
51	121-124	ACT Policing Crime Statistics	July/August	Full release	
52	125-27	Safety of Women in our Community	July/August	Full release	

No.	Folio	Description	Date	Status	Reason for non-release or deferral
53	128-130	Firearms and Family Violence	July/August	Full release	
54	131-132	Hospital Firearms Incident	July/August	Full release	
55	133-135	Public Safety CCTV Network	July/August	Full release	
56	136-139	National Security Issues including crowded places strategy implementation	July/August	Full release	
57	140-145	Key Data ESA	July/August	Full release	
58	146-148	JACS Staff Survey – Fire and Rescue	July/August	Full release	
59	149-151	ACTAS Resourcing	July/August	Full release	
60	152-157	Election Commitments	July/August	Full release	
61	158-163	United Firefighters Union 0 Budget Submission and ESA Round table meetings	July/August	Full release	
62	164-172	PFAS issues	July/August	Full release	
63	173-174	ComCen Update	July/August	Full release	
64	175-176	Molonglo RFS upgrades	July/August	Full release	
65	177-179	Independent Review of Bega Valley Fire	July/August	Full release	
66	180	Condor explosion and death	July/August	Full release	
67	181	Hackett Suspicious Package	July/August	Full release	
68	182	Referral by Magistrate Theakston	July/August	Full release	
69	183	Batons used on Indigenous Persons	July/August	Full release	
70	184	Firearms and Firearms Amnesty	July/August	Full release	
71	185	Terrorism	July/August	Full release	
72	186	Aggravated Robberies	July/August	Full release	
73	187	Tasers	July/August	Full release	
74	188	Recent Dog Attack on Police Officer	July/August	Full release	
75	189	Arson at Stockdale Gym	July/August	Full release	
76	190	Police Pursuits	July/August	Full release	
77	191	Liquor Reform Package	July/August	Full release	
78	192	Bail Laws	July/August	Full release	
79	193	Social Media pages /RBT and Speed Cameras	July/August	Full release	
80	194	On-road cyclists – A metre matters	July/August	Full release	
81	195	ACTF&R and Light Rail	July/August	Full release	
82	196	Controlled House Burns in Monash	July/August	Full release	

No.	Folio	Description	Date	Status	Reason for non-release or deferral
83	197	Aerial Ladder Appliance (Bronto) - Beard Fire	July/August	Full release	
84	198	Southpoint Triaging incident	July/August	Full release	
85	199	Bushfire Risk and Planning at Ginninderry	July/August	Full release	
86	200	Bushfire Abatement Zone	July/August	Full release	
87	201	Strategic Reform Agenda	July/August	Full release	
88	202	Blueprint for Change	July/August	Full release	
89	203	Volunteer Concerns	July/August	Full release	
90	204-205	Independent Integrity Commission	July/August	Full release	
<b>Sitting Week 21-23 August 2018</b>					
91	206-207	Minister for Police and Emergency Services Question Time and Oversight Brief Index 14-16 August and 21-23 August 2018	August	Full release	
92	208-209	Summary of Budget Initiatives	August	Full release	
93	201-212	Wellbeing and support for frontline emergency responders	August	Full release	
94	213-214	Assaults on ACTAS Emergency Services Personnel and ACT Police	August	Full release	
95	215-217	Serious and Organised crime response	August	Full release	
96	218-220	OMCG incidents – shootings	August	Full release	
97	221-223	Key Data ACT Policing	August	Full release	
98	224-226	ACT Policing Crime Statistics	August	Full release	
99	227-230	Safety of Women in our Community	August	Full release	
100	231-233	Firearms and Family Violence	August	Full release	
101	234-241	Hospital Firearms Incident	August	Full release	
102	239-241	Public Safety CCTV Network	August	Full release	
103	242-245	National Security Issues including crowded places strategy implementation	August	Full release	
104	246-251	Key Data ESA	August	Full release	
105	252-254	JACS Staff Survey – Fire and Rescue	August	Full release	
106	255-257	ACTAS Resourcing	August	Full release	
107	258-263	Election Commitments	August	Full release	
108	264-269	United Firefighters Union 0 Budget Submission and ESA Round table meetings	August	Full release	
109	270-278	PFAS issues	August	Full release	
110	279 - 280	ComCen Update	August	Full release	

No.	Folio	Description	Date	Status	Reason for non-release or deferral
111	281-282	Molonglo RFS upgrades	August	Full release	
112	283-28	Independent Review of Bega Valley Fire	August	Full release	
113	286	Condor explosion and death	August	Full release	
114	287	Hackett Suspicious Package	August	Full release	
115	288	Referral by Magistrate Theakston	August	Full release	
116	289	Batons used on Indigenous Persons	August	Full release	
117	290	Firearms and Firearms Amnesty	August	Full release	
118	291	Terrorism	August	Full release	
119	292	Aggravated Robberies	August	Full release	
120	293	Tasers	August	Full release	
121	294	Recent Dog Attack on Police Officer	August	Full release	
122	295	Arson at Stockdale Gym	August	Full release	
123	296	Police Pursuits	August	Full release	
124	297	Liquor Reform Package	August	Full release	
125	298	Bail Laws	August	Full release	
126	299	Social Media pages /RBT and Speed Cameras	August	Full release	
127	300	On-road cyclists – A metre matters	August	Full release	
128	301	ACTF&R and Light Rail	August	Full release	
129	302	Controlled House Burns in Monash	August	Full release	
130	303	Aerial Ladder Appliance (Bronto) - Beard Fire	August	Full release	
131	304	Bushfire Risk and Planning at Ginninderry	August	Full release	
132	305	Bushfire Abatement Zone	August	Full release	
133	306	Strategic Reform Agenda	August	Full release	
134	307	Blueprint for Change	August	Full release	
135	308	Volunteer Concerns	August	Full release	
136	309-310	Independent Integrity Commission	August	Full release	

**MINISTER FOR POLICE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES****QUESTION TIME and OVERSIGHT BRIEF INDEX****31 July to 2 August and****14-16 August and 21-23 August 2018**

1

<b>Joint QTBs</b>	
1.	Summary of Budget Initiatives
2.	Wellbeing and support for frontline emergency responders
3.	Assaults on ACTAS Emergency Services Personnel and ACT Police
4.	Serious and Organised crime response (Policy)
5.	OMCG incidents and Taskforce Nemesis (Operational)
6.	COMCARE Mental Health Presumptive Legislation
<b>ACT Police QTBs</b>	
7.	Key Data ACT Policing
8.	ACT Policing Crime Statistics
9.	Safety of Women in our Community (joint QTB with JACS/ACTP/CGFS)
10.	Firearms and Family Violence (joint QTB JACS ACTP)
11.	Hospital Shooting
<b>SEMB QTBs</b>	
12.	Public Safety CCTV Network
13.	National Security Issues including crowded places strategy implementation
<b>ESA QTBs</b>	
14.	Key Data ESA
15.	JACS Staff Survey – Fire and Rescue
16.	ACTAS Resourcing
17.	Election Commitments
18.	United Firefighters Union – Budget Submission and ESA Round table meetings
19.	PFAS issues (WOG QTB)
20.	ComCen Update
21.	Molonglo RFS upgrades
22.	Independent Review on Bega Valley Fire
	<i>Oversight Brief Index on next page</i>

**ACT Policing Hot Issues**

1. Firearms and Firearms Amnesty
2. Terrorism
3. Aggravated Robberies
4. Independent Integrity Commission
5. Tasers
6. Recent Dog Attack on Police Officer
7. Arson at Stockade Gym

**ACT Policing Ongoing Issues**

8. Police Pursuits (include update on current investigation)
9. Liquor Reform Package - Policing
10. Bail Laws
11. Social Media pages /RBT and Speed cameras
12. On-road cyclists – A metre matters

**ESA Hot Issues**

13. Controlled House Burns in Monash
14. Aerial Ladder Appliance (Bronto) - Beard fire

**ESA Ongoing Issues**

15. Bushfire Risk and Planning at Ginninderry
16. Bushfire Abatement Zone
17. Strategic Reform Agenda
18. Blueprint for Change
19. Volunteer Concerns

2018/000090-002

**Portfolio:** Police & Emergency Services

**ISSUE:** 2018-19 Budget Summary – Minister for Police and Emergency Services

**Talking points:**

- *Emergency Services*
- The 2018-19 Budget invests **\$2.3 million** recurrent and **\$6.6 million** capital to deliver:
  - **\$4.6 million** over four years to upgrade the ACT Ambulance fleet with electric stretchers and loaders, and equipping all ACT ambulances and firetrucks with new cardiac monitors and defibrillators.
  - **\$2 million** over two years and ongoing maintenance costs for a new aerial apparatus for ACT Fire & Rescue to support the existing Bronto appliance and respond to multi-storey building incidents.
  - **\$332,000** in 2018-19 to conduct an additional recruit college to train 18 new firefighters in 2018-19 for ACT Fire and Rescue.
  - **\$270,000** in 2018-19 to provide new protective helmets to ACT firefighters .
  - **\$1.7 million** over four years to make up the shortfall in funding from the Commonwealth Fire Payment as a result of a revised Memorandum of Understanding between the Commonwealth Government and the Territory for the provision of fire services.

The 2018-19 Budget also invests **\$1.5 million** over four years to upgrade the Public Safety CCTV Network across the CBD, at the Kingston and Manuka Shopping precincts, bus stations and major public facilities including Manuka Oval, EPIC and GIO Stadium.

In addition, 2017-18 2<sup>nd</sup> Appropriation provided **\$10.2 million** over four years for an additional ambulance crew as committed by the Government to deliver 23 more paramedics to meet continued increases in demand.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	23/07/2018	
Cleared by:	Deputy Director-General	Ext:50567
Information Officer name:	David Pryce	
Contact Officer name:	Karen Schofield	Ext: 54775
Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	



## *ACT Policing Services*

- The 2018-19 Budget invests **\$9.8 million** recurrent and **\$2 million** capital to better support ACT Policing's operations. This funding will deliver:
  - **\$2.6 million** over four years (2 FTE in 2018-19 and 4 FTE per year from 2019-20) to recruit and expand ACT Policing's strategic analysis capability targeting crime hot spots and identifying emerging risks
  - **\$1.6 million** over four years to recruit additional resources (two FTE per year) and provide specialised training and tools to target, disrupt, deter and prevent organised crime in the ACT
  - **\$5.6 million** over four years to provide new smartphones to ACT Policing staff to improve the secure capture, transmission and sharing of data and radio communications, and improve service delivery
  - **\$2 million** over two years to upgrade facilities at Tuggeranong Police Station and Winchester Police Station

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## **Background**

The ACT's budget announcements will include initiatives relating to:

- More support for families and inclusion – Better protective equipment for ACT firefighters;
- More services for our suburbs – Maintaining ACT Fire & Rescue capacity;
- More services for our suburbs – Training more fire fighters
- More services for our suburbs – More police
- More services for our suburbs – Strengthening Taskforce Nemesis
- More services for our suburbs – Upgrading mobile technology for ACT Policing
- More services for our suburbs – Equipment upgrades for first responders
- More services for our suburbs – New aerial pumper for ACT Fire & Rescue
- More services for our suburbs – Upgrading ACT Policing facilities
- More services for our suburbs – Keeping Canberrans safe in public places
- Better support when it matters – More paramedics

Cleared as complete and accurate: 23/07/2018  
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Safety

## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

TRIM Ref: 2018/000144-017

**Portfolio:** Police & Emergency Services

**ISSUE: WELLBEING AND SUPPORT FOR FRONTLINE EMERGENCY RESPONDERS**

**Talking points:**

- The health and wellbeing of emergency services personnel is a key priority for this Government. It is important that they are aware of available support services, and that they know we fully support them in minimising exposure to stressors, and in recovering from any ill effects experienced in their line of work.

*ACT Emergency Services Agency*

- A Senate Education and Employment Committee is conducting an inquiry into the role of Commonwealth, state and territory governments in addressing the high rates of mental health conditions experienced by first responders, emergency service workers and volunteers.
- I would encourage Members to go to the Parliament House website and read the written submissions received to date. In particular, I draw Member's attention to a submission by the ESA Commissioner, Mr Dominic Lane, which is consistent with the Government's focus on improving support for emergency services first responders.
- The ESA has delivered a number of initiatives that enable all volunteers and staff in the ESA to better manage the ever-present stressors that are experienced by emergency service personnel as they seek to protect our community.
- Mr Lane's submission acknowledges the Government's election commitment to establish a Manager – Welfare position within ESA, the work of the Blueprint for Change project across the ACT Ambulance Service, the concerted effort to increase the number of Peer Support Officers that are trained and available across the ESA, mental health training packages available for all ESA volunteers and staff, the relationships with not-for-profit organisations such as *Beyondblue*, *Soldier On* and *SupportLink*, and other measures in place to improve the health and wellbeing of all ESA volunteers and staff.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	18/07/2018	
Cleared by:	Commissioner	Ext: 78383
Information Officer name:	Dominic Lane	
Contact Officer name:	Brendan Stevens	Ext: 79981
Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	

### *ACT Policing*

- ACT Policing recognises the stress factors of community policing, and is dedicated to early intervention and support strategies for all ACT Policing members.
- ACT Policing has three dedicated police officers performing Welfare Officer roles. These Welfare Officers provide support to members for a range of matters, including critical incidents, work-place matters, personal matters, and as an initial support contact for the provision of further assistance. These members are available 24/7 where welfare assistance is needed.
- ACT Policing members are routinely exposed to traumatic events in the course of their duties, such as attending suicides, fatal motor vehicle accidents, family violence incidents and serious assaults.
- Research has indicated cumulative exposure to traumatic incidents has the potential to increase the risk factors for psychological injury.
- The operational requirement to work a rotating roster of day and night shifts also has an impact on the mental wellbeing of members.
- In 2017, Australian Federal Police (AFP) Organisational Health commenced a project aimed at reducing the psychological impact of traumatic exposure within the AFP.
- An AFP project team is currently reviewing the 'early intervention wellbeing support system' implemented by Victoria Police.

### **Key Information**

- Written submissions to the Senate Inquiry closed on 20 June 2018. Over the coming months public hearings will be held around the country, with the Senate Committee scheduled to provide a report by 5 December 2018.

### **Background Information**

- The Terms of Reference advise that the Senate Committee will investigate:
  - a. the nature and underlying causes of mental health conditions experienced by first responders, emergency service workers and volunteers;
  - b. research identifying linkages between first responder and emergency service occupations, and the incidence of mental health conditions;
  - c. management of mental health conditions in first responder and emergency services organisations, factors that may impede adequate management of mental health within the workplace and opportunities for improvement, including:
    - i. reporting of mental health conditions,
    - ii. specialised occupational mental health support and treatment services,
    - iii. workers' compensation,

Cleared as complete and accurate:	18/07/2018	
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Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	

## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- iv. workplace culture and management practices,
  - v. occupational function and return-to-work arrangements,
  - vi. collaboration between first responder and emergency services organisations,
  - vii. post-retirement mental health support services, and
  - viii. resource allocation.
- d. any other related matters.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	18/07/2018	
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Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	

# QUESTION TIME BRIEF

TRIM Ref: 2018/000144-015

**Portfolio:** Police & Emergency Services

## ISSUE: ASSAULTS ON POLICE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES PERSONNEL

### Talking points:

- Police and emergency services personnel are regularly exposed to a risk of assault and/or injury as an unfortunate reality of their job.
- Cases of violence against police and emergency services personnel can be complex. In many instances it is difficult to differentiate between those where there is intent to cause harm, and those where the police and emergency services personnel may be assaulted because the individual has a disordered or abnormal thought process during a highly stressful situation.
- However, regardless of the circumstances, the Government does not condone any sort of violence against our emergency services personnel.
- The intentional or reckless assault of police and emergency services personnel requires a strong response from Government to deliver appropriate protections to those who are dedicated to protecting the community.
- The Government is committed to ensuring a safe and healthy work environment, through legislation, policies, procedures, and strategies to mitigate the risk of assault and/or injury.
- Training is also provided for all of our emergency services personnel, to assist in identifying and managing potentially high risk situations.

### Key Information

- Assaults on paramedics has received significant national media attention following some recent high profile incidents in Victoria. Since 1 January 2012, there have been 56 assaults *reported* by ACT Ambulance Service paramedics (to 11 July 2018). This relates to all types of assaults, including instances of verbal threats.
- Between 1 January 2012 and 20 April 2018, ACT Policing has recorded 278 instances of police assault.

### Background Information

- There is currently no dedicated offence provision criminalising assaults against police or emergency service workers in the ACT.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	18/07/2018	
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Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	

## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- The Government relies on the existing assault provisions contained in the *Crimes ACT 1900* where there are injuries sustained by police and emergency services personnel as a result of an assault:

***Common Assault – Section 26 of the ACT Crimes Act 1900***

Used for all assaults when there is no proof that harm has been caused. This is the same offence provision that relates to all members of the community. There is no specific provision for common assaults on police or other emergency service workers. The offence carries a maximum penalty of two years imprisonment.

***Assault Occasioning Actual Bodily Harm – Section 24 of the Crimes Act 1900***

This provision is used when actual bodily harm is caused in assaults on all emergency service workers other than police. This is the same offence provision that relates to all members of the community. The offence carries a maximum penalty of seven years imprisonment.

- ACT emergency service personnel also rely on ACT legislation for offences relating to obstruction or hindrance:

***Obstructing Territory Public Official – Section 361 of the ACT Criminal Code 2002***

This provision is used for persons who hinder, resist, intimidate or obstruct any Territory Public Official in the execution of their duty. All ACT and Commonwealth emergency service workers, including police, are covered under this provision. The offence carries a maximum penalty of two years imprisonment, \$30,000 or both.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	18/07/2018	
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Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	

TRIM Ref: 2018/000083-024

**Portfolio: Attorney-General****ISSUE: SERIOUS AND ORGANISED CRIME RESPONSE**

Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs (OMCGs) are involved in criminal activities across Australia such as drug production and trafficking, vehicle rebirthing, firearms offences, money laundering, extortion and serious assaults.

**TALKING POINTS**

- The ACT Government is strongly committed to responding to the criminal activities of OMCGs.
- ACT Policing has established an OMCG Taskforce – Taskforce Nemesis – to focus on operational and investigative responses to OMCG activity.
- The Taskforce is supported by a suite of criminal laws developed by the ACT Government over a number of years, and continued investment to ensure that ACT Policing has the resources it needs to combat criminal gangs in the ACT.

*Anti-consorting laws*

- The ACT Government remains strongly committed to embracing practical legislative measures to address serious and organised crime in order to keep Canberra a safe and secure community.
- The Government does not support the introduction of consorting laws at this time.
- Any future consideration of consorting laws would need to be informed by strong evidence establishing the requirement for, and effectiveness of, such laws.
- Laws of this nature would also need to allay unresolved Government and community concerns about conflict with human rights and criminal law principles’.
- Law reform decisions are made by the Government taking into account need and evidence about their effectiveness as well as the views of our stakeholders and the broader community.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 20/06/2018  
Cleared by: Deputy Executive Director  
Information Officer name: Tamsyn Harvey  
Contact Officer name: Chantel Potter  
Lead Directorate: Justice and Community Safety

### *Fortification removal laws*

- Fortifications are structures designed to stop or hinder uninvited entry to premises.
- The *Crimes (Fortification Removal) Amendment Bill 2017* was passed in February 2018.
- The Bill provides the Chief Police Officer with the power to apply to the Magistrates Court for an order that the occupier of the premises remove fortifications on the premises. The Bill also prohibits the establishment of fortifications on certain premises.
- These laws will help make the ACT a hostile environment for criminal gangs to prevent the establishment of fortified premises such as OMCG club houses.

### *Crime scene powers and drive-by shootings*

- The *Crimes (Police Powers and Firearms Offence) Amendment Act 2017* commenced on 8 December 2017.
- The Act introduced statutory crime scene powers to allow police officers to preserve evidence in a timely manner at crime scenes in both public and private places while taking the least restrictive approach to limiting a person's right to privacy.
- The Act also created a new offence of 'drive by shooting' which deals with people shooting at a building, including a home, whether from a car or otherwise. The offence is punishable by a maximum of 10 years imprisonment.
- These new laws have already been used by ACT Policing to support its work to combat criminal groups in the ACT.

### **Background**

At the most recent meeting of the Council of Attorneys-General held on 8 June 2018, participants agreed that organised crime is a serious and pervasive threat to the community. In recognition of this, participants agreed to have regard to the statement of guiding principles when developing legislative responses to combat organised crime.

ACT Policing has identified three OMCGs that operate in the ACT (the Rebels, the Nomads and the Comancheros).

The ACT Government remains strongly committed to embracing practical legislative measures to address serious and organized crime in order to keep Canberra a safe and secure community.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	20/06/2018
Cleared by:	Deputy Executive Director
Information Officer name:	Tamsyn Harvey
Contact Officer name:	Chantel Potter
Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety



## Anti-Consorting Laws

Consorting laws make it an offence to associate with a person after being issued with a warning to refrain from associating with that person.

All jurisdictions except the ACT have consorting law schemes. Consorting law schemes differ in each jurisdiction. Some legislative schemes have been found to be invalid by the High Court. The Victorian model is the only model that requires law enforcement to demonstrate a link between the association of two people and the commission of a criminal offence. Obtaining evidence to support this belief may be challenging in an operational context.

The Human Rights Commission advised that without a suspected link to identifiable criminal activity, it is unlikely that consorting laws will be cured of their inherent incompatibility with the Human Rights Act 2004.

The ACT has not supported the introduction of consorting laws to date due to the lack of evidence for their effectiveness and the significant human rights implications.

## *Private Members Bill – Crimes (Criminal Organisation Control) Bill 2017*

- On 1 November 2017 the Shadow Attorney-General, Mr Jeremy Hanson MLA CSC, introduced the Bill in the Legislative Assembly. The Bill proposed the introduction of criminal organisation laws in the ACT. The Bill was debated in the same month but was not supported by the ACT Government.
- The Bill was based on NSW criminal organisation laws, however was less restrictive of human rights.
- To make a control order, the Bill required the court to be satisfied that it would be reasonably necessary to restrict, or impose conditions on the activities of a person in order to end, prevent or reduce a serious threat to public safety and order.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 20/06/2018  
Cleared by: Deputy Executive Director  
Information Officer name: Tamsyn Harvey  
Contact Officer name: Chantel Potter  
Lead Directorate: Justice and Community Safety

## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

TRIM Ref: 2018/000086-001

**Portfolio:** Minister for Police & Emergency Services  
Attorney-General

### ISSUE: OMCG INCIDENTS AND TASKFORCE NEMESIS

This QTB focuses on the ACT Policing operational aspects. Information about anti-consorting laws, fortification removal laws, crime scene powers and drive-by shootings can be found in the QTB titled “Serious and Organised Crime Response”.

### TALKING POINTS:

- Countering serious and organised crime by criminal gangs and maintaining public safety is of primary focus for the ACT Government and ACT Policing.
- Through Taskforce Nemesis, ACT Policing continues to proactively target criminal gang members to disrupt, detect and deter criminal activity. This includes confiscation of criminal assets.
- The Government’s 2018-19 Budget commitment of \$1.594 million over four years to Taskforce Nemesis provides funding for one Forensic Accountant, one Surveillance Team Member, and associated equipment and training.
  - Planning is underway for the recruitment of two additional members allocated through the 2018-19 Budget initiative. Exact commencement dates are dependent upon recruitment and security clearance processes.
- Funding allocated to combating Criminal Gangs in August 2016 has been applied, and eight members were appointed to Taskforce Nemesis.
- In 2017, the Federal Government boosted resources for dealing with organised crime through the National Anti-Gangs Squad (NAGS). Through NAGS, ACT Policing works closely with other agencies, liaising on matters of operational and strategic importance. NAGS brings together the resources and expertise of Federal and state/territory agencies to cooperate and share information to identify, target, disrupt and deter gang-related crime.
- As at 18 July 2018, there are four known Criminal Gangs (the Comancheros, Nomads, Rebels and Finks) operating in the ACT. The total number of members associated with ACT chapters of these Criminal Gangs is estimated at approximately 60 people.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	20/07/2018
Cleared by:	DCPO-C
Information Officer name:	Tamsyn Harvey
Contact Officer name:	ACT Policing
Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety

## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- Since January 2018, ACT Policing has responded to criminal gang related incidents including:
  - Eight incidents of discharging a firearm at a residential address or a person
  - Seven arson incidents
- Since January 2018, *Taskforce Nemesis* has:
  - Executed 70 search warrants across the ACT
  - Seized 13 firearms
  - Seized \$61,750 in currency
  - Charged 34 offences

### Most recent criminal gang activity

- On 11 June 2018, a Molotov cocktail was thrown through a window and a firearm was discharged at a Ngunnawal residence. No one was injured in the incident. On 20 June 2018, the same residence was subject to an aggravated burglary, in which offenders forced in the front door of the residence and set fire to the property. As these matters remains subject to ongoing investigation, it would be inappropriate to comment further.
- On 28 June 2018, four offenders attended two residential properties in Calwell. A firearm was discharged at both incidents, and three vehicles were set alight at one of the residences. An adult male received medical treatment for a related injury to his hand. As these matters remain subject to ongoing investigation, it would be inappropriate to comment further.
- On 6 July 2018, a physical altercation broke out between six men on Anketell Street, Greenway. The men are believed to be criminal gang members and the altercation is understood to be a result of ongoing tensions between criminal gangs. As this matter remains subject to ongoing investigation, it would be inappropriate to comment further.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 20/07/2018  
Cleared by: DCPO-C  
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Lead Directorate: Justice and Community Safety

## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

### Background

- Appropriate legislative frameworks are an essential component to enable police to effectively disrupt and dismantle criminal organisations. A number of legislative amendments have been made to increase the tools available to police and enhance the response capacity of police officers. Most recently, these have included legislation passed on fortifications, drive-by shootings and crime scene powers.
- ACT Policing works closely with Police in other jurisdictions by sharing intelligence, best practices, and collaboratively monitoring and combating criminal gangs.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 20/07/2018  
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Lead Directorate: Justice and Community  
Safety

TRIM Ref: 2018/000087-003

**Portfolio:** Police & Emergency Services**ISSUE: COMCARE MENTAL HEALTH PRESUMPTIVE LEGISLATION****Talking points:**

- I would like to acknowledge and thank our emergency services personnel and volunteers for putting themselves in harm's way to protect the lives and property of others.
- The high risk nature of the roles that our first responders carry out have inherent risks of psychological harm and the potential for injury that are not experienced by the general community.
- I welcome the Senate Education and Employment Committees' inquiry into the role of Commonwealth and State and Territory Governments in addressing the high rates of mental health conditions experienced by first responders, emergency service workers and volunteers.
- The Government will consider what the Senate Committee has to say on this important subject and any recommendations made for how we might better support our first responders.
- This Government has long recognised the impacts on our first responders.
- Delivering on ACT Labor's election commitment, the Government has established a position within the Emergency Services Agency (ESA) to manage a range of welfare programs.
- This role works across the ESA to develop welfare and wellbeing initiatives. They are a member of the Council of Ambulances Australia Mental Health Network which allows ESA to work collaboratively in sharing resources and developing partnerships with our interstate colleagues.
- Mental Health training packages are available for all ESA volunteers and staff to ensure that we are providing the best education to increase the resilience of our workforce.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 01/08/2018  
Cleared by: Executive Director Ext:70522  
Information Officer name: Tamsyn Harvey  
Contact Officer name: Andrew McIntosh Ext: 70550  
Lead Directorate: Justice and Community  
Safety

## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- An advanced program is being delivered for the ACT Ambulance Service which provides personnel with a psychological first aid framework to support staff when they have been exposed to a potentially traumatic event.
- There has been a concerted effort to increase the number of trained Peer Support Officers within the ESA. These officers offer opportunities for early intervention and support for personnel.
- The ESA also maintains relationships with not for profit organisations such as *Beyondblue*, *Soldier On* and *Supportlink* who provide opportunities for collaboration and wellbeing service provision.

### Key Information

- In its submission the Australian Federal Police has recommended *substantive* and *tangible* change to the current framework, including:
  - changes to workers' compensation process to simplify and remove unintended consequences
  - presumptive legislation supporting Operational Stress Injury as a result of work related exposure
  - development of a coordinated national strategy towards health in first responders
- In his submission, the Commissioner of the ACT Emergency Services Agency noted the *Strategic Reform Agenda* being progressed within the ESA to deliver organisational and cultural change and that he maintains a keen focus on ensuring frontline personnel are at the centre of the development of structures, policy and processes. The Commissioner also discussed the support provided to first responders in the ACT. Importantly, the Commissioner acknowledged that emergency services personnel put themselves in harm's way to protect the lives and property of others and that this subjects them to stressors that are not experienced by the general community.
- Mr Pat Jones, an ACT Fire Fighter, has provided a submission in a personal capacity in which he describes a lack of specialised occupational mental health support and treatment services for first responders, and a lack of recognition for the role. In his submission Mr Jones makes 8 recommendations which largely centre around improved recognition for first responders.
- The outcomes of the Committees' inquiry will provide guidance and inform the ongoing supports provided to first responders in the ACT.

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Safety

## Background Information

- On 27 March 2018, the Senate referred an inquiry into the role of Commonwealth, state and territory Governments in addressing the high rates of mental health conditions experienced by first responders, emergency service workers and volunteers to the Education and Employment References Committee for inquiry and report by 5 December 2018.
- Submissions were requested be received by 20 June 2018. The Australian Federal Police has provided a submission to the inquiry.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	01/08/2018	
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# QUESTION TIME BRIEF

TRIM Ref: 2018/000086-014

**Portfolio:** Police & Emergency Services

## ISSUE: ACT POLICING KEY DATA

### ACT Policing

Staffing as reported in previous annual reports

2015/2016 as at 30 June	2016/2017 as at 30 June
FTE – 968.48	FTE – 946.47
Headcount - 909	Headcount - 884

\*As per Annual Report 2016-17, in future reporting ACT Policing will be reporting FTE utilising an average FTE.

### ACT Policing Budget

Original 2017-18 Appropriation	Revised 2017-18 Appropriation	Original 2018-19 Appropriation
\$161,331,000 <sup>1</sup>	\$158,895,000	\$166,919,000

### 2017-18 Budget adjustments:

The following adjustments occurred:

- -\$695,000 for the Eastman trial rolled over to 2018-19;
- -\$1,329,920 for the Enterprise Agreement rolled over to 2018-19 due to delays in implementation;
- -\$448,000 rolled over to and re-profiled for 2018-19 due to changes and delays in procurement of CEWs.
- \$37,000 additional funding received through the 2017/18 second appropriation for Drug and Alcohol court establishment.

<sup>1</sup> As published in 2017-21 Purchase Agreement.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 20/07/2018

Cleared by: ACTP-DCS Ext:

Information Officer name: Tamsyn Harvey

Contact Officer name: Andrew McIntosh Ext:

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## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

### Call Outs – As at 1 July 2018 - 2017-18 Financial Year

Category	# of Call outs 2017-18 FY	Average Response time H:MM:SS 2017-18 FY
Priority 1	328 7.2% Increase from 2016-17 (306)	0:10:34 0:03:21 increase from 2016-17
Priority 2	13437 2.6% Decrease from 2016-17 (13802)	0:34:08 0:01:00 decrease from 2016-17
Priority 3	24415 23.8% Decrease from 2016-17 (32026)	3:44:07 1:05:39 increase from 2016-17

### Summary of Key Strategies

As per the Purchase Agreement 2017-21 ACT Policing supports a whole of government approach in achieving the objectives of ACT Government Strategies, particularly those addressing crime. These Strategies include, but are not limited to:

- *Property Crime Prevention Strategy.*
- *Blueprint for Youth Justice in the ACT 2012-22.*
- *ACT Prevention of Violence Against Women and Children Strategy 2011-17.*
- *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Agreement.*
- *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Justice Partnership.*
- *Road Safety Strategy 2011-20.*
- *Justice Reform Strategy.*

### Stations

There are seven Police Stations within the ACT that provide a response capability:

- City
- Belconnen
- Gungahlin
- Woden
- Tuggeranong
- Winchester Police Centre
- Traffic Operations Centre

Cleared as complete and accurate: 20/07/2018  
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 Lead Directorate: Justice and Community  
 Safety

## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

### Confiscation of Criminal Assets (COCA)

This is a summary of proceedings under the *Confiscation of Criminal Assets Act 2003* (ACT). COCA matters are listed before the ACT Magistrates Court, on average, once a month. The ACT Magistrates Court has not yet sat to hear COCA matters this financial year.

	2017-18	2018-19 YTD
Total Number of offences	29	-
Total Asset value	\$13,355,172	-
Penalty order value	\$7,179,000	-

Note: Asset values provided are market estimates and do not take into account potential mortgages affecting assets. Amounts realised from Penalty Orders are dependant upon the respondents' capacity to service those orders and may be significantly less than the full value of the Penalty Order.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 20/07/2018  
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 Safety

## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

TRIM Ref: MIN:2018/000086-004

**Portfolio:** Police & Emergency Services

**ISSUE:** ACT Policing Crime Statistics

### Talking points:

- I am pleased to see that the number of offences for the 2017-18 financial year shows a **decrease of 3.2 per cent (or 1116 offences)** when compared to the previous financial year.
- The total number of offences recorded against the person for the reporting period shows a **decrease of 14.8 per cent (or 581 offences)**, when compared to the previous year.
- Alcohol-related assaults **decreased 17.6 per cent (or 154 offences)** for the 12 months to 30 April 2018.
- The Government and ACT Policing are proactively responding to family violence issues in our community in an effort to keep victims safe and reduce the likelihood of these incidences occurring.
- Family violence related assault offences **decreased 17 per cent (or 230 offences)**, when compared to 2016-17.
- Offences that recorded significant decreases included:
  - Other offences against the person (down 39.1 per cent or 133 offences)
  - Sexual assault offences (down 16.9 per cent or 92 offences)
- Homicide and related offences **increased from 3 offences in 2016-17 to 8 offences** in 2017-18.
- I am advised there has been a **12.5 per cent increase** in motor vehicle theft in the past financial year; however I understand ACT Policing has seen some positive results following implementation of a flexible targeting team.
- ACT Policing's Crime Disruption Team (CDT) has seen positive results during the year. The number of armed robbery offences has **decreased by 10.7 per cent** since 2016-17.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 20/07/2018

Cleared by: ACTP-DCS

Ext:70522

Contact Officer Name: Tamsyn Harvey

Ext: 70581

Lead Directorate: Justice and Community Safety

## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- Importantly, since 6 February 2018, there have been zero aggravated robbery offences at licenced clubs.

These decreases are positive results for the ACT community. However, there may be some upwards revisions to the figures as people report crime and investigations progress.

### ***What is ACT Policing doing to address crime?***

- Positive clearance rates achieved by ACT Policing despite general crime rate increases, demonstrates ACT Policing remains effective in addressing criminal activity.
- ACT Policing has established a Crime Disruption Team (CDT), whose primary focus has been on recidivist offending, disrupting aggravated robbery offences and ram raids across the ACT, utilising sophisticated targeting models.

### **Key Information**

- Increases in crime should be considered in the context of the longer term trends and how the ACT compares to other jurisdictions.
- The ACT Criminal Justice Statistical Profile (released every six months), ABS Crime Victimization data (released annually in February), Recorded Crime Offender data (Released annually in February) and Recorded Crime Victims data (released annually in July) provide detail on trends and comparisons to other jurisdictions.
- The Government has been pro-active in working with ACT Policing to address property crime through the Property Crime Prevention Strategy 2016-2020, launched in September 2016.
- The latest crime statistics as of 30 June 2018 based on the ACT Policing website statistics indicate that reports of crime across Canberra has decreased 3.2 per cent when comparing the 2017-18 financial year to the previous period.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	20/07/2018	
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## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

Offence	2016-17 Total	2017-18 Total	Percentage change
<b>Homicide</b>	3	8	166.7%
<b>Assault - FV</b>	1356	1126	-17.0%
<b>Assault - Non-FV</b>	1678	1547	-7.8%
<b>Sexual Assault</b>	544	452	-16.9%
<b>Other offences against a person</b>	340	207	-39.1%
<b>Robbery - armed</b>	131	117	-10.7%
<b>Robbery - other</b>	112	102	-8.9%
<b>Burglary dwellings</b>	1641	1648	0.4%
<b>Burglary shops</b>	330	275	-16.7%
<b>Burglary other</b>	579	572	-1.2%
<b>Motor vehicle theft</b>	1292	1453	12.5%
<b>Property damage</b>	5302	4528	-14.6%
<b>Other offences</b>	11890	12012	1.0%
<b>Theft (excluding Motor Vehicles)</b>	9514	9549	0.4%
<b>Total (Offences only)</b>	34712	33596	-3.2%

- Compared to 2016-17, districts such Belconnen, Inner North, Inner South, Tuggeranong recorded a decrease in the total number of offences reported to ACT Policing. Gungahlin, Weston Creek, Molonglo and Woden districts however reported increases.
- Long term trends indicate that overall offences have decreased by 19.5 per cent when comparing the 2017-18 and 2008-09 financial year results.

Offence	Date reported											% Change 2016-17 to 2017-18	% Change 2016-17 to 2017-18
	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18			
<b>Homicide</b>	10	9	4	6	5	4	7	5	3	8	166.7%	-20.0%	
<b>Assault - FV</b>	764	810	852	746	692	682	738	1137	1356	1126	-17.0%	47.4%	
<b>Assault - Non-FV</b>	1803	1648	1657	1607	1543	1375	1258	1410	1678	1547	-7.8%	-14.2%	
<b>Sexual Assault</b>	337	353	337	433	452	431	439	473	544	452	-16.9%	34.1%	
<b>Other offences against a person</b>	132	106	138	87	82	99	105	243	340	207	-39.1%	56.8%	
<b>Robbery - armed</b>	110	134	149	141	100	90	111	77	131	117	-10.7%	6.4%	
<b>Robbery - other</b>	167	195	116	113	84	62	64	77	112	102	-8.9%	-38.9%	
<b>Burglary dwellings</b>	3127	3731	2517	1827	1549	1432	1552	1469	1641	1648	0.4%	-47.3%	
<b>Burglary shops</b>	402	524	350	336	259	252	267	425	330	275	-16.7%	-31.6%	
<b>Burglary other</b>	710	869	609	441	459	421	575	722	579	572	-1.2%	-19.4%	
<b>Motor vehicle theft</b>	2054	2057	1286	1167	856	739	1026	1014	1292	1453	12.5%	-29.3%	
<b>Property damage</b>	8897	9212	7279	5896	5442	4284	4692	5072	5302	4528	-14.6%	-49.1%	
<b>Other offences</b>	10596	10185	9941	9569	9216	10658	10495	10182	11890	12012	1.0%	13.4%	
<b>Theft (excluding Motor Vehicles)</b>	12603	13982	11089	9376	10050	9299	10000	10819	9514	9549	0.4%	-24.2%	
<b>Total</b>	41712	43815	36324	31745	30789	29828	31329	33125	34712	33596	-3.2%	-19.5%	

Cleared as complete and accurate: 20/07/2018  
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## **Background Information**

### **ACT Policing's Live Data Base**

One of the main sources of data for these publications is ACT Policing's live data base.

As ACT Policing's database is live, crime data is continually revised as people report crime and investigations progress. This means that there can be variances, usually increases, in the same statistics if drawn from the live database on a different date. The data for this QTB was extracted from the Police Realtime Online Management Information System (PROMIS) on the first working day after the close of the financial year. As such, it is highly likely other offences will be reported over the next quarter or two, and the decreases cited above may lessen or disappear altogether.

While all of these publications refer to crime types, for example personal and property crime, motor vehicle theft, assault, burglary etc., what they are actually counting is often different.

Publications can count the number of offences reported to police, the number of charges, offenders or victims. All of these will result in different statistics on the same type of crime.

When counting offenders, offences or charges, numbers can vary. One offender can be responsible for multiple offences and an offence can be recorded in the system before an offender is identified.

When considering victims of crime, the most widely used source of data is the number of victims recorded in the ACT Policing live data base. However, not all crime is reported to the police.

### **ABS's Crime Victimization Data**

To deal with under-reporting of crime, the ABS's *Crime Victimization* publication relies on a national survey that asks people to self-identify if they have been a victim of crime. This may capture data on crime that has not been reported to the police. However, as the sample size for the ACT is usually small this results in low confidence in the survey results.

National publications can include different numbers to those published by ACT Policing or the Justice and Community Safety Directorate because they are based on specific counting rules in order to allow national comparison across jurisdictions.

### **Criminal Justice Statistical Profile**

Differences in crime data reporting can also arise through different dates of comparison, particularly when looking at increases and decreases in crime.

Most national publications and annual reports will report on financial years or calendar years.

By contrast, the ACT Policing website and ACT Criminal Justice Statistical Profile report quarterly statistics which allows comparisons of financial or calendar years, or by quarters.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	20/07/2018	
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## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

TRIM Ref:2018/000086-015

**Portfolios:** Police & Emergency Services

Attorney-General

Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence

**ISSUE: SAFETY OF WOMEN IN OUR COMMUNITY**

### Talking points:

- Canberra remains a very safe city in which to live. The safety of our community is our priority.
- The factors affecting women's safety are complex and varied. For example the impact of poverty, crimes rates, drug and alcohol use, urban design and gender stereotypes. Whole of community changes in attitude and behaviour take many years to achieve.
- The gendered nature of women's safety is also complex, and cannot be addressed through local initiatives alone. That is why the ACT Government supports the *National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010–2022*, especially as it relates to the *Bystander* and *Stop it at the Start* campaigns, which incorporate radio and TV advertisements, social media and community education initiatives.
- The Community Safety Directorate is working to enhance the status of women and girls in the ACT and to create a community where they are safe, healthy, equally represented and valued for their contribution to society. This is achieved through the implementation of the ACT Women's Plan 2016-2026 and work under the National Plan to reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022.
- This is also achieved through targeted womens' programs such as grant and leadership programs for women and girls, International Women's Day and Violence Prevention Awards, and the application of women's safety assessment to ACT funded events and environment design in urban planning.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	24/07/2018	
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Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	

**Key Information**

- In the 2018-19 Budget the ACT Government committed an additional \$696,000 to the Office for Women to implement actions under the ACT Women's Plan and to promote gender equality more broadly. Under the *ACT Women's Plan 2016-26, First Action Plan 2017-19*, the following strategies (actions), are related to women's safety:
  - Promote the use of Women's Safety Audits at events run by the ACT Government
  - Investigate the use of the Safety Mapping Tool to guide ACT Government planning
  - Review the 'Crime Prevention through Environmental Design General Code' from a safe and inclusive communities perspective (with a focus on women) and review language used in this Code
  - Determine the process by which women's perspectives can be incorporated into Master Plans, Territory Plan reviews and urban design processes
  - Include women, and in particular young women aged 15-21, in the planning and design study of local centres. This study will identify resilience, liveability and accessibility at the local level and provide a comparative basis to test planning and design responses in line with national best practice
  - Conduct lifestyle analysis of women customers (to improve transport options for women)
- All actions in the *ACT Women's Plan 2016-26, First Action Plan*, will be implemented and reviewed by the end of 2019.
- In 2016-17 the ACT recorded the highest national result for community member feelings of safety at home during the night (90.6 per cent). While the final results are not yet available, the 2017-18 estimated outcome shows that this result has risen to 94.8 per cent with the target of 87.7 per cent being exceeded by 7.1 per cent
- Feelings of safety on public transport in the ACT during the night was also the highest nationally in 2016-17 and ranked above the national average (32.4 per cent). Similarly the 2017-18 estimated outcome shows that this has risen to 39.2 per cent with the target of 24.5 per cent being exceeded by 14.7 per cent
- These strong results reflect results of the ACT Government and ACT Policing continuing to work with partner agencies and community to maintain and improve community safety in Canberra's public spaces and in intelligence led targeting of criminal activities.
- There is often a disparity between community perception and realities when it comes to crime types. Continued community liaison and engagement is helping to bridge this gap.
- One example of disparities between community perception and realities is the prevalence of criminal offending in Haig Park. Haig Park has seen a reduction in offences since 2013 from 17 down to 2 in 2018 to date.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 24/07/2018  
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Safety



## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

Year (Calendar)	Number of Offences
2013	17
2014	17
2015	11
2016	13
2017	10
2018 (As at 31 May 2018)	2

- There has been one recorded sexual assault in Haig Park since 2013. That incident occurred in 2017.

### Background Information

- The National Survey of Community Satisfaction with Policing is a quarterly telephone survey conducted across all Australian jurisdictions. The survey collects information on community perceptions of Police in terms of services provided and personal experiences of contact with the Police.
- Perceptions of safety indicators are drawn from the National Survey of Community Satisfaction with Policing, a self-reporting survey conducted by the Social Research Centre. This is the only Australian survey to provide nationally comparable data regarding public satisfaction with police. The national sample is approx. 26,000; the ACT sample size, of 2,400, is statistically reliable.
- The information contained in this brief was sourced from ACT Policing and the Office of the Co-ordinator General for Family Safety.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 24/07/2018  
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Lead Directorate: Justice and Community Safety

Trim Ref: 2018/000086-016

**Portfolio:** Police & Emergency Services**ISSUE: FIREARMS AND FAMILY VIOLENCE****Talking points:**

- ACT Policing is committed to breaking the cycle of family violence and ensuring the safety of the Canberra community.
- ACT Policing is committed to maintaining high levels of firearm safety and accountability in the ACT.
- ACT Policing is focused on keeping our community safe through a diverse range of mechanism, including work with the judicial system and partner agencies.
- The *Firearms Act 1996* (Firearms Act) establishes the licensing and registration scheme for all firearms possessed or used in the ACT. The legislative scheme was implemented following the establishment of the National Firearms Agreement (NFA), and aims to comply with the spirit of the NFA to facilitate a national approach to the control of firearms.
- One of the underlying principles of the Act is to confirm that firearms possession and use is a privilege, and to improve public safety by imposing strict controls on the possession and use of firearms.
- The ACT Policing Firearm Registry is responsible for the delivery of regulatory and licensing functions in accordance with the Firearms Act.
- The general authorisation mechanism for licensing and registration is broadly a two-step process under the Firearms Act
  - First, a person must obtain a firearms licence for Categories A, B, C, D and H and for collectors, heirlooms, dealers, and paintball markers.
  - Second, a licensee must obtain a permit to acquire a firearm.
- The ACT has a rigorous firearms licensing scheme, that requires applicants to disclose criminal offences, mental health issues and other matters affecting their suitability to possess or handle a firearm.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	20/07/2018	
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## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- In assessing an application made by a person under the Firearms Act, the Registrar of Firearms (Registrar) must consider any discretionary criteria in relation to an individual (for example, the person's physical or mental health: section 18) and mandatory criteria (for example, criminal history to determine whether specific offences have been committed, and whether the person has been subject to a final protection order: section 19).
- In assessing the person's suitability against the discretionary and mandatory criteria, the Registrar may decide that an individual is not suitable for a licence or permit, prior to even considering the merits of the licence application itself.
  - The Registrar may request that an applicant disclose personal health information relevant to the applicant's ability to handle firearms responsibly, and may refuse to consider an application if the information is not provided.
  - If a person is asked to provide further information regarding their mental health status or treatment, it is most commonly provided in the form of a letter from their physician (preferably a treating mental health professional) commenting on the ability of the applicant to responsibly handle firearms.
  - Not all individuals who apply for a firearms licence in the ACT are required to undergo mental health checks. Mental health checks are only sought if the applicant discloses an issue, or if a mental health issue comes to police attention which may affect the applicant's ability to handle firearms responsibly.
  - In all instances, where a firearm licence holder becomes subject to a Family Violence Order or Personal Protection Order, the licence is suspended or cancelled by operation of law. Any firearms held by the person are immediately seized by Police.
- ACT Policing has advised, since 1 January 2017:
  - three firearm licence applications were declined on mental health grounds
  - 10 firearm licences have been suspended on mental health grounds.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	20/07/2018	
Cleared by:	ACTP DCPO-C	Ext:
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Contact Officer name:	Ashleigh Tilbrook	Ext: 53735
Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	

## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- ACT Policing has advised, since 1 January 2017:
  - seven firearm licences have been suspended as a result of Family Violence Order. Any firearms held by these licence holders were seized by ACT Policing.  
  
seven firearm licences have been cancelled as a result of Family Violence Order. Any firearms held by these licence holders were seized by ACT Policing.
- The ACT is monitoring the actions of NSW and working with other jurisdictions to consider whether more can be done.

### Background Information

- On 5 July 2018, a NSW resident (John Edwards) shot and murdered his two children before turning the firearm on himself. It is reported that he obtained the firearm under a “Commissioner’s Permit”, purported to override red flags raised by answers provided in his firearm licence application.
- A National Firearms Amnesty was held between 1 July-30 September 2017. The total number of firearms surrendered in the ACT was 699.
- The Commonwealth Attorney-General has informally committed to tackling gaps in how family courts and police approach ‘red flags’ and issues of violence raised in court proceedings, so that they are considered by police when assessing firearms applications.
- A senior working group under the Council of Attorneys-General has been investigating information sharing between various agencies relevant to family violence. The working group is due to report back to the Council of Attorneys-General later this year.
- The NSW government is also in the preliminary stage of considering potential amendments to their firearms legislation. No concrete proposal has been put forward by the NSW Government to date and the NSW Police Minister has not outlined what a potential reform package might look like without an examination of wider policy issues and implications being examined.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	20/07/2018	
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Information Officer name:	Tamsyn Harvey	Ext: 70522
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Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	

TRIM Ref: 2018/00086-017

**Portfolio:** Minister for Police & Emergency Services**ISSUE: THE CANBERRA HOSPITAL FIREARM INCIDENT****Talking points:**

- The incident has been declared a critical incident and in accordance with standard procedure, AFP Professional Standards attended The Canberra Hospital, and will oversee the investigation into the circumstances surrounding the incident.
- On 19 July 2018, the man involved in the incident appeared before the ACT Magistrates Court on multiple charges arising from the incident at The Canberra Hospital and traffic offences. He entered pleas of 'not guilty' to the charges of attempted murder but did not enter pleas on the remaining charges. The man was remanded in custody.
- As the matter remains ongoing and is now a criminal matter before the ACT Magistrates Court, it would be inappropriate for me to comment further at this time.

**Background Information**

- An incident occurred at The Canberra Hospital on 18 July 2018 where a man involved in a driving incident earlier in the day was under police custody in the Emergency Department. He attempted to escape police custody and became involved in an altercation with police and gained access to one of the officers' guns and discharged the firearm a number of times.
- No members of the public or hospital staff were physically injured during the incident. There was no threat to public safety arising from the incident.
- Two police officers received treatment for injuries arising from the physical altercation. Police officers were not harmed as a result of the firearm being discharged.
- ACT Policing exercised crime scene powers to secure the scene within the Emergency Management Unit of The Canberra Hospital.
- The man involved in the incident has been charged with a number of criminal offences, including two charges of attempted murder, assault occasioning actual bodily harm, discharging a firearm endangering life, and attempting to escape from custody or arrest.
- On Wednesday 18 July 2018 at about 7.30am, a 26-year-old man who is alleged to have been driving a stolen motor vehicle failed to stop at a red traffic signal and collided with a heavy vehicle on the intersection of Yamba Drive and Mawson Drive in the suburb of Mawson.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 30/07/2018  
Cleared by: Chief Police Officer  
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Contact Officer name: ACT Policing / Ashleigh Ext: 53735  
Tilbrook  
Lead Directorate: Justice and Community  
Safety

## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- The driver of the truck suffered life threatening injuries and was conveyed to The Canberra Hospital in a critical condition. The driver remains in a critical condition.
- The driver of the stolen motor vehicle was arrested by police at the scene, and conveyed to The Canberra Hospital under police guard.
- About 4.00pm that same date, while in the Emergency Room of The Canberra Hospital, the man became extremely violent and attempted to escape police custody.
- A physical struggle ensued between the man and police, during which the man assaulted police and gained access to a police firearm.
- The man pointed the firearm at police and made threats to kill the officers.
- A physical struggle ensued, during which the man discharged the firearm a number of times. Following the deployment of a Taser, the man was disarmed, subdued and the firearm was secured.
- At about 4.00pm, ACT Policing exercised crime scene powers to secure the crime scene within the Emergency Management Unit of The Canberra Hospital. The Unit of The hospital remained operational.
- The man was conveyed to the ACT Regional Watch House, where he was charged with:
  - Two counts of attempted murder
  - Assault occasioning actual bodily harm
  - Discharge firearm endangering life
  - Attempt to escape from custody or arrest
  - Attempted robbery
  - Drive motor vehicle without consent
  - Two counts of culpable drive causing grievous bodily harm
  - Unlicensed driver
- The man first appeared before the ACT Magistrates Court on 19 July 2018 where he was remanded in custody.
- Crime scene examination of the scene at The Canberra Hospital continued on 19 July 2018. ACT Policing worked closely with The Canberra Hospital to minimise disruption to hospital services.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 30/07/2018  
Cleared by: Chief Police Officer  
Information Officer name: Tamsyn Harvey Ext: 70522  
Contact Officer name: ACT Policing / Ashleigh Tilbrook Ext: 53735  
Lead Directorate: Justice and Community Safety

# QUESTION TIME BRIEF

TRIM Ref: 2018/000089-003

**Portfolio:** Police & Emergency Services

**ISSUE: PUBLIC SAFETY CCTV NETWORK**

**Talking points:**

- The ACT's Public Safety CCTV Network enhances the safety of Canberra's public venues and open spaces. The Network is an essential tool in the fight against crime.
- The Network provides live and recorded CCTV footage to ACT Policing to support incident management, criminal investigations and prosecutions in court. The Network is also used by the ACT Government to support crowded place events and operations and strengthen public safety.
- The Government through the ACT Budget 2018-19 is investing \$975,000 over four years to further upgrade and expand the ACT's Public Safety CCTV Network. These upgrade works will focus on areas highlighted in the strategic operations plan for the Public Safety CCTV Network for the period 2017-2022, including:
  - Additional high definition cameras with enhanced coverage, resolution and performance in low light across Canberra's public venues and open spaces including GIO Stadium, Manuka Oval, EPIC, the Kingston and Manuka shopping precincts
  - Software upgrades to enhance the CCTV investigation capability of ACT Policing
  - Upgrading CCTV recording equipment
  - Upgrading the CCTV systems at bus stations and depots.
- The Government continues to trial portable, solar powered CCTV technology at seven sites across Canberra to enhance the capabilities of the Public Safety CCTV Network. Solar powered CCTV units will again be used at this year's Floriade.
- The Government is developing a CCTV Strategy to guide future government investment in this essential security technology that is now widely used across ACT public venues and open spaces.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	16/07/2018	
Cleared by:	Executive Director	Ext: 78628
Information Officer name:	Bren Burkevics	
Contact Officer name:	David Wheeler	Ext: 55089
Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	

## Key Information

### If asked about the trial of portable solar powered CCTV systems

- The Government is currently undertaking a trial of solar powered CCTV units. These units require no fixed infrastructure to operate and transmit data over the mobile phone network.
- Seven units are in use across Canberra. Three are installed at the National Arboretum Canberra, two in the City, one at the Owl Artwork and one at Griffith Shops.
- Additional units were used on a temporary basis at Floriade 2017 and the Christmas in the City Event in Glebe Park.
- The outcomes of the trial to date is beneficial to developing the Government's understanding of how this technology can be used to support public and asset safety and security.
- Solar powered CCTV units will be used again at Floriade 2018.

### If asked about facial-biometric capability of the Public Safety CCTV System

- The Public Safety CCTV System does not utilise facial-biometric capability.

### If asked about CCTV on the Light Rail network

- Officials that manage the Public Safety CCTV System are actively involved in the planning and design for the CCTV system to be used on the Canberra Metro light rail project with the aim of receiving CCTV feeds.

### If asked about using the CBR Free Wi-Fi System to Host CCTV Data

- The Government has determined that the CBRfree Wi-Fi network infrastructure could be used to support the efficient expansion of the Public Safety CCTV System.
- The Government will shortly provide further details on a 12 month trial of using the CBRFree Wi-Fi network to host data from the Public Safety CCTV System. Trial cameras are being planned for Greenway and Haig Park.

### If asked about CCTV System Security

- The Public Safety CCTV System operates within the secure ACT Government ICT network. Access to the system is by officers with authorised access and restricted to specially programmed computers.
- The stand-alone solar powered CCTV units transmit encrypted data to secure servers which are only accessible by officials with authorised access.

### If asked about current system capabilities

- The Public Safety CCTV System is located at Canberra City, GIO Stadium, Manuka Oval, Exhibition Park in Canberra (EPIC), Manuka shopping precinct, Kingston shopping precinct and the Jolimont Bus Station.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 16/07/2018  
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Information Officer name: Bren Burkevics  
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Lead Directorate: Justice and Community Safety



## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- CCTV footage is recorded by these systems 24 hours a day. Footage is retained for 30 days as required by the *Territory Records Act 2002*, after which it is automatically deleted unless required for investigative purposes.
- ACT Policing has dedicated staff that actively monitor the Public Safety CCTV system on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights. The purpose of the monitoring is to enhance public safety by identifying anti-social or criminal activity early and dispatching Police resources in a timely manner. ACT Policing may also use the system at any other times to assist with incident management, investigations and response.

### Background Information

- The Public Safety CCTV Network is an ACT Government owned network of interconnected CCTV systems located at various public venues and open spaces.
- CCTV is a well-established tool that enhances public safety by deterring crime and assisting in criminal investigations by law enforcement agencies.
- ACT Policing started CCTV monitoring in the Civic Precinct in 2001. In 2007, responsibility for the system transferred to JACS and the system was expanded to include Kingston and Manuka shopping precincts, Manuka Oval, EPIC, Jolimont Centre and GIO Stadium.
- JACS-SEMB is the CCTV policy coordinator and works closely with ACT Policing to ensure the system remains current, reliable and operationally effective.
- The network is provided by the ACT Government Shared Services ICT team and allows both live and recorded footage to be viewed from the Winchester Police Centre and other locations where ICT access is available.
- The ACT Government CCTV Working Group actively coordinates whole of government policy actions to support CCTV systems and infrastructure.
- A strategic operations plan for the Public Safety CCTV System has been completed for the period 2017-2022. This internal strategic plan will be used by JACS-SEMB to ensure the network remains current and addresses future community safety needs.
- A CCTV Strategy is being develop to guide future investment by the Government is this essential security technology.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	16/07/2018	
Cleared by:	Executive Director	Ext: 78628
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## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

TRIM Ref: 2018/000089-001

**Portfolios:** Chief Minister

Police & Emergency Services

Attorney-General

### **ISSUE: NATIONAL SECURITY ISSUES (INCLUDING BIOMETRICS)**

#### **Talking points:**

##### Counter Terrorism (Chief Minister)

- Australia is one of the most successful and most harmonious multicultural societies in the world.
- This is our best defence against terrorism and violent extremism.
- Our identity is defined by an overriding commitment to our nation and its democratic values - not by race, religion or ethnic background.
- Anyone who singles out any particular group as a target for hatred plays into the hands of terrorists.
- We as a government reject those who seek to impose their world view on others through intimidation and violence.
- Terrorism is a national issue, and we work closely with our interstate partners on the national security challenges that Australia faces.
- These national security challenges continue to evolve, so we need to keep our legislation and capabilities under constant review to meet these emerging issues.
- I was pleased to participate in the special Counter Terrorism Council of Australian Governments (COAG) meeting in Canberra in October of last year. A nationally consistent approach to preventing and responding to terrorist threats underpins Australia's national security in a complex and evolving threat environment.
- The special Counter Terrorism COAG was an important leaders meeting with the Prime Minister to consider a package of legislative and practical measures to further strengthen a nationally consistent approach to counter the threat of terrorism, and to help keep Australia safe.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	16/07/2018	
Cleared by:	Executive Director	Ext: 78628
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Contact Officer name:	Andrew Butters	Ext: 70317
Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	

## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- The ACT Government is committed to ensuring the safety and security of our community, and continues to work closely with ACT Policing and other law enforcement and intelligence agencies to combat terrorism, and to implement the special Counter Terrorism COAG agreements.
- The ACT continues to support community leaders and activities that help promote the vibrant, inclusive and culturally diverse nature of the ACT community while maintaining the rule of law and protecting human rights.
- Concerns about national security or terrorism should be reported immediately to the National Security Hotline on 1800 123 400. Alternatively, [www.nationalsecurity.gov.au](http://www.nationalsecurity.gov.au) provides more information.
- If a situation requires a police response, call Police Operations on 131 444. If the situation is potentially life threatening; call Triple-Zero (000).

### Facial Biometric Matching Capability (Chief Minister)

- At the October 2017 Counter Terrorism COAG meeting, I agreed to the terms of a national agreement that will revolutionise the way identity verification is undertaken across the country.
- As a human rights jurisdiction, the ACT has established a bilateral schedule to the national agreement to ensure ACT participation in a way that is consistent with the ACT's human rights and privacy laws, while supporting national security needs.
- Limitations placed on how ACT data can be used will not limit the ability of other jurisdictions to participate with one another in the capability.
- The ACT will continue to explore additional participation for ACT in the range of services offered by the capability, pending further privacy and human rights scrutiny.

*If asked about recent reports that the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission has decided to discontinue its Biometric Identification Services project.*

Cleared as complete and accurate:	16/07/2018	
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## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- This project is unrelated to the National Driver Licence Facial Recognition Solution, and the decision does not impact on the Intergovernmental Agreement signed in October 2017.

### Defence support to National Counter-Terrorism arrangements (Chief Minister)

- In 2016, the Commonwealth Government initiated a review of Defence support to national counter-terrorism arrangements in response to the changing nature of the terrorist threat.
- State and Territory police remain, and will continue to remain, the primary responders to any terrorist attack.
- While Defence's primary role in counter-terrorism is offshore, Defence possesses specialist capabilities that could support state and territory governments in responding to an attack.
- The Commonwealth Government in close consultation with all States and Territories has worked to develop options for practical counter-terrorism engagement and cooperation between the Australian Defence Force (ADF) and State and Territory police.
- Additionally, in 2017 the Commonwealth Government announced proposed amendments to Part IIIAAA of the *Defence Act 1903*.
- Part IIIAAA provides the framework for authorising the ADF to use force to resolve a domestic violence incident, including terrorism, in support of States and Territories.
- The Commonwealth Government has introduced the Bill to amend Part IIIAAA of the Defence Act into Parliament. The Bill will seek to simplify the authorisation process for callout, and enhance the ability of states and territories to request Commonwealth assistance, through the ADF, in responding to domestic violence incidents including terrorism.
- The Bill has been referred to the Senate Standing Committee for Legal and Constitutional Affairs.

### Key Information

- Australia's National Terrorism Threat level remains at **PROBABLE**.
- Credible intelligence, assessed by national security agencies indicates that individuals or groups have developed both the intent and capability to conduct a terrorist attack in Australia.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	16/07/2018	
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Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	

## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- Since the national terrorism threat level was raised on 12 September 2014, there have been six attacks and 14 major CT disruption operations in response to potential attack planning in Australia.
- There are currently no known specific or credible threat to the ACT.

### Background Information

- The Australian Government has taken ten tranches of legislation through Parliament since August 2014. COAG has agreed to a range of legislative measures including:
  - The Security of Critical Infrastructure Act 2018 which provides for the management of the national security risks of espionage, sabotage and coercion arising from foreign involvement in Australia's critical infrastructure
  - enhancing the existing Commonwealth pre-charge detention regime under Part 1C of the *Crimes Act 1914*
  - legislation implementing the presumption against bail and parole for people who have demonstrated support for, or have links to terrorist activity, will be underpinned by nationally consistent principles
  - a new Commonwealth offence that will allow law enforcement agencies to intervene when an individual is in possession of instructional terrorist material, with appropriate safeguards
  - a new Commonwealth terrorism hoax offence. This will ensure that the potentially broad nature of terrorism hoaxes is criminalised in all jurisdictions.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	16/07/2018	
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Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	

# QUESTION TIME BRIEF

TRIM Ref: 2018/000144-018

**Portfolio:** Police & Emergency Services

## ISSUE: KEY DATA

### ACT Ambulance Service (ACTAS)

#### Staffing

Total FTE	% Female	% Male	% Indigenous	% Disability	% Multicultural
265.78	37.9%	62.1%	1.0%	0.7%	2.3%

#### Vehicles

Ambulance Vehicles including Patient transport	Operational support	Support Vehicles	Total
30	10	2	42

#### Call Outs

ACT Ambulance Service – Operational Activity	2016-17		2017-18	
	Incidents	Responses	Incidents	Responses
Medical (includes aeromedical)	49,875	50,383	52,426	53,345
Dual Response (Fire, Storm, etc.)	2,209	2,029	2,126	2,218
<b>Total Incidents</b>	<b>52,084</b>	<b>52,412</b>	<b>54,552</b>	<b>55,563</b>

For 2017-2018, the ACTAS Major Cities and State-wide response times at the 50th percentile are trending upwards having increased from 2016-2017 (8.7 minutes) to 2017-18 (9.1 minutes), which is an increase of 4.6 per cent.

#### Summary of Key Strategies

- Blueprint for Change
- Upgrade of Defibrillators
- Electric Stretchers for Ambulances

#### Stations

There are a total of eight ACTAS stations:

- Gungahlin, Joint Emergency Services Complex
- Belconnen, Aranda
- West Belconnen, Charnwood
- Dickson

Cleared as complete and accurate:	24/07/2018	
Cleared by:	Commissioner	Ext:78383
Information Officer name:	Dominic Lane	
Contact Officer name:	Victor Khaw	Ext:70167
Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	

## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- Fyshwick
- Woden
- Greenway
- Calwell

### ACT Fire & Rescue (ACTF&R)

#### Staffing

Total FTE	% Female	% Male	% Indigenous	% Disability	% Multicultural
334.06	5.1%	94.9%	1.8%	0.3%	1.2%
# Community Fire Unit Volunteers					
770					

#### Vehicles

Operational	Operational support	Support Vehicles	Total
32	16	57	105

#### Call Outs

ACT Fire & Rescue – Operational Activity	2016-17		2017-18	
	Incidents	Responses	Incidents	Responses
<b>Incident Type</b>				
<b>Fires</b>				
Structure Fires	271	1,395	260	1,247
Mobile Property Fires	264	448	291	490
Landscape fires, bush and grass	173	511	157	399
Other fires	253	558	256	502
<b>Total Fires</b>	<b>961</b>	<b>2,912</b>	<b>964</b>	<b>2,638</b>
<b>Other Emergencies and Incidents</b>				
Hazardous conditions	501	1,131	430	1,019
Severe Weather & Natural Disasters	560	650	389	468
System initiated FALSE alarms	6,068	10,859	5,493	11,365
Other	1,608	2,069	1,592	2,466
<b>Total other emergencies and incidents</b>	<b>8,737</b>	<b>14,709</b>	<b>7,904</b>	<b>15,318</b>
<b>Non-fire rescue calls (including road rescue)</b>				
Road Accident Rescue Operations	1,182	2,817	1,135	2,641
Medical Assists	298	399	355	475
Other Rescue (includes animal rescue)	179	247	239	313
<b>Total Non-fire rescue calls (including road rescue)</b>	<b>1,659</b>	<b>3,463</b>	<b>1,729</b>	<b>3,429</b>
<b>Total ACTF&amp;R Operational Activity</b>	<b>11,357</b>	<b>21,084</b>	<b>10,597</b>	<b>21,385</b>

Cleared as complete and accurate: 24/07/2018  
 Cleared by: Commissioner Ext:78383  
 Information Officer name: Dominic Lane  
 Contact Officer name: Victor Khaw Ext:70167  
 Lead Directorate: Justice and Community Safety

## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

The percentage of confinement of building fires to a room of origin for all ignition types has increased for the ACTF&R in 2017-2018 (75 per cent) from 2016-2017 (69.6 per cent), a 5.4 per cent increase.

### Summary of Key Strategies

- Update of Personal Protective Equipment
- Acquire a second aerial pumper appliance
- New Cardiac Monitors and Defibrillators

### Stations

There are a total of nine stations:

- Gungahlin, Joint Emergency Services Complex
- Belconnen, Aranda
- West Belconnen, Charnwood
- Ainslie
- Fyshwick
- Phillip
- Kambah
- Chisholm
- South Tuggeranong, Calwell

## ACT Rural Fire Service (ACT RFS)

### Staffing

Total FTE	% Female	% Male	% Indigenous	% Disability	% Multicultural
15	26.7%	73.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
<b># ACTRFS Volunteers</b>					
390					

### Vehicles

Operational	Operational support	Support Vehicles	Total
48	16	16	80

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 Lead Directorate: Justice and Community Safety



# QUESTION TIME BRIEF

## Call Outs

ACT Rural Fire Service – Operational Activity	2016-17		2017-18	
	Incidents	Responses	Incidents	Responses
Grass and bush fires	82	374	62	285
Smoke investigations	8	20	3	6
Vehicle fire	31	45	35	37
Motor vehicle accident	19	20	7	6
Storm/flood (assisting ACTSES)	378	424	116	159
Structure Fires	3	5	3	5
Hazard Reductions	29	216	25	325
Other Fires/Incidents	81	332	97	310
<b>Total Incidents</b>	<b>631</b>	<b>1,436</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>1,133</b>

## Summary of Key Strategies

- Strategic Bushfire Management Plan

## Stations

There are a total of eight sheds:

- Gungahlin, Joint Emergency Services Complex
- Hall
- Molonglo, Higgins
- Rivers, Cotter Road Stromlo
- Jerrabomberra, Symonston
- Guises Creek, Royalla
- Southern, Tharwa
- Tidbinbilla

## ACT State Emergency Service (ACT SES)

### Staffing

Total FTE	% Female	% Male	% Indigenous	% Disability	% Multicultural
9	55.6%	44.4%	0.0%	11.1%	0.0%
<b># ACTSES Volunteers</b>					
325					

Cleared as complete and accurate: 24/07/2018  
 Cleared by: Commissioner Ext:78383  
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 Lead Directorate: Justice and Community Safety

# QUESTION TIME BRIEF

## Vehicles

Operational	Operational support	Support Vehicles	Total
18	11	24	53

## Call Outs

ACT State Emergency Service – Operational Activity	2016-17		2017-18	
	Incidents	Responses	Incidents	Responses
Storm and flood	1,116	933	636	822
Search and rescue	4	41	12	87
"Operational assistance to other services (provision of flood boat service, lighting towers, catering)"	28	119	12	37
<b>Total Incidents</b>	<b>1,148</b>	<b>1,093</b>	<b>660</b>	<b>946</b>

## Summary of Key Strategies

- ACTSES Business Plan

## Stations

There are a total of six units:

- Gungahlin Unit, Joint Emergency Services Complex
- Tuggeranong Unit, Calwell
- Majura Unit, Hackett
- Belconnen Unit, Belconnen
- Woden Unit, Phillip
- Pialligo Unit, ESA Fairbairn precinct

## **Emergency Services Agency (ESA) General**

### Staffing

Total FTE	% Female	% Male	% Indigenous	% Disability	% Multicultural
67.13	29.5%	70.5%	1.5%	3.0%	4.5%
<b># MAPS Volunteers</b>					
38					

Cleared as complete and accurate: 24/07/2018  
 Cleared by: Commissioner Ext:78383  
 Information Officer name: Dominic Lane  
 Contact Officer name: Victor Khaw Ext:70167  
 Lead Directorate: Justice and Community Safety

## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

### Vehicles

Operational	Operational support	Support Vehicles	Total
0	11	3	14

### Budget

2017-18 Budget \$'000	Expenses	2017-18 Estimated Outcome \$'000	2018-19 Budget \$'000	Var %
82,213	Employee Expenses	85,064	85,179	-
13,321	Superannuation Expenses	13,190	13,321	1
30,953	Supplies and Services	31,176	33,393	7
12,882	Depreciation and Amortisation	8,882	13,876	56
1	Grants and Purchased Services	692	0	-100
43	Borrowing Costs	9	43	378
2,118	Other Expenses	5,368	2,112	-61
<b>141,531</b>	<b>Total Ordinary Expenses</b>	<b>144,381</b>	<b>147,924</b>	<b>2</b>

### Summary of Key Strategies

- Communications Centre Reform
- Women in Emergency Services
- Territory Radio Network/Web Hosting Upgrade
- Station Upgrade and Relocation Program

### Facilities

ESA Headquarters, Fairbairn

ESA Workshops, Fairbairn

ESA Resource Centre, Fairbairn

ESA Training Centre, Hume

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Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	

## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

TRIM Ref: 2018/000144-009

**Portfolio:** Police & Emergency Services

**ISSUE: JACS STAFF SURVEY – ACT FIRE & RESCUE**

### Talking points

#### General Directorate comments

- The Justice and Community Safety (JACS) Staff Survey was conducted during April and May 2017. The survey results provide valuable information on what works well in JACS and identifies opportunities for improvement.
- The survey is one tool that assists the Directorate in understanding the broad culture of the organisation and makes an assessment of the level of staff engagement.
- It is based on benchmarking norms across the public and private sectors in Australia, but does not compare ACT Fire & Rescue's results specifically with other emergency services.
- It is important to note that while there is room for improvement, Directorate's results reflect that JACS is average when compared to other large public sector organisations. In this context, the survey does have some limitations as it is not directly targeted at firefighters.

#### Actions being taken in response to survey results

- The survey results and feedback from staff as part of the 2017 survey results are being considered and actioned. JACS and ESA executives and managers have been actively engaging with all staff, including ACT Fire & Rescue, communicating the outcomes of the survey and listening to concerns through continued workforce engagement.
- This feedback is assisting in developing strategies to support continual improvement within the Directorate as part of its Workforce Strategy 2017-2019.
- In addition, while the response rate for ACT Fire & Rescue is higher than for previous surveys, it is still only 27 per cent. This low participation rate is consistent with operationally busy shift work environments, where computer use by frontline workers is limited.
- Based on the low participation rate, it is difficult to draw strong conclusions about ACT Fire & Rescue's views.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	16/07/2018	
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Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	

## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- As part of its Station Relocation and Upgrade Program, the ACT Emergency Services Agency (ESA) has increased Wi-Fi technology at its facilities, allowing firefighters and paramedics to better utilise portable technology. It is hoped that this will lead to higher participation rates in future surveys.

### Positive elements of the survey results

- While most of the media focus has been on negative aspects of the survey in relation to ACT Fire & Rescue, there were also a number of positive results, specifically:
  - the quality of the staff and team oriented environment that exists within ACT Fire & Rescue
  - the willingness of staff to do something about other staff members who do not display the ACT Public Service values
  - ACT Fire & Rescue staff are clear about their accountabilities and what they are responsible for
  - there is a high level of respect for direct supervisors (assumed to mean Station Officers and Commanders) and the clarity of their communication.
- While I acknowledge that the survey indicates the need for improved connection and communication between executives, managers and frontline staff, the community can be assured that our firefighters continue to provide the highest level of service to the ACT community as consistently demonstrated in the annual 'Report on Government Services'.

### *If asked, 'Do you still have confidence in the ESA Commissioner'*

- I have full confidence in the leadership of the ESA Commissioner, the Chief Officers and the Directorate to implement the government's priorities and commitments to ensure that Canberra remains a safe community that is well served by a highly capable and well-resourced Emergency Services Agency.
- The Government is committed to its continued support of our firefighters in the important work that they do in keeping our city and its residents safe.

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Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	

## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

### Key Information

- JACS staff are skilled professionals who deliver a quality service to the community. This is recognised through external reporting, for example, the annual Report on Government Services.
- JACS is committed to improving workforce culture to be a high performing environment that supports its staff.
- The staff survey is a key tool that was used to inform the development and implementation of JACS Workforce Strategy 2017-19.

### Background Information

- In Question on Notice Number 833, Mrs Giulia Jones MLA sought detailed results from the JACS staff survey results. In the response dated 18 December 2017, Mrs Jones was advised that the detailed results from the JACS staff surveys, including those of the ESA are not made public for a number of reasons:
  - assurances made to staff about the confidentiality of their responses and the risk of undermining staff confidence and participation in future surveys (which is voluntary)
  - the commercial value and intellectual property of Best Practice Australia as the survey provider would be compromised
  - the nature of the reports which are designed as working documents by executives and managers within the organisation.
- An article in the Canberra Times on 9 April 2018 claims that the survey results suggest ACT Fire & Rescue has a “blame culture”. Staff are not engaged with changes across the Directorate and feel helpless to influence the future direction of the organisation. The Canberra Times article also claims of ACT Fire & Rescue, that there is a lack of trust of senior executives within the Directorate.
- Following the Canberra Times article, the ESA Commissioner, Mr Dominic Lane, provided interviews to several media outlets.

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## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

TRIM Ref: 2018/000144-002

**Portfolio:** Police & Emergency Services

**ISSUE:** ACT AMBULANCE SERVICE (ACTAS) RESOURCING

### Talking points:

- The Canberra community can have the highest confidence in the performance of their ambulance service.
- Demand on our ACT Ambulance Service (ACTAS) is at the highest levels ever.
- Despite this growing demand, the ACT has continued to record the best response times in the country over the past six years, as well as the highest levels of patient satisfaction.
- The Government is concerned, however, for the welfare of a committed ambulance workforce as they continue to meet increased demand.
- These concerns include ensuring paramedics having the opportunity for adequate breaks, and an appropriate amount of time to rest and recuperate between shifts.
- For this reason, in December 2017 the Government announced the recruitment of 23 additional paramedics. This will assist ACTAS staff to continue to maintain the highest standards of service delivery in the nation, while at the same time ensuring their welfare.

### If asked about overtime

- Overtime plays a key role in operating any 24/7 emergency service such as ACTAS, and we don't shy away from this fact.
- Paramedics on personal leave, injured, or on return to work programs account for the majority of overtime hours in ACTAS.
- It is not feasible to put medical professionals in front of people requiring medical assistance, when they are not feeling well themselves.
- Other examples of where overtime is offered includes back filling of shifts, late cases (incidents that commence on one shift and carry over to the next), training, meetings, and all the community events where ACTAS presence is requested.
- It is not uncommon for overtime to be offered in these scenarios. It is how ambulance services around the country operate.

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## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- If the ACTAS was obligated to have permanent positions to cover all of these additional elements, this would be a significant additional cost to the community.

### If asked about minimum crewing levels

- ACTAS aims for a minimum of 10 emergency ambulance crews during each shift and provides for two additional demand crews each 24 hour period.
- Where it is known that there are not enough staff rostered to crew 10 emergency ambulances in the middle of a day, every effort is made to back fill the rostered shifts. This is done by offering overtime to fill shifts.
- Overtime is also offered to fill night shifts, however, this is not taken up as readily. ACTAS has accepted operating with fewer than 10 emergency ambulance crews in these periods of known low demand in the knowledge that the high standard of care for the community is maintained.
- As announced during the recent debate on this matter, ACTAS will review minimum crewing levels so that they more accurately reflect the minimum crews required during periods of known demand.
- The Chief Officer – ACTAS is currently monitoring minimum crewing levels and, in consultation with ACTAS staff, may amend the ACTAS policy in the coming months.

## ROGS

- Despite demand for ambulance response in Canberra increasing by 25 per cent since 2012-13, the ACT has continued to record the best response times in the country during this time, as well as the highest levels of patient satisfaction.

## Key Information

- Report on Government Services data for 2016-2017 indicates that the ACT continues to have the fastest response times in the country, however, response times at the 50th percentile are trending upwards having increased from 2014-2015 (8 minutes) and 2015-2016 (8.5 minutes) to 2016-2017 (8.7 minutes).
- To continue to meet increased demand, whilst maintaining the welfare of ACTAS staff, the Government announced in December 2017, the recruitment of 23 additional paramedics. The additional frontline resources hitting the road in 2018 should ensure response times remain the fastest in the country.

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## Background Information

- On 21 June 2018, Mrs Giulia Jones MLA submitted two separate Freedom of Information requests seeking access to information ACTAS minimum crewing levels, and Question on Notice 662 regarding ACTAS minimum crewing levels. You were briefed on this matter in MIN:2018/002820.

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## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

TRIM Ref: 2018/000144-001

**Portfolio:** Police & Emergency Services

### **ISSUE: ACT EMERGENCY SERVICES (ESA) ELECTION COMMITMENTS**

#### **Talking points:**

#### Legislate 40km/h speed limit passing emergency vehicles with flashing lights

- This initiative was launched on 9 April 2018 and came into effect on 14 April 2018, following the commencement of the Road Transport (Safety and Traffic Management) Amendment Regulation 2018 (No 1).
- Drivers in the ACT must slow to 40km/h when passing a roadside emergency vehicle with flashing red or blue lights that is stationary or slow moving.
- Our emergency services are often required to work on or near the road, protecting the community when we are most vulnerable. For an emergency services worker, this is their workspace and they have a right to feel safe in their working environment.
- This law is consistent with existing speed restrictions in place in other areas where vulnerable road users are commonly found, such as school zones, road works, and town centres.

#### New Aerial Pumper Appliance

- The ACT Government is committed to providing a new aerial pumper appliance during this term of government.
- Funding for a new pumper was announced in the 2018-19 ACT Budget, and the ESA is now working to have the new aerial pumper on the road in the 2019-20 financial year.

#### If asked whether two aerial appliances provide adequate firefighting capability

- The ESA regularly and routinely reviews the risk profile across the ACT. The ESA informs me that two aerial appliances will provide sufficient operational capability for firefighters to deal with emergency incidents in high-rise and medium-rise buildings in the ACT.
- The ESA also advise that aerial appliances are not the primary source of fire protection, with firefighters relying more on building design and the National Construction Code requirements, including fire separations, fire doors and fire stairs, and buildings over 25 metres high having sprinklers.

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### Recruitment of Additional Firefighters

- Funding for a further recruit college was announced in the 2018-19 ACT Budget. This follows on from the 2017 recruitment which resulted in an additional 17 firefighters on duty in June 2018.
- Of the 17 firefighters to graduate, there are four female firefighters and two Indigenous firefighters.
- The recruitment program actively encourages female participation in line with the Women in Emergency Services Strategy and promotes opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Canberra to join ACTF&R as firefighters.
- The recruitment of 17 firefighters follows on from the 16 firefighters who joined ACTF&R as part of the 2016 Recruit College, and the nine firefighters who commenced duty as part of a lateral recruitment in November 2017.

### If asked about funding for the Recruit College

- Funding of \$332,000 for another recruit college was announced in the 2018-19 ACT Budget.
- A total of \$147,000 was included in the 2017-18 ACT Budget for this initiative. The full cost of the Recruit College was \$455,000, which was partly funded by reprioritising internal ESA resources.
- The 2017-18 Budget also included funding for the Modernising Emergency Services Call-taking initiative, which will allow ACTF&R to return firefighters to frontline roles.
- Over the next five years, ESA will transition to a unified ComCen model. Changes are being introduced to better utilise new technology and infrastructure and to modernise working practices and methods. This will include aligning resources with demand and introducing better ways to manage surge events and peak demand.
- The objective of this project is to ensure that all calls for assistance to the ComCen are handled in a consistent manner, using the same technological approaches by professionally qualified staff.

### Recruitment of Additional Ambulance Crew

- The ACT Government is committed to the recruitment of an additional ambulance crew during this term of government, and announced funding for this proposal in December 2017, as part of the mid-year Budget Review.
- Emergency responsiveness will be boosted across Canberra with the recruitment of 23 paramedics as well as two new ambulances.
- Despite demand for ambulance response in Canberra increasing by 25 per cent since 2012-13, the ACT has continued to record the best response times in the country during this time, as well as the highest levels of patient satisfaction.
- The professionalism of the women and men of the ACT Ambulance Service (ACTAS) has ensured our response times have remained the fastest.

### Provide Two New Intensive Care Ambulances

- The ACT Government is committed to providing two new emergency ambulance vehicles during this term of government, and funding for the purchase of two additional ambulance vehicles was announced in December 2017. This initiative aligns with the commitment to recruit an additional ambulance crew.
- Two ambulances are required for each crew. This ensures that an ambulance is available for paramedics on an incoming shift, when paramedics on the previous shift are attending to a late case.
- The two new ambulances will be built to ACTAS specifications, and delivery will coincide with the commencement of the new ambulance crew.

### Enhanced Mental Health Services for Emergency Services Personnel

- The increase in demand puts pressure on the welfare of a committed ambulance workforce as they continue to meet the community's expectations.
- Ensuring that our emergency service employees and volunteers have the right support to do their jobs well and safely remains a top priority for the ACT Government.

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## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- The position of Manager, Welfare Programs in ESA commenced during this term of government. The Manager, Welfare Programs is responsible for the Peer Support Program in ESA.

### If asked about activities or progress to date

- ESA is currently developing the training package for the Peer Support Program. This will support the currently developed draft Peer Support Policy. This work was informed by the experience gained by the Manager, Welfare Programs co-facilitating a similar Peer Support Program with the Queensland Ambulance Service.
- Applications for Clinical support staff and peer support candidates are being considered, and successful applicants will commence training in the Peer Support Program soon.

### Feasibility Study for a New Ambulance and Fire & Rescue Station in Civic

- The ESA City Station Feasibility Study was included in the 2017-18 ACT Budget, and rolled over into the 2018-19 ACT Budget.
- A city facility is being considered as part of the SURP revised activities and priorities. A procurement of services to undertake a feasibility study was undertaken in the 2017-18, with the engagement starting in early 2018-19; hence the rollover.

### No part-time stations

- The Government has given a clear commitment that there will be no part-time stations.

### Give volunteer firefighters subsidised gym memberships

- The 2017-18 ACT Budget includes a \$100 annual subsidy for ACT Rural Fire Service (ACTRFS) volunteers for fitness programs and gym memberships, which meets an Election Commitment.
- ACTRFS requires all active volunteers to undertake annual standardised fitness tests to ascertain their fitness for duty. This initiative provides a positive impact on the cost of living for firefighting volunteers by reducing their out of pocket expenses for fitness-related activities.
- ACTRFS Fitness reimbursements are aligned with the fire season year, which runs from 1 October – 30 September.
- I encourage ACTRFS volunteers to take advantage of this subsidy to support their wellbeing and fitness.

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## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- In line with the 2016 Election commitment, this commitment is a tangible means by which the ACT Government can encourage and support volunteers to maintain the required fitness standard.

### Partner with NSW to contract another helicopter and remote access fire teams

- The community can be assured that ESA is well placed to protect and preserve life, property and the environment during ACT bushfire seasons.
- The ACT Government is committed to implementing this commitment during this term of government, subject to agreement with the National Aerial Firefighting Centre, and the NSW Rural Fire Service.

### **Key Information**

- ESA is currently working with JACS, the Chief Minister, Treasury, and Economic Development Directorate, and other ACT Government Directorates and Agencies on the implementation of all Election commitments.

### ACT on Fire Campaign

- The United Firefighters Union (UFU) ran the 'ACT on Fire' campaign targeting all candidates standing at the 2016 ACT Election. The six key priorities of their campaign were more firefighters, proper equipment, no part-time stations, a strong organisation, a strong plan and ready for emerging threats. A copy of the Webpage can be viewed at <http://actonfire.com.au/>.
- The previous Minister for Police and Emergency Service was briefed on the UFU Campaign in MIN:2016/00469.

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# QUESTION TIME BRIEF

## Background Information

### Status of Election Commitments

- The table below shows the current status of each ESA related Election Commitment:

Title	Included in Budget (which year)	Status Summary (not yet, in progress, completed)
New Aerial Firefighting Pumper	2018-19	In progress
Recruitment of Additional Firefighters	2017-18 and 2018-19	In progress
Recruitment of Additional Ambulance Crew	December 2017 mid-year review	In progress
Provide Two New Intensive Care Ambulances	December 2017 mid-year review	In progress
Enhanced Mental Health Services for Emergency Services Personnel	2017-18	Completed
Funding for the position of Manager, Welfare Programs	2017-18	Completed
Feasibility Study for a New Ambulance and Fire & Rescue Station in Civic	2017-18	In progress
Give volunteer firefighters subsidised gym memberships	2017-18	Completed
Partner with NSW to contract another helicopter and remote access fire teams	Not yet included	Business Case to be prepared for 2019-20
Legislate a 40km/h speed limit when passing emergency vehicles with flashing lights	Not required	Completed

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## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

TRIM Ref: 2018/000144-010

**Portfolio:** Police & Emergency Services

**ISSUE: UNITED FIREFIGHTERS UNION – BUDGET SUBMISSION AND  
ESA ROUNDTABLE MEETINGS**

### Talking points

- Our firefighters are often called upon to respond to a variety of hazards and emergencies. I thank all of our firefighters for their hard work and commitment in keeping our community safe.
- The ACT Government has a strong track record of supporting our emergency services and we continue to consult with the ACT Emergency Services Agency (ESA) and volunteer and employee representatives, including the United Firefighters Union (UFU), in relation to the needs of our frontline responders.
- The ACT Government's commitment to our emergency services ensures that the ACT is one of the safest places to live, as highlighted in the Productivity Commission's 2018 Report on Government Services (ROGS).
- The ESA has a strong plan to ensure Canberra remains one of the safest communities in the world and the ACT Government will continue to support that mission.

### *If asked about the recruitment of additional firefighters and recruit colleges*

- The claim that ACT Fire & Rescue (ACTF&R) is around 40 firefighters short of its funded establishment is simply incorrect.
- Additional staff are regularly recruited to take the place of firefighters who are non-operational or on long-term leave.
- The current staffing situation does not impact on the ability of ACTF&R to fully staff appliances.
- The successful 2018 Recruit College, which graduated on 15 June 2018, saw 17 new firefighters, including four female and two Indigenous firefighters, join ACTF&R.
- This followed a lateral recruitment campaign in 2017 which resulted in the recruitment of nine suitably experienced candidates, from around Australia, graduating in November 2017.

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## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- A further recruit college for new firefighters, funded in the 2018-19 ACT Budget, will see an additional 18 firefighters placed in frontline positions in 2019. This includes two places as part of the Indigenous Fire and Rescue Employment Strategy (IFARES), and up to eight female firefighters as part of the Women in Emergency Services Strategy.
- The Government's proposed Communication Centre reforms will also put additional firefighters on the road.

### If asked about claims that Canberra population has grown, but firefighter numbers have not

- The ACT Government is confident in the advice received from the Chief Officer – ACTF&R, that the ACT has sufficient operational firefighters available to keep our community safe.
- This is evidenced by our response times to emergency incidents, which remain among the best in the nation. The Government continues to resource our fire and rescue service, including funding firefighters.
- The rate of growth in work claimed by the UFU does not accurately represent the overall picture.
- Each year, ROGS publishes figures for 'Total fires, other emergencies and incidents' attended by fire service organisations. It is important to note that fire service organisations includes both ACTF&R and the ACT Rural Fire Service.
- For the ACT, reported 'Total fires, other emergencies and incidents' increased from 9,773 in 2002-03 to 11,358 in 2016-17. This is a 16 per cent increase in total incidents over 15 years.
- By way of some comparison, over the same period, ACT Ambulance Service incidents increased from 26,599 in 2002-03 to 51,894 in 2016-17. This is a 95 per cent increase in total incidents over 15 years.

### If asked about the new aerial pumper appliance

- The ACT Government is committed to providing a new aerial pumper appliance during this term of government.
- Funding for a new pumper was announced in the 2018-19 ACT Budget, and the ESA is now working to have the new aerial pumper on the road in late 2019.
- Training will be provided to firefighters on the new aerial pumper in due course.

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## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

### If asked whether two aerial appliances provide adequate firefighting capability

- The ESA regularly and routinely reviews the risk profile across the ACT. The ESA informs me that two aerial appliances will provide sufficient operational capability for firefighters to deal with emergency incidents in high-rise and medium-rise buildings in the ACT.
- The ESA also advise that aerial appliances are not the primary source of fire protection, with firefighters relying more on building design and the National Construction Code requirements, including fire separations, fire doors and fire stairs, and buildings over 25 metres high having sprinklers.

### If asked about a City Station for ACTF&R

- As Canberra expands, the population grows and demand for services increases, there is a continual need to review the strategic placement and upgrade of stations.
- This includes investigating options for a city station for ESA services, including a facility for ACTF&R.
- The ESA City Station Feasibility Study was included in the 2017-18 ACT Budget, and rolled over into the 2018-19 ACT Budget.
- A city facility is being considered as part of the SURP revised activities and priorities. A procurement of services to undertake a feasibility study was undertaken in the 2017-18, with the engagement starting in early 2018-19; hence the rollover.

### If asked about Ainslie Fire and Rescue Station

- The ACT Government is committed to improving ESA facilities and ensuring the location of stations enable response times that meet predicted community demand.
- In the 2017-18 ACT Budget under “Better support when it matters”, the ACT Government allocated \$576,000 to modify Ainslie Fire & Rescue Station to allow for a second pumper.
- The upgrade will also provide improved facilities in order to accommodate an additional pumper crew, which would result from the implementation of reforms to the ESA Communication Centre.
- The UFU has notified a dispute in relation to the upgrade of Ainslie Fire and Rescue Station and this matter is listed to be heard in the Fair Work Commission. This has resulted in a significant delay in the project, with funding rolled over into the 2018-19 ACT Budget.

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*If asked about issues with recent works at ACTF&R stations*

*Ainslie Station*

- \$576,000 funding is being provided for upgrades to Ainslie Fire Station, which will cover construction and project fees including ICT, insurance, auditing and project management. These fees are generally standard across all projects.
- The funding was approved for a Privacy and Dignity upgrade to the existing facility. This included work to the existing recline areas, creation of male and female amenities and locker rooms.
- The “User Requirements Brief” the UFU are referring to is for new station builds only. This document cannot be used when upgrading existing facilities.
- The building is not heritage listed. Confirmation of this was received via letter from the ACT Heritage Council on 20 March 2018.
- Air quality testing was completed on site. This testing found that it would be safe to house an accommodation demountable within the engine bay for the duration of construction.
- A gymnasium has been included in the preliminary designs.

*City Station*

- Options for a City station are still being investigated.

*Fyshwick Fire Station*

- The Demountable at Fyshwick station was existing before the refurbishment. The refurbishment included an extensive renovation to this demountable to include a further three recline rooms and two bathrooms for the station.
- The temporary accommodation was Work Health and Safety approved and the UFU consulted in relation to the installation of covered walkways and external lighting.
- All accommodation had individual heating and cooling units in each room.
- Upgraded air-conditioning and heating was installed in the station as part of the renovation.

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*Belconnen Station at Aranda*

- There is a transition area at the Belconnen station.
- The construction of the new Belconnen Ambulance and Fire & Rescue Station was delivered under budget, however it is unclear where the UFU plucked the \$4m figure in their claims that costs were cut.
- The Belconnen Ambulance and Fire & Rescue Station is a state of the art, modern facility, that is allowing our paramedics and firefighters to continue to improve our delivery of services, which we know are already the best in the nation.

*South Tuggeranong Station*

- All work orders received to date have been completed.

*If asked about Personal Protective Equipment*

- I share the UFU's view that our firefighters need safe protective equipment to allow them to do their job effectively and safely.
- I am happy to inform you that all of the current personal protective clothing used within ACTF&R conforms to the required Australian Standards for structural firefighting.
- The Government is committed to upgrading our firefighters' personal protective clothing and equipment when required and committed in the 2018-19 ACT Budget to replace all structural fire helmets across ACTF&R.

*If asked about the Fire and Emergency Services Levy*

- The Fire and Emergency Services Levy is imposed on rateable properties across the ACT, and is a component of the total rates payable by property owners to contribute towards funding the many essential services provided by government to property owners.
- The Fire and Emergency Services levy is adjusted annually, as with other components of property rates, to reflect inflation and other events that impact on the cost of providing government services.
- Other sources of revenue that assist in funding emergency services include ambulance and fire service fees, Commonwealth fire service funding and grants.

## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

### If asked about the UFU's analysis of the ESA Roundtable Meetings

- I am aware that the UFU has raised a number of concerns in relation to the ESA Roundtable process.
- I must say, this doesn't accord with the feedback I have received from any of the participants in the ESA Roundtable meetings.
- Four meetings were conducted from January to March 2017. They were all planned and conducted by an independent facilitator, and were successful in providing an opportunity for all ESA volunteer and staff members, and key stakeholders, to participate and share their views.
- A summary report of the Roundtable Meetings was released to stakeholders in April 2017, and the ESA response was circulated in September 2017.
- The UFU concerns have now been raised in April 2018, over 12 months since the meetings were conducted.
- That said, the Government will consider the matters raised by the UFU in relation to the ESA Roundtable process, to try and better understand their concerns. The Government will respond to the UFU in due course and remains committed to appropriately engaging with ESA staff and volunteers.

### **Key Information**

- Funding was provided in the 2017-18 ACT Budget for reforms to the ESA Communications Centre, which would ultimately result in the transfer of firefighter positions back to operational firefighting. These reforms are being progressively implemented over several years.

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Lead Directorate: Justice and Community Safety

# QUESTION TIME BRIEF

TRIM ref: 2018/000144-019

**Portfolios:** Whole of Government

**ISSUE:** Per and Poly-fluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Contamination

**Talking points:**

## General points on PFAS

- Per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are man-made chemicals that have been used in industry and consumer products worldwide since the 1950s.
- They have been used in aqueous film forming foam (AFFF), for fire fighting purposes, non-stick cookware, water-repellent clothing, stain-resistant fabrics and carpets, some cosmetics, and products that resist grease, water, and oil.
- AFFF firefighting foam concentrates that were used to suppress flammable liquid fires previously contained PFAS.
- The phasing out of these concentrates by ACT Fire & Rescue (ACTF&R) commenced in September 2004. It was withdrawn as the foam concentrate stored in tanks on the ACTF&R fire trucks in April 2005.
- ACTF&R replaced its nine (9) litre portable AFFF fire extinguishers on fire fighting vehicles with fluorine-free alternatives in early 2017.

## Health and PFAS

- PFAS are very stable compounds and do not break down in the environment (i.e. they persist in the environment and in human bodies for a long time).
- I am advised that there is no conclusive proof that PFAS causes a large impact on an individual's health, including no evidence of an increase in the overall cancer risk.
- I am advised that there is also no conclusive evidence that PFAS causes adverse human health outcomes in pregnant women or their babies.
- Expert advice currently does not advise any specific biochemical or disease screening for groups exposed to PFAS outside of specific research studies.

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**PFAS Nationally**

- Governments in Australia work to a framework for PFAS management in accordance with the *Intergovernmental Agreement on a National Framework for Responding to PFAS Contamination* (March 2018) and the PFAS National Environment Management Plan (NEMP), adopted by all jurisdictions in February 2018.
- The NEMP defines the level of PFAS in soil and water that require further investigation.
- The NEMP also details methods for site assessments, sampling protocols and analytical determinations.
- Issues with PFAS that have been widely reported in other jurisdictions have involved direct contamination of drinking water and/or food supplies.
- Such issues are unlikely in the ACT because of the remote catchments used for town water supply and the insignificant volume of food production in the ACT.

**The ACT and PFAS**

- There are four known affected sites for PFAS in the ACT:
  - Canberra Airport
  - the former Charnwood Fire Station
  - the former Belconnen Fire Station and Training Centre; and
  - the West Belconnen Resource Management Centre (landfill).
- In recent years the ACT Environmental Protection Authority (EPA), in conjunction with the National Capital Authority and Icon Water, undertook sampling across ACT waterways to determine background levels of PFAS. The water sampling results did not detect PFAS in ACT waterways.
- An assessment is being undertaken by the ACT Government to determine what further investigations may be required of ACT sites, in accordance with the NEMP.
- The United Firefighters Union has recently raised concerns around potential health impacts for firefighters who may have come into contact with PFAS. (More detail below).

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Lead Directorate: Justice and Community  
Safety

**Fire and Rescue/Emergency Services (UFU Concerns)**

- Our firefighters, and the community can be assured that the ACT Emergency Services Agency (ESA), and Government, take this issue very seriously, we did thirteen years ago, and continue to do so today. ACT Fire & Rescue phased out PFAS, that is, in the form concentrate stored in tanks on the fire truck, thirteen years ago (2005).
- ESA has been working hard to ensure equipment is replaced and changed over. Four fire pumpers have been replaced and all equipment has either been flushed clean or replaced since foam concentrate containing PFAS was phased out.
- Australian health authorities, including ACT Health, report that there is no conclusive proof that PFAS cause any specific illnesses in humans, including cancer.
- There is also no consistent evidence that PFAS causes adverse human health outcomes in pregnant women or their babies.
- Expert advice currently does not advise any specific biochemical or disease screening for groups exposed to PFAS outside of specific research studies.
- ESA is working with WorkSafe ACT to ensure work health and safety obligations are met.
- ESA has undertaken a risk assessment to prioritise the testing of remaining sites and further testing will be done at the higher priority locations in the near future.

**Jervis Bay and PFAS**

- The Jervis Bay Territory (JBT) is a separate Commonwealth Territory where ACT law applies. The ACT Government is contracted by the Australian Government to supply certain services to (JBT), including education, licences, justice services, health protection and environmental water testing.
- ACT Health has actively participated in consideration of the effects on health of Jervis Bay residents, in particular, those living in the Wreck Bay Aboriginal community.

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## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- A potential issue has been identified with some Lilly Pilly trees present at Jervis Bay School. However, there is no immediate risk since the trees are currently not producing fruit. (They only produce fruit between December-February).
- Even when fruiting, a small child would need to eat large quantities to exceed daily intake limits of PFAS.
- The Department of Defence has undertaken a national program of investigation and response to PFAS contamination from Defence sites.
- One such site is the Jervis Bay Range Facility in the JBT.
- Defence is leading the response to PFAS contamination in JBT, including conducting water testing. The ACT Government is a member of Defence's Project Control Group and provides advice and support where required.
- Defence's PFAS investigation in JBT is ongoing and the ACT continues to provide support and advice where possible.
- A Defence Factsheet as well as a contact for further media enquiries is available on the [Defence website](#)).
- At the request of the Commonwealth, the ACT Government undertook tests of both drinking and recreational waters in JBT in 2016-17. The results of these tests were:
  - No detectable PFAS has been found in the potable (drinking) water supply.
  - Low levels of PFAS were found in environmental waters, and will be the subject of ongoing monitoring as part of the Defence-led investigation program.
- A number of separate PFAS investigations are also being conducted by Defence on the South Coast of NSW. NSW EPA recently issued dietary advice warnings for the Currumbene Creek area in NSW, near Jervis Bay Territory, and is engaging with local residents so they are aware of the issue and any changes in their activities which should be made to support health and safety.

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## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- More information is available at [www.epa.nsw.gov.au](http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au)
- The ACT Government remains in contact with NSW Government counterparts and is monitoring the situation.

### **Charnwood (former Fire Station) site**

- The development application (DA) for the child care centre on the site of the former Charnwood Fire Station was approved following assessment of the site, on the condition that requirements of the Health Protection Service and the Environment Protection Authority were met.

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## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- To comply with the conditions set out in the Notice of Decision the proponent has prepared an Operational Environmental Management Plan (OEMP) that has been endorsed by the EPA and a Landscape Plan endorsed by ACT Health.
- The proponent has submitted a subsequent DA with the Directorate.
- This DA seeks to include the approved OEMP into the lease to ensure the management of contamination issues is ongoing.
- This DA is still to be lodged for assessment.
- The site was sampled numerous times in 2014 and 2015 for PFAS. Lab results for the sampling concluded the contaminants were below the threshold levels for the proposed land-use of a childcare centre (compared to the US EPA screening criteria as no Australian criteria existed).
- The Territory Plan variation process includes mandatory referral of proposals to the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) for their comment, particularly in regards to potential contamination of sites.
- EPA provided advice that they were aware of environmental investigations into the contamination (associated with past activities) of the site.
- In accordance with the ACT Government's Strategic Plan Contaminated Sites Management 1995, and EPA endorsed guidelines, the variation would be supported provided the findings of the investigation demonstrate the site is suitable for the proposed uses. The assessment report must be reviewed and endorsed by the EPA prior to the Territory Plan being varied.
- Follow up comments from the EPA stated that they agreed that the site was capable of supporting a CFZ land use with potential for a child care from a contamination perspective subject to the condition that a 'site specific unexpected finds protocol' must be developed by a suitably qualified environmental consultant, implemented during development works at the site and is by the EPA prior to occupancy.
- As a result the Variation 335 commenced on 17 February 2016.

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## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- The former fuel storage infrastructure has been removed and validated with the site being found suitable for community use, including childcare.
- Notwithstanding this, both Health Protection and the EPA imposed additional protection measures that need to be satisfied by the builder before the building and surrounding grounds can receive a certificate of occupancy and be used – for example, the installation of permanent physical barriers to limit direct contact with shallow site soils.
- As part of the EPA conditions, the building owners have prepared an Operational Environmental Management Plan (OEMP) which was endorsed by the Environment Protection Authority on 15 March 2018.
- Prior to occupancy of the site the lease must be varied to include the approved OEMP and the EPA receive endorsement from a suitably qualified environmental consultant confirming that the mitigation measures required by the OEMP have been successfully installed, protecting any users of the site from contaminants.

### **West Belconnen Resource Management Centre**

- There will be further sampling undertaken at the West Belconnen Resource Management Centre as part of the environmental audit that is being undertaken for its redevelopment, consistent with NEMP.

### **Belconnen (former Fire Station and Training Centre)**

- The former Belconnen Fire Station and Training Centre is on the Register of Contaminated Sites as it is subject to a formal environmental audit to enable its redevelopment.

### **Former West Belconnen Sewerage Treatment Plant (WBSTP) - Jarramlee nature reserve**

- Preliminary investigations associated with the subsidence at the site indicate the presence of PFAS in very low concentrations in the groundwater with nil readings in the water and sediments in the adjacent Gininderra Creek. These are preliminary results and further testing is being undertaken.

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**Canberra Airport**

- Canberra Airport is on Commonwealth land and is therefore under the control of the Commonwealth Government and should be managed in accordance with the PFAS National Environment Management Plan.

**Key Information**

Environment Protection Authority – key points/technical detail on testing

***How are sites tested for PFAS? (ie. soil samples? Water samples?)***

Depending on the characteristics of the site, samples are taken of soil and groundwater.

Sampling methodology and procedures should be consistent with the established methods for contaminated site investigation as detailed in the ACT EPA 2017, Contaminated Sites Environment Protection Policy and PFAS NEMP 2018.

***Who does the testing?***

Suitable qualified environmental consultants collect the soil and groundwater samples. The samples are then sent to an accredited laboratory to be analysed for PFAS.

***Which sites trigger testing (ie. fuel stations, former emergency services or airport sites etc?)***

Sites identified in risk assessments may trigger further testing. Priorities for risk assessments and methods for testing for PFAS are detailed in the National Environment Management Plan (NEMP).

***How are the known sites monitored or recorded?***

The former Belconnen Fire Station is on the Register of Contaminated Sites as it is subject to a formal environmental audit to enable its redevelopment. The Register can be found on the Access Canberra website at:

[https://www.accesscanberra.act.gov.au/app/services/contaminated\\_sites#/](https://www.accesscanberra.act.gov.au/app/services/contaminated_sites#/)

***Are there any requirements for remediation or ongoing monitoring of known sites?***

Levels at the Charnwood site are below criteria for its proposed use as a childcare centre and is subject to the implementation of an Operational Environmental Management Plan and a Landscape Plan.

There will be further sampling undertaken at West Belconnen as part of the environmental audit that is being undertaken for its redevelopment.

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## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

Canberra Airport is on Commonwealth land and is therefore under the control of the Commonwealth Government and should be managed in accordance with the PFAS National Environment Management Plan.

The former Belconnen Fire Station is subject to redevelopment and the assessment of any contamination and environmental audit of the site are ongoing. The EPA must endorse the environmental audit for the site to ensure it is suitable for the proposed development.

***When did PFAS testing commence in the ACT?***

The past couple of years (2016) as PFAS has only recently emerged as a contaminate of concern.

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TRIM Ref: 2018/000144-020

**Portfolio:** Police & Emergency Services**ISSUE:       ESA Communication Centre (ComCen) Reform****Talking points:**

- The Government announcement in June 2016 about ComCen reforms was made following extensive consultation and consideration of all the issues and feedback received.
- A long-term outcome of the ComCen project is to expand the current call-taker/dispatch model used by the ACT Ambulance Service (ACTAS) across the ESA ComCen.
- Professional call-takers and dispatchers will be provided with appropriate training to manage Emergency Triple Zero (E000) calls directed to ACT Fire & Rescue (ACTF&R), thus freeing up qualified firefighters to work in front line operations.
- A restructured ComCen will be resourced on a tiered model of service delivery which aligns resourcing to demand over a 24 hour period.
- The ESA will also use the changes in service delivery models to explore options in terms of better use of technology including integrating systems to facilitate the provision of information between services and external agencies e.g. ACT Policing, timely release of media alerts and updates, updating relevant websites, and providing information to the public.

**If asked about engagement with Unions and staff**

- ESA is working with staff and the unions on these changes.

**Key Information**

- An independent review of the Bega Valley fires in NSW examined other ComCens in NSW and other Australian states and formed the view that the Ambulance Service of NSW has an excellent model. It is a model that accurately tracks and pre-emptively positions resources according to demand and availability. A strategic and long term solution needs to be found that sees each of the agencies working side by side in a civilianised ComCen.

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## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- The Bega Valley Fires Review aligns with the reform of the ESA ComCen, and effectively addresses the issues detailed in the independent review (see separate QTB on Bega Valley Fires - Independent Review - 2018/000144-021).

### Background Information

- In Clause 151.1 of the ACTF&R Enterprise Agreement 2013-17, the Head of Service and the United Firefighters Union (UFU) committed to improve the efficiency of the ComCen.
- This clause was in several previous agreements and it was decided in 2013 to commence its implementation as a part of the Expenditure Review process. Under this process a Review Steering Committee was formed in 2013 and incorporated the UFU in all of its work.
- The ESA entered discussions with the UFU to develop agreed Terms of Reference to establish a Workplace Consultative Committee (WCC) under the Fire and Rescue Enterprise Agreement 2013-17 as a specific forum for communicating with affected ACT Fire & Rescue staff on the ComCen reform.
- The WCC is currently the only forum in which the UFU agree to ComCen reforms being discussed. Discussions at the WCC with the UFU have reinforced that the forum is established to consult on how to progress the ComCen project. The WCC forum is not established to consult on the decision of Government to reform the ComCen.
- A ComCen Project Working Group has also been established within ESA to develop initiatives that support the implementation of a call-taker/dispatch capability into the ESA ComCen. The Working Group is made up of the Chief Officers of all services, and the Director – ESA Risk and Planning.
- At the WCC meeting of 7 June 2018, the ESA notified the UFU that briefings requesting additional firefighters be trained as ComCen operators had been received. The UFU was advised that whilst the training would go ahead, it would be provided to existing call-takers. This will enable E000 calls to be answered efficiently and effectively in support of ACTF&R.
- The requirements for the call-taker function will be documented, informed by the workings of the ComCen Project Working Group. This work will include shaping scripts, business rules, training, etc.
- This will enable the call-taker capability to be progressively introduced into the ComCen ahead of the 2018/19 ACT bushfire season.

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## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

TRIM Ref: 2018/000144-016

**Portfolio:** Police & Emergency Services

**ISSUE: MOLONGLO RURAL FIRE SERVICE STATION UPGRADE**

**Talking points:**

- Work was undertaken at the ACT Rural Fire Service Molonglo Volunteer Brigade shed for privacy and dignity upgrades.
- Whilst the final building inspection was being carried out, it was noted that due to the increased floor size, the facility would require a fixed fire hydrant.
- A partial occupancy certificate to the building has been issued, allowing the Molonglo Brigade to house two appliances on site, and to have access to the meeting/training facilities while the additional works are being carried out to install the fire hydrant.
- Quotes have been sought, and this work is expected to be carried out in the coming weeks.
- The water connection for the hydrant will require trenching through the road at Drake-Brockman Drive, in accordance with the Icon Water approved plans.
- The works will be staged to accommodate traffic flows by closing one lane at a time and directing traffic through the remaining lane. This process will be managed in accordance with the Temporary Traffic Management Plans submitted by the contractor for approval by Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate.
- The changed traffic conditions will be notified in advance through public advertisements. It is estimated that the traffic changes will be in place for two days.
- The community can be assured that at no time has the capability of the ACT Rural Fire Service been compromised, and we thank the patience of volunteer members while this work is being undertaken.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	16/07/2018	
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## Key Information

- The initial budget for the renovations was \$1,152,000 (GST exclusive). The amount spent as at 30 April 2018 was \$1,152,000. The funded sources were:
  - \$602,000 allocated under the Commonwealth Grant - National Disaster Resilience Program, and
  - The ESA contributed \$550,000 from its own funds and/or in-kind contribution.
- As a result of the extensions, the floor area at the Molonglo facility increased from 488.99m<sup>2</sup> to 544.12m<sup>2</sup>. The Building Code of Australia, Clause E1.3, provides that a fire hydrant system must be installed to serve a building with a floor area greater than 500m<sup>2</sup>.
- A partial Certificate of Occupancy was issued on 22 December 2017. Once the fire hydrant is installed, a full Certificate of Occupancy can be issued. The complete Certificate of Occupancy is expected to be received in August 2018.
- The expected budget to meet the Certificate of Occupancy requirements is approximately \$83,000.

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TRIM Ref: 2018/000144-021

**Portfolio:** Police & Emergency Services

**ISSUE: Bega Valley Fires – Independent Review**

**Talking points:**

- The NSW Minister for Police and Emergency Services, the Hon Troy Grant MP, requested an Independent Review (the Review) into the Bega Valley bushfires that occurred on 18 March 2018. The review was formally commissioned by the NSW Office of Emergency Management.
- The review focused on two specific areas, being the:
  - adequacy of the fire services response to the Bega Valley fires
  - call taking and dispatch arrangements of both Fire & Rescue NSW (FRNSW) and the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS)
- The Review was completed in June 2018 and detailed 24 findings and 12 recommendations to the NSW Government.
- Key among these findings was that although there are several areas for improvement, it is unlikely that any better outcome could have resulted on the day.
- The ACT Government, including the ACT Emergency Services Agency (ESA), are currently examining the outcomes of the review to determine any learnings for the ACT.
- Of particular interest are the recommendations on a preferred ComCen model, automatic vehicle location (AVL) devices and lack of collaboration between services.
- The Fires Review recommendations align with the proposed reforms of the ESA ComCen, and all emergency services vehicles in the ACT are fitted with AVL devices.
- The ESA computer aided dispatch system already incorporates business rules that ensure that the nearest and most appropriate resource responds to emergency incidents, regardless of which service it belongs to.

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## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- The existing response arrangements in the ACT outline that the first response to all grass and bushfires in the ACT will be by the nearest available and most appropriate resource, irrespective of jurisdiction or Service.
- Ultimately, this is the intention of the *Emergencies Act 2004*. This legislation recognises the importance of the four operational services under the command of Chief Officers, brought together through the function of the ESA Commissioner, allowing the ESA to effectively manage all hazards and incidents across the ACT region.
- Consistent with these arrangements, the ACT community can be assured that both ACT fire services, including the Chief Officers of both fire services, continue to operate side-by-side under the direction of the ESA Commissioner.
- This is why the ESA has crafted its mission statement around seven simple words: we work together to care and protect. This mission emphasises; we work together; through Cohesive Operations, Collaborative Management, and as a Unified Executive.
- Key recommendations to come from the Bega Valley Fire Review are being progressed through the projects of the ESA Strategic Reform Agenda.

### Key Information

- On 18 March 2018, the Bega Valley fires, comprising of five separate fires that were extremely fierce and quick moving, burnt through more than 1,250 hectares destroying 65 homes and 70 caravans or cabins. Thanks to the combined efforts of firefighters, police and residents, no lives were lost and 810 houses were saved.

### Background Information

- Three themes emerge from the 24 findings:
  - The need for an urgent reform of Emergency Triple Zero (E000) call taking and dispatch arrangements in order to make them more efficient and accountable. The current arrangements resulted in a lack of situational awareness with two completely different reports provided of the resources available to fight the Bega Valley fires. This is common in the early stages of an incident when resource deployment and situational awareness is unavailable.

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## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- Lack of effective collaboration between FRNSW and NSW RFS. This dates back decades and involves animosity between paid staff and volunteers, competitiveness between agencies, ignoring policy and disputes over which agency is responsible for responding to an incident.
- A lack of Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) and GPS technology available to NSW RFS vehicles. Unlike the NSW Police Force, Ambulance Service of NSW and FRNSW – the NSW RFS relies solely on radio and telephone communications. The Review found that this is detrimental to NSW RFS understanding situational awareness and providing efficient resource allocation.
- In addition to these findings, the Review made 12 recommendations to the NSW Government. These recommendations are aimed at minimising or removing issues observed during the Bega Valley fires. Again three themes emerged and include:
  - Implementation of new E000 call taking and dispatch arrangements. The Review examined other ComCens in NSW and other Australian states and formed the view that the Ambulance Service of NSW has an excellent model. It is a model that accurately tracks and pre-emptively positions resources according to demand and availability. A strategic and long term solution needs to be found that sees each of the agencies working side by side in a civilianised ComCen.
  - Immediate commencement of installation of AVL devices (interoperable with those already in use by FRNSW and the SES) in all NSW RFS vehicles in order to provide a clearer image of resource availability and situational awareness.
  - Elimination of the fire boundary system for the purposes of dispatch in order to fight fire with the quickest and most appropriate resource regardless of agency. This should improve the efficiency of call and dispatch to fires in NSW and also reduce competitiveness between agencies.

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## ACT Policing Hot Issues

### 1. Firearms and Firearms Amnesty

- There has been a significant rise in firearm seizures in the last 12 months.
- Between 1 May 2017 and 30 April 2018 there were 1236 firearm seizures (a single incident may involve multiple seizures).
- The significant increase in firearm seizures is due to the National Firearms Amnesty.
- The National Firearms Amnesty occurred between 1 July 2017 to 30 September 2017 and saw 699 firearms surrendered.
- 48 seizures were OMCG related.
- ACT Policing advises that firearm offences in the ACT have increased over the past five years. The ACT has experienced a 55.9 per cent increase in the past five years in the number of reported offences where a firearm has been used.

### ACT Policing Industrial Shredder

- On Wednesday 11 July 2018, an industrial shredder was commissioned at the AFP Exhibit Management Centre, Mitchell.
- The shredder was an investment of \$660,000 which was funded through the 2015-16 ACT Budget.
- The unit can destroy 50 firearms in a matter of minutes which used to take an officer all day to complete.
- The new shredder will increase the efficiency of our police and the safety of the destruction process.

Cleared by: ACTP-C-MPP

Date: 27 July 2018

## 2. Terrorism

- While the national terrorism threat level remains at PROBABLE, there is no known specific or credible threat to the ACT.
- People should continue to go about business as usual but be alert to any suspicious activity and, most importantly, to report suspicions and concerns to the appropriate authorities.
- Concerns about national security or terrorism should be reported immediately to the National Security Hotline on 1800 123 400. Alternatively, [www.nationalsecurity.gov.au](http://www.nationalsecurity.gov.au) provides more information.
- If a situation requires a police response, call Police Operations on 131 444. If the situation is life threatening; call Triple-Zero (000).

### Countering Violent Extremism

- Keeping Australians safe from home-grown terrorism is a complex and evolving field that requires ongoing attention.
- The ACT Government continues to work closely with all governments to identify and implement measures to prevent and protect communities against violent extremism, tackling the root of the problem.
- It is recognised that families, friends and community members are often in the best position to identify individuals who might be at risk of radicalisation towards violent extremism.
- Anyone who has any concerns about possible violent extremism can make an anonymous report to the National Security Hotline on 1800 123 400.
- If there is an immediate threat to life or an emergency response is required, people should call Triple Zero (000) immediately.

Cleared by: ACTP-C-MPP

Date: 27 July 2018

### 3. Aggravated Robberies

- The ACT community can be confident ACT Policing is well resourced to deliver a quality service through the flexible and nimble deployment of our capabilities in response to changing demands.
- Police have numerous strategies in place to tackle property offences, including aggravated robberies. ACT Policing has a crime disruption team ('CDT') which was established in late 2017 with a primary focus on recidivist offending, disrupting aggravated robbery offences and ram raids across the ACT, utilising sophisticated targeting models. ACT Policing has seen a number of positive results from the team including arrests and the recovery of stolen property.
- Since 6 February 2018, there have been no recorded aggravated robberies on licensed clubs in the ACT.
  - This is largely due to the arrest of a recidivist offender.
- ACT Policing is agile and uses surge capability to respond to changing priorities and demands. ACT Policing is intelligence-informed, and uses information to prioritise and allocate its workforce to best serve the people of Canberra.

Cleared by: ACTP-C-MPP

Date: 27 July 2018



#### 4. Independent Integrity Commission

- The AFP supports the establishment of an independent integrity body in the ACT.
- The AFP has existing robust internal and external integrity mechanisms, including the AFP's Professional Standards Framework, independent oversight from ACLEI and the Commonwealth Ombudsman, enshrined in Commonwealth legislation (the AFP Act and the LEIC Act).
- ACT Policing also has extensive reporting obligations to the ACT Government.
- Additional oversight over ACT Policing members will duplicate existing arrangements and add complexity in its administration owing to external oversight frameworks already in existence.

Cleared by: ACTP-C-MPP

Date: 27 July 2018

## 5. Tasers

- Further to its 2016 election commitment, in June 2017 the ACT Government committed \$2.695 million (with the offset) over four years to equip ACT Policing members with TASERS.
- The 480+ Tasers are inclusive of the replacement of existing CEWs that have reached the end of their 5-year operational life.
- How the new Tasers are rolled out is a matter for ACT Policing, however I understand decisions around deployment will be based on risk and threat and will be reviewed based on operational requirements to ensure the greatest possible benefits and safety for the ACT community.
- The funding is for Tasers fitted with video cameras that record image and sound. The existing governance and specialist training will continue to ensure there is continued accountability around their use.
- ACT Policing has governance and oversight arrangements in place to assure the community that any use of force is reviewed to ensure it is appropriate and reasonably necessary in the circumstances.
- I am advised that all ACT Policing officers are trained in communication and negotiation techniques as the primary way to de-escalate a situation with vulnerable people, including those with mental health conditions or those affected by alcohol or other drugs and that ACT Policing emphasises the use of negotiation, communication and de-escalation techniques, prior to using physical force.

### Death in Waramanga

- My condolences go out to all of those affected by the recent tragic death involving a male in Waramanga.
- The cause of death in this incident is yet to be determined and is a matter for the ACT Coroner. The Direction's hearing for this matter is scheduled for 26 October 2018.
- As the matter remains before the ACT Coroner, it would be inappropriate to comment further.

Cleared by: ACTP-C-MPP

Date: 27 July 2018

## 6. Recent dog attack on Police Officer

- On 1 July 2018, members of ACT Policing attended a residence in Rivett in relation to a reported theft. While undertaking enquiries at the residence, a Police Officer was attacked by a dog.
- The Officer sustained serious injuries and was transferred to hospital for treatment.
- The animal, an American Pitbull, has been seized by Domestic Animal Services.
- One adult male was arrested and will appear before Court in relation to the incident.
- The matter is before the Courts and it would be inappropriate to comment further.
- ACT Policing supports the laws that protect the public from dangerous dogs.
- Domestic Animal Services is responsible for compliance activities under the *Domestic Animals Act 2000* (ACT).

Cleared by: ACTP-C-MPP

Date: 27 July 2018

## 7. Arson – Stockade training centre, Dickson

- On Thursday 28 June 2018 at about 6.13am, ACT Policing Operations received a phone call in relation to a fire at the Stockade Training Centre in Dickson.
- The fire was located in a sub-leased room which is occupied by Myogen Performance Movement Therapy.
- ACT Fire Service attended and determined the fire suspicious.
- ACT Policing advises there are no links to criminal gangs in relation to this incident.
- As this is an ongoing investigation, it would be inappropriate to comment any further.

Cleared by: ACTP-C-MPP

Date: 27 July 2018

## 8. Police Pursuits

- The ACT Government is committed to Vision Zero and deterring drivers from fleeing from police because of the risk this introduces on our roads.
- That is why the Government introduced new laws in March 2016 to give police enhanced investigative powers and higher penalties to deal with drivers who fail to stop for police.
- These laws were introduced at the same time ACT Policing moved to a limited pursuit policy.

### Vehicle collisions involving an ACT Policing vehicle

- On 1 June 2018, a 54 year old woman died as a result of injuries sustained in a collision at the intersection of Baldwin Drive and Maribyrnong Avenue, Kaleen that occurred on Friday, 4 May 2018.
- The collision occurred about 8.00pm, between the woman's vehicle and a marked police vehicle responding to a priority police incident. The Police vehicle had activated its emergency lights at the time of the collision.
- The officer involved has been suspended from duty and has been summoned to appear before Court.
- On 11 July 2018, Police directed a vehicle to stop on Berrigan Crescent, O'Connor. The vehicle failed to stop, accelerated heavily, and deliberately collided with a Police vehicle.
- One adult male was arrested and will appear before Court in relation to the incident.
- As both matters are before the Court, it would be inappropriate to make any further comment.

Cleared by: ACTP-C-MPP

Date: 27 July 2018

## 9. Liquor Reform Package

- There have been no substantial developments on this issue since the last briefing.
- The Government is committed to developing a regulatory regime that supports Canberra businesses, helps develop this community's vibrant night life and does so while ensuring public safety.
- The Government's investment of \$4.866 million for additional police resources will:
  - provide greater coverage of the broader ACT, focussing upon regional centres and entertainment precincts;
  - increase proactive liquor licensing enforcement activities and programs (including enforcement of new offences contained in the Amendment Act and increased enforcement of existing offences under the *Liquor Act 2010*);
  - increase collaboration with Access Canberra liquor enforcement teams;
  - develop targeted campaigns with key ACT Government stakeholders; and
  - support Regional Targeting Team officers being deployed to major ACT events in the capacity of subject matter experts in liquor legislation enforcement.
- ACT Policing continues to deliver liquor reform package capabilities through the Regional targeting Team and flexible intelligence informed arrangements.
- Police will continue to work closely with licensees to make sure the ACT's nightlife precincts are safe for the whole community.

Cleared by: ACTP-C-MPP

Date: 27 July 2018

## 10. Bail Laws

- There have been no substantial developments on this issue since the last briefing.
- Bail is a long established practice in the criminal law which allows, in appropriate cases, accused people to remain in the community until their charges can be determined by a court of law.
- The *Bail Act 1992* (Bail Act) operates to both protect the community and uphold the administration of justice, recognising the operation of the presumption of innocence and an accused person's human rights under the *Human Rights Act 2004*. It takes account of a variety of competing rights, interests and expectations.
- The Government is committed to ensuring that the Territory's bail laws operate effectively and appropriately within the criminal justice framework. The most substantive recent reform to the Bail Act was the *Crimes (Serious and Organised Crime) Legislation Amendment Act 2016* which introduced an own-motion bail review power for the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP).
- All bail decisions in the ACT must be made by a police officer, magistrate or judge. There are restrictions on their powers to grant bail in certain circumstances.
- Under the Bail Act, there is a general presumption in favour of the grant of bail. However, there are limitations on the entitlement to be at liberty. A person is entitled to be granted bail unless the court is satisfied that a refusal of bail is justified. For certain specified offences, the presumption in favour of bail is stated not to operate, creating what is sometimes referred to as a 'neutral presumption'. For murder and serious drug offences, there is a presumption against bail and a court must not grant bail to the person unless satisfied that special or exceptional circumstances exist favouring the grant of bail.
- In making a decision about the grant of bail, a decision-maker must consider a number of factors, including the likelihood of the person appearing in court in relation to the offence, the person's risk of reoffending, or harassing or endangering the safety or welfare of anyone, interfering with evidence, or intimidating a witness, and the interests of the person. The decision-maker may have regard to any relevant matter including the nature and seriousness of the offence, the person's character, background and community ties, and the likely effect of a refusal of bail on the person's family or dependents. This is focussed on ensuring that accused persons appear at court, and managing the risks that might arise while an accused person is on bail.

Cleared by: ACTP-C-MPP

Date: 27 July 2018

## 11.Social media pages – RBT and Speed cameras

- ACT Policing is aware of the social media pages purporting to reveal RBT locations.
- The posts include photos, videos, maps and suggested routes to avoid police.
- All ACT Policing patrols are RBT units which can test anyone at any time.
- ACT Policing continues to work with the private sector to identify and respond to social media pages and groups involved in all forms of criminal offending.
- The community can provide on criminal offending to Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or online at [www.act.crimestoppers.com.au](http://www.act.crimestoppers.com.au).

Cleared by: ACTP-C-MPP

Date: 27 July 2018



## 12. On-road cyclists – A metre matters

- Road safety is a priority for ACT Policing and should be a priority for all road users.
- Each month, ACT Policing focuses on a different road safety concern in conjunction with the Justice and Community Safety Directorate (JaCS). This campaign forms part of the ACT Road Safety Strategy 2011-2020 which prioritises a Vision Zero approach to road safety. Next month, the campaign will focus on vulnerable road users.
- Cyclists, as well as children, pedestrians and motorcyclists, are vulnerable road users as they do not have the same protection as a car during a collision. Motorists are reminded they are required to remain more than a metre away from cyclists while travelling under 60km/h, and 1.5 metres if a motorist is overtaking at more than 60 km/h.
- Ensuring the safety of cyclists on our roads is about improving our road-use culture. While culture changes can take time, it is important that all road-users are able to safely enjoy our roads.
- ACT Policing continues to work with the community, educating and enforcing all road safety laws. While there are a number of factors that contribute to the number of cautions, offences or prosecutions for a particular offence, all incidents are assessed on a case-by-case basis by ACT Policing.
- Community feedback indicates that, although slow, our road culture and cyclist safety is improving. ACT's peak cycling body, has recently commented that "Generally, we think [the rule is] improving the behaviour and awareness of people in cars".
- ACT Policing continues to work with the community on matters of road safety, and with a focus on laws offering affording important protections to vulnerable road users.

Cleared by: ACTP-C-MPP

Date: 27 July 2018

## ACT Emergency Services Agency Hot Issues

### 13. Controlled House Burns in Monash

- On 2 August 2018, ACT Fire & Rescue (ACTF&R) will be undertaking live, controlled, house burns in conjunction with the current Station Officer Development Program (SODP).
- The purpose of the controlled burns is to provide SODP participants the opportunity to supervise operational crews in real-time scenarios. Participants will also be returning to the scene the following day to conduct a fire investigation.
- There will be approximately three controlled burns taking place, with the first burn scheduled to commence at approximately 9:20am.
- The location for the house burns is 32 Kneeshaw Street, Monash. The house being burned for training has been provided to ACTF&R by Housing ACT.
- Local residents, including the management of the Goodwin Aged Retirement Village, have been notified of the burns. ESA Media will issue Single Point of Truth (SPOT) alerts to notify the community before the burns take place. Firefighters have also conducted a mailbox drop to surrounding houses to notify residents of the burns.

Cleared by: Dominic Lane

Date: 31 July 2018

#### 14. The Aerial Ladder Appliance (Bronto) – Beard Fire

- The Aerial Ladder Appliance (Bronto) could not have been deployed at the fire as poor ground conditions at the scene would have prevented the safe elevation of the booms to working height.

Cleared by: Dominic Lane

Date: 31 July 2018

## 15. Bushfire Risk and Planning at Ginninderry

- The ACT Emergency Services Agency (ESA) will closely oversee the Ginninderry development in West Belconnen to ensure it meets current Australian Standards for construction in a bushfire prone area and as well as any other specific directions deemed necessary by the ESA Commissioner.
- In planning for new estates in or near bushfire-prone areas the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate works very closely with the ESA.
- In addition to the Australian Standards for construction in a bushfire prone area, the *Emergencies Act 2004* also allows the ESA Commissioner to set additional standards in a situation where a development proposal is received that would concentrate vulnerable members of our community in a bushfire prone area.
- This decision would usually be made following advice from technical experts, including those within ESA Risk and Planning and the ACT Rural Fire Service. Talking points.

Cleared by: Dominic Lane

Date: 6 February 2018

## 16. Bushfire Abatement Zone

- The current model for the provision of emergency services in the ACT is serving the community very well. It ensures a seamless response across agencies, and across services, to any emergency incidents faced by the people of the ACT.
- The BAZ incorporates rural areas immediately surrounding the built-up area where specific measures may be required to reduce risk to life and property in the built-up area of Canberra from fires occurring in that zone.
- It is important to highlight that the existing response arrangements remain, whereby the first response to all grass and bushfires in the ACT will be by the nearest available most appropriate resource, irrespective of jurisdiction or service.
- As has been demonstrated, including in the most recent 2016-17 fire season, our fire services have an excellent record of working together collaboratively and cohesively in responding to fires in the BAZ to protect the ACT community. Talking points.

Cleared by: Dominic Lane

Date: 6 February 2018

## 17.ESA Strategic Reform Agenda

- The Strategic Reform Agenda (SRA) comprises six projects: Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) System/Territory Radio Network (TRN) upgrade and website hosting, Communications Centre Reform, Blueprint for Change, Station Upgrade and Relocation Project, Women in Emergency Services, Strategic Bushfire Management Plan.
- Significant progress has been made to help the ESA improve its services for the wider community, support its people and mature as an agency.
- A Joint Consultative Committee was established on 11 February 2016 to provide a formal mechanism for consultation between employee representatives and the Directorate on the reasons for proposed changes and their likely impact, and to enable employees and their representatives to contribute to the decision making process. Talking points.

Cleared by: Dominic Lane

Date: 6 February 2018

## 18. ACTAS Blueprint for Change

- The Blueprint for Change Implementation project commenced in 2017. It continues to be a high priority for the ACT Ambulance Service and aligns with the broader ESA Strategic Reform Agenda.
- The Oversight Committee is headed up by an Independent Chair, Mr David Place, an experienced senior operational manager from the South Australian Ambulance Service. I receive regular updates, the last on 28 September.
- In his most recent update, Mr Place noted that positive change is occurring such as the commencement of implementation of the new ACTAS Leadership Framework, considerable progress towards the introduction of a Peer Support program, Flexible Work Arrangements, Wi-Fi on all ambulance stations as well as a successful trial of powered stretchers.
- I am pleased with the progress being made and strong support from all involved including the Transport Workers Union and workplace representatives.
- On 21 December 2017, I announced the Government's commitment to provide additional ambulance resources, including the recruitment of 24 additional staff as well as two new ambulances.
- This will ensure that Canberrans continue to receive the fastest ambulance response times in the country. Talking points.

Cleared by: Dominic Lane

Date: 6 February 2018

## 19. Volunteer Concerns

- Thank you to all of our volunteers who have an enormous impact on improving the health and well-being of communities, not just in the ACT and Australia, but worldwide.
- I also thank volunteers for taking the time to write to me, to express their opinion on a number of matters they consider important as volunteers.
- All feedback is appreciated and contributes to ESA's program of continuous improvement. Talking points.

Cleared by: Dominic Lane

Date: 6 February 2018



**MINISTER FOR POLICE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES**  
**QUESTION TIME and OVERSIGHT BRIEF INDEX**  
**14-16 August and 21-23 August 2018**

<b>Joint QTBs</b>	
1.	Summary of Budget Initiatives
2.	Wellbeing and support for frontline emergency responders
3.	Assaults on ACTAS Emergency Services Personnel and ACT Police
4.	Serious and Organised crime response (Policy)
5.	OMCG incidents – shootings (Operational)
<b>ACT Police QTBs</b>	
6.	Key Data ACT Policing
7.	ACT Policing Crime Statistics
8.	Safety of Women in our Community (joint QTB with JACS/ACTP/CGFS)
9.	Firearms and Family Violence (joint QTB JACS ACTP)
10.	Hospital Firearms Incident
<b>SEMB QTBs</b>	
11.	Public Safety CCTV Network
12.	National Security Issues including crowded places strategy implementation (Bren)
<b>ESA QTBs</b>	
13.	Key Data ESA
14.	JACS Staff Survey – Fire and Rescue
15.	ACTAS Resourcing
16.	Election Commitments
17.	United Firefighters Union – Budget Submission and ESA Round table meetings
18.	PFAS issues (QTB to include general TPs about broader issues with sub headings addressing Health of Firefighters (consult with Health if required) and testing of sites)
19.	ComCen Update (UFU issues, recruitment of call techs) (recent developments in NSW)
20.	Molonglo RFS upgrades
21.	Independent Review of the Bega Valley Fire

**ACT Policing Hot Issues**

1. Conder explosion and death
2. Hackett Suspicious Package
3. Referral by Magistrate Theakston
4. Batons used on Indigenous Persons
5. Firearms and Firearms Amnesty
6. Terrorism
7. Aggravated Robberies
8. Tasers
9. Recent Dog Attack on Police Officer
10. Arson at Stockade Gym

**ACT Policing Ongoing Issues**

11. Police Pursuits (include update on current investigation)
12. Liquor Reform Package - Policing
13. Bail Laws
14. Social Media pages /RBT and Speed cameras
15. On-road cyclists – A metre matters

**ESA Hot Issues**

16. ACTF&R and Light Rail
17. Controlled House Burns in Monash
18. Aerial Ladder Appliance (Bronto) - Beard fire
19. Southpoint Triaging incident

**ESA Ongoing Issues**

20. Bushfire Risk and Planning at Ginninderry
21. Bushfire Abatement Zone
22. Strategic Reform Agenda
23. Blueprint for Change
24. Volunteer Concerns

**JACS Ongoing Issues**

25. Independent Integrity Commission

2018/000090-002

**Portfolio:** Police & Emergency Services

**ISSUE:** 2018-19 Budget Summary – Minister for Police and Emergency Services

**Talking points:**

- *Emergency Services*
- The 2018-19 Budget invests **\$2.3 million** recurrent and **\$6.6 million** capital to deliver:
  - **\$4.6 million** over four years to upgrade the ACT Ambulance fleet with electric stretchers and loaders, and equipping all ACT ambulances and firetrucks with new cardiac monitors and defibrillators.
  - **\$2 million** over two years and ongoing maintenance costs for a new aerial apparatus for ACT Fire & Rescue to support the existing Bronto appliance and respond to multi-storey building incidents.
  - **\$332,000** in 2018-19 to conduct an additional recruit college to train 18 new firefighters in 2018-19 for ACT Fire and Rescue.
  - **\$270,000** in 2018-19 to provide new protective helmets to ACT firefighters .
  - **\$1.7 million** over four years to make up the shortfall in funding from the Commonwealth Fire Payment as a result of a revised Memorandum of Understanding between the Commonwealth Government and the Territory for the provision of fire services.

The 2018-19 Budget also invests **\$1.5 million** over four years to upgrade the Public Safety CCTV Network across the CBD, at the Kingston and Manuka Shopping precincts, bus stations and major public facilities including Manuka Oval, EPIC and GIO Stadium.

In addition, 2017-18 2<sup>nd</sup> Appropriation provided **\$10.2 million** over four years for an additional ambulance crew as committed by the Government to deliver 23 more paramedics to meet continued increases in demand.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	23/07/2018	
Cleared by:	Deputy Director-General	Ext:50567
Information Officer name:	David Pryce	
Contact Officer name:	Karen Schofield	Ext: 54775
Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	

### *ACT Policing Services*

- The 2018-19 Budget invests **\$9.8 million** recurrent and **\$2 million** capital to better support ACT Policing's operations. This funding will deliver:
  - **\$2.6 million** over four years (2 FTE in 2018-19 and 4 FTE per year from 2019-20) to recruit and expand ACT Policing's strategic analysis capability targeting crime hot spots and identifying emerging risks
  - **\$1.6 million** over four years to recruit additional resources (two FTE per year) and provide specialised training and tools to target, disrupt, deter and prevent organised crime in the ACT
  - **\$5.6 million** over four years to provide new smartphones to ACT Policing staff to improve the secure capture, transmission and sharing of data and radio communications, and improve service delivery
  - **\$2 million** over two years to upgrade facilities at Tuggeranong Police Station and Winchester Police Station

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### **Background**

The ACT's budget announcements will include initiatives relating to:

- More support for families and inclusion – Better protective equipment for ACT firefighters;
- More services for our suburbs – Maintaining ACT Fire & Rescue capacity;
- More services for our suburbs – Training more fire fighters
- More services for our suburbs – More police
- More services for our suburbs – Strengthening Taskforce Nemesis
- More services for our suburbs – Upgrading mobile technology for ACT Policing
- More services for our suburbs – Equipment upgrades for first responders
- More services for our suburbs – New aerial pumper for ACT Fire & Rescue
- More services for our suburbs – Upgrading ACT Policing facilities
- More services for our suburbs – Keeping Canberrans safe in public places
- Better support when it matters – More paramedics

Cleared as complete and accurate: 23/07/2018  
Cleared by: Deputy Director-General Ext:50567  
Information Officer name: David Pryce  
Contact Officer name: Karen Schofield Ext: 54775  
Lead Directorate: Justice and Community  
Safety

## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

TRIM Ref: 2018/000144-017

**Portfolio:** Police & Emergency Services

### **ISSUE: WELLBEING AND SUPPORT FOR FRONTLINE EMERGENCY RESPONDERS**

#### **Talking points:**

- The health and wellbeing of emergency services personnel is a key priority for this Government. It is important that they are aware of available support services, and that they know we fully support them in minimising exposure to stressors, and in recovering from any ill effects experienced in their line of work.

#### *ACT Emergency Services Agency*

- A Senate Education and Employment Committee is conducting an inquiry into the role of Commonwealth, state and territory governments in addressing the high rates of mental health conditions experienced by first responders, emergency service workers and volunteers.
- I would encourage Members to go to the Parliament House website and read the written submissions received to date. In particular, I draw Member's attention to a submission by the ESA Commissioner, Mr Dominic Lane, which is consistent with the Government's focus on improving support for emergency services first responders.
- The ESA has delivered a number of initiatives that enable all volunteers and staff in the ESA to better manage the ever-present stressors that are experienced by emergency service personnel as they seek to protect our community.
- Mr Lane's submission acknowledges the Government's election commitment to establish a Manager – Welfare position within ESA, the work of the Blueprint for Change project across the ACT Ambulance Service, the concerted effort to increase the number of Peer Support Officers that are trained and available across the ESA, mental health training packages available for all ESA volunteers and staff, the relationships with not-for-profit organisations such as *Beyondblue*, *Soldier On* and *SupportLink*, and other measures in place to improve the health and wellbeing of all ESA volunteers and staff.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	18/07/2018	
Cleared by:	Commissioner	Ext: 78383
Information Officer name:	Dominic Lane	
Contact Officer name:	Brendan Stevens	Ext: 79981
Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	

### *ACT Policing*

- ACT Policing recognises the stress factors of community policing, and is dedicated to early intervention and support strategies for all ACT Policing members.
- ACT Policing has three dedicated police officers performing Welfare Officer roles. These Welfare Officers provide support to members for a range of matters, including critical incidents, work-place matters, personal matters, and as an initial support contact for the provision of further assistance. These members are available 24/7 where welfare assistance is needed.
- ACT Policing members are routinely exposed to traumatic events in the course of their duties, such as attending suicides, fatal motor vehicle accidents, family violence incidents and serious assaults.
- Research has indicated cumulative exposure to traumatic incidents has the potential to increase the risk factors for psychological injury.
- The operational requirement to work a rotating roster of day and night shifts also has an impact on the mental wellbeing of members.
- In 2017, Australian Federal Police (AFP) Organisational Health commenced a project aimed at reducing the psychological impact of traumatic exposure within the AFP.
- An AFP project team is currently reviewing the 'early intervention wellbeing support system' implemented by Victoria Police.

### **Key Information**

- Written submissions to the Senate Inquiry closed on 20 June 2018. Over the coming months public hearings will be held around the country, with the Senate Committee scheduled to provide a report by 5 December 2018.

### **Background Information**

- The Terms of Reference advise that the Senate Committee will investigate:
  - a. the nature and underlying causes of mental health conditions experienced by first responders, emergency service workers and volunteers;
  - b. research identifying linkages between first responder and emergency service occupations, and the incidence of mental health conditions;
  - c. management of mental health conditions in first responder and emergency services organisations, factors that may impede adequate management of mental health within the workplace and opportunities for improvement, including:
    - i. reporting of mental health conditions,
    - ii. specialised occupational mental health support and treatment services,
    - iii. workers' compensation,

Cleared as complete and accurate:	18/07/2018	
Cleared by:	Commissioner	Ext: 78383
Information Officer name:	Dominic Lane	
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Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	

## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- iv. workplace culture and management practices,
  - v. occupational function and return-to-work arrangements,
  - vi. collaboration between first responder and emergency services organisations,
  - vii. post-retirement mental health support services, and
  - viii. resource allocation.
- d. any other related matters.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	18/07/2018	
Cleared by:	Commissioner	Ext: 78383
Information Officer name:	Dominic Lane	
Contact Officer name:	Brendan Stevens	Ext: 79981
Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	

## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

TRIM Ref: 2018/000144-015

**Portfolio:** Police & Emergency Services

### ISSUE: ASSAULTS ON POLICE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES PERSONNEL

#### Talking points:

- Police and emergency services personnel are regularly exposed to a risk of assault and/or injury as an unfortunate reality of their job.
- Cases of violence against police and emergency services personnel can be complex. In many instances it is difficult to differentiate between those where there is intent to cause harm, and those where the police and emergency services personnel may be assaulted because the individual has a disordered or abnormal thought process during a highly stressful situation.
- However, regardless of the circumstances, the Government does not condone any sort of violence against our emergency services personnel.
- The intentional or reckless assault of police and emergency services personnel requires a strong response from Government to deliver appropriate protections to those who are dedicated to protecting the community.
- The Government is committed to ensuring a safe and healthy work environment, through legislation, policies, procedures, and strategies to mitigate the risk of assault and/or injury.
- Training is also provided for all of our emergency services personnel, to assist in identifying and managing potentially high risk situations.

#### Key Information

- Assaults on paramedics has received significant national media attention following some recent high profile incidents in Victoria. Since 1 January 2012, there have been 56 assaults *reported* by ACT Ambulance Service paramedics (to 11 July 2018). This relates to all types of assaults, including instances of verbal threats.
- Between 1 January 2012 and 20 April 2018, ACT Policing has recorded 278 instances of police assault.

#### Background Information

- There is currently no dedicated offence provision criminalising assaults against police or emergency service workers in the ACT.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	18/07/2018	
Cleared by:	Commissioner	Ext: 78383
Information Officer name:	Dominic Lane	
Contact Officer name:	Howard Wren	Ext: 70490
Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	



## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- The Government relies on the existing assault provisions contained in the *Crimes ACT 1900* where there are injuries sustained by police and emergency services personnel as a result of an assault:

***Common Assault – Section 26 of the ACT Crimes Act 1900***

Used for all assaults when there is no proof that harm has been caused. This is the same offence provision that relates to all members of the community. There is no specific provision for common assaults on police or other emergency service workers. The offence carries a maximum penalty of two years imprisonment.

***Assault Occasioning Actual Bodily Harm – Section 24 of the Crimes Act 1900***

This provision is used when actual bodily harm is caused in assaults on all emergency service workers other than police. This is the same offence provision that relates to all members of the community. The offence carries a maximum penalty of seven years imprisonment.

- ACT emergency service personnel also rely on ACT legislation for offences relating to obstruction or hindrance:

***Obstructing Territory Public Official – Section 361 of the ACT Criminal Code 2002***

This provision is used for persons who hinder, resist, intimidate or obstruct any Territory Public Official in the execution of their duty. All ACT and Commonwealth emergency service workers, including police, are covered under this provision. The offence carries a maximum penalty of two years imprisonment, \$30,000 or both.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	18/07/2018	
Cleared by:	Commissioner	Ext: 78383
Information Officer name:	Dominic Lane	
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Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	

TRIM Ref: 2018/000083-024

**Portfolio:** Attorney-General**ISSUE: SERIOUS AND ORGANISED CRIME RESPONSE**

Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs (OMCGs) are involved in criminal activities across Australia such as drug production and trafficking, vehicle rebirthing, firearms offences, money laundering, extortion and serious assaults.

**TALKING POINTS**

- The ACT Government is strongly committed to responding to the criminal activities of OMCGs.
- ACT Policing has established an OMCG Taskforce – Taskforce Nemesis – to focus on operational and investigative responses to OMCG activity.
- The Taskforce is supported by a suite of criminal laws developed by the ACT Government over a number of years, and continued investment to ensure that ACT Policing has the resources it needs to combat criminal gangs in the ACT.

*Anti-consorting laws*

- The ACT Government remains strongly committed to embracing practical legislative measures to address serious and organised crime in order to keep Canberra a safe and secure community.
- The Government does not support the introduction of consorting laws at this time.
- Any future consideration of consorting laws would need to be informed by strong evidence establishing the requirement for, and effectiveness of, such laws.
- Laws of this nature would also need to allay unresolved Government and community concerns about conflict with human rights and criminal law principles’.
- Law reform decisions are made by the Government taking into account need and evidence about their effectiveness as well as the views of our stakeholders and the broader community.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 20/06/2018  
Cleared by: Deputy Executive Director  
Information Officer name: Tamsyn Harvey  
Contact Officer name: Chantel Potter  
Lead Directorate: Justice and Community Safety

### *Fortification removal laws*

- Fortifications are structures designed to stop or hinder uninvited entry to premises.
- The *Crimes (Fortification Removal) Amendment Bill 2017* was passed in February 2018.
- The Bill provides the Chief Police Officer with the power to apply to the Magistrates Court for an order that the occupier of the premises remove fortifications on the premises. The Bill also prohibits the establishment of fortifications on certain premises.
- These laws will help make the ACT a hostile environment for criminal gangs to prevent the establishment of fortified premises such as OMCG club houses.

### *Crime scene powers and drive-by shootings*

- The *Crimes (Police Powers and Firearms Offence) Amendment Act 2017* commenced on 8 December 2017.
- The Act introduced statutory crime scene powers to allow police officers to preserve evidence in a timely manner at crime scenes in both public and private places while taking the least restrictive approach to limiting a person's right to privacy.
- The Act also created a new offence of 'drive by shooting' which deals with people shooting at a building, including a home, whether from a car or otherwise. The offence is punishable by a maximum of 10 years imprisonment.
- These new laws have already been used by ACT Policing to support its work to combat criminal groups in the ACT.

### **Background**

At the most recent meeting of the Council of Attorneys-General held on 8 June 2018, participants agreed that organised crime is a serious and pervasive threat to the community. In recognition of this, participants agreed to have regard to the statement of guiding principles when developing legislative responses to combat organised crime.

ACT Policing has identified three OMCGs that operate in the ACT (the Rebels, the Nomads and the Comancheros).

The ACT Government remains strongly committed to embracing practical legislative measures to address serious and organized crime in order to keep Canberra a safe and secure community.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	20/06/2018
Cleared by:	Deputy Executive Director
Information Officer name:	Tamsyn Harvey
Contact Officer name:	Chantel Potter
Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety

## Anti-Consorting Laws

Consorting laws make it an offence to associate with a person after being issued with a warning to refrain from associating with that person.

All jurisdictions except the ACT have consorting law schemes. Consorting law schemes differ in each jurisdiction. Some legislative schemes have been found to be invalid by the High Court. The Victorian model is the only model that requires law enforcement to demonstrate a link between the association of two people and the commission of a criminal offence. Obtaining evidence to support this belief may be challenging in an operational context.

The Human Rights Commission advised that without a suspected link to identifiable criminal activity, it is unlikely that consorting laws will be cured of their inherent incompatibility with the Human Rights Act 2004.

The ACT has not supported the introduction of consorting laws to date due to the lack of evidence for their effectiveness and the significant human rights implications.

### *Private Members Bill – Crimes (Criminal Organisation Control) Bill 2017*

- On 1 November 2017 the Shadow Attorney-General, Mr Jeremy Hanson MLA CSC, introduced the Bill in the Legislative Assembly. The Bill proposed the introduction of criminal organisation laws in the ACT. The Bill was debated in the same month but was not supported by the ACT Government.
- The Bill was based on NSW criminal organisation laws, however was less restrictive of human rights.
- To make a control order, the Bill required the court to be satisfied that it would be reasonably necessary to restrict, or impose conditions on the activities of a person in order to end, prevent or reduce a serious threat to public safety and order.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 20/06/2018  
Cleared by: Deputy Executive Director  
Information Officer name: Tamsyn Harvey  
Contact Officer name: Chantel Potter  
Lead Directorate: Justice and Community  
Safety

## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

TRIM Ref: 2018/000086-001

**Portfolio:** Minister for Police & Emergency Services

Attorney-General

### ISSUE: OMCG INCIDENTS AND TASKFORCE NEMESIS

#### **THIS IS AN ACT POLICING OPERATIONAL BRIEF**

This QTB focuses on the ACT Policing operational aspects. Information about anti-consorting laws, fortification removal laws, crime scene powers and drive-by shootings can be found in the QTB titled “Serious and Organised Crime Response”.

#### **TALKING POINTS:**

- Countering serious and organised crime by criminal gangs and maintaining public safety is of primary focus for the ACT Government and ACT Policing.
- Through Taskforce Nemesis, ACT Policing continues to proactively target criminal gang members to deter, detect and disrupt criminal activity. This includes confiscation of criminal assets.
- The Government’s 2018-19 Budget commitment of \$1.594 million over four years to Taskforce Nemesis provides funding for one Forensic Accountant, one Surveillance Team Member, and associated equipment and training.
  - Planning is underway for the recruitment of two additional members allocated through the 2018-19 Budget initiative. Exact commencement dates are dependent upon recruitment and security clearance processes.
- Funding allocated to combating Criminal Gangs in August 2016 has been applied, and eight members were appointed to Taskforce Nemesis.
- In 2017, the Federal Government boosted resources for dealing with organised crime through the National Anti-Gangs Squad (NAGS). Through NAGS, ACT Policing works closely with other agencies, liaising on matters of operational and strategic importance. NAGS brings together the resources and expertise of Federal and state/territory agencies to cooperate and share information to identify, target, disrupt and deter gang-related crime.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	09/08/2018
Cleared by:	DCPO-C
Information Officer name:	Tamsyn Harvey
Contact Officer name:	ACT Policing
Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety

## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- As at 7 August 2018, there are four known Criminal Gangs (the Comancheros, Nomads, Rebels and Finks) operating in the ACT. The total number of members associated with ACT chapters of these Criminal Gangs is estimated at approximately 60 people.
- Since January 2018, ACT Policing has responded to criminal gang related incidents including:
  - Eight incidents of discharging a firearm at a residential address or a person
  - Seven arson incidents.
- Since January 2018, Taskforce Nemesis has:
  - Executed 76 search warrants against criminal gang targets
  - Seized 22 firearms
  - Seized \$61,750 in currency
  - Laid 53 charges against criminal gang members.

### Most recent criminal gang activity

- On 11 June 2018, a Molotov cocktail was thrown through a window and a firearm was discharged at a Ngunnawal residence. No one was injured in the incident. On 20 June 2018, the same residence was subject to an aggravated burglary, in which offenders forced in the front door of the residence and set fire to the property. As these matters remain subject to ongoing investigation, it would be inappropriate to comment further.
- On 28 June 2018, four people attended two residential properties in Calwell. A firearm was discharged at both properties, and three vehicles were set alight at one of the residences. An adult male received medical treatment for a related injury to his hand. As these matters remain subject to ongoing investigation, it would be inappropriate to comment further.
- On 6 July 2018, a physical altercation broke out between six men on Anketell Street in Greenway. The men are believed to be criminal gang members and the altercation is understood to be a result of ongoing tensions between criminal gangs. As this matter remains subject to ongoing investigation, it would be inappropriate to comment further.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	09/08/2018
Cleared by:	DCPO-C
Information Officer name:	Tamsyn Harvey
Contact Officer name:	ACT Policing
Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety

## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- On 6 August 2018, Taskforce Nemesis undertook targeted operations as part of investigations into the criminal gang related shooting incident that occurred on 28 June 2018.
  - A targeted vehicle stop was undertaken by Taskforce Nemesis, resulting in a .357 calibre revolver being located and seized by Police.
  - A short time later, Taskforce Nemesis members executed a search warrant at a Calwell residence. Police located and seized a loaded 22/250 rifle, a shortened 9mm semi-automatic rifle, ammunition, and illicit substances.
  - Two men were arrested and charged with 14 cumulative charges. One of the men (a 21 year old male) was charged with firearms offences relating to the search warrant executed on 6 August 2018, and the other (a 36 year old male) was charged with firearm and weapons offences related to the incident on 28 June 2018.
  - On 7 August 2018, both men appeared before the ACT Magistrates Court and were granted bail and ordered to appear at a later date.

### Background

- Appropriate legislative frameworks are an essential component to enable police to effectively disrupt and dismantle criminal organisations. A number of legislative amendments have been made to increase the tools available to police and enhance the response capacity of police officers. Most recently, these have included legislation passed on fortifications, drive-by shootings and crime scene powers.
- ACT Policing works closely with Police in other jurisdictions by sharing intelligence, best practices, and collaboratively monitoring and combating criminal gangs.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 09/08/2018  
Cleared by: DCPO-C  
Information Officer name: Tamsyn Harvey  
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Lead Directorate: Justice and Community  
Safety

# QUESTION TIME BRIEF

TRIM Ref: 2018/000086-014

**Portfolio:** Police & Emergency Services

## ISSUE: ACT POLICING KEY DATA

### ACT Policing

Staffing as reported in previous annual reports

2015/2016 as at 30 June	2016/2017 as at 30 June
FTE – 968.48	FTE – 946.47
Headcount - 909	Headcount - 884

\*As per Annual Report 2016-17, in future reporting ACT Policing will be reporting FTE utilising an average FTE.

### ACT Policing Budget

Original 2017-18 Appropriation	Revised 2017-18 Appropriation	Original 2018-19 Appropriation
\$161,331,000 <sup>1</sup>	\$158,895,000	\$166,919,000

### 2017-18 Budget adjustments:

The following adjustments occurred:

- -\$695,000 for the Eastman trial rolled over to 2018-19;
- -\$1,329,920 for the Enterprise Agreement rolled over to 2018-19 due to delays in implementation;
- -\$448,000 rolled over to and re-profiled for 2018-19 due to changes and delays in procurement of CEWs.
- \$37,000 additional funding received through the 2017/18 second appropriation for Drug and Alcohol court establishment.

<sup>1</sup> As published in 2017-21 Purchase Agreement.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 20/07/2018

Cleared by: ACTP-DCS Ext:

Information Officer name: Tamsyn Harvey

Contact Officer name: Andrew McIntosh Ext:

Lead Directorate: Justice and Community Safety



## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

### Call Outs – As at 1 July 2018 - 2017-18 Financial Year

Category	# of Call outs 2017-18 FY	Average Response time H:MM:SS 2017-18 FY
Priority 1	328 7.2% Increase from 2016-17 (306)	0:10:34 0:03:21 increase from 2016-17
Priority 2	13437 2.6% Decrease from 2016-17 (13802)	0:34:08 0:01:00 decrease from 2016-17
Priority 3	24415 23.8% Decrease from 2016-17 (32026)	3:44:07 1:05:39 increase from 2016-17

### Summary of Key Strategies

As per the Purchase Agreement 2017-21 ACT Policing supports a whole of government approach in achieving the objectives of ACT Government Strategies, particularly those addressing crime. These Strategies include, but are not limited to:

- *Property Crime Prevention Strategy.*
- *Blueprint for Youth Justice in the ACT 2012-22.*
- *ACT Prevention of Violence Against Women and Children Strategy 2011-17.*
- *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Agreement.*
- *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Justice Partnership.*
- *Road Safety Strategy 2011-20.*
- *Justice Reform Strategy.*

### Stations

There are seven Police Stations within the ACT that provide a response capability:

- City
- Belconnen
- Gungahlin
- Woden
- Tuggeranong
- Winchester Police Centre
- Traffic Operations Centre

Cleared as complete and accurate: 20/07/2018  
 Cleared by: ACTP-DCS Ext:  
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 Lead Directorate: Justice and Community  
 Safety

## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

### Confiscation of Criminal Assets (COCA)

This is a summary of proceedings under the *Confiscation of Criminal Assets Act 2003* (ACT). COCA matters are listed before the ACT Magistrates Court, on average, once a month. The ACT Magistrates Court has not yet sat to hear COCA matters this financial year.

	2017-18	2018-19 YTD
Total Number of offences	29	-
Total Asset value	\$13,355,172	-
Penalty order value	\$7,179,000	-

Note: Asset values provided are market estimates and do not take into account potential mortgages affecting assets. Amounts realised from Penalty Orders are dependant upon the respondents' capacity to service those orders and may be significantly less than the full value of the Penalty Order.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 20/07/2018  
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Safety

## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

TRIM Ref: 2018/000086-001

**Portfolio:** Minister for Police & Emergency Services

Attorney-General

### ISSUE: OMCG INCIDENTS AND TASKFORCE NEMESIS

#### THIS IS AN ACT POLICING OPERATIONAL BRIEF

This QTB focuses on the ACT Policing operational aspects. Information about anti-consorting laws, fortification removal laws, crime scene powers and drive-by shootings can be found in the QTB titled “Serious and Organised Crime Response”.

#### TALKING POINTS:

- Countering serious and organised crime by criminal gangs and maintaining public safety is of primary focus for the ACT Government and ACT Policing.
- Through Taskforce Nemesis, ACT Policing continues to proactively target criminal gang members to deter, detect and disrupt criminal activity. This includes confiscation of criminal assets.
- The Government’s 2018-19 Budget commitment of \$1.594 million over four years to Taskforce Nemesis provides funding for one Forensic Accountant, one Surveillance Team Member, and associated equipment and training.
  - Planning is underway for the recruitment of two additional members allocated through the 2018-19 Budget initiative. Exact commencement dates are dependent upon recruitment and security clearance processes.
- Funding allocated to combating Criminal Gangs in August 2016 has been applied, and eight members were appointed to Taskforce Nemesis.
- In 2017, the Federal Government boosted resources for dealing with organised crime through the National Anti-Gangs Squad (NAGS). Through NAGS, ACT Policing works closely with other agencies, liaising on matters of operational and strategic importance. NAGS brings together the resources and expertise of Federal and state/territory agencies to cooperate and share information to identify, target, disrupt and deter gang-related crime.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	09/08/2018
Cleared by:	DCPO-C
Information Officer name:	Tamsyn Harvey
Contact Officer name:	ACT Policing
Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety

## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- As at 7 August 2018, there are four known Criminal Gangs (the Comancheros, Nomads, Rebels and Finks) operating in the ACT. The total number of members associated with ACT chapters of these Criminal Gangs is estimated at approximately 60 people.
- Since January 2018, ACT Policing has responded to criminal gang related incidents including:
  - Eight incidents of discharging a firearm at a residential address or a person
  - Seven arson incidents.
- Since January 2018, Taskforce Nemesis has:
  - Executed 76 search warrants against criminal gang targets
  - Seized 22 firearms
  - Seized \$61,750 in currency
  - Laid 53 charges against criminal gang members.

### Most recent criminal gang activity

- On 11 June 2018, a Molotov cocktail was thrown through a window and a firearm was discharged at a Ngunnawal residence. No one was injured in the incident. On 20 June 2018, the same residence was subject to an aggravated burglary, in which offenders forced in the front door of the residence and set fire to the property. As these matters remains subject to ongoing investigation, it would be inappropriate to comment further.
- On 28 June 2018, four people attended two residential properties in Calwell. A firearm was discharged at both properties, and three vehicles were set alight at one of the residences. An adult male received medical treatment for a related injury to his hand. As these matters remain subject to ongoing investigation, it would be inappropriate to comment further.
- On 6 July 2018, a physical altercation broke out between six men on Anketell Street in Greenway. The men are believed to be criminal gang members and the altercation is understood to be a result of ongoing tensions between criminal gangs. As this matter remains subject to ongoing investigation, it would be inappropriate to comment further.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	09/08/2018
Cleared by:	DCPO-C
Information Officer name:	Tamsyn Harvey
Contact Officer name:	ACT Policing
Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety

## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- On 6 August 2018, Taskforce Nemesis undertook targeted operations as part of investigations into the criminal gang related shooting incident that occurred on 28 June 2018.
  - A targeted vehicle stop was undertaken by Taskforce Nemesis, resulting in a .357 calibre revolver being located and seized by Police.
  - A short time later, Taskforce Nemesis members executed a search warrant at a Calwell residence. Police located and seized a loaded 22/250 rifle, a shortened 9mm semi-automatic rifle, ammunition, and illicit substances.
  - Two men were arrested and charged with 14 cumulative charges. One of the men (a 21 year old male) was charged with firearms offences relating to the search warrant executed on 6 August 2018, and the other (a 36 year old male) was charged with firearm and weapons offences related to the incident on 28 June 2018.
  - On 7 August 2018, both men appeared before the ACT Magistrates Court and were granted bail and ordered to appear at a later date.

### Background

- Appropriate legislative frameworks are an essential component to enable police to effectively disrupt and dismantle criminal organisations. A number of legislative amendments have been made to increase the tools available to police and enhance the response capacity of police officers. Most recently, these have included legislation passed on fortifications, drive-by shootings and crime scene powers.
- ACT Policing works closely with Police in other jurisdictions by sharing intelligence, best practices, and collaboratively monitoring and combating criminal gangs.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 09/08/2018  
Cleared by: DCPO-C  
Information Officer name: Tamsyn Harvey  
Contact Officer name: ACT Policing  
Lead Directorate: Justice and Community  
Safety

## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

TRIM Ref: MIN:2018/000086-004

**Portfolio:** Police & Emergency Services

**ISSUE:** ACT Policing Crime Statistics

### Talking points:

- I am pleased to see that the number of offences for the 2017-18 financial year shows a **decrease of 3.2 per cent (or 1116 offences)** when compared to the previous financial year.
- The total number of offences recorded against the person for the reporting period shows a **decrease of 14.8 per cent (or 581 offences)**, when compared to the previous year.
- Alcohol-related assaults **decreased 17.6 per cent (or 154 offences)** for the 12 months to 30 April 2018.
- The Government and ACT Policing are proactively responding to family violence issues in our community in an effort to keep victims safe and reduce the likelihood of these incidences occurring.
- Family violence related assault offences **decreased 17 per cent (or 230 offences)**, when compared to 2016-17.
- Offences that recorded significant decreases included:
  - Other offences against the person (down 39.1 per cent or 133 offences)
  - Sexual assault offences (down 16.9 per cent or 92 offences)
- Homicide and related offences **increased from 3 offences in 2016-17 to 8 offences** in 2017-18.
- I am advised there has been a **12.5 per cent increase** in motor vehicle theft in the past financial year; however I understand ACT Policing has seen some positive results following implementation of a flexible targeting team.
- ACT Policing's Crime Disruption Team (CDT) has seen positive results during the year. The number of armed robbery offences has **decreased by 10.7 per cent** since 2016-17.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 20/07/2018

Cleared by: ACTP-DCS

Ext:70522

Contact Officer Name: Tamsyn Harvey

Ext: 70581

Lead Directorate: Justice and Community Safety

## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- Importantly, since 6 February 2018, there have been zero aggravated robbery offences at licenced clubs.

These decreases are positive results for the ACT community. However, there may be some upwards revisions to the figures as people report crime and investigations progress.

### ***What is ACT Policing doing to address crime?***

- Positive clearance rates achieved by ACT Policing despite general crime rate increases, demonstrates ACT Policing remains effective in addressing criminal activity.
- ACT Policing has established a Crime Disruption Team (CDT), whose primary focus has been on recidivist offending, disrupting aggravated robbery offences and ram raids across the ACT, utilising sophisticated targeting models.

### **Key Information**

- Increases in crime should be considered in the context of the longer term trends and how the ACT compares to other jurisdictions.
- The ACT Criminal Justice Statistical Profile (released every six months), ABS Crime Victimization data (released annually in February), Recorded Crime Offender data (Released annually in February) and Recorded Crime Victims data (released annually in July) provide detail on trends and comparisons to other jurisdictions.
- The Government has been pro-active in working with ACT Policing to address property crime through the Property Crime Prevention Strategy 2016-2020, launched in September 2016.
- The latest crime statistics as of 30 June 2018 based on the ACT Policing website statistics indicate that reports of crime across Canberra has decreased 3.2 per cent when comparing the 2017-18 financial year to the previous period.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	20/07/2018	
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Contact Officer Name:	Tamsyn Harvey	Ext: 70581
Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	

## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

Offence	2016-17 Total	2017-18 Total	Percentage change
<b>Homicide</b>	3	8	166.7%
<b>Assault - FV</b>	1356	1126	-17.0%
<b>Assault - Non-FV</b>	1678	1547	-7.8%
<b>Sexual Assault</b>	544	452	-16.9%
<b>Other offences against a person</b>	340	207	-39.1%
<b>Robbery - armed</b>	131	117	-10.7%
<b>Robbery - other</b>	112	102	-8.9%
<b>Burglary dwellings</b>	1641	1648	0.4%
<b>Burglary shops</b>	330	275	-16.7%
<b>Burglary other</b>	579	572	-1.2%
<b>Motor vehicle theft</b>	1292	1453	12.5%
<b>Property damage</b>	5302	4528	-14.6%
<b>Other offences</b>	11890	12012	1.0%
<b>Theft (excluding Motor Vehicles)</b>	9514	9549	0.4%
<b>Total (Offences only)</b>	34712	33596	-3.2%

- Compared to 2016-17, districts such Belconnen, Inner North, Inner South, Tuggeranong recorded a decrease in the total number of offences reported to ACT Policing. Gungahlin, Weston Creek, Molonglo and Woden districts however reported increases.
- Long term trends indicate that overall offences have decreased by 19.5 per cent when comparing the 2017-18 and 2008-09 financial year results.

Offence	Date reported										% Change 2016-17 to 2017-18	% Change 2016-17 to 2017-18
	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18		
<b>Homicide</b>	10	9	4	6	5	4	7	5	3	8	166.7%	-20.0%
<b>Assault - FV</b>	764	810	852	746	692	682	738	1137	1356	1126	-17.0%	47.4%
<b>Assault - Non-FV</b>	1803	1648	1657	1607	1543	1375	1258	1410	1678	1547	-7.8%	-14.2%
<b>Sexual Assault</b>	337	353	337	433	452	431	439	473	544	452	-16.9%	34.1%
<b>Other offences against a person</b>	132	106	138	87	82	99	105	243	340	207	-39.1%	56.8%
<b>Robbery - armed</b>	110	134	149	141	100	90	111	77	131	117	-10.7%	6.4%
<b>Robbery - other</b>	167	195	116	113	84	62	64	77	112	102	-8.9%	-38.9%
<b>Burglary dwellings</b>	3127	3731	2517	1827	1549	1432	1552	1469	1641	1648	0.4%	-47.3%
<b>Burglary shops</b>	402	524	350	336	259	252	267	425	330	275	-16.7%	-31.6%
<b>Burglary other</b>	710	869	609	441	459	421	575	722	579	572	-1.2%	-19.4%
<b>Motor vehicle theft</b>	2054	2057	1286	1167	856	739	1026	1014	1292	1453	12.5%	-29.3%
<b>Property damage</b>	8897	9212	7279	5896	5442	4284	4692	5072	5302	4528	-14.6%	-49.1%
<b>Other offences</b>	10596	10185	9941	9569	9216	10658	10495	10182	11890	12012	1.0%	13.4%
<b>Theft (excluding Motor Vehicles)</b>	12603	13982	11089	9376	10050	9299	10000	10819	9514	9549	0.4%	-24.2%
<b>Total</b>	41712	43815	36324	31745	30789	29828	31329	33125	34712	33596	-3.2%	-19.5%

Cleared as complete and accurate: 20/07/2018  
 Cleared by: ACTP-DCS Ext:70522  
 Contact Officer Name: Tamsyn Harvey Ext: 70581  
 Lead Directorate: Justice and Community Safety



## Background Information

### ACT Policing's Live Data Base

One of the main sources of data for these publications is ACT Policing's live data base.

As ACT Policing's database is live, crime data is continually revised as people report crime and investigations progress. This means that there can be variances, usually increases, in the same statistics if drawn from the live database on a different date. The data for this QTB was extracted from the Police Realtime Online Management Information System (PROMIS) on the first working day after the close of the financial year. As such, it is highly likely other offences will be reported over the next quarter or two, and the decreases cited above may lessen or disappear altogether.

While all of these publications refer to crime types, for example personal and property crime, motor vehicle theft, assault, burglary etc., what they are actually counting is often different.

Publications can count the number of offences reported to police, the number of charges, offenders or victims. All of these will result in different statistics on the same type of crime.

When counting offenders, offences or charges, numbers can vary. One offender can be responsible for multiple offences and an offence can be recorded in the system before an offender is identified.

When considering victims of crime, the most widely used source of data is the number of victims recorded in the ACT Policing live data base. However, not all crime is reported to the police.

### ABS's Crime Victimization Data

To deal with under-reporting of crime, the ABS's *Crime Victimization* publication relies on a national survey that asks people to self-identify if they have been a victim of crime. This may capture data on crime that has not been reported to the police. However, as the sample size for the ACT is usually small this results in low confidence in the survey results.

National publications can include different numbers to those published by ACT Policing or the Justice and Community Safety Directorate because they are based on specific counting rules in order to allow national comparison across jurisdictions.

### Criminal Justice Statistical Profile

Differences in crime data reporting can also arise through different dates of comparison, particularly when looking at increases and decreases in crime.

Most national publications and annual reports will report on financial years or calendar years.

By contrast, the ACT Policing website and ACT Criminal Justice Statistical Profile report quarterly statistics which allows comparisons of financial or calendar years, or by quarters.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	20/07/2018	
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Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	

# QUESTION TIME BRIEF

TRIM Ref:2018/000086-015

**Portfolios:** Police & Emergency Services

Attorney-General

Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence

**ISSUE: SAFETY OF WOMEN IN OUR COMMUNITY**

**Talking points:**

- Canberra remains a very safe city in which to live. The safety of our community is our priority.
- The factors affecting women's safety are complex and varied. For example the impact of poverty, crimes rates, drug and alcohol use, urban design and gender stereotypes. Whole of community changes in attitude and behaviour take many years to achieve.
- The gendered nature of women's safety is also complex, and cannot be addressed through local initiatives alone. That is why the ACT Government supports the *National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010–2022*, especially as it relates to the *Bystander* and *Stop it at the Start* campaigns, which incorporate radio and TV advertisements, social media and community education initiatives.
- The Community Safety Directorate is working to enhance the status of women and girls in the ACT and to create a community where they are safe, healthy, equally represented and valued for their contribution to society. This is achieved through the implementation of the ACT Women's Plan 2016-2026 and work under the National Plan to reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022.
- This is also achieved through targeted womens' programs such as grant and leadership programs for women and girls, International Women's Day and Violence Prevention Awards, and the application of women's safety assessment to ACT funded events and environment design in urban planning.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	24/07/2018	
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Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	

**Key Information**

- In the 2018-19 Budget the ACT Government committed an additional \$696,000 to the Office for Women to implement actions under the ACT Women's Plan and to promote gender equality more broadly. Under the *ACT Women's Plan 2016-26, First Action Plan 2017-19*, the following strategies (actions), are related to women's safety:
  - Promote the use of Women's Safety Audits at events run by the ACT Government
  - Investigate the use of the Safety Mapping Tool to guide ACT Government planning
  - Review the 'Crime Prevention through Environmental Design General Code' from a safe and inclusive communities perspective (with a focus on women) and review language used in this Code
  - Determine the process by which women's perspectives can be incorporated into Master Plans, Territory Plan reviews and urban design processes
  - Include women, and in particular young women aged 15-21, in the planning and design study of local centres. This study will identify resilience, liveability and accessibility at the local level and provide a comparative basis to test planning and design responses in line with national best practice
  - Conduct lifestyle analysis of women customers (to improve transport options for women)
- All actions in the *ACT Women's Plan 2016-26, First Action Plan*, will be implemented and reviewed by the end of 2019.
- In 2016-17 the ACT recorded the highest national result for community member feelings of safety at home during the night (90.6 per cent). While the final results are not yet available, the 2017-18 estimated outcome shows that this result has risen to 94.8 per cent with the target of 87.7 per cent being exceeded by 7.1 per cent
- Feelings of safety on public transport in the ACT during the night was also the highest nationally in 2016-17 and ranked above the national average (32.4 per cent). Similarly the 2017-18 estimated outcome shows that this has risen to 39.2 per cent with the target of 24.5 per cent being exceeded by 14.7 per cent
- These strong results reflect results of the ACT Government and ACT Policing continuing to work with partner agencies and community to maintain and improve community safety in Canberra's public spaces and in intelligence led targeting of criminal activities.
- There is often a disparity between community perception and realities when it comes to crime types. Continued community liaison and engagement is helping to bridge this gap.
- One example of disparities between community perception and realities is the prevalence of criminal offending in Haig Park. Haig Park has seen a reduction in offences since 2013 from 17 down to 2 in 2018 to date.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 24/07/2018  
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Lead Directorate: Justice and Community  
Safety

## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

Year (Calendar)	Number of Offences
2013	17
2014	17
2015	11
2016	13
2017	10
2018 (As at 31 May 2018)	2

- There has been one recorded sexual assault in Haig Park since 2013. That incident occurred in 2017.

### Background Information

- The National Survey of Community Satisfaction with Policing is a quarterly telephone survey conducted across all Australian jurisdictions. The survey collects information on community perceptions of Police in terms of services provided and personal experiences of contact with the Police.
- Perceptions of safety indicators are drawn from the National Survey of Community Satisfaction with Policing, a self-reporting survey conducted by the Social Research Centre. This is the only Australian survey to provide nationally comparable data regarding public satisfaction with police. The national sample is approx. 26,000; the ACT sample size, of 2,400, is statistically reliable.
- The information contained in this brief was sourced from ACT Policing and the Office of the Co-ordinator General for Family Safety.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 24/07/2018  
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Information Officer name: Tamsyn Harvey  
Contact Officer name: Andrew McIntosh Ext: 70550  
Lead Directorate: Justice and Community Safety

# QUESTION TIME BRIEF

Trim Ref: 2018/000086-016

**Portfolio:** Police & Emergency Services

**ISSUE: FIREARMS AND FAMILY VIOLENCE**

**Talking points:**

- ACT Policing is committed to breaking the cycle of family violence and ensuring the safety of the Canberra community.
- ACT Policing is committed to maintaining high levels of firearm safety and accountability in the ACT.
- ACT Policing is focused on keeping our community safe through a diverse range of mechanism, including work with the judicial system and partner agencies.
- The *Firearms Act 1996* (Firearms Act) establishes the licensing and registration scheme for all firearms possessed or used in the ACT. The legislative scheme was implemented following the establishment of the National Firearms Agreement (NFA), and aims to comply with the spirit of the NFA to facilitate a national approach to the control of firearms.
- One of the underlying principles of the Act is to confirm that firearms possession and use is a privilege, and to improve public safety by imposing strict controls on the possession and use of firearms.
- The ACT Policing Firearm Registry is responsible for the delivery of regulatory and licensing functions in accordance with the Firearms Act.
- The general authorisation mechanism for licensing and registration is broadly a two-step process under the Firearms Act
  - First, a person must obtain a firearms licence for Categories A, B, C, D and H and for collectors, heirlooms, dealers, and paintball markers.
  - Second, a licensee must obtain a permit to acquire a firearm.
- The ACT has a rigorous firearms licensing scheme, that requires applicants to disclose criminal offences, mental health issues and other matters affecting their suitability to possess or handle a firearm.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	20/07/2018	
Cleared by:	ACTP DCPO-C	Ext:
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Contact Officer name:	Ashleigh Tilbrook	Ext: 53735
Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	

## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- In assessing an application made by a person under the Firearms Act, the Registrar of Firearms (Registrar) must consider any discretionary criteria in relation to an individual (for example, the person's physical or mental health: section 18) and mandatory criteria (for example, criminal history to determine whether specific offences have been committed, and whether the person has been subject to a final protection order: section 19).
- In assessing the person's suitability against the discretionary and mandatory criteria, the Registrar may decide that an individual is not suitable for a licence or permit, prior to even considering the merits of the licence application itself.
  - The Registrar may request that an applicant disclose personal health information relevant to the applicant's ability to handle firearms responsibly, and may refuse to consider an application if the information is not provided.
  - If a person is asked to provide further information regarding their mental health status or treatment, it is most commonly provided in the form of a letter from their physician (preferably a treating mental health professional) commenting on the ability of the applicant to responsibly handle firearms.
  - Not all individuals who apply for a firearms licence in the ACT are required to undergo mental health checks. Mental health checks are only sought if the applicant discloses an issue, or if a mental health issue comes to police attention which may affect the applicant's ability to handle firearms responsibly.
  - In all instances, where a firearm licence holder becomes subject to a Family Violence Order or Personal Protection Order, the licence is suspended or cancelled by operation of law. Any firearms held by the person are immediately seized by Police.
- ACT Policing has advised, since 1 January 2017:
  - three firearm licence applications were declined on mental health grounds
  - 10 firearm licences have been suspended on mental health grounds.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	20/07/2018	
Cleared by:	ACTP DCPO-C	Ext:
Information Officer name:	Tamsyn Harvey	Ext: 70522
Contact Officer name:	Ashleigh Tilbrook	Ext: 53735
Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	

## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- ACT Policing has advised, since 1 January 2017:
  - seven firearm licences have been suspended as a result of Family Violence Order. Any firearms held by these licence holders were seized by ACT Policing.  
  
seven firearm licences have been cancelled as a result of Family Violence Order. Any firearms held by these licence holders were seized by ACT Policing.
- The ACT is monitoring the actions of NSW and working with other jurisdictions to consider whether more can be done.

### Background Information

- On 5 July 2018, a NSW resident (John Edwards) shot and murdered his two children before turning the firearm on himself. It is reported that he obtained the firearm under a “Commissioner’s Permit”, purported to override red flags raised by answers provided in his firearm licence application.
- A National Firearms Amnesty was held between 1 July-30 September 2017. The total number of firearms surrendered in the ACT was 699.
- The Commonwealth Attorney-General has informally committed to tackling gaps in how family courts and police approach ‘red flags’ and issues of violence raised in court proceedings, so that they are considered by police when assessing firearms applications.
- A senior working group under the Council of Attorneys-General has been investigating information sharing between various agencies relevant to family violence. The working group is due to report back to the Council of Attorneys-General later this year.
- The NSW government is also in the preliminary stage of considering potential amendments to their firearms legislation. No concrete proposal has been put forward by the NSW Government to date and the NSW Police Minister has not outlined what a potential reform package might look like without an examination of wider policy issues and implications being examined.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	20/07/2018	
Cleared by:	ACTP DCPO-C	Ext:
Information Officer name:	Tamsyn Harvey	Ext: 70522
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Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	

TRIM Ref: 2018/00086-017

**Portfolio:** Minister for Police & Emergency Services**ISSUE: THE CANBERRA HOSPITAL FIREARM INCIDENT****Talking points:**

- The incident has been declared a critical incident and in accordance with standard procedure, AFP Professional Standards attended The Canberra Hospital, and will oversee the investigation into the circumstances surrounding the incident.
- On 19 July 2018, the man involved in the incident appeared before the ACT Magistrates Court on multiple charges arising from the incident at The Canberra Hospital and traffic offences. He entered pleas of 'not guilty' to the charges of attempted murder but did not enter pleas on the remaining charges. The man was remanded in custody.
- As the matter remains ongoing and is now a criminal matter before the ACT Magistrates Court, it would be inappropriate for me to comment further at this time.

**Background Information**

- An incident occurred at The Canberra Hospital on 18 July 2018 where a man involved in a driving incident earlier in the day was under police custody in the Emergency Department. He attempted to escape police custody and became involved in an altercation with police and gained access to one of the officers' guns and discharged the firearm a number of times.
- No members of the public or hospital staff were physically injured during the incident. There was no threat to public safety arising from the incident.
- Two police officers received treatment for injuries arising from the physical altercation. Police officers were not harmed as a result of the firearm being discharged.
- ACT Policing exercised crime scene powers to secure the scene within the Emergency Management Unit of The Canberra Hospital.
- The man involved in the incident has been charged with a number of criminal offences, including two charges of attempted murder, assault occasioning actual bodily harm, discharging a firearm endangering life, and attempting to escape from custody or arrest.
- On Wednesday 18 July 2018 at about 7.30am, a 26-year-old man who is alleged to have been driving a stolen motor vehicle failed to stop at a red traffic signal and collided with a heavy vehicle on the intersection of Yamba Drive and Mawson Drive in the suburb of Mawson.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 30/07/2018  
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Tilbrook  
Lead Directorate: Justice and Community  
Safety



## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- The driver of the truck suffered life threatening injuries and was conveyed to The Canberra Hospital in a critical condition. The driver remains in a critical condition.
- The driver of the stolen motor vehicle was arrested by police at the scene, and conveyed to The Canberra Hospital under police guard.
- About 4.00pm that same date, while in the Emergency Room of The Canberra Hospital, the man became extremely violent and attempted to escape police custody.
- A physical struggle ensued between the man and police, during which the man assaulted police and gained access to a police firearm.
- The man pointed the firearm at police and made threats to kill the officers.
- A physical struggle ensued, during which the man discharged the firearm a number of times. Following the deployment of a Taser, the man was disarmed, subdued and the firearm was secured.
- At about 4.00pm, ACT Policing exercised crime scene powers to secure the crime scene within the Emergency Management Unit of The Canberra Hospital. The Unit of The hospital remained operational.
- The man was conveyed to the ACT Regional Watch House, where he was charged with:
  - Two counts of attempted murder
  - Assault occasioning actual bodily harm
  - Discharge firearm endangering life
  - Attempt to escape from custody or arrest
  - Attempted robbery
  - Drive motor vehicle without consent
  - Two counts of culpable drive causing grievous bodily harm
  - Unlicensed driver
- The man first appeared before the ACT Magistrates Court on 19 July 2018 where he was remanded in custody.
- Crime scene examination of the scene at The Canberra Hospital continued on 19 July 2018. ACT Policing worked closely with The Canberra Hospital to minimise disruption to hospital services.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 30/07/2018  
Cleared by: Chief Police Officer  
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Lead Directorate: Justice and Community Safety

# QUESTION TIME BRIEF

TRIM Ref: 2018/000089-003

**Portfolio:** Police & Emergency Services

**ISSUE: PUBLIC SAFETY CCTV NETWORK**

**Talking points:**

- The ACT's Public Safety CCTV Network enhances the safety of Canberra's public venues and open spaces. The Network is an essential tool in the fight against crime.
- The Network provides live and recorded CCTV footage to ACT Policing to support incident management, criminal investigations and prosecutions in court. The Network is also used by the ACT Government to support crowded place events and operations and strengthen public safety.
- The Government through the ACT Budget 2018-19 is investing \$975,000 over four years to further upgrade and expand the ACT's Public Safety CCTV Network. These upgrade works will focus on areas highlighted in the strategic operations plan for the Public Safety CCTV Network for the period 2017-2022, including:
  - Additional high definition cameras with enhanced coverage, resolution and performance in low light across Canberra's public venues and open spaces including GIO Stadium, Manuka Oval, EPIC, the Kingston and Manuka shopping precincts
  - Software upgrades to enhance the CCTV investigation capability of ACT Policing
  - Upgrading CCTV recording equipment
  - Upgrading the CCTV systems at bus stations and depots.
- The Government continues to trial portable, solar powered CCTV technology at seven sites across Canberra to enhance the capabilities of the Public Safety CCTV Network. Solar powered CCTV units will again be used at this year's Floriade.
- The Government is developing a CCTV Strategy to guide future government investment in this essential security technology that is now widely used across ACT public venues and open spaces.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	16/07/2018	
Cleared by:	Executive Director	Ext: 78628
Information Officer name:	Bren Burkevics	
Contact Officer name:	David Wheeler	Ext: 55089
Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	

**Key Information**If asked about the trial of portable solar powered CCTV systems

- The Government is currently undertaking a trial of solar powered CCTV units. These units require no fixed infrastructure to operate and transmit data over the mobile phone network.
- Seven units are in use across Canberra. Three are installed at the National Arboretum Canberra, two in the City, one at the Owl Artwork and one at Griffith Shops.
- Additional units were used on a temporary basis at Floriade 2017 and the Christmas in the City Event in Glebe Park.
- The outcomes of the trial to date is beneficial to developing the Government's understanding of how this technology can be used to support public and asset safety and security.
- Solar powered CCTV units will be used again at Floriade 2018.

If asked about facial-biometric capability of the Public Safety CCTV System

- The Public Safety CCTV System does not utilise facial-biometric capability.

If asked about CCTV on the Light Rail network

- Officials that manage the Public Safety CCTV System are actively involved in the planning and design for the CCTV system to be used on the Canberra Metro light rail project with the aim of receiving CCTV feeds.

If asked about using the CBR Free Wi-Fi System to Host CCTV Data

- The Government has determined that the CBRfree Wi-Fi network infrastructure could be used to support the efficient expansion of the Public Safety CCTV System.
- The Government will shortly provide further details on a 12 month trial of using the CBRFree Wi-Fi network to host data from the Public Safety CCTV System. Trial cameras are being planned for Greenway and Haig Park.

If asked about CCTV System Security

- The Public Safety CCTV System operates within the secure ACT Government ICT network. Access to the system is by officers with authorised access and restricted to specially programmed computers.
- The stand-alone solar powered CCTV units transmit encrypted data to secure servers which are only accessible by officials with authorised access.

If asked about current system capabilities

- The Public Safety CCTV System is located at Canberra City, GIO Stadium, Manuka Oval, Exhibition Park in Canberra (EPIC), Manuka shopping precinct, Kingston shopping precinct and the Jolimont Bus Station.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 16/07/2018  
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Lead Directorate: Justice and Community Safety

## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- CCTV footage is recorded by these systems 24 hours a day. Footage is retained for 30 days as required by the *Territory Records Act 2002*, after which it is automatically deleted unless required for investigative purposes.
- ACT Policing has dedicated staff that actively monitor the Public Safety CCTV system on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights. The purpose of the monitoring is to enhance public safety by identifying anti-social or criminal activity early and dispatching Police resources in a timely manner. ACT Policing may also use the system at any other times to assist with incident management, investigations and response.

### Background Information

- The Public Safety CCTV Network is an ACT Government owned network of interconnected CCTV systems located at various public venues and open spaces.
- CCTV is a well-established tool that enhances public safety by deterring crime and assisting in criminal investigations by law enforcement agencies.
- ACT Policing started CCTV monitoring in the Civic Precinct in 2001. In 2007, responsibility for the system transferred to JACS and the system was expanded to include Kingston and Manuka shopping precincts, Manuka Oval, EPIC, Jolimont Centre and GIO Stadium.
- JACS-SEMB is the CCTV policy coordinator and works closely with ACT Policing to ensure the system remains current, reliable and operationally effective.
- The network is provided by the ACT Government Shared Services ICT team and allows both live and recorded footage to be viewed from the Winchester Police Centre and other locations where ICT access is available.
- The ACT Government CCTV Working Group actively coordinates whole of government policy actions to support CCTV systems and infrastructure.
- A strategic operations plan for the Public Safety CCTV System has been completed for the period 2017-2022. This internal strategic plan will be used by JACS-SEMB to ensure the network remains current and addresses future community safety needs.
- A CCTV Strategy is being develop to guide future investment by the Government is this essential security technology.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	16/07/2018	
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## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

TRIM Ref: 2018/000089-001

**Portfolios:** Chief Minister

Police & Emergency Services

Attorney-General

### **ISSUE: NATIONAL SECURITY ISSUES (INCLUDING BIOMETRICS)**

#### **Talking points:**

##### Counter Terrorism (Chief Minister)

- Australia is one of the most successful and most harmonious multicultural societies in the world.
- This is our best defence against terrorism and violent extremism.
- Our identity is defined by an overriding commitment to our nation and its democratic values - not by race, religion or ethnic background.
- Anyone who singles out any particular group as a target for hatred plays into the hands of terrorists.
- We as a government reject those who seek to impose their world view on others through intimidation and violence.
- Terrorism is a national issue, and we work closely with our interstate partners on the national security challenges that Australia faces.
- These national security challenges continue to evolve, so we need to keep our legislation and capabilities under constant review to meet these emerging issues.
- The ACT Government is committed to ensuring the safety and security of our community, and continues to work closely with ACT Policing and other law enforcement and intelligence agencies to combat terrorism.
- The ACT continues to support community leaders and activities that help promote the vibrant, inclusive and culturally diverse nature of the ACT community while maintaining the rule of law and protecting human rights.
- Concerns about national security or terrorism should be reported immediately to the National Security Hotline on 1800 123 400. Alternatively, [www.nationalsecurity.gov.au](http://www.nationalsecurity.gov.au) provides more information.
- If a situation requires a police response, call Police Operations on 131 444. If the situation is potentially life threatening; call Triple-Zero (000).

Cleared as complete and accurate:	08/08/2018	
Cleared by:	Executive Director	Ext: 78628
Information Officer name:	Bren Burkevics	
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Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	

### Facial Biometric Matching Capability (Chief Minister)

- At the October 2017 Counter Terrorism COAG meeting, I agreed to the terms of a national agreement that will revolutionise the way identity verification is undertaken across the country.
- As a human rights jurisdiction, the ACT has established a bilateral schedule to the national agreement to ensure ACT participation in a way that is consistent with the ACT's human rights and privacy laws, while supporting national security needs.
- Limitations placed on how ACT data can be used will not limit the ability of other jurisdictions to participate with one another in the capability.
- The ACT will continue to explore additional participation for ACT in the range of services offered by the capability, pending further privacy and human rights scrutiny.

*If asked about recent reports that the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission has decided to discontinue its Biometric Identification Services project.*

- This project is unrelated to the National Driver Licence Facial Recognition Solution, and the decision does not impact on the Intergovernmental Agreement signed in October 2017.

### Defence support to National Counter-Terrorism arrangements (Chief Minister)

- In 2016, the Commonwealth Government initiated a review of Defence support to national counter-terrorism arrangements in response to the changing nature of the terrorist threat.
- State and Territory police remain, and will continue to remain, the primary responders to any terrorist attack.
- While Defence's primary role in counter-terrorism is offshore, Defence possesses specialist capabilities that could support state and territory governments in responding to an attack.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	08/08/2018	
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## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- The Commonwealth Government in close consultation with all States and Territories has worked to develop options for practical counter-terrorism engagement and cooperation between the Australian Defence Force (ADF) and State and Territory police.
- Additionally, in 2017 the Commonwealth Government announced proposed amendments to Part IIIAAA of the *Defence Act 1903* (the Defence Act)
- Part IIIAAA provides the framework for authorising the ADF to use force to resolve a domestic violence incident, including terrorism, in support of States and Territories.
- The Commonwealth Government has introduced the Bill to amend Part IIIAAA of the Defence Act into Parliament. The Bill will seek to simplify the authorisation process for callout, and enhance the ability of states and territories to request Commonwealth assistance, through the ADF, in responding to domestic violence incidents including terrorism.
- The Bill has been referred to the Senate Standing Committee for Legal and Constitutional Affairs.

*If asked about reports that the amendments to the Defence Act will allow the call out of Defence to deal with strike action or protests.*

- The current call out provisions within the Defence Act contain a prohibition against the Defence Force stopping or restricting any protest, dissent, assembly or industrial action, except where there is a reasonable likelihood of the death of, or serious injury to, persons or serious damage to property.
- This prohibition against stopping or restricting protest, dissent, assembly or industrial action is retained in the proposed amendments to the Defence Act, just in a different format to assist in the readability of the call out provisions.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	08/08/2018	
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Information Officer name:	Bren Burkevics	
Contact Officer name:	Andrew Butters	Ext: 70317
Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	

## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

### Key Information

- Australia's National Terrorism Threat level remains at **PROBABLE**.
- Credible intelligence, assessed by national security agencies indicates that individuals or groups have developed both the intent and capability to conduct a terrorist attack in Australia.
- Since the national terrorism threat level was raised on 12 September 2014, there have been six attacks and 14 major CT disruption operations in response to potential attack planning in Australia.
- There are currently no known specific or credible threat to the ACT.

### Background Information

- The Australian Government has taken ten tranches of legislation through Parliament since August 2014.
- COAG has agreed to a range of legislative measures including:
  - enhancing the existing Commonwealth pre-charge detention regime under Part 1C of the *Crimes Act 1914*
  - legislation implementing the presumption against bail and parole for people who have demonstrated support for, or have links to terrorist activity, will be underpinned by nationally consistent principles
  - a new Commonwealth offence that will allow law enforcement agencies to intervene when an individual is in possession of instructional terrorist material, with appropriate safeguards
  - a new Commonwealth terrorism hoax offence. This will ensure that the potentially broad nature of terrorism hoaxes is criminalised in all jurisdictions.

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Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	



# QUESTION TIME BRIEF

TRIM Ref: 2018/000144-018

**Portfolio:** Police & Emergency Services

## ISSUE: KEY DATA

### ACT Ambulance Service (ACTAS)

#### Staffing

Total FTE	% Female	% Male	% Indigenous	% Disability	% Multicultural
265.78	37.9%	62.1%	1.0%	0.7%	2.3%

#### Vehicles

Emergency Ambulance Vehicles	Patient transports	Operational support	Support Vehicles	Total
23	5	10	2	40

Two additional Emergency Ambulance Vehicles will come online in November 2018.

#### Call Outs

ACT Ambulance Service – Operational Activity Incident Type	2016-17		2017-18	
	Incidents	Responses	Incidents	Responses
Medical (includes aeromedical)	49,875	50,383	52,426	53,345
Dual Response (Fire, Storm, etc.)	2,209	2,029	2,126	2,218
<b>Total Incidents</b>	<b>52,084</b>	<b>52,412</b>	<b>54,552</b>	<b>55,563</b>

For 2017-2018, the ACTAS Major Cities and State-wide response times at the 50th percentile are trending upwards having increased from 2016-2017 (8.7 minutes) to 2017-18 (9.1 minutes), which is an increase of 4.6 per cent.

#### Summary of Key Strategies

- Blueprint for Change
- Upgrade of Defibrillators
- Electric Stretchers for Ambulances

#### Stations

There are a total of eight ACTAS stations:

- Gungahlin, Joint Emergency Services Complex
- Belconnen, Aranda
- West Belconnen, Charnwood
- Dickson

Cleared as complete and accurate:	24/07/2018	
Cleared by:	Commissioner	Ext:78383
Information Officer name:	Dominic Lane	
Contact Officer name:	Victor Khaw	Ext:70167
Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	

# QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- Fyshwick
- Woden
- Greenway
- Calwell

## ACT Fire & Rescue (ACTF&R)

### Staffing

Total FTE	% Female	% Male	% Indigenous	% Disability	% Multicultural
334.06	5.1%	94.9%	1.8%	0.3%	1.2%
# Community Fire Unit Volunteers					
770					

### Vehicles

Operational	Operational support	Support Vehicles	Total
32	16	57	105

### Call Outs

ACT Fire & Rescue – Operational Activity	2016-17		2017-18	
	Incidents	Responses	Incidents	Responses
<b>Incident Type</b>				
<b>Fires</b>				
Structure Fires	271	1,395	260	1,247
Mobile Property Fires	264	448	291	490
Landscape fires, bush and grass	173	511	157	399
Other fires	253	558	256	502
<b>Total Fires</b>	<b>961</b>	<b>2,912</b>	<b>964</b>	<b>2,638</b>
<b>Other Emergencies and Incidents</b>				
Hazardous conditions	501	1,131	430	1,019
Severe Weather & Natural Disasters	560	650	389	468
System initiated FALSE alarms	6,068	10,859	5,493	11,365
Other	1,608	2,069	1,592	2,466
<b>Total other emergencies and incidents</b>	<b>8,737</b>	<b>14,709</b>	<b>7,904</b>	<b>15,318</b>
<b>Non-fire rescue calls (including road rescue)</b>				
Road Accident Rescue Operations	1,182	2,817	1,135	2,641
Medical Assists	298	399	355	475
Other Rescue (includes animal rescue)	179	247	239	313
<b>Total Non-fire rescue calls (including road rescue)</b>	<b>1,659</b>	<b>3,463</b>	<b>1,729</b>	<b>3,429</b>
<b>Total ACTF&amp;R Operational Activity</b>	<b>11,357</b>	<b>21,084</b>	<b>10,597</b>	<b>21,385</b>

Cleared as complete and accurate: 24/07/2018  
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 Lead Directorate: Justice and Community Safety

## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

The percentage of confinement of building fires to a room of origin for all ignition types has increased for the ACTF&R in 2017-2018 (75 per cent) from 2016-2017 (69.6 per cent), a 5.4 per cent increase.

### Summary of Key Strategies

- Update of Personal Protective Equipment
- Acquire a second aerial pumper appliance
- New Cardiac Monitors and Defibrillators

### Stations

There are a total of nine stations:

- Gungahlin, Joint Emergency Services Complex
- Belconnen, Aranda
- West Belconnen, Charnwood
- Ainslie
- Fyshwick
- Phillip
- Kambah
- Chisholm
- South Tuggeranong, Calwell

## ACT Rural Fire Service (ACT RFS)

### Staffing

Total FTE	% Female	% Male	% Indigenous	% Disability	% Multicultural
15	26.7%	73.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
<b># ACTRFS Volunteers</b>					
390					

### Vehicles

Operational	Operational support	Support Vehicles	Total
48	16	16	80

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# QUESTION TIME BRIEF

## Call Outs

ACT Rural Fire Service – Operational Activity	2016-17		2017-18	
	Incidents	Responses	Incidents	Responses
Grass and bush fires	82	374	62	285
Smoke investigations	8	20	3	6
Vehicle fire	31	45	35	37
Motor vehicle accident	19	20	7	6
Storm/flood (assisting ACTSES)	378	424	116	159
Structure Fires	3	5	3	5
Hazard Reductions	29	216	25	325
Other Fires/Incidents	81	332	97	310
<b>Total Incidents</b>	<b>631</b>	<b>1,436</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>1,133</b>

## Summary of Key Strategies

- Strategic Bushfire Management Plan

## Stations

There are a total of eight sheds:

- Gungahlin, Joint Emergency Services Complex
- Hall
- Molonglo, Holt
- Rivers, Cotter Road Stromlo
- Jerrabomberra, Symonston
- Guises Creek, Royalla
- Southern, Tharwa
- Tidbinbilla

## ACT State Emergency Service (ACT SES)

### Staffing

Total FTE	% Female	% Male	% Indigenous	% Disability	% Multicultural
9	55.6%	44.4%	0.0%	11.1%	0.0%
<b># ACTSES Volunteers</b>					
325					

Cleared as complete and accurate: 24/07/2018  
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 Lead Directorate: Justice and Community Safety

# QUESTION TIME BRIEF

## Vehicles

Operational	Operational support	Support Vehicles	Total
18	11	24	53

## Call Outs

ACT State Emergency Service – Operational Activity	2016-17		2017-18	
	Incidents	Responses	Incidents	Responses
Storm and flood	1,116	933	636	822
Search and rescue	4	41	12	87
"Operational assistance to other services (provision of flood boat service, lighting towers, catering)"	28	119	12	37
<b>Total Incidents</b>	<b>1,148</b>	<b>1,093</b>	<b>660</b>	<b>946</b>

## Summary of Key Strategies

- ACTSES Business Plan

## Stations

There are a total of six units:

- Gungahlin Unit, Joint Emergency Services Complex
- Tuggeranong Unit, Calwell
- Majura Unit, Hackett
- Belconnen Unit, Belconnen
- Woden Unit, Phillip
- Pialligo Unit, ESA Fairbairn precinct

## **Emergency Services Agency (ESA) General**

### Staffing

Total FTE	% Female	% Male	% Indigenous	% Disability	% Multicultural
67.13	29.5%	70.5%	1.5%	3.0%	4.5%
# MAPS Volunteers					
38					

Cleared as complete and accurate: 24/07/2018  
 Cleared by: Commissioner Ext:78383  
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 Lead Directorate: Justice and Community Safety

## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

### Vehicles

Operational	Operational support	Support Vehicles	Total
0	11	3	14

### Budget

2017-18 Budget \$'000	Expenses	2017-18 Estimated Outcome \$'000	2018-19 Budget \$'000	Var %
82,213	Employee Expenses	85,064	85,179	-
13,321	Superannuation Expenses	13,190	13,321	1
30,953	Supplies and Services	31,176	33,393	7
12,882	Depreciation and Amortisation	8,882	13,876	56
1	Grants and Purchased Services	692	0	-100
43	Borrowing Costs	9	43	378
2,118	Other Expenses	5,368	2,112	-61
<b>141,531</b>	<b>Total Ordinary Expenses</b>	<b>144,381</b>	<b>147,924</b>	<b>2</b>

### Summary of Key Strategies

- Communications Centre Reform
- Women in Emergency Services
- Territory Radio Network/Web Hosting Upgrade
- Station Upgrade and Relocation Program

### Facilities

ESA Headquarters, Fairbairn

ESA Workshops, Fairbairn

ESA Resource Centre, Fairbairn

ESA Training Centre, Hume

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Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	

# QUESTION TIME BRIEF

TRIM Ref: 2018/000144-009

**Portfolio:** Police & Emergency Services**ISSUE: JACS STAFF SURVEY – ACT FIRE & RESCUE**

## Talking points

### General Directorate comments

- The Justice and Community Safety (JACS) Staff Survey was conducted during April and May 2017. The survey results provide valuable information on what works well in JACS and identifies opportunities for improvement.
- The survey is one tool that assists the Directorate in understanding the broad culture of the organisation and makes an assessment of the level of staff engagement.
- It is based on benchmarking norms across the public and private sectors in Australia, but does not compare ACT Fire & Rescue's results specifically with other emergency services.
- It is important to note that while there is room for improvement, Directorate's results reflect that JACS is average when compared to other large public sector organisations. In this context, the survey does have some limitations as it is not directly targeted at firefighters.

### Actions being taken in response to survey results

- The survey results and feedback from staff as part of the 2017 survey results are being considered and actioned. JACS and ESA executives and managers have been actively engaging with all staff, including ACT Fire & Rescue, communicating the outcomes of the survey and listening to concerns through continued workforce engagement.
- This feedback is assisting in developing strategies to support continual improvement within the Directorate as part of its Workforce Strategy 2017-2019.
- In addition, while the response rate for ACT Fire & Rescue is higher than for previous surveys, it is still only 27 per cent. This low participation rate is consistent with operationally busy shift work environments, where computer use by frontline workers is limited.
- Based on the low participation rate, it is difficult to draw strong conclusions about ACT Fire & Rescue's views.

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Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	

## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- As part of its Station Relocation and Upgrade Program, the ACT Emergency Services Agency (ESA) has increased Wi-Fi technology at its facilities, allowing firefighters and paramedics to better utilise portable technology. It is hoped that this will lead to higher participation rates in future surveys.

### Positive elements of the survey results

- While most of the media focus has been on negative aspects of the survey in relation to ACT Fire & Rescue, there were also a number of positive results, specifically:
  - the quality of the staff and team oriented environment that exists within ACT Fire & Rescue
  - the willingness of staff to do something about other staff members who do not display the ACT Public Service values
  - ACT Fire & Rescue staff are clear about their accountabilities and what they are responsible for
  - there is a high level of respect for direct supervisors (assumed to mean Station Officers and Commanders) and the clarity of their communication.
- While I acknowledge that the survey indicates the need for improved connection and communication between executives, managers and frontline staff, the community can be assured that our firefighters continue to provide the highest level of service to the ACT community as consistently demonstrated in the annual 'Report on Government Services'.

*If asked, 'Do you still have confidence in the ESA Commissioner'*

- I have full confidence in the leadership of the ESA Commissioner, the Chief Officers and the Directorate to implement the government's priorities and commitments to ensure that Canberra remains a safe community that is well served by a highly capable and well-resourced Emergency Services Agency.
- The Government is committed to its continued support of our firefighters in the important work that they do in keeping our city and its residents safe.

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Cleared by:	Commissioner	Ext: 78383
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## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

### Key Information

- JACS staff are skilled professionals who deliver a quality service to the community. This is recognised through external reporting, for example, the annual Report on Government Services.
- JACS is committed to improving workforce culture to be a high performing environment that supports its staff.
- The staff survey is a key tool that was used to inform the development and implementation of JACS Workforce Strategy 2017-19.

### Background Information

- In Question on Notice Number 833, Mrs Giulia Jones MLA sought detailed results from the JACS staff survey results. In the response dated 18 December 2017, Mrs Jones was advised that the detailed results from the JACS staff surveys, including those of the ESA are not made public for a number of reasons:
  - assurances made to staff about the confidentiality of their responses and the risk of undermining staff confidence and participation in future surveys (which is voluntary)
  - the commercial value and intellectual property of Best Practice Australia as the survey provider would be compromised
  - the nature of the reports which are designed as working documents by executives and managers within the organisation.
- An article in the Canberra Times on 9 April 2018 claims that the survey results suggest ACT Fire & Rescue has a “blame culture”. Staff are not engaged with changes across the Directorate and feel helpless to influence the future direction of the organisation. The Canberra Times article also claims of ACT Fire & Rescue, that there is a lack of trust of senior executives within the Directorate.
- Following the Canberra Times article, the ESA Commissioner, Mr Dominic Lane, provided interviews to several media outlets.

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# QUESTION TIME BRIEF

TRIM Ref: 2018/000144-002

**Portfolio:** Police & Emergency Services

## **ISSUE: ACT AMBULANCE SERVICE (ACTAS) RESOURCING**

### **Talking points:**

- The Canberra community can have the highest confidence in the performance of their ambulance service.
- Demand on our ACT Ambulance Service (ACTAS) is at the highest levels ever.
- Despite this growing demand, the ACT has continued to record the best response times in the country over the past six years, as well as the highest levels of patient satisfaction.
- The Government is concerned, however, for the welfare of a committed ambulance workforce as they continue to meet increased demand.
- These concerns include ensuring paramedics having the opportunity for adequate breaks, and an appropriate amount of time to rest and recuperate between shifts.
- Break times for meals and fatigue are closely monitored within ACTAS and opportunities for relief are treated as a priority. ACTAS has implemented multiple mechanisms for ensuring the welfare of paramedics, however, on occasion due to unpredictable peaks in workload they may have longer than ideal periods without a break.
- The work and sacrifices carried out by paramedics should be highly commended as they continue to provide life saving services to members of the community who are experiencing their worst day.
- Situations like those outlined by Mr Coe during yesterday's debate are extraordinarily unusual given the levels of support that our paramedics experience and that the community expects.
- To address the Government's concerns, in December 2017 we announced the recruitment of 23 additional paramedics. This will assist ACTAS staff to continue to maintain the highest standards of service delivery in the nation, while at the same time ensuring their welfare.

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## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

### If asked about overtime

- Overtime plays a key role in operating any 24/7 emergency service such as ACTAS, and we don't shy away from this fact.
- Paramedics on personal leave, injured, or on return to work programs account for the majority of overtime hours in ACTAS.
- It is not feasible to put medical professionals in front of people requiring medical assistance, when they are not feeling well themselves.
- Other examples of where overtime is offered includes back filling of shifts, late cases (incidents that commence on one shift and carry over to the next), training, meetings, and all the community events where ACTAS presence is requested.
- It is not uncommon for overtime to be offered in these scenarios. It is how ambulance services around the country operate.
- If the ACTAS was obligated to have permanent positions to cover all of these additional elements, this would be a significant additional cost to the community.

### If asked about minimum crewing levels

- ACTAS aims for a minimum of 10 emergency ambulance crews during each shift and provides for two additional demand crews each 24 hour period.
- Where it is known that there are not enough staff rostered to crew 10 emergency ambulances in the middle of a day, every effort is made to back fill the rostered shifts. This is done by offering overtime to fill shifts.
- Overtime is also offered to fill night shifts, however, this is not taken up as readily. ACTAS has accepted operating with fewer than 10 emergency ambulance crews in these periods of known low demand in the knowledge that the high standard of care for the community is maintained.
- As announced during the recent debate on this matter, ACTAS will review minimum crewing levels so that they more accurately reflect the minimum crews required during periods of known demand.
- The Chief Officer – ACTAS is currently monitoring minimum crewing levels and, in consultation with ACTAS staff, may amend the ACTAS policy in the coming months.

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## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- I am also advised by ACTAS that the minimum crewing metric is not used by all ambulance services in the country and is also not routinely used as a KPI. Rather, response times and patient satisfaction provide better measures of the service provided.

### If asked about the FOI regarding Question on Notice number 662

- The majority of the documents released relate to correspondence between my office and the ESA Commissioner's Office in providing various drafts of the response.
- Responding to this question required a considerable amount of staff time in the ESA, primarily in ACTAS.

### ROGS

- Despite demand for ambulance response in Canberra increasing by 25 per cent since 2012-13, the ACT has continued to record the best response times in the country during this time, as well as the highest levels of patient satisfaction.

### Key Information

- Report on Government Services data for 2016-2017 indicates that the ACT continues to have the fastest response times in the country, however, response times at the 50th percentile are trending upwards having increased from 2014-2015 (8 minutes) and 2015-2016 (8.5 minutes) to 2016-2017 (8.7 minutes).
- To continue to meet increased demand, whilst maintaining the welfare of ACTAS staff, the Government announced in December 2017, the recruitment of 23 additional paramedics. The additional frontline resources hitting the road in 2018 should ensure response times remain the fastest in the country.

### Background Information

- On 21 June 2018, Mrs Giulia Jones MLA submitted two separate Freedom of Information requests seeking access to information ACTAS minimum crewing levels, and Question on Notice 662 regarding ACTAS minimum crewing levels. You were briefed on this matter in MIN:2018/002820.

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## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

TRIM Ref: 2018/000144-001

**Portfolio:** Police & Emergency Services

### **ISSUE: ACT EMERGENCY SERVICES (ESA) ELECTION COMMITMENTS**

#### **Talking points:**

#### Legislate 40km/h speed limit passing emergency vehicles with flashing lights

- This initiative was launched on 9 April 2018 and came into effect on 14 April 2018, following the commencement of the Road Transport (Safety and Traffic Management) Amendment Regulation 2018 (No 1).
- Drivers in the ACT must slow to 40km/h when passing a roadside emergency vehicle with flashing red or blue lights that is stationary or slow moving.
- Our emergency services are often required to work on or near the road, protecting the community when we are most vulnerable. For an emergency services worker, this is their workspace and they have a right to feel safe in their working environment.
- This law is consistent with existing speed restrictions in place in other areas where vulnerable road users are commonly found, such as school zones, road works, and town centres.

#### New Aerial Pumper Appliance

- The ACT Government is committed to providing a new aerial pumper appliance during this term of government.
- Funding for a new pumper was announced in the 2018-19 ACT Budget, and the ESA is now working to have the new aerial pumper on the road in the 2019-20 financial year.

#### If asked whether two aerial appliances provide adequate firefighting capability

- The ESA regularly and routinely reviews the risk profile across the ACT. The ESA informs me that two aerial appliances will provide sufficient operational capability for firefighters to deal with emergency incidents in high-rise and medium-rise buildings in the ACT.
- The ESA also advise that aerial appliances are not the primary source of fire protection, with firefighters relying more on building design and the National Construction Code requirements, including fire separations, fire doors and fire stairs, and buildings over 25 metres high having sprinklers.

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### Recruitment of Additional Firefighters

- Funding for a further recruit college was announced in the 2018-19 ACT Budget. This follows on from the 2017 recruitment which resulted in an additional 17 firefighters on duty in June 2018.
- Of the 17 firefighters to graduate, there are four female firefighters and two Indigenous firefighters.
- The recruitment program actively encourages female participation in line with the Women in Emergency Services Strategy and promotes opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Canberra to join ACTF&R as firefighters.
- The recruitment of 17 firefighters follows on from the 16 firefighters who joined ACTF&R as part of the 2016 Recruit College, and the nine firefighters who commenced duty as part of a lateral recruitment in November 2017.

### If asked about funding for the Recruit College

- Funding of \$332,000 for another recruit college was announced in the 2018-19 ACT Budget.
- A total of \$147,000 was included in the 2017-18 ACT Budget for this initiative. The full cost of the Recruit College was \$455,000, which was partly funded by reprioritising internal ESA resources.
- The 2017-18 Budget also included funding for the Modernising Emergency Services Call-taking initiative, which will allow ACTF&R to return firefighters to frontline roles.
- Over the next five years, ESA will transition to a unified ComCen model. Changes are being introduced to better utilise new technology and infrastructure and to modernise working practices and methods. This will include aligning resources with demand and introducing better ways to manage surge events and peak demand.
- The objective of this project is to ensure that all calls for assistance to the ComCen are handled in a consistent manner, using the same technological approaches by professionally qualified staff.

### Recruitment of Additional Ambulance Crew

- The ACT Government is committed to the recruitment of an additional ambulance crew during this term of government, and announced funding for this proposal in December 2017, as part of the mid-year Budget Review.
- Emergency responsiveness will be boosted across Canberra with the recruitment of 23 paramedics as well as two new ambulances.
- Despite demand for ambulance response in Canberra increasing by 25 per cent since 2012-13, the ACT has continued to record the best response times in the country during this time, as well as the highest levels of patient satisfaction.
- The professionalism of the women and men of the ACT Ambulance Service (ACTAS) has ensured our response times have remained the fastest.

### Provide Two New Intensive Care Ambulances

- The ACT Government is committed to providing two new emergency ambulance vehicles during this term of government, and funding for the purchase of two additional ambulance vehicles was announced in December 2017. This initiative aligns with the commitment to recruit an additional ambulance crew.
- Two ambulances are required for each crew. This ensures that an ambulance is available for paramedics on an incoming shift, when paramedics on the previous shift are attending to a late case.
- The two new ambulances will be built to ACTAS specifications, and delivery will coincide with the commencement of the new ambulance crew.

### Enhanced Mental Health Services for Emergency Services Personnel

- The increase in demand puts pressure on the welfare of a committed ambulance workforce as they continue to meet the community's expectations.
- Ensuring that our emergency service employees and volunteers have the right support to do their jobs well and safely remains a top priority for the ACT Government.

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## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- The position of Manager, Welfare Programs in ESA commenced during this term of government. The Manager, Welfare Programs is responsible for the Peer Support Program in ESA.

### If asked about activities or progress to date

- ESA is currently developing the training package for the Peer Support Program. This will support the currently developed draft Peer Support Policy. This work was informed by the experience gained by the Manager, Welfare Programs co-facilitating a similar Peer Support Program with the Queensland Ambulance Service.
- Applications for Clinical support staff and peer support candidates are being considered, and successful applicants will commence training in the Peer Support Program soon.

### Feasibility Study for a New Ambulance and Fire & Rescue Station in Civic

- The ESA City Station Feasibility Study was included in the 2017-18 ACT Budget, and rolled over into the 2018-19 ACT Budget.
- A city facility is being considered as part of the SURP revised activities and priorities. A procurement of services to undertake a feasibility study was undertaken in the 2017-18, with the engagement starting in early 2018-19; hence the rollover.

### No part-time stations

- The Government has given a clear commitment that there will be no part-time stations.

### Give volunteer firefighters subsidised gym memberships

- The 2017-18 ACT Budget includes a \$100 annual subsidy for ACT Rural Fire Service (ACTRFS) volunteers for fitness programs and gym memberships, which meets an Election Commitment.
- ACTRFS requires all active volunteers to undertake annual standardised fitness tests to ascertain their fitness for duty. This initiative provides a positive impact on the cost of living for firefighting volunteers by reducing their out of pocket expenses for fitness-related activities.
- ACTRFS Fitness reimbursements are aligned with the fire season year, which runs from 1 October – 30 September.
- I encourage ACTRFS volunteers to take advantage of this subsidy to support their wellbeing and fitness.

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## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- In line with the 2016 Election commitment, this commitment is a tangible means by which the ACT Government can encourage and support volunteers to maintain the required fitness standard.

### Partner with NSW to contract another helicopter and remote access fire teams

- The community can be assured that ESA is well placed to protect and preserve life, property and the environment during ACT bushfire seasons.
- The ACT Government is committed to implementing this commitment during this term of government, subject to agreement with the National Aerial Firefighting Centre, and the NSW Rural Fire Service.

### **Key Information**

- ESA is currently working with JACS, the Chief Minister, Treasury, and Economic Development Directorate, and other ACT Government Directorates and Agencies on the implementation of all Election commitments.

### ACT on Fire Campaign

- The United Firefighters Union (UFU) ran the 'ACT on Fire' campaign targeting all candidates standing at the 2016 ACT Election. The six key priorities of their campaign were more firefighters, proper equipment, no part-time stations, a strong organisation, a strong plan and ready for emerging threats. A copy of the Webpage can be viewed at <http://actonfire.com.au/>.
- The previous Minister for Police and Emergency Service was briefed on the UFU Campaign in MIN:2016/00469.

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# QUESTION TIME BRIEF

## Background Information

### Status of Election Commitments

- The table below shows the current status of each ESA related Election Commitment:

Title	Included in Budget (which year)	Status Summary (not yet, in progress, completed)
New Aerial Firefighting Pumper	2018-19	In progress
Recruitment of Additional Firefighters	2017-18 and 2018-19	In progress
Recruitment of Additional Ambulance Crew	December 2017 mid-year review	In progress
Provide Two New Intensive Care Ambulances	December 2017 mid-year review	In progress
Enhanced Mental Health Services for Emergency Services Personnel	2017-18	Completed
Funding for the position of Manager, Welfare Programs	2017-18	Completed
Feasibility Study for a New Ambulance and Fire & Rescue Station in Civic	2017-18	In progress
Give volunteer firefighters subsidised gym memberships	2017-18	Completed
Partner with NSW to contract another helicopter and remote access fire teams	Not yet included	Business Case to be prepared for 2019-20
Legislate a 40km/h speed limit when passing emergency vehicles with flashing lights	Not required	Completed

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## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

TRIM Ref: 2018/000144-010

**Portfolio:** Police & Emergency Services

**ISSUE: UNITED FIREFIGHTERS UNION – BUDGET SUBMISSION AND  
ESA ROUNDTABLE MEETINGS**

### Talking points

- Our firefighters are often called upon to respond to a variety of hazards and emergencies. I thank all of our firefighters for their hard work and commitment in keeping our community safe.
- The ACT Government has a strong track record of supporting our emergency services and we continue to consult with the ACT Emergency Services Agency (ESA) and volunteer and employee representatives, including the United Firefighters Union (UFU), in relation to the needs of our frontline responders.
- The ACT Government's commitment to our emergency services ensures that the ACT is one of the safest places to live, as highlighted in the Productivity Commission's 2018 Report on Government Services (ROGS).
- The ESA has a strong plan to ensure Canberra remains one of the safest communities in the world and the ACT Government will continue to support that mission.

### *If asked about the recruitment of additional firefighters and recruit colleges*

- The claim that ACT Fire & Rescue (ACTF&R) is around 40 firefighters short of its funded establishment is simply incorrect.
- Additional staff are regularly recruited to take the place of firefighters who are non-operational or on long-term leave.
- The current staffing situation does not impact on the ability of ACTF&R to fully staff appliances.
- The successful 2018 Recruit College, which graduated on 15 June 2018, saw 17 new firefighters, including four female and two Indigenous firefighters, join ACTF&R.
- This followed a lateral recruitment campaign in 2017 which resulted in the recruitment of nine suitably experienced candidates, from around Australia, graduating in November 2017.

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## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- A further recruit college for new firefighters, funded in the 2018-19 ACT Budget, will see an additional 18 firefighters placed in frontline positions in 2019. This includes two places as part of the Indigenous Fire and Rescue Employment Strategy (IFARES), and up to eight female firefighters as part of the Women in Emergency Services Strategy.
- The Government's proposed Communication Centre reforms will also put additional firefighters on the road.

### If asked about claims that Canberra population has grown, but firefighter numbers have not

- The ACT Government is confident in the advice received from the Chief Officer – ACTF&R, that the ACT has sufficient operational firefighters available to keep our community safe.
- This is evidenced by our response times to emergency incidents, which remain among the best in the nation. The Government continues to resource our fire and rescue service, including funding firefighters.
- The rate of growth in work claimed by the UFU does not accurately represent the overall picture.
- Each year, ROGS publishes figures for 'Total fires, other emergencies and incidents' attended by fire service organisations. It is important to note that fire service organisations includes both ACTF&R and the ACT Rural Fire Service.
- For the ACT, reported 'Total fires, other emergencies and incidents' increased from 9,773 in 2002-03 to 11,358 in 2016-17. This is a 16 per cent increase in total incidents over 15 years.
- By way of some comparison, over the same period, ACT Ambulance Service incidents increased from 26,599 in 2002-03 to 51,894 in 2016-17. This is a 95 per cent increase in total incidents over 15 years.

### If asked about the new aerial pumper appliance

- The ACT Government is committed to providing a new aerial pumper appliance during this term of government.
- Funding for a new pumper was announced in the 2018-19 ACT Budget, and the ESA is now working to have the new aerial pumper on the road in late 2019.
- Training will be provided to firefighters on the new aerial pumper in due course.

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## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

### If asked whether two aerial appliances provide adequate firefighting capability

- The ESA regularly and routinely reviews the risk profile across the ACT. The ESA informs me that two aerial appliances will provide sufficient operational capability for firefighters to deal with emergency incidents in high-rise and medium-rise buildings in the ACT.
- The ESA also advise that aerial appliances are not the primary source of fire protection, with firefighters relying more on building design and the National Construction Code requirements, including fire separations, fire doors and fire stairs, and buildings over 25 metres high having sprinklers.

### If asked about a City Station for ACTF&R

- As Canberra expands, the population grows and demand for services increases, there is a continual need to review the strategic placement and upgrade of stations.
- This includes investigating options for a city station for ESA services, including a facility for ACTF&R.
- The ESA City Station Feasibility Study was included in the 2017-18 ACT Budget, and rolled over into the 2018-19 ACT Budget.
- A city facility is being considered as part of the SURP revised activities and priorities. A procurement of services to undertake a feasibility study was undertaken in the 2017-18, with the engagement starting in early 2018-19; hence the rollover.

### If asked about Ainslie Fire and Rescue Station

- The ACT Government is committed to improving ESA facilities and ensuring the location of stations enable response times that meet predicted community demand.
- In the 2017-18 ACT Budget under “Better support when it matters”, the ACT Government allocated \$576,000 to modify Ainslie Fire & Rescue Station to allow for a second pumper.
- The upgrade will also provide improved facilities in order to accommodate an additional pumper crew, which would result from the implementation of reforms to the ESA Communication Centre.
- The UFU has notified a dispute in relation to the upgrade of Ainslie Fire and Rescue Station and this matter is listed to be heard in the Fair Work Commission. This has resulted in a significant delay in the project, with funding rolled over into the 2018-19 ACT Budget.

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*If asked about issues with recent works at ACTF&R stations*

*Ainslie Station*

- \$576,000 funding is being provided for upgrades to Ainslie Fire Station, which will cover construction and project fees including ICT, insurance, auditing and project management. These fees are generally standard across all projects.
- The funding was approved for a Privacy and Dignity upgrade to the existing facility. This included work to the existing recline areas, creation of male and female amenities and locker rooms.
- The “User Requirements Brief” the UFU are referring to is for new station builds only. This document cannot be used when upgrading existing facilities.
- The building is not heritage listed. Confirmation of this was received via letter from the ACT Heritage Council on 20 March 2018.
- Air quality testing was completed on site. This testing found that it would be safe to house an accommodation demountable within the engine bay for the duration of construction.
- A gymnasium has been included in the preliminary designs.

*City Station*

- Options for a City station are still being investigated.

*Fyshwick Fire Station*

- The Demountable at Fyshwick station was existing before the refurbishment. The refurbishment included an extensive renovation to this demountable to include a further three recline rooms and two bathrooms for the station.
- The temporary accommodation was Work Health and Safety approved and the UFU consulted in relation to the installation of covered walkways and external lighting.
- All accommodation had individual heating and cooling units in each room.
- Upgraded air-conditioning and heating was installed in the station as part of the renovation.

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*Belconnen Station at Aranda*

- There is a transition area at the Belconnen station.
- The construction of the new Belconnen Ambulance and Fire & Rescue Station was delivered under budget, however it is unclear where the UFU plucked the \$4m figure in their claims that costs were cut.
- The Belconnen Ambulance and Fire & Rescue Station is a state of the art, modern facility, that is allowing our paramedics and firefighters to continue to improve our delivery of services, which we know are already the best in the nation.

*South Tuggeranong Station*

- All work orders received to date have been completed.

*If asked about Personal Protective Equipment*

- I share the UFU's view that our firefighters need safe protective equipment to allow them to do their job effectively and safely.
- I am happy to inform you that all of the current personal protective clothing used within ACTF&R conforms to the required Australian Standards for structural firefighting.
- The Government is committed to upgrading our firefighters' personal protective clothing and equipment when required and committed in the 2018-19 ACT Budget to replace all structural fire helmets across ACTF&R.

*If asked about the Fire and Emergency Services Levy*

- The Fire and Emergency Services Levy is imposed on rateable properties across the ACT, and is a component of the total rates payable by property owners to contribute towards funding the many essential services provided by government to property owners.
- The Fire and Emergency Services levy is adjusted annually, as with other components of property rates, to reflect inflation and other events that impact on the cost of providing government services.
- Other sources of revenue that assist in funding emergency services include ambulance and fire service fees, Commonwealth fire service funding and grants.

## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

### If asked about the UFU's analysis of the ESA Roundtable Meetings

- I am aware that the UFU has raised a number of concerns in relation to the ESA Roundtable process.
- I must say, this doesn't accord with the feedback I have received from any of the participants in the ESA Roundtable meetings.
- Four meetings were conducted from January to March 2017. They were all planned and conducted by an independent facilitator, and were successful in providing an opportunity for all ESA volunteer and staff members, and key stakeholders, to participate and share their views.
- A summary report of the Roundtable Meetings was released to stakeholders in April 2017, and the ESA response was circulated in September 2017.
- The UFU concerns have now been raised in April 2018, over 12 months since the meetings were conducted.
- That said, the Government will consider the matters raised by the UFU in relation to the ESA Roundtable process, to try and better understand their concerns. The Government will respond to the UFU in due course and remains committed to appropriately engaging with ESA staff and volunteers.

### **Key Information**

- Funding was provided in the 2017-18 ACT Budget for reforms to the ESA Communications Centre, which would ultimately result in the transfer of firefighter positions back to operational firefighting. These reforms are being progressively implemented over several years.

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## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

TRIM ref: 2018/000144-019

**Portfolios:** Whole of Government

**ISSUE:** Per and Poly-fluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Contamination

**Talking points:**

### General points on PFAS

- Per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are man-made chemicals that have been used in industry and consumer products worldwide since the 1950s.
- They have been used in aqueous film forming foam (AFFF), for fire fighting purposes, non-stick cookware, water-repellent clothing, stain-resistant fabrics and carpets, some cosmetics, and products that resist grease, water, and oil.
- AFFF firefighting foam concentrates that were used to suppress flammable liquid fires previously contained PFAS.
- The phasing out of these concentrates by ACT Fire & Rescue (ACTF&R) commenced in September 2004. It was withdrawn as the foam concentrate stored in tanks on the ACTF&R fire trucks in April 2005.
- ACTF&R replaced its nine (9) litre portable AFFF fire extinguishers on fire fighting vehicles with fluorine-free alternatives in early 2017.

### Health and PFAS

- PFAS are very stable compounds and do not break down in the environment (i.e. they persist in the environment and in human bodies for a long time).
- I am advised that there is no conclusive proof that PFAS causes a large impact on an individual's health, including no evidence of an increase in the overall cancer risk.
- I am advised that there is also no conclusive evidence that PFAS causes adverse human health outcomes in pregnant women or their babies.
- Expert advice currently does not advise any specific biochemical or disease screening for groups exposed to PFAS outside of specific research studies.

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**PFAS Nationally**

- Governments in Australia work to a framework for PFAS management in accordance with the *Intergovernmental Agreement on a National Framework for Responding to PFAS Contamination* (March 2018) and the PFAS National Environment Management Plan (NEMP), adopted by all jurisdictions in February 2018.
- The NEMP defines the level of PFAS in soil and water that require further investigation.
- The NEMP also details methods for site assessments, sampling protocols and analytical determinations.
- Issues with PFAS that have been widely reported in other jurisdictions have involved direct contamination of drinking water and/or food supplies.
- Such issues are unlikely in the ACT because of the remote catchments used for town water supply and the insignificant volume of food production in the ACT.

**The ACT and PFAS**

- There are four known affected sites for PFAS in the ACT:
  - Canberra Airport
  - the former Charnwood Fire Station
  - the former Belconnen Fire Station and Training Centre; and
  - the West Belconnen Resource Management Centre (landfill).
- In recent years the ACT Environmental Protection Authority (EPA), in conjunction with the National Capital Authority and Icon Water, undertook sampling across ACT waterways to determine background levels of PFAS. The water sampling results did not detect PFAS in ACT waterways.
- An assessment is being undertaken by the ACT Government to determine what further investigations may be required of ACT sites, in accordance with the NEMP.
- The United Firefighters Union has recently raised concerns around potential health impacts for firefighters who may have come into contact with PFAS. (More detail below).

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**Fire and Rescue/Emergency Services (UFU Concerns)**

- Our firefighters, and the community can be assured that the ACT Emergency Services Agency (ESA), and Government, take this issue very seriously, we did thirteen years ago, and continue to do so today. ACT Fire & Rescue phased out PFAS, that is, in the form concentrate stored in tanks on the fire truck, thirteen years ago (2005).
- ESA has been working hard to ensure equipment is replaced and changed over. Four fire pumpers have been replaced and all equipment has either been flushed clean or replaced since foam concentrate containing PFAS was phased out.
- Australian health authorities, including ACT Health, report that there is no conclusive proof that PFAS cause any specific illnesses in humans, including cancer.
- There is also no consistent evidence that PFAS causes adverse human health outcomes in pregnant women or their babies.
- Expert advice currently does not advise any specific biochemical or disease screening for groups exposed to PFAS outside of specific research studies.
- ESA is working with WorkSafe ACT to ensure work health and safety obligations are met.
- ESA has undertaken a risk assessment to prioritise the testing of remaining sites and further testing will be done at the higher priority locations in the near future.

**Jervis Bay and PFAS**

- The Jervis Bay Territory (JBT) is a separate Commonwealth Territory where ACT law applies. The ACT Government is contracted by the Australian Government to supply certain services to (JBT), including education, licences, justice services, health protection and environmental water testing.
- ACT Health has actively participated in consideration of the effects on health of Jervis Bay residents, in particular, those living in the Wreck Bay Aboriginal community.

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- A potential issue has been identified with some Lilly Pilly trees present at Jervis Bay School. However, there is no immediate risk since the trees are currently not producing fruit. (They only produce fruit between December-February).
- Even when fruiting, a small child would need to eat large quantities to exceed daily intake limits of PFAS.
- The Department of Defence has undertaken a national program of investigation and response to PFAS contamination from Defence sites.
- One such site is the Jervis Bay Range Facility in the JBT.
- Defence is leading the response to PFAS contamination in JBT, including conducting water testing. The ACT Government is a member of Defence's Project Control Group and provides advice and support where required.
- Defence's PFAS investigation in JBT is ongoing and the ACT continues to provide support and advice where possible.
- A Defence Factsheet as well as a contact for further media enquiries is available on the [Defence website](#)).
- At the request of the Commonwealth, the ACT Government undertook tests of both drinking and recreational waters in JBT in 2016-17. The results of these tests were:
  - No detectable PFAS has been found in the potable (drinking) water supply.
  - Low levels of PFAS were found in environmental waters, and will be the subject of ongoing monitoring as part of the Defence-led investigation program.
- A number of separate PFAS investigations are also being conducted by Defence on the South Coast of NSW. NSW EPA recently issued dietary advice warnings for the Currumbene Creek area in NSW, near Jervis Bay Territory, and is engaging with local residents so they are aware of the issue and any changes in their activities which should be made to support health and safety.

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## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- More information is available at [www.epa.nsw.gov.au](http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au)
- The ACT Government remains in contact with NSW Government counterparts and is monitoring the situation.

### **Charnwood (former Fire Station) site**

- The development application (DA) for the child care centre on the site of the former Charnwood Fire Station was approved following assessment of the site, on the condition that requirements of the Health Protection Service and the Environment Protection Authority were met.

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## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- To comply with the conditions set out in the Notice of Decision the proponent has prepared an Operational Environmental Management Plan (OEMP) that has been endorsed by the EPA and a Landscape Plan endorsed by ACT Health.
- The proponent has submitted a subsequent DA with the Directorate.
- This DA seeks to include the approved OEMP into the lease to ensure the management of contamination issues is ongoing.
- This DA is still to be lodged for assessment.
- The site was sampled numerous times in 2014 and 2015 for PFAS. Lab results for the sampling concluded the contaminants were below the threshold levels for the proposed land-use of a childcare centre (compared to the US EPA screening criteria as no Australian criteria existed).
- The Territory Plan variation process includes mandatory referral of proposals to the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) for their comment, particularly in regards to potential contamination of sites.
- EPA provided advice that they were aware of environmental investigations into the contamination (associated with past activities) of the site.
- In accordance with the ACT Government's Strategic Plan Contaminated Sites Management 1995, and EPA endorsed guidelines, the variation would be supported provided the findings of the investigation demonstrate the site is suitable for the proposed uses. The assessment report must be reviewed and endorsed by the EPA prior to the Territory Plan being varied.
- Follow up comments from the EPA stated that they agreed that the site was capable of supporting a CFZ land use with potential for a child care from a contamination perspective subject to the condition that a 'site specific unexpected finds protocol' must be developed by a suitably qualified environmental consultant, implemented during development works at the site and is by the EPA prior to occupancy.
- As a result the Variation 335 commenced on 17 February 2016.

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## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- The former fuel storage infrastructure has been removed and validated with the site being found suitable for community use, including childcare.
- Notwithstanding this, both Health Protection and the EPA imposed additional protection measures that need to be satisfied by the builder before the building and surrounding grounds can receive a certificate of occupancy and be used – for example, the installation of permanent physical barriers to limit direct contact with shallow site soils.
- As part of the EPA conditions, the building owners have prepared an Operational Environmental Management Plan (OEMP) which was endorsed by the Environment Protection Authority on 15 March 2018.
- Prior to occupancy of the site the lease must be varied to include the approved OEMP and the EPA receive endorsement from a suitably qualified environmental consultant confirming that the mitigation measures required by the OEMP have been successfully installed, protecting any users of the site from contaminants.

### **West Belconnen Resource Management Centre**

- There will be further sampling undertaken at the West Belconnen Resource Management Centre as part of the environmental audit that is being undertaken for its redevelopment, consistent with NEMP.

### **Belconnen (former Fire Station and Training Centre)**

- The former Belconnen Fire Station and Training Centre is on the Register of Contaminated Sites as it is subject to a formal environmental audit to enable its redevelopment.

### **Former West Belconnen Sewerage Treatment Plant (WBSTP) - Jarramlee nature reserve**

- Preliminary investigations associated with the subsidence at the site indicate the presence of PFAS in very low concentrations in the groundwater with nil readings in the water and sediments in the adjacent Gininderra Creek. These are preliminary results and further testing is being undertaken.

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**Canberra Airport**

- Canberra Airport is on Commonwealth land and is therefore under the control of the Commonwealth Government and should be managed in accordance with the PFAS National Environment Management Plan.

**Key Information**

Environment Protection Authority – key points/technical detail on testing

***How are sites tested for PFAS? (ie. soil samples? Water samples?)***

Depending on the characteristics of the site, samples are taken of soil and groundwater.

Sampling methodology and procedures should be consistent with the established methods for contaminated site investigation as detailed in the ACT EPA 2017, Contaminated Sites Environment Protection Policy and PFAS NEMP 2018.

***Who does the testing?***

Suitable qualified environmental consultants collect the soil and groundwater samples. The samples are then sent to an accredited laboratory to be analysed for PFAS.

***Which sites trigger testing (ie. fuel stations, former emergency services or airport sites etc?)***

Sites identified in risk assessments may trigger further testing. Priorities for risk assessments and methods for testing for PFAS are detailed in the National Environment Management Plan (NEMP).

***How are the known sites monitored or recorded?***

The former Belconnen Fire Station is on the Register of Contaminated Sites as it is subject to a formal environmental audit to enable its redevelopment. The Register can be found on the Access Canberra website at:

[https://www.accesscanberra.act.gov.au/app/services/contaminated\\_sites#/](https://www.accesscanberra.act.gov.au/app/services/contaminated_sites#/)

***Are there any requirements for remediation or ongoing monitoring of known sites?***

Levels at the Charnwood site are below criteria for its proposed use as a childcare centre and is subject to the implementation of an Operational Environmental Management Plan and a Landscape Plan.

There will be further sampling undertaken at West Belconnen as part of the environmental audit that is being undertaken for its redevelopment.

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## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

Canberra Airport is on Commonwealth land and is therefore under the control of the Commonwealth Government and should be managed in accordance with the PFAS National Environment Management Plan.

The former Belconnen Fire Station is subject to redevelopment and the assessment of any contamination and environmental audit of the site are ongoing. The EPA must endorse the environmental audit for the site to ensure it is suitable for the proposed development.

***When did PFAS testing commence in the ACT?***

The past couple of years (2016) as PFAS has only recently emerged as a contaminate of concern.

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# QUESTION TIME BRIEF

TRIM Ref: 2018/000144-020

**Portfolio:** Police & Emergency Services**ISSUE:       ESA Communication Centre (ComCen) Reform****Talking points:**

- The Government announcement in June 2016 about ComCen reforms was made following extensive consultation and consideration of all the issues and feedback received.
- A long-term outcome of the ComCen project is to expand the current call-taker/dispatch model used by the ACT Ambulance Service (ACTAS) across the ESA ComCen.
- Professional call-takers and dispatchers will be provided with appropriate training to manage Emergency Triple Zero (E000) calls directed to ACT Fire & Rescue (ACTF&R), thus freeing up qualified firefighters to work in front line operations.
- A restructured ComCen will be resourced on a tiered model of service delivery which aligns resourcing to demand over a 24 hour period.
- The ESA will also use the changes in service delivery models to explore options in terms of better use of technology including integrating systems to facilitate the provision of information between services and external agencies e.g. ACT Policing, timely release of media alerts and updates, updating relevant websites, and providing information to the public.

**If asked about engagement with Unions and staff**

- ESA is working with staff and the unions on these changes.

**Key Information**

- An independent review of the Bega Valley fires in NSW examined other ComCens in NSW and other Australian states and formed the view that the Ambulance Service of NSW has an excellent model. It is a model that accurately tracks and pre-emptively positions resources according to demand and availability. A strategic and long term solution needs to be found that sees each of the agencies working side by side in a civilianised ComCen.

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## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- The Bega Valley Fires Review aligns with the reform of the ESA ComCen, and effectively addresses the issues detailed in the independent review (see separate QTB on Bega Valley Fires - Independent Review - 2018/000144-021).

### Background Information

- In Clause 151.1 of the ACTF&R Enterprise Agreement 2013-17, the Head of Service and the United Firefighters Union (UFU) committed to improve the efficiency of the ComCen.
- This clause was in several previous agreements and it was decided in 2013 to commence its implementation as a part of the Expenditure Review process. Under this process a Review Steering Committee was formed in 2013 and incorporated the UFU in all of its work.
- The ESA entered discussions with the UFU to develop agreed Terms of Reference to establish a Workplace Consultative Committee (WCC) under the Fire and Rescue Enterprise Agreement 2013-17 as a specific forum for communicating with affected ACT Fire & Rescue staff on the ComCen reform.
- The WCC is currently the only forum in which the UFU agree to ComCen reforms being discussed. Discussions at the WCC with the UFU have reinforced that the forum is established to consult on how to progress the ComCen project. The WCC forum is not established to consult on the decision of Government to reform the ComCen.
- A ComCen Project Working Group has also been established within ESA to develop initiatives that support the implementation of a call-taker/dispatch capability into the ESA ComCen. The Working Group is made up of the Chief Officers of all services, and the Director – ESA Risk and Planning.
- At the WCC meeting of 7 June 2018, the ESA notified the UFU that briefings requesting additional firefighters be trained as ComCen operators had been received. The UFU was advised that whilst the training would go ahead, it would be provided to existing call-takers. This will enable E000 calls to be answered efficiently and effectively in support of ACTF&R.
- The requirements for the call-taker function will be documented, informed by the workings of the ComCen Project Working Group. This work will include shaping scripts, business rules, training, etc.
- This will enable the call-taker capability to be progressively introduced into the ComCen ahead of the 2018/19 ACT bushfire season.

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## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

TRIM Ref: 2018/000144-016

**Portfolio:** Police & Emergency Services

**ISSUE: MOLONGLO RURAL FIRE SERVICE STATION UPGRADE**

**Talking points:**

- Work was undertaken at the ACT Rural Fire Service Molonglo Volunteer Brigade shed for privacy and dignity upgrades.
- During the final building inspection it was noted that due to the increased floor size, the facility would require a fixed fire hydrant to be installed.
- A partial occupancy certificate to the building has been issued, allowing the Molonglo Brigade to house two appliances on site, and to have access to the meeting/training facilities while the additional works are being carried out to install the fire hydrant.
- The water connection for the hydrant required trenching across Drake-Brockman Drive, in accordance with the Icon Water approved plans. These works were completed on 9 August 2018.
- The works were staged to accommodate traffic flows by closing one lane at a time and directing traffic through the remaining lane. This process was managed in accordance with the Temporary Traffic Management Plans submitted by the contractor for approval by Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate.
- The community can be assured that at no time has the capability of the ACT Rural Fire Service been compromised, and we thank the patience of volunteer members while this work is being undertaken.

*If asked*

- The partial Certificate of Occupancy was issued on 22 December 2017. The final Certificate of Occupancy after the fire hydrant works were completed was expected to be received in July 2018. Project delays have resulted in the date being revised to early September 2018.

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**Key Information**

- The initial budget for the renovations was \$1,152,000 (GST exclusive). The amount spent as at 30 April 2018 was \$1,152,000. The funded sources were:
  - \$602,000 allocated under the Commonwealth Grant - National Disaster Resilience Program, and
  - The ESA contributed \$550,000 from its own funds and/or in-kind contribution.
- As a result of the extensions, the floor area at the Molonglo facility increased from 488.99m<sup>2</sup> to 544.12m<sup>2</sup>. The Building Code of Australia, Clause E1.3, provides that a fire hydrant system must be installed to serve a building with a floor area greater than 500m<sup>2</sup>.
- A partial Certificate of Occupancy was issued on 22 December 2017. Once the fire hydrant is installed, a full Certificate of Occupancy can be issued. You were briefed advising that the complete Certificate of Occupancy was expected to be received in early October 2018. This is now expected to be received in early September 2018.
- The expected budget to meet the Certificate of Occupancy requirements is approximately \$83,000.

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# QUESTION TIME BRIEF

TRIM Ref: 2018/000144-021

**Portfolio:** Police & Emergency Services**ISSUE: Bega Valley Fires – Independent Review****Talking points:**

- The NSW Minister for Police and Emergency Services, the Hon Troy Grant MP, requested an Independent Review (the Review) into the Bega Valley bushfires that occurred on 18 March 2018. The review was formally commissioned by the NSW Office of Emergency Management.
- The review focused on two specific areas, being the:
  - adequacy of the fire services response to the Bega Valley fires
  - call taking and dispatch arrangements of both Fire & Rescue NSW (FRNSW) and the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS)
- The Review was completed in June 2018 and detailed 24 findings and 12 recommendations to the NSW Government.
- Key among these findings was that although there are several areas for improvement, it is unlikely that any better outcome could have resulted on the day.
- The ACT Government, including the ACT Emergency Services Agency (ESA), are currently examining the outcomes of the review to determine any learnings for the ACT.
- Of particular interest are the recommendations on a preferred ComCen model, automatic vehicle location (AVL) devices and lack of collaboration between services.
- The Fires Review recommendations align with the proposed reforms of the ESA ComCen, and all emergency services vehicles in the ACT are fitted with AVL devices.
- The ESA computer aided dispatch system already incorporates business rules that ensure that the nearest and most appropriate resource responds to emergency incidents, regardless of which service it belongs to.

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- The existing response arrangements in the ACT outline that the first response to all grass and bushfires in the ACT will be by the nearest available and most appropriate resource, irrespective of jurisdiction or Service.
- Ultimately, this is the intention of the *Emergencies Act 2004*. This legislation recognises the importance of the four operational services under the command of Chief Officers, brought together through the function of the ESA Commissioner, allowing the ESA to effectively manage all hazards and incidents across the ACT region.
- Consistent with these arrangements, the ACT community can be assured that both ACT fire services, including the Chief Officers of both fire services, continue to operate side-by-side under the direction of the ESA Commissioner.
- This is why the ESA has crafted its mission statement around seven simple words: we work together to care and protect. This mission emphasises; we work together; through Cohesive Operations, Collaborative Management, and as a Unified Executive.
- Key recommendations to come from the Bega Valley Fire Review are being progressed through the projects of the ESA Strategic Reform Agenda.

### Key Information

- On 18 March 2018, the Bega Valley fires, comprising of five separate fires that were extremely fierce and quick moving, burnt through more than 1,250 hectares destroying 65 homes and 70 caravans or cabins. Thanks to the combined efforts of firefighters, police and residents, no lives were lost and 810 houses were saved.

### Background Information

- Three themes emerge from the 24 findings:
  - The need for an urgent reform of Emergency Triple Zero (E000) call taking and dispatch arrangements in order to make them more efficient and accountable. The current arrangements resulted in a lack of situational awareness with two completely different reports provided of the resources available to fight the Bega Valley fires. This is common in the early stages of an incident when resource deployment and situational awareness is unavailable.

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- Lack of effective collaboration between FRNSW and NSW RFS. This dates back decades and involves animosity between paid staff and volunteers, competitiveness between agencies, ignoring policy and disputes over which agency is responsible for responding to an incident.
- A lack of Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) and GPS technology available to NSW RFS vehicles. Unlike the NSW Police Force, Ambulance Service of NSW and FRNSW – the NSW RFS relies solely on radio and telephone communications. The Review found that this is detrimental to NSW RFS understanding situational awareness and providing efficient resource allocation.
- In addition to these findings, the Review made 12 recommendations to the NSW Government. These recommendations are aimed at minimising or removing issues observed during the Bega Valley fires. Again three themes emerged and include:
  - Implementation of new E000 call taking and dispatch arrangements. The Review examined other ComCens in NSW and other Australian states and formed the view that the Ambulance Service of NSW has an excellent model. It is a model that accurately tracks and pre-emptively positions resources according to demand and availability. A strategic and long term solution needs to be found that sees each of the agencies working side by side in a civilianised ComCen.
  - Immediate commencement of installation of AVL devices (interoperable with those already in use by FRNSW and the SES) in all NSW RFS vehicles in order to provide a clearer image of resource availability and situational awareness.
  - Elimination of the fire boundary system for the purposes of dispatch in order to fight fire with the quickest and most appropriate resource regardless of agency. This should improve the efficiency of call and dispatch to fires in NSW and also reduce competitiveness between agencies.

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## ACT Policing Hot Issues

### 1. Conder explosion and death

- About 4.55pm, Thursday 2 August 2018, ACT Policing responded to a report of a vehicle explosion at St Claire of Assisi Primary School, Heidelberg Street, Conder.
- ACT Fire & Rescue and ACT Ambulance Service also attended the incident.
- One male sustained fatal injuries as a result of the vehicle explosion. The male was treated by ACT Ambulance Service and transported to The Canberra Hospital, where he later died from his injuries.
- No other members of the public were injured during the incident, and the scene was promptly secured and contained by ACT Policing.
- St Claire of Assisi Primary School entered a state of lock down whilst emergency services contained the initial incident. The Primary School remained closed until late 3 August 2018, while forensic examination of the car park and surrounds was undertaken.
- While the matter remains subject to police and Worksafe ACT investigation, preliminary enquires indicate the matter was an accidental death and no suspicious circumstances exist.
- ACT Policing are working in partnership with Worksafe ACT to prepare a brief for the Coroner.

Cleared by: ACTP-C-MPP

Date: 8 August 2018

## 2. Hackett Suspicious Package

- About 4.20pm, Sunday 5 August 2018, ACT Policing attended at a residence in Hackett ACT in response to a reported suspicious package.
- ACT Policing response and Criminal Investigations, AFP Forensic Services and Specialist Response Group (Bomb Response Team) attended the location and the incident was contained.
- Road closures of surrounding residential streets occurred together with the (voluntary) evacuation of neighbouring residences as a safety precaution.
- About 9.00pm that same date, the suspicious package was rendered safe by police and residents returned home. The package is the subject of examination and continued investigation by ACT Policing.

Cleared by: ACTP-C-MPP

Date: 8 August 2018

### **3. Referral by Magistrate Theakston**

ACT Policing is aware of a referral by Magistrate Theakston to the Chief Police Officer for the ACT.

The matter has been on-referred to AFP Professional Standards for review.

AFP Professional Standards has primary responsibility for resolving complaints concerning the AFP and its appointees relating to misconduct or AFP practices.

Cleared by: ACTP-C-MPP

Date: 8 August 2018

#### 4. Batons used on Indigenous Persons

- A request under the *Freedom of Information Act* has been received by ACT Policing, seeking particulars of incidents involving people of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent, in which ACT Policing officers used a baton.
  - Of the 61 instances in which a baton was used in 2016-17, three incidents involved a person who identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.
  - Of those three incidents, a baton was used against a person by a police officer on one occasion in self-defence when responding to a family violence incident.
- ACT Policing has a rigorous governance framework to regulate and record the use of force by police officers. Governance and oversight arrangements ensure that any use of force is reviewed to ensure it is appropriate and reasonably necessary in the circumstances.
- ACT Policing officers undergo extensive training in the use of force and alternate methods of conflict resolution, including containment and negotiation. ACT Policing emphasises the use of negotiation, communication and de-escalation techniques prior to using physical force.
- In accordance with AFP Commissioners Order 3, ACT Policing officers may only use a baton against another person to:
  - Defend themselves or others from the threat of physical injury in circumstances where protection cannot be afforded less forcefully;
  - Resolve an incident where a person is acting in a manner likely to injure themselves, an appointee or another person and the incident cannot be resolved less forcefully; or
  - Assist in resolving public order management or crowd control incidents.

Cleared by: ACTP-C-MPP

Date: 8 August 2018

## 5. Firearms and Firearms Amnesty

- There has been a significant rise in firearm seizures in the last 12 months.
- Between 1 May 2017 and 30 April 2018 there were 1236 firearm seizures (a single incident may involve multiple seizures).
- The significant increase in firearm seizures is due to the National Firearms Amnesty.
- The National Firearms Amnesty occurred between 1 July 2017 to 30 September 2017 and saw 699 firearms surrendered.
- 48 seizures were OMCG related.
- ACT Policing advises that firearm offences in the ACT have increased over the past five years. The ACT has experienced a 55.9 per cent increase in the past five years in the number of reported offences where a firearm has been used.

### ACT Policing Industrial Shredder

- On Wednesday 11 July 2018, an industrial shredder was commissioned at the AFP Exhibit Management Centre, Mitchell.
- The shredder was an investment of \$660,000 which was funded through the 2015-16 ACT Budget.
- The unit can destroy 50 firearms in a matter of minutes which used to take an officer all day to complete.
- The new shredder will increase the efficiency of our police and the safety of the destruction process.

Cleared by: ACTP-C-MPP

Date: 27 July 2018

## 6. Terrorism

- While the national terrorism threat level remains at PROBABLE, there is no known specific or credible threat to the ACT.
- People should continue to go about business as usual but be alert to any suspicious activity and, most importantly, to report suspicions and concerns to the appropriate authorities.
- Concerns about national security or terrorism should be reported immediately to the National Security Hotline on 1800 123 400. Alternatively, [www.nationalsecurity.gov.au](http://www.nationalsecurity.gov.au) provides more information.
- If a situation requires a police response, call Police Operations on 131 444. If the situation is life threatening; call Triple-Zero (000).

### Countering Violent Extremism

- Keeping Australians safe from home-grown terrorism is a complex and evolving field that requires ongoing attention.
- The ACT Government continues to work closely with all governments to identify and implement measures to prevent and protect communities against violent extremism, tackling the root of the problem.
- It is recognised that families, friends and community members are often in the best position to identify individuals who might be at risk of radicalisation towards violent extremism.
- Anyone who has any concerns about possible violent extremism can make an anonymous report to the National Security Hotline on 1800 123 400.
- If there is an immediate threat to life or an emergency response is required, people should call Triple Zero (000) immediately.

Cleared by: ACTP-C-MPP

Date: 27 July 2018

## 7. Aggravated Robberies

- The ACT community can be confident ACT Policing is well resourced to deliver a quality service through the flexible and nimble deployment of our capabilities in response to changing demands.
- Police have numerous strategies in place to tackle property offences, including aggravated robberies. ACT Policing has a crime disruption team ('CDT') which was established in late 2017 with a primary focus on recidivist offending, disrupting aggravated robbery offences and ram raids across the ACT, utilising sophisticated targeting models. ACT Policing has seen a number of positive results from the team including arrests and the recovery of stolen property.
- Since 6 February 2018, there have been no recorded aggravated robberies on licensed clubs in the ACT.
  - This is largely due to the arrest of a recidivist offender.
- ACT Policing is agile and uses surge capability to respond to changing priorities and demands. ACT Policing is intelligence-informed, and uses information to prioritise and allocate its workforce to best serve the people of Canberra.

Cleared by: ACTP-C-MPP

Date: 27 July 2018

## 8. Tasers

- Further to its 2016 election commitment, in June 2017 the ACT Government committed \$2.695 million (with the offset) over four years to equip ACT Policing members with TASERS.
- The 480+ Tasers are inclusive of the replacement of existing CEWs that have reached the end of their 5-year operational life.
- How the new Tasers are rolled out is a matter for ACT Policing, however I understand decisions around deployment will be based on risk and threat and will be reviewed based on operational requirements to ensure the greatest possible benefits and safety for the ACT community.
- The funding is for Tasers fitted with video cameras that record image and sound. The existing governance and specialist training will continue to ensure there is continued accountability around their use.
- ACT Policing has governance and oversight arrangements in place to assure the community that any use of force is reviewed to ensure it is appropriate and reasonably necessary in the circumstances.
- I am advised that all ACT Policing officers are trained in communication and negotiation techniques as the primary way to de-escalate a situation with vulnerable people, including those with mental health conditions or those affected by alcohol or other drugs and that ACT Policing emphasises the use of negotiation, communication and de-escalation techniques, prior to using physical force.

### Death in Waramanga

- My condolences go out to all of those affected by the recent tragic death involving a male in Waramanga.
- The cause of death in this incident is yet to be determined and is a matter for the ACT Coroner. The Direction's hearing for this matter is scheduled for 26 October 2018.
- As the matter remains before the ACT Coroner, it would be inappropriate to comment further.

Cleared by: ACTP-C-MPP

Date: 27 July 2018



## 9. Recent dog attack on Police Officer

- On 1 July 2018, members of ACT Policing attended a residence in Rivett in relation to a reported theft. While undertaking enquiries at the residence, a Police Officer was attacked by a dog.
- The Officer sustained serious injuries and was transferred to hospital for treatment.
- The animal, an American Pitbull, has been seized by Domestic Animal Services.
- One adult male was arrested and will appear before Court in relation to the incident.
- The matter is before the Courts and it would be inappropriate to comment further.
- ACT Policing supports the laws that protect the public from dangerous dogs.
- Domestic Animal Services is responsible for compliance activities under the *Domestic Animals Act 2000* (ACT).

Cleared by: ACTP-C-MPP

Date: 27 July 2018

## 10.Arson – Stockade training centre, Dickson

- On Thursday 28 June 2018 at about 6.13am, ACT Policing Operations received a phone call in relation to a fire at the Stockade Training Centre in Dickson.
- The fire was located in a sub-leased room which is occupied by Myogen Performance Movement Therapy.
- ACT Fire Service attended and determined the fire suspicious.
- ACT Policing advises there are no links to criminal gangs in relation to this incident.
- As this is an ongoing investigation, it would be inappropriate to comment any further.

Cleared by: ACTP-C-MPP

Date: 27 July 2018

## 11. Police Pursuits

- The ACT Government is committed to Vision Zero and deterring drivers from fleeing from police because of the risk this introduces on our roads.
- That is why the Government introduced new laws in March 2016 to give police enhanced investigative powers and higher penalties to deal with drivers who fail to stop for police.
- These laws were introduced at the same time ACT Policing moved to a limited pursuit policy.

### Findings of Coroner Morrison – Inquest into the death of Timothy Smith-Brown

- ACT Policing notes the release of findings from Coroner Morrison, resulting from the coronial inquest into the death of Timothy Smith-Brown.
- ACT Policing will review the findings in accordance with the current governance around ACT Policing's Pursuit Policy introduced in early 2016.
- It should be noted that ACT Policing's current pursuit policy was not in effect at the time this incident occurred. ACT Policing's governance regulating police pursuits was different to when this incident occurred
- As the findings are currently being considered by ACT Policing, it would be inappropriate to provide further comment at this time.

## URGENT DUTY DRIVING

### Vehicle collisions involving an ACT Policing vehicle

- On 1 June 2018, a 54 year old woman died as a result of injuries sustained in a collision at the intersection of Baldwin Drive and Maribyrnong Avenue, Kaleen that occurred on Friday, 4 May 2018.
- The collision occurred about 8.00pm, between the woman's vehicle and a marked police vehicle responding to a priority once incident. The Police vehicle had activated its emergency lights at the time of the collision.
- The officer involved has been suspended from duty.
- On 8 August 2018, the officer appeared before the ACT Magistrates Court and entered a plea of 'not guilty' to charges relating to the matter.

Cleared by: ACTP-C-MPP

Date: 14 August 2018

## 12. Liquor Reform Package

- There have been no substantial developments on this issue since the last briefing.
- The Government is committed to developing a regulatory regime that supports Canberra businesses, helps develop this community's vibrant night life and does so while ensuring public safety.
- The Government's investment of \$4.866 million for additional police resources will:
  - provide greater coverage of the broader ACT, focussing upon regional centres and entertainment precincts;
  - increase proactive liquor licensing enforcement activities and programs (including enforcement of new offences contained in the Amendment Act and increased enforcement of existing offences under the *Liquor Act 2010*);
  - increase collaboration with Access Canberra liquor enforcement teams;
  - develop targeted campaigns with key ACT Government stakeholders; and
  - support Regional Targeting Team officers being deployed to major ACT events in the capacity of subject matter experts in liquor legislation enforcement.
- ACT Policing continues to deliver liquor reform package capabilities through the Regional targeting Team and flexible intelligence informed arrangements.
- Police will continue to work closely with licensees to make sure the ACT's nightlife precincts are safe for the whole community.

Cleared by: ACTP-C-MPP

Date: 27 July 2018

### 13. Bail Laws

- There have been no substantial developments on this issue since the last briefing.
- Bail is a long established practice in the criminal law which allows, in appropriate cases, accused people to remain in the community until their charges can be determined by a court of law.
- The *Bail Act 1992* (Bail Act) operates to both protect the community and uphold the administration of justice, recognising the operation of the presumption of innocence and an accused person's human rights under the *Human Rights Act 2004*. It takes account of a variety of competing rights, interests and expectations.
- The Government is committed to ensuring that the Territory's bail laws operate effectively and appropriately within the criminal justice framework. The most substantive recent reform to the Bail Act was the *Crimes (Serious and Organised Crime) Legislation Amendment Act 2016* which introduced an own-motion bail review power for the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP).
- All bail decisions in the ACT must be made by a police officer, magistrate or judge. There are restrictions on their powers to grant bail in certain circumstances.
- Under the Bail Act, there is a general presumption in favour of the grant of bail. However, there are limitations on the entitlement to be at liberty. A person is entitled to be granted bail unless the court is satisfied that a refusal of bail is justified. For certain specified offences, the presumption in favour of bail is stated not to operate, creating what is sometimes referred to as a 'neutral presumption'. For murder and serious drug offences, there is a presumption against bail and a court must not grant bail to the person unless satisfied that special or exceptional circumstances exist favouring the grant of bail.
- In making a decision about the grant of bail, a decision-maker must consider a number of factors, including the likelihood of the person appearing in court in relation to the offence, the person's risk of reoffending, or harassing or endangering the safety or welfare of anyone, interfering with evidence, or intimidating a witness, and the interests of the person. The decision-maker may have regard to any relevant matter including the nature and seriousness of the offence, the person's character, background and community ties, and the likely effect of a refusal of bail on the person's family or dependents. This is focussed on ensuring that accused persons appear at court, and managing the risks that might arise while an accused person is on bail.

Cleared by: ACTP-C-MPP

Date: 27 July 2018

## 14.Social media pages – RBT and Speed cameras

- ACT Policing is aware of the social media pages purporting to reveal RBT locations.
- The posts include photos, videos, maps and suggested routes to avoid police.
- All ACT Policing patrols are RBT units which can test anyone at any time.
- ACT Policing continues to work with the private sector to identify and respond to social media pages and groups involved in all forms of criminal offending.
- The community can provide on criminal offending to Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or online at [www.act.crimestoppers.com.au](http://www.act.crimestoppers.com.au).

Cleared by: ACTP-C-MPP

Date: 27 July 2018

## 15. On-road cyclists – A metre matters

- Road safety is a priority for ACT Policing and should be a priority for all road users.
- Each month, ACT Policing focuses on a different road safety concern in conjunction with the Justice and Community Safety Directorate (JaCS). This campaign forms part of the ACT Road Safety Strategy 2011-2020 which prioritises a Vision Zero approach to road safety. Next month, the campaign will focus on vulnerable road users.
- Cyclists, as well as children, pedestrians and motorcyclists, are vulnerable road users as they do not have the same protection as a car during a collision. Motorists are reminded they are required to remain more than a metre away from cyclists while travelling under 60km/h, and 1.5 metres if a motorist is overtaking at more than 60 km/h.
- Ensuring the safety of cyclists on our roads is about improving our road-use culture. While culture changes can take time, it is important that all road-users are able to safely enjoy our roads.
- ACT Policing continues to work with the community, educating and enforcing all road safety laws. While there are a number of factors that contribute to the number of cautions, offences or prosecutions for a particular offence, all incidents are assessed on a case-by-case basis by ACT Policing.
- Community feedback indicates that, although slow, our road culture and cyclist safety is improving. ACT's peak cycling body, has recently commented that "Generally, we think [the rule is] improving the behaviour and awareness of people in cars".
- ACT Policing continues to work with the community on matters of road safety, and with a focus on laws offering affording important protections to vulnerable road users.

Cleared by: ACTP-C-MPP

Date: 27 July 2018

## ACT Emergency Services Agency Hot Issues

### 16. ACT Fire & Rescue and Light Rail

- All ACT Fire & Rescue (ACTF&R) firefighters have already been provided with an on-line learning package on the hazards associated with the Light Rail project.
- This will be followed by a more detailed learning package to be jointly developed with Capital Metro, with a lesson plan for all firefighters to complete. This will cover risks associated with working within the rail corridor, safe working practices for firefighters, shutting down overhead power, liaison with Capital Metro staff and the Light Rail Control Centre.
- Additional hydraulic rams with 25 tonne lifting capacity have been purchased to enable the lifting of the Light Rail cars. This was done from within ESA's existing budget and no additional funding was required. These will be placed in an upgraded Technical Rescue POD, which will be deployed to all rescue incidents involving Light Rail vehicles.
- A practical training program in the use of the new rams and associated equipment (known as a re-railing kit), including positioning these on a Light Rail vehicle undercarriage will be delivered to all ACTF&R Level 3 Rescue Operators.
- All ACTF&R operational staff will undertake a familiarisation of the Light Rail Vehicles and rail corridor on a scheduled, platoon basis to be developed in consultation with Capital Metro and a Standard Operational Guideline will also be promulgated, which will cover response to incidents involving the Light Rail.
- The United Firefighters Union has been informed of these actions.

Cleared by: Mark Brown Chief Officer ACTF&R

Date: 15 August 2018



## 17. Controlled House Burns in Monash

- On 2 August 2018, ACT Fire & Rescue (ACTF&R) will be undertaking live, controlled, house burns in conjunction with the current Station Officer Development Program (SODP).
- The purpose of the controlled burns is to provide SODP participants the opportunity to supervise operational crews in real-time scenarios. Participants will also be returning to the scene the following day to conduct a fire investigation.
- There will be approximately three controlled burns taking place, with the first burn scheduled to commence at approximately 9:20am.
- The location for the house burns is 32 Kneeshaw Street, Monash. The house being burned for training has been provided to ACTF&R by Housing ACT.
- Local residents, including the management of the Goodwin Aged Retirement Village, have been notified of the burns. ESA Media will issue Single Point of Truth (SPOT) alerts to notify the community before the burns take place. Firefighters have also conducted a mailbox drop to surrounding houses to notify residents of the burns.

Cleared by: Dominic Lane

Date: 31 July 2018

## 18. The Aerial Ladder Appliance (Bronto) – Beard Fire

- The Aerial Ladder Appliance (Bronto) could not have been deployed at the fire as poor ground conditions at the scene would have prevented the safe elevation of the booms to working height.

Cleared by: Dominic Lane

Date: 31 July 2018

## 19. Southpoint ACTAS Triaging

- I am advised ACTAS triages Triple-Zero calls in the Communications Centre when they are received. Ambulances are assigned according to the circumstances of individual patients and resources available at the time. Triaging is applied by ambulance services worldwide and in the ACT is undertaken by highly qualified and experienced ACTAS staff.
- As part of the triaging process, ACTAS staff classify emergency responses as either Priority 1 (P1) or Priority 2 (P2): a P1 incident requires an immediate response under lights and sirens, and a P2 case is a response as soon as possible, pending available resources and workload, but ideally within 30 minutes of the call.
- Priority is given to cases which are life-threatening (P1) and this can mean that other cases which are serious, but not immediately life-threatening (P2), can have a longer response time particularly during times of increased demand on the ambulance service.
- I am informed that at the time of the call to the case at Southpoint - Tuggeranong, which was triaged as a P2 case, ACTAS was dealing with a number of life threatening P1 cases. It was these P1 cases that resulted in a delay in service. ACTAS are conducting further considerations on this case but no concerns have been flagged with regards to its handling and triage following the initial review.
- The ACT Government acknowledges the demand on ACTAS is at a high level. In response, I announced a funding package in December 2017 to allow for the recruitment of 23 additional paramedics, as well as two new ambulances. This significant investment will assist our ACTAS staff to continue maintaining the highest standards of service delivery in the nation.
- As advised in the ACT Legislative Assembly recently, the ACT Government is committed to supporting ACTAS to continue providing nation-leading ambulance services to the Canberra community.

Cleared by: Dominic Lane

Date: 22 August 2018

## 20. Bushfire Risk and Planning at Ginninderry

- The ACT Emergency Services Agency (ESA) will closely oversee the Ginninderry development in West Belconnen to ensure it meets current Australian Standards for construction in a bushfire prone area and as well as any other specific directions deemed necessary by the ESA Commissioner.
- In planning for new estates in or near bushfire-prone areas the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate works very closely with the ESA.
- In addition to the Australian Standards for construction in a bushfire prone area, the *Emergencies Act 2004* also allows the ESA Commissioner to set additional standards in a situation where a development proposal is received that would concentrate vulnerable members of our community in a bushfire prone area.
- This decision would usually be made following advice from technical experts, including those within ESA Risk and Planning and the ACT Rural Fire Service. Talking points.

Cleared by: Dominic Lane

Date: 6 February 2018

## 21. Bushfire Abatement Zone

- The current model for the provision of emergency services in the ACT is serving the community very well. It ensures a seamless response across agencies, and across services, to any emergency incidents faced by the people of the ACT.
- The BAZ incorporates rural areas immediately surrounding the built-up area where specific measures may be required to reduce risk to life and property in the built-up area of Canberra from fires occurring in that zone.
- It is important to highlight that the existing response arrangements remain, whereby the first response to all grass and bushfires in the ACT will be by the nearest available most appropriate resource, irrespective of jurisdiction or service.
- As has been demonstrated, including in the most recent 2016-17 fire season, our fire services have an excellent record of working together collaboratively and cohesively in responding to fires in the BAZ to protect the ACT community. Talking points.

Cleared by: Dominic Lane

Date: 6 February 2018

## 22.ESA Strategic Reform Agenda

- The Strategic Reform Agenda (SRA) comprises six projects: Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) System/Territory Radio Network (TRN) upgrade and website hosting, Communications Centre Reform, Blueprint for Change, Station Upgrade and Relocation Project, Women in Emergency Services, Strategic Bushfire Management Plan.
- Significant progress has been made to help the ESA improve its services for the wider community, support its people and mature as an agency.
- A Joint Consultative Committee was established on 11 February 2016 to provide a formal mechanism for consultation between employee representatives and the Directorate on the reasons for proposed changes and their likely impact, and to enable employees and their representatives to contribute to the decision making process. Talking points.

Cleared by: Dominic Lane

Date: 6 February 2018

## 23. ACTAS Blueprint for Change

- The Blueprint for Change Implementation project commenced in 2017. It continues to be a high priority for the ACT Ambulance Service and aligns with the broader ESA Strategic Reform Agenda.
- The Oversight Committee is headed up by an Independent Chair, Mr David Place, an experienced senior operational manager from the South Australian Ambulance Service. I receive regular updates, the last on 28 September.
- In his most recent update, Mr Place noted that positive change is occurring such as the commencement of implementation of the new ACTAS Leadership Framework, considerable progress towards the introduction of a Peer Support program, Flexible Work Arrangements, Wi-Fi on all ambulance stations as well as a successful trial of powered stretchers.
- I am pleased with the progress being made and strong support from all involved including the Transport Workers Union and workplace representatives.
- On 21 December 2017, I announced the Government's commitment to provide additional ambulance resources, including the recruitment of 24 additional staff as well as two new ambulances.
- This will ensure that Canberrans continue to receive the fastest ambulance response times in the country. Talking points.

Cleared by: Dominic Lane

Date: 6 February 2018

## 24. Volunteer Concerns

- Thank you to all of our volunteers who have an enormous impact on improving the health and well-being of communities, not just in the ACT and Australia, but worldwide.
- I also thank volunteers for taking the time to write to me, to express their opinion on a number of matters they consider important as volunteers.
- All feedback is appreciated and contributes to ESA's program of continuous improvement. Talking points.

Cleared by: Dominic Lane

Date: 6 February 2018



## JACS Ongoing Issues

### 25.Independent Integrity Commission

#### ACT Policing Update:

- The AFP supports the establishment of an independent integrity body in the ACT.
- The AFP has existing robust internal and external integrity mechanisms, including the AFP's Professional Standards Framework, independent oversight from ACLEI and the Commonwealth Ombudsman, enshrined in Commonwealth legislation (the AFP Act and the LEIC Act).
- ACT Policing also has extensive reporting obligations to the ACT Government.
- Additional oversight over ACT Policing members will duplicate existing arrangements and add complexity in its administration owing to external oversight frameworks already in existence.
- Cleared by: ACTP-C-MPP
- Date: 27 July 2018

- The ACT Government released its Integrity Commission Bill on 26 July 2018 as an Exposure Draft.
- The ACT Government tabled an exposure ACT Integrity Commission Bill for referral to the Select Committee on Independent Integrity Commission 2018 on 31 July 2018.
- The 2017 Select Committee report recommendations informed the establishment of the new integrity body, which will be broadly structured as those operating in jurisdictions of a similar size to the ACT and will have its functions delineated from existing independent oversight bodies.
- The Government has agreed that the proposed body will investigate significant and serious allegations of corruption by ACT public servants, ACT Police officers (subject to Commonwealth Government Agreement), MLAs and their staff and statutory office holders including boards and committees and third party contractors and consultants.
- Establishing the body is an election commitment of this Government and is an item in the Parliamentary Agreement.
- The Government considers the ACT Integrity Commission would focus on prospective and current matters, with some limited ability to review retrospective or previous matters, subject to certain requirements, such as a public interest test. Matters to be investigated by the Commission would not go beyond self-government, given that the ACT was administered by the Commonwealth Government prior to 1989 and that these matters would fall to the Commonwealth.

- The Exposure Bill does not create any new offences in relation to any retrospective conduct being investigated or will not change the law - it simply creates a mechanism to investigate breaches of the law.
- The establishment of an Integrity Commission and developing its enabling legislation is complex and has required careful consideration given the number of existing independent integrity bodies. A consultation process has been undertaken with these bodies.
- In the 2018-19 Budget, the Government committed funding of \$8.4m over four years towards the establishment of the Integrity Commission. The 2018-19 funding is being provided to the Office of the Legislative Assembly to allow the Speaker to access the funding and commence initial establishment arrangements including the recruitment of the Integrity Commissioner.

**MINISTER FOR POLICE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES**  
**QUESTION TIME and OVERSIGHT BRIEF INDEX**  
**14-16 August and 21-23 August 2018**

<b>Joint QTBs</b>	
1.	Summary of Budget Initiatives
2.	Wellbeing and support for frontline emergency responders
3.	Assaults on ACTAS Emergency Services Personnel and ACT Police
4.	Serious and Organised crime response (Policy)
5.	OMCG incidents – shootings (Operational)
<b>ACT Police QTBs</b>	
6.	Key Data ACT Policing
7.	ACT Policing Crime Statistics
8.	Safety of Women in our Community (joint QTB with JACS/ACTP/CGFS)
9.	Firearms and Family Violence (joint QTB JACS ACTP)
10.	Hospital Firearms Incident
<b>SEMB QTBs</b>	
11.	Public Safety CCTV Network
12.	National Security Issues including crowded places strategy implementation (Bren)
<b>ESA QTBs</b>	
13.	Key Data ESA
14.	JACS Staff Survey – Fire and Rescue
15.	ACTAS Resourcing
16.	Election Commitments
17.	United Firefighters Union – Budget Submission and ESA Round table meetings
18.	PFAS issues (QTB to include general TPs about broader issues with sub headings addressing Health of Firefighters (consult with Health if required) and testing of sites)
19.	ComCen Update (UFU issues, recruitment of call techs) (recent developments in NSW)
20.	Molonglo RFS upgrades
21.	Independent Review of the Bega Valley Fire

**ACT Policing Hot Issues**

1. Conder explosion and death
2. Hackett Suspicious Package
3. Referral by Magistrate Theakston
4. Batons used on Indigenous Persons
5. Firearms and Firearms Amnesty
6. Terrorism
7. Aggravated Robberies
8. Tasers
9. Recent Dog Attack on Police Officer
10. Arson at Stockade Gym

**ACT Policing Ongoing Issues**

11. Police Pursuits (include update on current investigation)
12. Liquor Reform Package - Policing
13. Bail Laws
14. Social Media pages /RBT and Speed cameras
15. On-road cyclists – A metre matters

**ESA Hot Issues**

16. ACTF&R and Light Rail
17. Controlled House Burns in Monash
18. Aerial Ladder Appliance (Bronto) - Beard fire

**ESA Ongoing Issues**

19. Bushfire Risk and Planning at Ginninderry
20. Bushfire Abatement Zone
21. Strategic Reform Agenda
22. Blueprint for Change
23. Volunteer Concerns

**JACS Ongoing Issues**

24. Independent Integrity Commission

2018/000090-002

**Portfolio:** Police & Emergency Services

**ISSUE:** 2018-19 Budget Summary – Minister for Police and Emergency Services

**Talking points:**

- *Emergency Services*
- The 2018-19 Budget invests **\$2.3 million** recurrent and **\$6.6 million** capital to deliver:
  - **\$4.6 million** over four years to upgrade the ACT Ambulance fleet with electric stretchers and loaders, and equipping all ACT ambulances and firetrucks with new cardiac monitors and defibrillators.
  - **\$2 million** over two years and ongoing maintenance costs for a new aerial apparatus for ACT Fire & Rescue to support the existing Bronto appliance and respond to multi-storey building incidents.
  - **\$332,000** in 2018-19 to conduct an additional recruit college to train 18 new firefighters in 2018-19 for ACT Fire and Rescue.
  - **\$270,000** in 2018-19 to provide new protective helmets to ACT firefighters .
  - **\$1.7 million** over four years to make up the shortfall in funding from the Commonwealth Fire Payment as a result of a revised Memorandum of Understanding between the Commonwealth Government and the Territory for the provision of fire services.

The 2018-19 Budget also invests **\$1.5 million** over four years to upgrade the Public Safety CCTV Network across the CBD, at the Kingston and Manuka Shopping precincts, bus stations and major public facilities including Manuka Oval, EPIC and GIO Stadium.

In addition, 2017-18 2<sup>nd</sup> Appropriation provided **\$10.2 million** over four years for an additional ambulance crew as committed by the Government to deliver 23 more paramedics to meet continued increases in demand.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	23/07/2018	
Cleared by:	Deputy Director-General	Ext:50567
Information Officer name:	David Pryce	
Contact Officer name:	Karen Schofield	Ext: 54775
Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	

### *ACT Policing Services*

- The 2018-19 Budget invests **\$9.8 million** recurrent and **\$2 million** capital to better support ACT Policing's operations. This funding will deliver:
  - **\$2.6 million** over four years (2 FTE in 2018-19 and 4 FTE per year from 2019-20) to recruit and expand ACT Policing's strategic analysis capability targeting crime hot spots and identifying emerging risks
  - **\$1.6 million** over four years to recruit additional resources (two FTE per year) and provide specialised training and tools to target, disrupt, deter and prevent organised crime in the ACT
  - **\$5.6 million** over four years to provide new smartphones to ACT Policing staff to improve the secure capture, transmission and sharing of data and radio communications, and improve service delivery
  - **\$2 million** over two years to upgrade facilities at Tuggeranong Police Station and Winchester Police Station

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### **Background**

The ACT's budget announcements will include initiatives relating to:

- More support for families and inclusion – Better protective equipment for ACT firefighters;
- More services for our suburbs – Maintaining ACT Fire & Rescue capacity;
- More services for our suburbs – Training more fire fighters
- More services for our suburbs – More police
- More services for our suburbs – Strengthening Taskforce Nemesis
- More services for our suburbs – Upgrading mobile technology for ACT Policing
- More services for our suburbs – Equipment upgrades for first responders
- More services for our suburbs – New aerial pumper for ACT Fire & Rescue
- More services for our suburbs – Upgrading ACT Policing facilities
- More services for our suburbs – Keeping Canberrans safe in public places
- Better support when it matters – More paramedics

Cleared as complete and accurate: 23/07/2018  
Cleared by: Deputy Director-General Ext:50567  
Information Officer name: David Pryce  
Contact Officer name: Karen Schofield Ext: 54775  
Lead Directorate: Justice and Community  
Safety

## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

TRIM Ref: 2018/000144-017

**Portfolio:** Police & Emergency Services

### **ISSUE: WELLBEING AND SUPPORT FOR FRONTLINE EMERGENCY RESPONDERS**

#### **Talking points:**

- The health and wellbeing of emergency services personnel is a key priority for this Government. It is important that they are aware of available support services, and that they know we fully support them in minimising exposure to stressors, and in recovering from any ill effects experienced in their line of work.

#### *ACT Emergency Services Agency*

- A Senate Education and Employment Committee is conducting an inquiry into the role of Commonwealth, state and territory governments in addressing the high rates of mental health conditions experienced by first responders, emergency service workers and volunteers.
- I would encourage Members to go to the Parliament House website and read the written submissions received to date. In particular, I draw Member's attention to a submission by the ESA Commissioner, Mr Dominic Lane, which is consistent with the Government's focus on improving support for emergency services first responders.
- The ESA has delivered a number of initiatives that enable all volunteers and staff in the ESA to better manage the ever-present stressors that are experienced by emergency service personnel as they seek to protect our community.
- Mr Lane's submission acknowledges the Government's election commitment to establish a Manager – Welfare position within ESA, the work of the Blueprint for Change project across the ACT Ambulance Service, the concerted effort to increase the number of Peer Support Officers that are trained and available across the ESA, mental health training packages available for all ESA volunteers and staff, the relationships with not-for-profit organisations such as *Beyondblue*, *Soldier On* and *SupportLink*, and other measures in place to improve the health and wellbeing of all ESA volunteers and staff.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	18/07/2018	
Cleared by:	Commissioner	Ext: 78383
Information Officer name:	Dominic Lane	
Contact Officer name:	Brendan Stevens	Ext: 79981
Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	

### *ACT Policing*

- ACT Policing recognises the stress factors of community policing, and is dedicated to early intervention and support strategies for all ACT Policing members.
- ACT Policing has three dedicated police officers performing Welfare Officer roles. These Welfare Officers provide support to members for a range of matters, including critical incidents, work-place matters, personal matters, and as an initial support contact for the provision of further assistance. These members are available 24/7 where welfare assistance is needed.
- ACT Policing members are routinely exposed to traumatic events in the course of their duties, such as attending suicides, fatal motor vehicle accidents, family violence incidents and serious assaults.
- Research has indicated cumulative exposure to traumatic incidents has the potential to increase the risk factors for psychological injury.
- The operational requirement to work a rotating roster of day and night shifts also has an impact on the mental wellbeing of members.
- In 2017, Australian Federal Police (AFP) Organisational Health commenced a project aimed at reducing the psychological impact of traumatic exposure within the AFP.
- An AFP project team is currently reviewing the 'early intervention wellbeing support system' implemented by Victoria Police.

### **Key Information**

- Written submissions to the Senate Inquiry closed on 20 June 2018. Over the coming months public hearings will be held around the country, with the Senate Committee scheduled to provide a report by 5 December 2018.

### **Background Information**

- The Terms of Reference advise that the Senate Committee will investigate:
  - a. the nature and underlying causes of mental health conditions experienced by first responders, emergency service workers and volunteers;
  - b. research identifying linkages between first responder and emergency service occupations, and the incidence of mental health conditions;
  - c. management of mental health conditions in first responder and emergency services organisations, factors that may impede adequate management of mental health within the workplace and opportunities for improvement, including:
    - i. reporting of mental health conditions,
    - ii. specialised occupational mental health support and treatment services,
    - iii. workers' compensation,

Cleared as complete and accurate:	18/07/2018	
Cleared by:	Commissioner	Ext: 78383
Information Officer name:	Dominic Lane	
Contact Officer name:	Brendan Stevens	Ext: 79981
Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	



## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- iv. workplace culture and management practices,
  - v. occupational function and return-to-work arrangements,
  - vi. collaboration between first responder and emergency services organisations,
  - vii. post-retirement mental health support services, and
  - viii. resource allocation.
- d. any other related matters.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	18/07/2018	
Cleared by:	Commissioner	Ext: 78383
Information Officer name:	Dominic Lane	
Contact Officer name:	Brendan Stevens	Ext: 79981
Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	

# QUESTION TIME BRIEF

TRIM Ref: 2018/000144-015

**Portfolio:** Police & Emergency Services

## ISSUE: ASSAULTS ON POLICE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES PERSONNEL

### Talking points:

- Police and emergency services personnel are regularly exposed to a risk of assault and/or injury as an unfortunate reality of their job.
- Cases of violence against police and emergency services personnel can be complex. In many instances it is difficult to differentiate between those where there is intent to cause harm, and those where the police and emergency services personnel may be assaulted because the individual has a disordered or abnormal thought process during a highly stressful situation.
- However, regardless of the circumstances, the Government does not condone any sort of violence against our emergency services personnel.
- The intentional or reckless assault of police and emergency services personnel requires a strong response from Government to deliver appropriate protections to those who are dedicated to protecting the community.
- The Government is committed to ensuring a safe and healthy work environment, through legislation, policies, procedures, and strategies to mitigate the risk of assault and/or injury.
- Training is also provided for all of our emergency services personnel, to assist in identifying and managing potentially high risk situations.

### Key Information

- Assaults on paramedics has received significant national media attention following some recent high profile incidents in Victoria. Since 1 January 2012, there have been 56 assaults *reported* by ACT Ambulance Service paramedics (to 11 July 2018). This relates to all types of assaults, including instances of verbal threats.
- Between 1 January 2012 and 20 April 2018, ACT Policing has recorded 278 instances of police assault.

### Background Information

- There is currently no dedicated offence provision criminalising assaults against police or emergency service workers in the ACT.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	18/07/2018	
Cleared by:	Commissioner	Ext: 78383
Information Officer name:	Dominic Lane	
Contact Officer name:	Howard Wren	Ext: 70490
Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	

## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- The Government relies on the existing assault provisions contained in the *Crimes ACT 1900* where there are injuries sustained by police and emergency services personnel as a result of an assault:

***Common Assault – Section 26 of the ACT Crimes Act 1900***

Used for all assaults when there is no proof that harm has been caused. This is the same offence provision that relates to all members of the community. There is no specific provision for common assaults on police or other emergency service workers. The offence carries a maximum penalty of two years imprisonment.

***Assault Occasioning Actual Bodily Harm – Section 24 of the Crimes Act 1900***

This provision is used when actual bodily harm is caused in assaults on all emergency service workers other than police. This is the same offence provision that relates to all members of the community. The offence carries a maximum penalty of seven years imprisonment.

- ACT emergency service personnel also rely on ACT legislation for offences relating to obstruction or hindrance:

***Obstructing Territory Public Official – Section 361 of the ACT Criminal Code 2002***

This provision is used for persons who hinder, resist, intimidate or obstruct any Territory Public Official in the execution of their duty. All ACT and Commonwealth emergency service workers, including police, are covered under this provision. The offence carries a maximum penalty of two years imprisonment, \$30,000 or both.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	18/07/2018	
Cleared by:	Commissioner	Ext: 78383
Information Officer name:	Dominic Lane	
Contact Officer name:	Howard Wren	Ext: 70490
Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	

TRIM Ref: 2018/000083-024

**Portfolio: Attorney-General****ISSUE: SERIOUS AND ORGANISED CRIME RESPONSE**

Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs (OMCGs) are involved in criminal activities across Australia such as drug production and trafficking, vehicle rebirthing, firearms offences, money laundering, extortion and serious assaults.

**TALKING POINTS**

- The ACT Government is strongly committed to responding to the criminal activities of OMCGs.
- ACT Policing has established an OMCG Taskforce – Taskforce Nemesis – to focus on operational and investigative responses to OMCG activity.
- The Taskforce is supported by a suite of criminal laws developed by the ACT Government over a number of years, and continued investment to ensure that ACT Policing has the resources it needs to combat criminal gangs in the ACT.

*Anti-consorting laws*

- The ACT Government remains strongly committed to embracing practical legislative measures to address serious and organised crime in order to keep Canberra a safe and secure community.
- The Government does not support the introduction of consorting laws at this time.
- Any future consideration of consorting laws would need to be informed by strong evidence establishing the requirement for, and effectiveness of, such laws.
- Laws of this nature would also need to allay unresolved Government and community concerns about conflict with human rights and criminal law principles’.
- Law reform decisions are made by the Government taking into account need and evidence about their effectiveness as well as the views of our stakeholders and the broader community.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 20/06/2018  
Cleared by: Deputy Executive Director  
Information Officer name: Tamsyn Harvey  
Contact Officer name: Chantel Potter  
Lead Directorate: Justice and Community Safety

### *Fortification removal laws*

- Fortifications are structures designed to stop or hinder uninvited entry to premises.
- The *Crimes (Fortification Removal) Amendment Bill 2017* was passed in February 2018.
- The Bill provides the Chief Police Officer with the power to apply to the Magistrates Court for an order that the occupier of the premises remove fortifications on the premises. The Bill also prohibits the establishment of fortifications on certain premises.
- These laws will help make the ACT a hostile environment for criminal gangs to prevent the establishment of fortified premises such as OMCG club houses.

### *Crime scene powers and drive-by shootings*

- The *Crimes (Police Powers and Firearms Offence) Amendment Act 2017* commenced on 8 December 2017.
- The Act introduced statutory crime scene powers to allow police officers to preserve evidence in a timely manner at crime scenes in both public and private places while taking the least restrictive approach to limiting a person's right to privacy.
- The Act also created a new offence of 'drive by shooting' which deals with people shooting at a building, including a home, whether from a car or otherwise. The offence is punishable by a maximum of 10 years imprisonment.
- These new laws have already been used by ACT Policing to support its work to combat criminal groups in the ACT.

### **Background**

At the most recent meeting of the Council of Attorneys-General held on 8 June 2018, participants agreed that organised crime is a serious and pervasive threat to the community. In recognition of this, participants agreed to have regard to the statement of guiding principles when developing legislative responses to combat organised crime.

ACT Policing has identified three OMCGs that operate in the ACT (the Rebels, the Nomads and the Comancheros).

The ACT Government remains strongly committed to embracing practical legislative measures to address serious and organized crime in order to keep Canberra a safe and secure community.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	20/06/2018
Cleared by:	Deputy Executive Director
Information Officer name:	Tamsyn Harvey
Contact Officer name:	Chantel Potter
Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety

## Anti-Consorting Laws

Consorting laws make it an offence to associate with a person after being issued with a warning to refrain from associating with that person.

All jurisdictions except the ACT have consorting law schemes. Consorting law schemes differ in each jurisdiction. Some legislative schemes have been found to be invalid by the High Court. The Victorian model is the only model that requires law enforcement to demonstrate a link between the association of two people and the commission of a criminal offence. Obtaining evidence to support this belief may be challenging in an operational context.

The Human Rights Commission advised that without a suspected link to identifiable criminal activity, it is unlikely that consorting laws will be cured of their inherent incompatibility with the Human Rights Act 2004.

The ACT has not supported the introduction of consorting laws to date due to the lack of evidence for their effectiveness and the significant human rights implications.

## *Private Members Bill – Crimes (Criminal Organisation Control) Bill 2017*

- On 1 November 2017 the Shadow Attorney-General, Mr Jeremy Hanson MLA CSC, introduced the Bill in the Legislative Assembly. The Bill proposed the introduction of criminal organisation laws in the ACT. The Bill was debated in the same month but was not supported by the ACT Government.
- The Bill was based on NSW criminal organisation laws, however was less restrictive of human rights.
- To make a control order, the Bill required the court to be satisfied that it would be reasonably necessary to restrict, or impose conditions on the activities of a person in order to end, prevent or reduce a serious threat to public safety and order.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 20/06/2018  
Cleared by: Deputy Executive Director  
Information Officer name: Tamsyn Harvey  
Contact Officer name: Chantel Potter  
Lead Directorate: Justice and Community  
Safety

## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

TRIM Ref: 2018/000086-001

**Portfolio:** Minister for Police & Emergency Services

Attorney-General

### ISSUE: OMCG INCIDENTS AND TASKFORCE NEMESIS

#### **THIS IS AN ACT POLICING OPERATIONAL BRIEF**

This QTB focuses on the ACT Policing operational aspects. Information about anti-consorting laws, fortification removal laws, crime scene powers and drive-by shootings can be found in the QTB titled “Serious and Organised Crime Response”.

#### **TALKING POINTS:**

- Countering serious and organised crime by criminal gangs and maintaining public safety is of primary focus for the ACT Government and ACT Policing.
- Through Taskforce Nemesis, ACT Policing continues to proactively target criminal gang members to deter, detect and disrupt criminal activity. This includes confiscation of criminal assets.
- The Government’s 2018-19 Budget commitment of \$1.594 million over four years to Taskforce Nemesis provides funding for one Forensic Accountant, one Surveillance Team Member, and associated equipment and training.
  - Planning is underway for the recruitment of two additional members allocated through the 2018-19 Budget initiative. Exact commencement dates are dependent upon recruitment and security clearance processes.
- Funding allocated to combating Criminal Gangs in August 2016 has been applied, and eight members were appointed to Taskforce Nemesis.
- In 2017, the Federal Government boosted resources for dealing with organised crime through the National Anti-Gangs Squad (NAGS). Through NAGS, ACT Policing works closely with other agencies, liaising on matters of operational and strategic importance. NAGS brings together the resources and expertise of Federal and state/territory agencies to cooperate and share information to identify, target, disrupt and deter gang-related crime.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	09/08/2018
Cleared by:	DCPO-C
Information Officer name:	Tamsyn Harvey
Contact Officer name:	ACT Policing
Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety

## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- As at 7 August 2018, there are four known Criminal Gangs (the Comancheros, Nomads, Rebels and Finks) operating in the ACT. The total number of members associated with ACT chapters of these Criminal Gangs is estimated at approximately 60 people.
- Since January 2018, ACT Policing has responded to criminal gang related incidents including:
  - Eight incidents of discharging a firearm at a residential address or a person
  - Seven arson incidents.
- Since January 2018, Taskforce Nemesis has:
  - Executed 76 search warrants against criminal gang targets
  - Seized 22 firearms
  - Seized \$61,750 in currency
  - Laid 53 charges against criminal gang members.

### Most recent criminal gang activity

- On 11 June 2018, a Molotov cocktail was thrown through a window and a firearm was discharged at a Ngunnawal residence. No one was injured in the incident. On 20 June 2018, the same residence was subject to an aggravated burglary, in which offenders forced in the front door of the residence and set fire to the property. As these matters remains subject to ongoing investigation, it would be inappropriate to comment further.
- On 28 June 2018, four people attended two residential properties in Calwell. A firearm was discharged at both properties, and three vehicles were set alight at one of the residences. An adult male received medical treatment for a related injury to his hand. As these matters remain subject to ongoing investigation, it would be inappropriate to comment further.
- On 6 July 2018, a physical altercation broke out between six men on Anketell Street in Greenway. The men are believed to be criminal gang members and the altercation is understood to be a result of ongoing tensions between criminal gangs. As this matter remains subject to ongoing investigation, it would be inappropriate to comment further.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	09/08/2018
Cleared by:	DCPO-C
Information Officer name:	Tamsyn Harvey
Contact Officer name:	ACT Policing
Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety



## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- On 6 August 2018, Taskforce Nemesis undertook targeted operations as part of investigations into the criminal gang related shooting incident that occurred on 28 June 2018.
  - A targeted vehicle stop was undertaken by Taskforce Nemesis, resulting in a .357 calibre revolver being located and seized by Police.
  - A short time later, Taskforce Nemesis members executed a search warrant at a Calwell residence. Police located and seized a loaded 22/250 rifle, a shortened 9mm semi-automatic rifle, ammunition, and illicit substances.
  - Two men were arrested and charged with 14 cumulative charges. One of the men (a 21 year old male) was charged with firearms offences relating to the search warrant executed on 6 August 2018, and the other (a 36 year old male) was charged with firearm and weapons offences related to the incident on 28 June 2018.
  - On 7 August 2018, both men appeared before the ACT Magistrates Court and were granted bail and ordered to appear at a later date.

### Background

- Appropriate legislative frameworks are an essential component to enable police to effectively disrupt and dismantle criminal organisations. A number of legislative amendments have been made to increase the tools available to police and enhance the response capacity of police officers. Most recently, these have included legislation passed on fortifications, drive-by shootings and crime scene powers.
- ACT Policing works closely with Police in other jurisdictions by sharing intelligence, best practices, and collaboratively monitoring and combating criminal gangs.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 09/08/2018  
Cleared by: DCPO-C  
Information Officer name: Tamsyn Harvey  
Contact Officer name: ACT Policing  
Lead Directorate: Justice and Community  
Safety

# QUESTION TIME BRIEF

TRIM Ref: 2018/000086-014

**Portfolio:** Police & Emergency Services

## ISSUE: ACT POLICING KEY DATA

### ACT Policing

Staffing as reported in previous annual reports

2015/2016 as at 30 June	2016/2017 as at 30 June
FTE – 968.48	FTE – 946.47
Headcount - 909	Headcount - 884

\*As per Annual Report 2016-17, in future reporting ACT Policing will be reporting FTE utilising an average FTE.

### ACT Policing Budget

Original 2017-18 Appropriation	Revised 2017-18 Appropriation	Original 2018-19 Appropriation
\$161,331,000 <sup>1</sup>	\$158,895,000	\$166,919,000

### 2017-18 Budget adjustments:

The following adjustments occurred:

- -\$695,000 for the Eastman trial rolled over to 2018-19;
- -\$1,329,920 for the Enterprise Agreement rolled over to 2018-19 due to delays in implementation;
- -\$448,000 rolled over to and re-profiled for 2018-19 due to changes and delays in procurement of CEWs.
- \$37,000 additional funding received through the 2017/18 second appropriation for Drug and Alcohol court establishment.

<sup>1</sup> As published in 2017-21 Purchase Agreement.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 20/07/2018

Cleared by: ACTP-DCS Ext:

Information Officer name: Tamsyn Harvey

Contact Officer name: Andrew McIntosh Ext:

Lead Directorate: Justice and Community Safety

## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

### Call Outs – As at 1 July 2018 - 2017-18 Financial Year

Category	# of Call outs 2017-18 FY	Average Response time H:MM:SS 2017-18 FY
Priority 1	328 7.2% Increase from 2016-17 (306)	0:10:34 0:03:21 increase from 2016-17
Priority 2	13437 2.6% Decrease from 2016-17 (13802)	0:34:08 0:01:00 decrease from 2016-17
Priority 3	24415 23.8% Decrease from 2016-17 (32026)	3:44:07 1:05:39 increase from 2016-17

### Summary of Key Strategies

As per the Purchase Agreement 2017-21 ACT Policing supports a whole of government approach in achieving the objectives of ACT Government Strategies, particularly those addressing crime. These Strategies include, but are not limited to:

- *Property Crime Prevention Strategy.*
- *Blueprint for Youth Justice in the ACT 2012-22.*
- *ACT Prevention of Violence Against Women and Children Strategy 2011-17.*
- *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Agreement.*
- *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Justice Partnership.*
- *Road Safety Strategy 2011-20.*
- *Justice Reform Strategy.*

### Stations

There are seven Police Stations within the ACT that provide a response capability:

- City
- Belconnen
- Gungahlin
- Woden
- Tuggeranong
- Winchester Police Centre
- Traffic Operations Centre

Cleared as complete and accurate: 20/07/2018  
 Cleared by: ACTP-DCS Ext:  
 Information Officer name: Tamsyn Harvey  
 Contact Officer name: Andrew McIntosh Ext:  
 Lead Directorate: Justice and Community  
 Safety

## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

### Confiscation of Criminal Assets (COCA)

This is a summary of proceedings under the *Confiscation of Criminal Assets Act 2003* (ACT). COCA matters are listed before the ACT Magistrates Court, on average, once a month. The ACT Magistrates Court has not yet sat to hear COCA matters this financial year.

	2017-18	2018-19 YTD
Total Number of offences	29	-
Total Asset value	\$13,355,172	-
Penalty order value	\$7,179,000	-

Note: Asset values provided are market estimates and do not take into account potential mortgages affecting assets. Amounts realised from Penalty Orders are dependant upon the respondents' capacity to service those orders and may be significantly less than the full value of the Penalty Order.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 20/07/2018  
 Cleared by: ACTP-DCS Ext:  
 Information Officer name: Tamsyn Harvey  
 Contact Officer name: Andrew McIntosh Ext:  
 Lead Directorate: Justice and Community Safety

## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

TRIM Ref: 2018/000086-001

**Portfolio:** Minister for Police & Emergency Services

Attorney-General

### ISSUE: OMCG INCIDENTS AND TASKFORCE NEMESIS

#### THIS IS AN ACT POLICING OPERATIONAL BRIEF

This QTB focuses on the ACT Policing operational aspects. Information about anti-consorting laws, fortification removal laws, crime scene powers and drive-by shootings can be found in the QTB titled “Serious and Organised Crime Response”.

#### TALKING POINTS:

- Countering serious and organised crime by criminal gangs and maintaining public safety is of primary focus for the ACT Government and ACT Policing.
- Through Taskforce Nemesis, ACT Policing continues to proactively target criminal gang members to deter, detect and disrupt criminal activity. This includes confiscation of criminal assets.
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  - Planning is underway for the recruitment of two additional members allocated through the 2018-19 Budget initiative. Exact commencement dates are dependent upon recruitment and security clearance processes.
- Funding allocated to combating Criminal Gangs in August 2016 has been applied, and eight members were appointed to Taskforce Nemesis.
- In 2017, the Federal Government boosted resources for dealing with organised crime through the National Anti-Gangs Squad (NAGS). Through NAGS, ACT Policing works closely with other agencies, liaising on matters of operational and strategic importance. NAGS brings together the resources and expertise of Federal and state/territory agencies to cooperate and share information to identify, target, disrupt and deter gang-related crime.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	09/08/2018
Cleared by:	DCPO-C
Information Officer name:	Tamsyn Harvey
Contact Officer name:	ACT Policing
Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety

## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- As at 7 August 2018, there are four known Criminal Gangs (the Comancheros, Nomads, Rebels and Finks) operating in the ACT. The total number of members associated with ACT chapters of these Criminal Gangs is estimated at approximately 60 people.
- Since January 2018, ACT Policing has responded to criminal gang related incidents including:
  - Eight incidents of discharging a firearm at a residential address or a person
  - Seven arson incidents.
- Since January 2018, Taskforce Nemesis has:
  - Executed 76 search warrants against criminal gang targets
  - Seized 22 firearms
  - Seized \$61,750 in currency
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### Most recent criminal gang activity

- On 11 June 2018, a Molotov cocktail was thrown through a window and a firearm was discharged at a Ngunnawal residence. No one was injured in the incident. On 20 June 2018, the same residence was subject to an aggravated burglary, in which offenders forced in the front door of the residence and set fire to the property. As these matters remains subject to ongoing investigation, it would be inappropriate to comment further.
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Cleared by:	DCPO-C
Information Officer name:	Tamsyn Harvey
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Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety

## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- On 6 August 2018, Taskforce Nemesis undertook targeted operations as part of investigations into the criminal gang related shooting incident that occurred on 28 June 2018.
  - A targeted vehicle stop was undertaken by Taskforce Nemesis, resulting in a .357 calibre revolver being located and seized by Police.
  - A short time later, Taskforce Nemesis members executed a search warrant at a Calwell residence. Police located and seized a loaded 22/250 rifle, a shortened 9mm semi-automatic rifle, ammunition, and illicit substances.
  - Two men were arrested and charged with 14 cumulative charges. One of the men (a 21 year old male) was charged with firearms offences relating to the search warrant executed on 6 August 2018, and the other (a 36 year old male) was charged with firearm and weapons offences related to the incident on 28 June 2018.
  - On 7 August 2018, both men appeared before the ACT Magistrates Court and were granted bail and ordered to appear at a later date.

### Background

- Appropriate legislative frameworks are an essential component to enable police to effectively disrupt and dismantle criminal organisations. A number of legislative amendments have been made to increase the tools available to police and enhance the response capacity of police officers. Most recently, these have included legislation passed on fortifications, drive-by shootings and crime scene powers.
- ACT Policing works closely with Police in other jurisdictions by sharing intelligence, best practices, and collaboratively monitoring and combating criminal gangs.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 09/08/2018  
Cleared by: DCPO-C  
Information Officer name: Tamsyn Harvey  
Contact Officer name: ACT Policing  
Lead Directorate: Justice and Community  
Safety

## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

TRIM Ref: MIN:2018/000086-004

**Portfolio:** Police & Emergency Services

**ISSUE:** ACT Policing Crime Statistics

### Talking points:

- I am pleased to see that the number of offences for the 2017-18 financial year shows a **decrease of 3.2 per cent (or 1116 offences)** when compared to the previous financial year.
- The total number of offences recorded against the person for the reporting period shows a **decrease of 14.8 per cent (or 581 offences)**, when compared to the previous year.
- Alcohol-related assaults **decreased 17.6 per cent (or 154 offences)** for the 12 months to 30 April 2018.
- The Government and ACT Policing are proactively responding to family violence issues in our community in an effort to keep victims safe and reduce the likelihood of these incidences occurring.
- Family violence related assault offences **decreased 17 per cent (or 230 offences)**, when compared to 2016-17.
- Offences that recorded significant decreases included:
  - Other offences against the person (down 39.1 per cent or 133 offences)
  - Sexual assault offences (down 16.9 per cent or 92 offences)
- Homicide and related offences **increased from 3 offences in 2016-17 to 8 offences** in 2017-18.
- I am advised there has been a **12.5 per cent increase** in motor vehicle theft in the past financial year; however I understand ACT Policing has seen some positive results following implementation of a flexible targeting team.
- ACT Policing's Crime Disruption Team (CDT) has seen positive results during the year. The number of armed robbery offences has **decreased by 10.7 per cent** since 2016-17.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 20/07/2018

Cleared by: ACTP-DCS

Ext:70522

Contact Officer Name: Tamsyn Harvey

Ext: 70581

Lead Directorate: Justice and Community Safety



## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- Importantly, since 6 February 2018, there have been zero aggravated robbery offences at licenced clubs.

These decreases are positive results for the ACT community. However, there may be some upwards revisions to the figures as people report crime and investigations progress.

### ***What is ACT Policing doing to address crime?***

- Positive clearance rates achieved by ACT Policing despite general crime rate increases, demonstrates ACT Policing remains effective in addressing criminal activity.
- ACT Policing has established a Crime Disruption Team (CDT), whose primary focus has been on recidivist offending, disrupting aggravated robbery offences and ram raids across the ACT, utilising sophisticated targeting models.

### **Key Information**

- Increases in crime should be considered in the context of the longer term trends and how the ACT compares to other jurisdictions.
- The ACT Criminal Justice Statistical Profile (released every six months), ABS Crime Victimization data (released annually in February), Recorded Crime Offender data (Released annually in February) and Recorded Crime Victims data (released annually in July) provide detail on trends and comparisons to other jurisdictions.
- The Government has been pro-active in working with ACT Policing to address property crime through the Property Crime Prevention Strategy 2016-2020, launched in September 2016.
- The latest crime statistics as of 30 June 2018 based on the ACT Policing website statistics indicate that reports of crime across Canberra has decreased 3.2 per cent when comparing the 2017-18 financial year to the previous period.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	20/07/2018	
Cleared by:	ACTP-DCS	Ext:70522
Contact Officer Name:	Tamsyn Harvey	Ext: 70581
Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	

## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

Offence	2016-17 Total	2017-18 Total	Percentage change
<b>Homicide</b>	3	8	166.7%
<b>Assault - FV</b>	1356	1126	-17.0%
<b>Assault - Non-FV</b>	1678	1547	-7.8%
<b>Sexual Assault</b>	544	452	-16.9%
<b>Other offences against a person</b>	340	207	-39.1%
<b>Robbery - armed</b>	131	117	-10.7%
<b>Robbery - other</b>	112	102	-8.9%
<b>Burglary dwellings</b>	1641	1648	0.4%
<b>Burglary shops</b>	330	275	-16.7%
<b>Burglary other</b>	579	572	-1.2%
<b>Motor vehicle theft</b>	1292	1453	12.5%
<b>Property damage</b>	5302	4528	-14.6%
<b>Other offences</b>	11890	12012	1.0%
<b>Theft (excluding Motor Vehicles)</b>	9514	9549	0.4%
<b>Total (Offences only)</b>	34712	33596	-3.2%

- Compared to 2016-17, districts such Belconnen, Inner North, Inner South, Tuggeranong recorded a decrease in the total number of offences reported to ACT Policing. Gungahlin, Weston Creek, Molonglo and Woden districts however reported increases.
- Long term trends indicate that overall offences have decreased by 19.5 per cent when comparing the 2017-18 and 2008-09 financial year results.

Offence	Date reported											% Change 2016-17 to 2017-18	% Change 2016-17 to 2017-18
	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18			
<b>Homicide</b>	10	9	4	6	5	4	7	5	3	8	166.7%	-20.0%	
<b>Assault - FV</b>	764	810	852	746	692	682	738	1137	1356	1126	-17.0%	47.4%	
<b>Assault - Non-FV</b>	1803	1648	1657	1607	1543	1375	1258	1410	1678	1547	-7.8%	-14.2%	
<b>Sexual Assault</b>	337	353	337	433	452	431	439	473	544	452	-16.9%	34.1%	
<b>Other offences against a person</b>	132	106	138	87	82	99	105	243	340	207	-39.1%	56.8%	
<b>Robbery - armed</b>	110	134	149	141	100	90	111	77	131	117	-10.7%	6.4%	
<b>Robbery - other</b>	167	195	116	113	84	62	64	77	112	102	-8.9%	-38.9%	
<b>Burglary dwellings</b>	3127	3731	2517	1827	1549	1432	1552	1469	1641	1648	0.4%	-47.3%	
<b>Burglary shops</b>	402	524	350	336	259	252	267	425	330	275	-16.7%	-31.6%	
<b>Burglary other</b>	710	869	609	441	459	421	575	722	579	572	-1.2%	-19.4%	
<b>Motor vehicle theft</b>	2054	2057	1286	1167	856	739	1026	1014	1292	1453	12.5%	-29.3%	
<b>Property damage</b>	8897	9212	7279	5896	5442	4284	4692	5072	5302	4528	-14.6%	-49.1%	
<b>Other offences</b>	10596	10185	9941	9569	9216	10658	10495	10182	11890	12012	1.0%	13.4%	
<b>Theft (excluding Motor Vehicles)</b>	12603	13982	11089	9376	10050	9299	10000	10819	9514	9549	0.4%	-24.2%	
<b>Total</b>	41712	43815	36324	31745	30789	29828	31329	33125	34712	33596	-3.2%	-19.5%	

Cleared as complete and accurate: 20/07/2018  
 Cleared by: ACTP-DCS Ext:70522  
 Contact Officer Name: Tamsyn Harvey Ext: 70581  
 Lead Directorate: Justice and Community Safety

## Background Information

### ACT Policing's Live Data Base

One of the main sources of data for these publications is ACT Policing's live data base.

As ACT Policing's database is live, crime data is continually revised as people report crime and investigations progress. This means that there can be variances, usually increases, in the same statistics if drawn from the live database on a different date. The data for this QTB was extracted from the Police Realtime Online Management Information System (PROMIS) on the first working day after the close of the financial year. As such, it is highly likely other offences will be reported over the next quarter or two, and the decreases cited above may lessen or disappear altogether.

While all of these publications refer to crime types, for example personal and property crime, motor vehicle theft, assault, burglary etc., what they are actually counting is often different.

Publications can count the number of offences reported to police, the number of charges, offenders or victims. All of these will result in different statistics on the same type of crime.

When counting offenders, offences or charges, numbers can vary. One offender can be responsible for multiple offences and an offence can be recorded in the system before an offender is identified.

When considering victims of crime, the most widely used source of data is the number of victims recorded in the ACT Policing live data base. However, not all crime is reported to the police.

### ABS's Crime Victimization Data

To deal with under-reporting of crime, the ABS's *Crime Victimization* publication relies on a national survey that asks people to self-identify if they have been a victim of crime. This may capture data on crime that has not been reported to the police. However, as the sample size for the ACT is usually small this results in low confidence in the survey results.

National publications can include different numbers to those published by ACT Policing or the Justice and Community Safety Directorate because they are based on specific counting rules in order to allow national comparison across jurisdictions.

### Criminal Justice Statistical Profile

Differences in crime data reporting can also arise through different dates of comparison, particularly when looking at increases and decreases in crime.

Most national publications and annual reports will report on financial years or calendar years.

By contrast, the ACT Policing website and ACT Criminal Justice Statistical Profile report quarterly statistics which allows comparisons of financial or calendar years, or by quarters.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	20/07/2018	
Cleared by:	ACTP-DCS	Ext:70522
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Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	

# QUESTION TIME BRIEF

TRIM Ref:2018/000086-015

**Portfolios:** Police & Emergency Services

Attorney-General

Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence

**ISSUE: SAFETY OF WOMEN IN OUR COMMUNITY**

**Talking points:**

- Canberra remains a very safe city in which to live. The safety of our community is our priority.
- The factors affecting women's safety are complex and varied. For example the impact of poverty, crimes rates, drug and alcohol use, urban design and gender stereotypes. Whole of community changes in attitude and behaviour take many years to achieve.
- The gendered nature of women's safety is also complex, and cannot be addressed through local initiatives alone. That is why the ACT Government supports the *National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010–2022*, especially as it relates to the *Bystander* and *Stop it at the Start* campaigns, which incorporate radio and TV advertisements, social media and community education initiatives.
- The Community Safety Directorate is working to enhance the status of women and girls in the ACT and to create a community where they are safe, healthy, equally represented and valued for their contribution to society. This is achieved through the implementation of the ACT Women's Plan 2016-2026 and work under the National Plan to reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022.
- This is also achieved through targeted womens' programs such as grant and leadership programs for women and girls, International Women's Day and Violence Prevention Awards, and the application of women's safety assessment to ACT funded events and environment design in urban planning.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	24/07/2018	
Cleared by:	Executive Director	Ext: 70522
Information Officer name:	Tamsyn Harvey	
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Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	

**Key Information**

- In the 2018-19 Budget the ACT Government committed an additional \$696,000 to the Office for Women to implement actions under the ACT Women's Plan and to promote gender equality more broadly. Under the *ACT Women's Plan 2016-26, First Action Plan 2017-19*, the following strategies (actions), are related to women's safety:
  - Promote the use of Women's Safety Audits at events run by the ACT Government
  - Investigate the use of the Safety Mapping Tool to guide ACT Government planning
  - Review the 'Crime Prevention through Environmental Design General Code' from a safe and inclusive communities perspective (with a focus on women) and review language used in this Code
  - Determine the process by which women's perspectives can be incorporated into Master Plans, Territory Plan reviews and urban design processes
  - Include women, and in particular young women aged 15-21, in the planning and design study of local centres. This study will identify resilience, liveability and accessibility at the local level and provide a comparative basis to test planning and design responses in line with national best practice
  - Conduct lifestyle analysis of women customers (to improve transport options for women)
- All actions in the *ACT Women's Plan 2016-26, First Action Plan*, will be implemented and reviewed by the end of 2019.
- In 2016-17 the ACT recorded the highest national result for community member feelings of safety at home during the night (90.6 per cent). While the final results are not yet available, the 2017-18 estimated outcome shows that this result has risen to 94.8 per cent with the target of 87.7 per cent being exceeded by 7.1 per cent
- Feelings of safety on public transport in the ACT during the night was also the highest nationally in 2016-17 and ranked above the national average (32.4 per cent). Similarly the 2017-18 estimated outcome shows that this has risen to 39.2 per cent with the target of 24.5 per cent being exceeded by 14.7 per cent
- These strong results reflect results of the ACT Government and ACT Policing continuing to work with partner agencies and community to maintain and improve community safety in Canberra's public spaces and in intelligence led targeting of criminal activities.
- There is often a disparity between community perception and realities when it comes to crime types. Continued community liaison and engagement is helping to bridge this gap.
- One example of disparities between community perception and realities is the prevalence of criminal offending in Haig Park. Haig Park has seen a reduction in offences since 2013 from 17 down to 2 in 2018 to date.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 24/07/2018  
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Lead Directorate: Justice and Community Safety

## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

Year (Calendar)	Number of Offences
2013	17
2014	17
2015	11
2016	13
2017	10
2018 (As at 31 May 2018)	2

- There has been one recorded sexual assault in Haig Park since 2013. That incident occurred in 2017.

### Background Information

- The National Survey of Community Satisfaction with Policing is a quarterly telephone survey conducted across all Australian jurisdictions. The survey collects information on community perceptions of Police in terms of services provided and personal experiences of contact with the Police.
- Perceptions of safety indicators are drawn from the National Survey of Community Satisfaction with Policing, a self-reporting survey conducted by the Social Research Centre. This is the only Australian survey to provide nationally comparable data regarding public satisfaction with police. The national sample is approx. 26,000; the ACT sample size, of 2,400, is statistically reliable.
- The information contained in this brief was sourced from ACT Policing and the Office of the Co-ordinator General for Family Safety.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 24/07/2018  
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Information Officer name: Tamsyn Harvey  
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Lead Directorate: Justice and Community Safety

# QUESTION TIME BRIEF

Trim Ref: 2018/000086-016

**Portfolio:** Police & Emergency Services

**ISSUE: FIREARMS AND FAMILY VIOLENCE**

**Talking points:**

- ACT Policing is committed to breaking the cycle of family violence and ensuring the safety of the Canberra community.
- ACT Policing is committed to maintaining high levels of firearm safety and accountability in the ACT.
- ACT Policing is focused on keeping our community safe through a diverse range of mechanism, including work with the judicial system and partner agencies.
- The *Firearms Act 1996* (Firearms Act) establishes the licensing and registration scheme for all firearms possessed or used in the ACT. The legislative scheme was implemented following the establishment of the National Firearms Agreement (NFA), and aims to comply with the spirit of the NFA to facilitate a national approach to the control of firearms.
- One of the underlying principles of the Act is to confirm that firearms possession and use is a privilege, and to improve public safety by imposing strict controls on the possession and use of firearms.
- The ACT Policing Firearm Registry is responsible for the delivery of regulatory and licensing functions in accordance with the Firearms Act.
- The general authorisation mechanism for licensing and registration is broadly a two-step process under the Firearms Act
  - First, a person must obtain a firearms licence for Categories A, B, C, D and H and for collectors, heirlooms, dealers, and paintball markers.
  - Second, a licensee must obtain a permit to acquire a firearm.
- The ACT has a rigorous firearms licensing scheme, that requires applicants to disclose criminal offences, mental health issues and other matters affecting their suitability to possess or handle a firearm.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	20/07/2018	
Cleared by:	ACTP DCPO-C	Ext:
Information Officer name:	Tamsyn Harvey	Ext: 70522
Contact Officer name:	Ashleigh Tilbrook	Ext: 53735
Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	

## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- In assessing an application made by a person under the Firearms Act, the Registrar of Firearms (Registrar) must consider any discretionary criteria in relation to an individual (for example, the person's physical or mental health: section 18) and mandatory criteria (for example, criminal history to determine whether specific offences have been committed, and whether the person has been subject to a final protection order: section 19).
- In assessing the person's suitability against the discretionary and mandatory criteria, the Registrar may decide that an individual is not suitable for a licence or permit, prior to even considering the merits of the licence application itself.
  - The Registrar may request that an applicant disclose personal health information relevant to the applicant's ability to handle firearms responsibly, and may refuse to consider an application if the information is not provided.
  - If a person is asked to provide further information regarding their mental health status or treatment, it is most commonly provided in the form of a letter from their physician (preferably a treating mental health professional) commenting on the ability of the applicant to responsibly handle firearms.
  - Not all individuals who apply for a firearms licence in the ACT are required to undergo mental health checks. Mental health checks are only sought if the applicant discloses an issue, or if a mental health issue comes to police attention which may affect the applicant's ability to handle firearms responsibly.
  - In all instances, where a firearm licence holder becomes subject to a Family Violence Order or Personal Protection Order, the licence is suspended or cancelled by operation of law. Any firearms held by the person are immediately seized by Police.
- ACT Policing has advised, since 1 January 2017:
  - three firearm licence applications were declined on mental health grounds
  - 10 firearm licences have been suspended on mental health grounds.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	20/07/2018	
Cleared by:	ACTP DCPO-C	Ext:
Information Officer name:	Tamsyn Harvey	Ext: 70522
Contact Officer name:	Ashleigh Tilbrook	Ext: 53735
Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	



## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- ACT Policing has advised, since 1 January 2017:
  - seven firearm licences have been suspended as a result of Family Violence Order. Any firearms held by these licence holders were seized by ACT Policing.  
  
seven firearm licences have been cancelled as a result of Family Violence Order. Any firearms held by these licence holders were seized by ACT Policing.
- The ACT is monitoring the actions of NSW and working with other jurisdictions to consider whether more can be done.

### Background Information

- On 5 July 2018, a NSW resident (John Edwards) shot and murdered his two children before turning the firearm on himself. It is reported that he obtained the firearm under a “Commissioner’s Permit”, purported to override red flags raised by answers provided in his firearm licence application.
- A National Firearms Amnesty was held between 1 July-30 September 2017. The total number of firearms surrendered in the ACT was 699.
- The Commonwealth Attorney-General has informally committed to tackling gaps in how family courts and police approach ‘red flags’ and issues of violence raised in court proceedings, so that they are considered by police when assessing firearms applications.
- A senior working group under the Council of Attorneys-General has been investigating information sharing between various agencies relevant to family violence. The working group is due to report back to the Council of Attorneys-General later this year.
- The NSW government is also in the preliminary stage of considering potential amendments to their firearms legislation. No concrete proposal has been put forward by the NSW Government to date and the NSW Police Minister has not outlined what a potential reform package might look like without an examination of wider policy issues and implications being examined.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	20/07/2018	
Cleared by:	ACTP DCPO-C	Ext:
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Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	

TRIM Ref: 2018/00086-017

**Portfolio:** Minister for Police & Emergency Services**ISSUE: THE CANBERRA HOSPITAL FIREARM INCIDENT****Talking points:**

- The incident has been declared a critical incident and in accordance with standard procedure, AFP Professional Standards attended The Canberra Hospital, and will oversee the investigation into the circumstances surrounding the incident.
- On 19 July 2018, the man involved in the incident appeared before the ACT Magistrates Court on multiple charges arising from the incident at The Canberra Hospital and traffic offences. He entered pleas of 'not guilty' to the charges of attempted murder but did not enter pleas on the remaining charges. The man was remanded in custody.
- As the matter remains ongoing and is now a criminal matter before the ACT Magistrates Court, it would be inappropriate for me to comment further at this time.

**Background Information**

- An incident occurred at The Canberra Hospital on 18 July 2018 where a man involved in a driving incident earlier in the day was under police custody in the Emergency Department. He attempted to escape police custody and became involved in an altercation with police and gained access to one of the officers' guns and discharged the firearm a number of times.
- No members of the public or hospital staff were physically injured during the incident. There was no threat to public safety arising from the incident.
- Two police officers received treatment for injuries arising from the physical altercation. Police officers were not harmed as a result of the firearm being discharged.
- ACT Policing exercised crime scene powers to secure the scene within the Emergency Management Unit of The Canberra Hospital.
- The man involved in the incident has been charged with a number of criminal offences, including two charges of attempted murder, assault occasioning actual bodily harm, discharging a firearm endangering life, and attempting to escape from custody or arrest.
- On Wednesday 18 July 2018 at about 7.30am, a 26-year-old man who is alleged to have been driving a stolen motor vehicle failed to stop at a red traffic signal and collided with a heavy vehicle on the intersection of Yamba Drive and Mawson Drive in the suburb of Mawson.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 30/07/2018  
Cleared by: Chief Police Officer  
Information Officer name: Tamsyn Harvey Ext: 70522  
Contact Officer name: ACT Policing / Ashleigh Ext: 53735  
Tilbrook  
Lead Directorate: Justice and Community  
Safety

## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- The driver of the truck suffered life threatening injuries and was conveyed to The Canberra Hospital in a critical condition. The driver remains in a critical condition.
- The driver of the stolen motor vehicle was arrested by police at the scene, and conveyed to The Canberra Hospital under police guard.
- About 4.00pm that same date, while in the Emergency Room of The Canberra Hospital, the man became extremely violent and attempted to escape police custody.
- A physical struggle ensued between the man and police, during which the man assaulted police and gained access to a police firearm.
- The man pointed the firearm at police and made threats to kill the officers.
- A physical struggle ensued, during which the man discharged the firearm a number of times. Following the deployment of a Taser, the man was disarmed, subdued and the firearm was secured.
- At about 4.00pm, ACT Policing exercised crime scene powers to secure the crime scene within the Emergency Management Unit of The Canberra Hospital. The Unit of The hospital remained operational.
- The man was conveyed to the ACT Regional Watch House, where he was charged with:
  - Two counts of attempted murder
  - Assault occasioning actual bodily harm
  - Discharge firearm endangering life
  - Attempt to escape from custody or arrest
  - Attempted robbery
  - Drive motor vehicle without consent
  - Two counts of culpable drive causing grievous bodily harm
  - Unlicensed driver
- The man first appeared before the ACT Magistrates Court on 19 July 2018 where he was remanded in custody.
- Crime scene examination of the scene at The Canberra Hospital continued on 19 July 2018. ACT Policing worked closely with The Canberra Hospital to minimise disruption to hospital services.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 30/07/2018  
Cleared by: Chief Police Officer  
Information Officer name: Tamsyn Harvey Ext: 70522  
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Lead Directorate: Justice and Community Safety

## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

TRIM Ref: 2018/000089-003

**Portfolio:** Police & Emergency Services

**ISSUE: PUBLIC SAFETY CCTV NETWORK**

**Talking points:**

- The ACT's Public Safety CCTV Network enhances the safety of Canberra's public venues and open spaces. The Network is an essential tool in the fight against crime.
- The Network provides live and recorded CCTV footage to ACT Policing to support incident management, criminal investigations and prosecutions in court. The Network is also used by the ACT Government to support crowded place events and operations and strengthen public safety.
- The Government through the ACT Budget 2018-19 is investing \$975,000 over four years to further upgrade and expand the ACT's Public Safety CCTV Network. These upgrade works will focus on areas highlighted in the strategic operations plan for the Public Safety CCTV Network for the period 2017-2022, including:
  - Additional high definition cameras with enhanced coverage, resolution and performance in low light across Canberra's public venues and open spaces including GIO Stadium, Manuka Oval, EPIC, the Kingston and Manuka shopping precincts
  - Software upgrades to enhance the CCTV investigation capability of ACT Policing
  - Upgrading CCTV recording equipment
  - Upgrading the CCTV systems at bus stations and depots.
- The Government continues to trial portable, solar powered CCTV technology at seven sites across Canberra to enhance the capabilities of the Public Safety CCTV Network. Solar powered CCTV units will again be used at this year's Floriade.
- The Government is developing a CCTV Strategy to guide future government investment in this essential security technology that is now widely used across ACT public venues and open spaces.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	16/07/2018	
Cleared by:	Executive Director	Ext: 78628
Information Officer name:	Bren Burkevics	
Contact Officer name:	David Wheeler	Ext: 55089
Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	

**Key Information**If asked about the trial of portable solar powered CCTV systems

- The Government is currently undertaking a trial of solar powered CCTV units. These units require no fixed infrastructure to operate and transmit data over the mobile phone network.
- Seven units are in use across Canberra. Three are installed at the National Arboretum Canberra, two in the City, one at the Owl Artwork and one at Griffith Shops.
- Additional units were used on a temporary basis at Floriade 2017 and the Christmas in the City Event in Glebe Park.
- The outcomes of the trial to date is beneficial to developing the Government's understanding of how this technology can be used to support public and asset safety and security.
- Solar powered CCTV units will be used again at Floriade 2018.

If asked about facial-biometric capability of the Public Safety CCTV System

- The Public Safety CCTV System does not utilise facial-biometric capability.

If asked about CCTV on the Light Rail network

- Officials that manage the Public Safety CCTV System are actively involved in the planning and design for the CCTV system to be used on the Canberra Metro light rail project with the aim of receiving CCTV feeds.

If asked about using the CBR Free Wi-Fi System to Host CCTV Data

- The Government has determined that the CBRfree Wi-Fi network infrastructure could be used to support the efficient expansion of the Public Safety CCTV System.
- The Government will shortly provide further details on a 12 month trial of using the CBRFree Wi-Fi network to host data from the Public Safety CCTV System. Trial cameras are being planned for Greenway and Haig Park.

If asked about CCTV System Security

- The Public Safety CCTV System operates within the secure ACT Government ICT network. Access to the system is by officers with authorised access and restricted to specially programmed computers.
- The stand-alone solar powered CCTV units transmit encrypted data to secure servers which are only accessible by officials with authorised access.

If asked about current system capabilities

- The Public Safety CCTV System is located at Canberra City, GIO Stadium, Manuka Oval, Exhibition Park in Canberra (EPIC), Manuka shopping precinct, Kingston shopping precinct and the Jolimont Bus Station.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 16/07/2018  
Cleared by: Executive Director Ext: 78628  
Information Officer name: Bren Burkevics  
Contact Officer name: David Wheeler Ext: 55089  
Lead Directorate: Justice and Community Safety

## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- CCTV footage is recorded by these systems 24 hours a day. Footage is retained for 30 days as required by the *Territory Records Act 2002*, after which it is automatically deleted unless required for investigative purposes.
- ACT Policing has dedicated staff that actively monitor the Public Safety CCTV system on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights. The purpose of the monitoring is to enhance public safety by identifying anti-social or criminal activity early and dispatching Police resources in a timely manner. ACT Policing may also use the system at any other times to assist with incident management, investigations and response.

### Background Information

- The Public Safety CCTV Network is an ACT Government owned network of interconnected CCTV systems located at various public venues and open spaces.
- CCTV is a well-established tool that enhances public safety by deterring crime and assisting in criminal investigations by law enforcement agencies.
- ACT Policing started CCTV monitoring in the Civic Precinct in 2001. In 2007, responsibility for the system transferred to JACS and the system was expanded to include Kingston and Manuka shopping precincts, Manuka Oval, EPIC, Jolimont Centre and GIO Stadium.
- JACS-SEMB is the CCTV policy coordinator and works closely with ACT Policing to ensure the system remains current, reliable and operationally effective.
- The network is provided by the ACT Government Shared Services ICT team and allows both live and recorded footage to be viewed from the Winchester Police Centre and other locations where ICT access is available.
- The ACT Government CCTV Working Group actively coordinates whole of government policy actions to support CCTV systems and infrastructure.
- A strategic operations plan for the Public Safety CCTV System has been completed for the period 2017-2022. This internal strategic plan will be used by JACS-SEMB to ensure the network remains current and addresses future community safety needs.
- A CCTV Strategy is being develop to guide future investment by the Government is this essential security technology.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	16/07/2018	
Cleared by:	Executive Director	Ext: 78628
Information Officer name:	Bren Burkevics	
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Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	

## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

TRIM Ref: 2018/000089-001

**Portfolios:** Chief Minister

Police & Emergency Services

Attorney-General

### **ISSUE: NATIONAL SECURITY ISSUES (INCLUDING BIOMETRICS)**

#### **Talking points:**

##### Counter Terrorism (Chief Minister)

- Australia is one of the most successful and most harmonious multicultural societies in the world.
- This is our best defence against terrorism and violent extremism.
- Our identity is defined by an overriding commitment to our nation and its democratic values - not by race, religion or ethnic background.
- Anyone who singles out any particular group as a target for hatred plays into the hands of terrorists.
- We as a government reject those who seek to impose their world view on others through intimidation and violence.
- Terrorism is a national issue, and we work closely with our interstate partners on the national security challenges that Australia faces.
- These national security challenges continue to evolve, so we need to keep our legislation and capabilities under constant review to meet these emerging issues.
- The ACT Government is committed to ensuring the safety and security of our community, and continues to work closely with ACT Policing and other law enforcement and intelligence agencies to combat terrorism.
- The ACT continues to support community leaders and activities that help promote the vibrant, inclusive and culturally diverse nature of the ACT community while maintaining the rule of law and protecting human rights.
- Concerns about national security or terrorism should be reported immediately to the National Security Hotline on 1800 123 400. Alternatively, [www.nationalsecurity.gov.au](http://www.nationalsecurity.gov.au) provides more information.
- If a situation requires a police response, call Police Operations on 131 444. If the situation is potentially life threatening; call Triple-Zero (000).

Cleared as complete and accurate:	08/08/2018	
Cleared by:	Executive Director	Ext: 78628
Information Officer name:	Bren Burkevics	
Contact Officer name:	Andrew Butters	Ext: 70317
Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	

### Facial Biometric Matching Capability (Chief Minister)

- At the October 2017 Counter Terrorism COAG meeting, I agreed to the terms of a national agreement that will revolutionise the way identity verification is undertaken across the country.
- As a human rights jurisdiction, the ACT has established a bilateral schedule to the national agreement to ensure ACT participation in a way that is consistent with the ACT's human rights and privacy laws, while supporting national security needs.
- Limitations placed on how ACT data can be used will not limit the ability of other jurisdictions to participate with one another in the capability.
- The ACT will continue to explore additional participation for ACT in the range of services offered by the capability, pending further privacy and human rights scrutiny.

*If asked about recent reports that the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission has decided to discontinue its Biometric Identification Services project.*

- This project is unrelated to the National Driver Licence Facial Recognition Solution, and the decision does not impact on the Intergovernmental Agreement signed in October 2017.

### Defence support to National Counter-Terrorism arrangements (Chief Minister)

- In 2016, the Commonwealth Government initiated a review of Defence support to national counter-terrorism arrangements in response to the changing nature of the terrorist threat.
- State and Territory police remain, and will continue to remain, the primary responders to any terrorist attack.
- While Defence's primary role in counter-terrorism is offshore, Defence possesses specialist capabilities that could support state and territory governments in responding to an attack.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	08/08/2018	
Cleared by:	Executive Director	Ext: 78628
Information Officer name:	Bren Burkevics	
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Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	



## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- The Commonwealth Government in close consultation with all States and Territories has worked to develop options for practical counter-terrorism engagement and cooperation between the Australian Defence Force (ADF) and State and Territory police.
- Additionally, in 2017 the Commonwealth Government announced proposed amendments to Part IIIAAA of the *Defence Act 1903* (the Defence Act)
- Part IIIAAA provides the framework for authorising the ADF to use force to resolve a domestic violence incident, including terrorism, in support of States and Territories.
- The Commonwealth Government has introduced the Bill to amend Part IIIAAA of the Defence Act into Parliament. The Bill will seek to simplify the authorisation process for callout, and enhance the ability of states and territories to request Commonwealth assistance, through the ADF, in responding to domestic violence incidents including terrorism.
- The Bill has been referred to the Senate Standing Committee for Legal and Constitutional Affairs.

*If asked about reports that the amendments to the Defence Act will allow the call out of Defence to deal with strike action or protests.*

- The current call out provisions within the Defence Act contain a prohibition against the Defence Force stopping or restricting any protest, dissent, assembly or industrial action, except where there is a reasonable likelihood of the death of, or serious injury to, persons or serious damage to property.
- This prohibition against stopping or restricting protest, dissent, assembly or industrial action is retained in the proposed amendments to the Defence Act, just in a different format to assist in the readability of the call out provisions.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	08/08/2018	
Cleared by:	Executive Director	Ext: 78628
Information Officer name:	Bren Burkevics	
Contact Officer name:	Andrew Butters	Ext: 70317
Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	

# QUESTION TIME BRIEF

## Key Information

- Australia's National Terrorism Threat level remains at **PROBABLE**.
- Credible intelligence, assessed by national security agencies indicates that individuals or groups have developed both the intent and capability to conduct a terrorist attack in Australia.
- Since the national terrorism threat level was raised on 12 September 2014, there have been six attacks and 14 major CT disruption operations in response to potential attack planning in Australia.
- There are currently no known specific or credible threat to the ACT.

## Background Information

- The Australian Government has taken ten tranches of legislation through Parliament since August 2014.
- COAG has agreed to a range of legislative measures including:
  - enhancing the existing Commonwealth pre-charge detention regime under Part 1C of the *Crimes Act 1914*
  - legislation implementing the presumption against bail and parole for people who have demonstrated support for, or have links to terrorist activity, will be underpinned by nationally consistent principles
  - a new Commonwealth offence that will allow law enforcement agencies to intervene when an individual is in possession of instructional terrorist material, with appropriate safeguards
  - a new Commonwealth terrorism hoax offence. This will ensure that the potentially broad nature of terrorism hoaxes is criminalised in all jurisdictions.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	08/08/2018	
Cleared by:	Executive Director	Ext: 78628
Information Officer name:	Bren Burkevics	
Contact Officer name:	Andrew Butters	Ext: 70317
Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	

# QUESTION TIME BRIEF

TRIM Ref: 2018/000144-018

**Portfolio:** Police & Emergency Services

## ISSUE: KEY DATA

### ACT Ambulance Service (ACTAS)

#### Staffing

Total FTE	% Female	% Male	% Indigenous	% Disability	% Multicultural
265.78	37.9%	62.1%	1.0%	0.7%	2.3%

#### Vehicles

Emergency Ambulance Vehicles	Patient transports	Operational support	Support Vehicles	Total
23	5	10	2	40

Two additional Emergency Ambulance Vehicles will come online in November 2018.

#### Call Outs

ACT Ambulance Service – Operational Activity Incident Type	2016-17		2017-18	
	Incidents	Responses	Incidents	Responses
Medical (includes aeromedical)	49,875	50,383	52,426	53,345
Dual Response (Fire, Storm, etc.)	2,209	2,029	2,126	2,218
<b>Total Incidents</b>	<b>52,084</b>	<b>52,412</b>	<b>54,552</b>	<b>55,563</b>

For 2017-2018, the ACTAS Major Cities and State-wide response times at the 50th percentile are trending upwards having increased from 2016-2017 (8.7 minutes) to 2017-18 (9.1 minutes), which is an increase of 4.6 per cent.

#### Summary of Key Strategies

- Blueprint for Change
- Upgrade of Defibrillators
- Electric Stretchers for Ambulances

#### Stations

There are a total of eight ACTAS stations:

- Gungahlin, Joint Emergency Services Complex
- Belconnen, Aranda
- West Belconnen, Charnwood
- Dickson

Cleared as complete and accurate: 24/07/2018  
 Cleared by: Commissioner Ext:78383  
 Information Officer name: Dominic Lane  
 Contact Officer name: Victor Khaw Ext:70167  
 Lead Directorate: Justice and Community Safety

# QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- Fyshwick
- Woden
- Greenway
- Calwell

## ACT Fire & Rescue (ACTF&R)

### Staffing

Total FTE	% Female	% Male	% Indigenous	% Disability	% Multicultural
334.06	5.1%	94.9%	1.8%	0.3%	1.2%
# Community Fire Unit Volunteers					
770					

### Vehicles

Operational	Operational support	Support Vehicles	Total
32	16	57	105

### Call Outs

ACT Fire & Rescue – Operational Activity	2016-17		2017-18	
	Incidents	Responses	Incidents	Responses
<b>Incident Type</b>				
<b>Fires</b>				
Structure Fires	271	1,395	260	1,247
Mobile Property Fires	264	448	291	490
Landscape fires, bush and grass	173	511	157	399
Other fires	253	558	256	502
<b>Total Fires</b>	<b>961</b>	<b>2,912</b>	<b>964</b>	<b>2,638</b>
<b>Other Emergencies and Incidents</b>				
Hazardous conditions	501	1,131	430	1,019
Severe Weather & Natural Disasters	560	650	389	468
System initiated FALSE alarms	6,068	10,859	5,493	11,365
Other	1,608	2,069	1,592	2,466
<b>Total other emergencies and incidents</b>	<b>8,737</b>	<b>14,709</b>	<b>7,904</b>	<b>15,318</b>
<b>Non-fire rescue calls (including road rescue)</b>				
Road Accident Rescue Operations	1,182	2,817	1,135	2,641
Medical Assists	298	399	355	475
Other Rescue (includes animal rescue)	179	247	239	313
<b>Total Non-fire rescue calls (including road rescue)</b>	<b>1,659</b>	<b>3,463</b>	<b>1,729</b>	<b>3,429</b>
<b>Total ACTF&amp;R Operational Activity</b>	<b>11,357</b>	<b>21,084</b>	<b>10,597</b>	<b>21,385</b>

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 Information Officer name: Dominic Lane  
 Contact Officer name: Victor Khaw Ext:70167  
 Lead Directorate: Justice and Community Safety

## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

The percentage of confinement of building fires to a room of origin for all ignition types has increased for the ACTF&R in 2017-2018 (75 per cent) from 2016-2017 (69.6 per cent), a 5.4 per cent increase.

### Summary of Key Strategies

- Update of Personal Protective Equipment
- Acquire a second aerial pumper appliance
- New Cardiac Monitors and Defibrillators

### Stations

There are a total of nine stations:

- Gungahlin, Joint Emergency Services Complex
- Belconnen, Aranda
- West Belconnen, Charnwood
- Ainslie
- Fyshwick
- Phillip
- Kambah
- Chisholm
- South Tuggeranong, Calwell

## ACT Rural Fire Service (ACT RFS)

### Staffing

Total FTE	% Female	% Male	% Indigenous	% Disability	% Multicultural
15	26.7%	73.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
<b># ACTRFS Volunteers</b>					
390					

### Vehicles

Operational	Operational support	Support Vehicles	Total
48	16	16	80

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# QUESTION TIME BRIEF

## Call Outs

ACT Rural Fire Service – Operational Activity	2016-17		2017-18	
	Incidents	Responses	Incidents	Responses
Grass and bush fires	82	374	62	285
Smoke investigations	8	20	3	6
Vehicle fire	31	45	35	37
Motor vehicle accident	19	20	7	6
Storm/flood (assisting ACTSES)	378	424	116	159
Structure Fires	3	5	3	5
Hazard Reductions	29	216	25	325
Other Fires/Incidents	81	332	97	310
<b>Total Incidents</b>	<b>631</b>	<b>1,436</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>1,133</b>

## Summary of Key Strategies

- Strategic Bushfire Management Plan

## Stations

There are a total of eight sheds:

- Gungahlin, Joint Emergency Services Complex
- Hall
- Molonglo, Holt
- Rivers, Cotter Road Stromlo
- Jerrabomberra, Symonston
- Guises Creek, Royalla
- Southern, Tharwa
- Tidbinbilla

## ACT State Emergency Service (ACT SES)

### Staffing

Total FTE	% Female	% Male	% Indigenous	% Disability	% Multicultural
9	55.6%	44.4%	0.0%	11.1%	0.0%
<b># ACTSES Volunteers</b>					
325					

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 Lead Directorate: Justice and Community Safety

# QUESTION TIME BRIEF

## Vehicles

Operational	Operational support	Support Vehicles	Total
18	11	24	53

## Call Outs

ACT State Emergency Service – Operational Activity	2016-17		2017-18	
	Incidents	Responses	Incidents	Responses
Storm and flood	1,116	933	636	822
Search and rescue	4	41	12	87
"Operational assistance to other services (provision of flood boat service, lighting towers, catering)"	28	119	12	37
<b>Total Incidents</b>	<b>1,148</b>	<b>1,093</b>	<b>660</b>	<b>946</b>

## Summary of Key Strategies

- ACTSES Business Plan

## Stations

There are a total of six units:

- Gungahlin Unit, Joint Emergency Services Complex
- Tuggeranong Unit, Calwell
- Majura Unit, Hackett
- Belconnen Unit, Belconnen
- Woden Unit, Phillip
- Pialligo Unit, ESA Fairbairn precinct

## **Emergency Services Agency (ESA) General**

### Staffing

Total FTE	% Female	% Male	% Indigenous	% Disability	% Multicultural
67.13	29.5%	70.5%	1.5%	3.0%	4.5%
# MAPS Volunteers					
38					

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 Lead Directorate: Justice and Community Safety

# QUESTION TIME BRIEF

## Vehicles

Operational	Operational support	Support Vehicles	Total
0	11	3	14

## Budget

2017-18 Budget \$'000	Expenses	2017-18 Estimated Outcome \$'000	2018-19 Budget \$'000	Var %
82,213	Employee Expenses	85,064	85,179	-
13,321	Superannuation Expenses	13,190	13,321	1
30,953	Supplies and Services	31,176	33,393	7
12,882	Depreciation and Amortisation	8,882	13,876	56
1	Grants and Purchased Services	692	0	-100
43	Borrowing Costs	9	43	378
2,118	Other Expenses	5,368	2,112	-61
<b>141,531</b>	<b>Total Ordinary Expenses</b>	<b>144,381</b>	<b>147,924</b>	<b>2</b>

## Summary of Key Strategies

- Communications Centre Reform
- Women in Emergency Services
- Territory Radio Network/Web Hosting Upgrade
- Station Upgrade and Relocation Program

## Facilities

ESA Headquarters, Fairbairn

ESA Workshops, Fairbairn

ESA Resource Centre, Fairbairn

ESA Training Centre, Hume

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# QUESTION TIME BRIEF

TRIM Ref: 2018/000144-009

**Portfolio:** Police & Emergency Services**ISSUE: JACS STAFF SURVEY – ACT FIRE & RESCUE**

## Talking points

### General Directorate comments

- The Justice and Community Safety (JACS) Staff Survey was conducted during April and May 2017. The survey results provide valuable information on what works well in JACS and identifies opportunities for improvement.
- The survey is one tool that assists the Directorate in understanding the broad culture of the organisation and makes an assessment of the level of staff engagement.
- It is based on benchmarking norms across the public and private sectors in Australia, but does not compare ACT Fire & Rescue's results specifically with other emergency services.
- It is important to note that while there is room for improvement, Directorate's results reflect that JACS is average when compared to other large public sector organisations. In this context, the survey does have some limitations as it is not directly targeted at firefighters.

### Actions being taken in response to survey results

- The survey results and feedback from staff as part of the 2017 survey results are being considered and actioned. JACS and ESA executives and managers have been actively engaging with all staff, including ACT Fire & Rescue, communicating the outcomes of the survey and listening to concerns through continued workforce engagement.
- This feedback is assisting in developing strategies to support continual improvement within the Directorate as part of its Workforce Strategy 2017-2019.
- In addition, while the response rate for ACT Fire & Rescue is higher than for previous surveys, it is still only 27 per cent. This low participation rate is consistent with operationally busy shift work environments, where computer use by frontline workers is limited.
- Based on the low participation rate, it is difficult to draw strong conclusions about ACT Fire & Rescue's views.

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## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- As part of its Station Relocation and Upgrade Program, the ACT Emergency Services Agency (ESA) has increased Wi-Fi technology at its facilities, allowing firefighters and paramedics to better utilise portable technology. It is hoped that this will lead to higher participation rates in future surveys.

### Positive elements of the survey results

- While most of the media focus has been on negative aspects of the survey in relation to ACT Fire & Rescue, there were also a number of positive results, specifically:
  - the quality of the staff and team oriented environment that exists within ACT Fire & Rescue
  - the willingness of staff to do something about other staff members who do not display the ACT Public Service values
  - ACT Fire & Rescue staff are clear about their accountabilities and what they are responsible for
  - there is a high level of respect for direct supervisors (assumed to mean Station Officers and Commanders) and the clarity of their communication.
- While I acknowledge that the survey indicates the need for improved connection and communication between executives, managers and frontline staff, the community can be assured that our firefighters continue to provide the highest level of service to the ACT community as consistently demonstrated in the annual 'Report on Government Services'.

### *If asked, 'Do you still have confidence in the ESA Commissioner'*

- I have full confidence in the leadership of the ESA Commissioner, the Chief Officers and the Directorate to implement the government's priorities and commitments to ensure that Canberra remains a safe community that is well served by a highly capable and well-resourced Emergency Services Agency.
- The Government is committed to its continued support of our firefighters in the important work that they do in keeping our city and its residents safe.

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## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

### Key Information

- JACS staff are skilled professionals who deliver a quality service to the community. This is recognised through external reporting, for example, the annual Report on Government Services.
- JACS is committed to improving workforce culture to be a high performing environment that supports its staff.
- The staff survey is a key tool that was used to inform the development and implementation of JACS Workforce Strategy 2017-19.

### Background Information

- In Question on Notice Number 833, Mrs Giulia Jones MLA sought detailed results from the JACS staff survey results. In the response dated 18 December 2017, Mrs Jones was advised that the detailed results from the JACS staff surveys, including those of the ESA are not made public for a number of reasons:
  - assurances made to staff about the confidentiality of their responses and the risk of undermining staff confidence and participation in future surveys (which is voluntary)
  - the commercial value and intellectual property of Best Practice Australia as the survey provider would be compromised
  - the nature of the reports which are designed as working documents by executives and managers within the organisation.
- An article in the Canberra Times on 9 April 2018 claims that the survey results suggest ACT Fire & Rescue has a “blame culture”. Staff are not engaged with changes across the Directorate and feel helpless to influence the future direction of the organisation. The Canberra Times article also claims of ACT Fire & Rescue, that there is a lack of trust of senior executives within the Directorate.
- Following the Canberra Times article, the ESA Commissioner, Mr Dominic Lane, provided interviews to several media outlets.

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## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

TRIM Ref: 2018/000144-002

**Portfolio:** Police & Emergency Services

### **ISSUE: ACT AMBULANCE SERVICE (ACTAS) RESOURCING**

#### **Talking points:**

- The Canberra community can have the highest confidence in the performance of their ambulance service.
- Demand on our ACT Ambulance Service (ACTAS) is at the highest levels ever.
- Despite this growing demand, the ACT has continued to record the best response times in the country over the past six years, as well as the highest levels of patient satisfaction.
- The Government is concerned, however, for the welfare of a committed ambulance workforce as they continue to meet increased demand.
- These concerns include ensuring paramedics having the opportunity for adequate breaks, and an appropriate amount of time to rest and recuperate between shifts.
- For this reason, in December 2017 the Government announced the recruitment of 23 additional paramedics. This will assist ACTAS staff to continue to maintain the highest standards of service delivery in the nation, while at the same time ensuring their welfare.

#### If asked about overtime

- Overtime plays a key role in operating any 24/7 emergency service such as ACTAS, and we don't shy away from this fact.
- Paramedics on personal leave, injured, or on return to work programs account for the majority of overtime hours in ACTAS.
- It is not feasible to put medical professionals in front of people requiring medical assistance, when they are not feeling well themselves.
- Other examples of where overtime is offered includes back filling of shifts, late cases (incidents that commence on one shift and carry over to the next), training, meetings, and all the community events where ACTAS presence is requested.

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Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	

## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- It is not uncommon for overtime to be offered in these scenarios. It is how ambulance services around the country operate.
- If the ACTAS was obligated to have permanent positions to cover all of these additional elements, this would be a significant additional cost to the community.

### If asked about minimum crewing levels

- ACTAS aims for a minimum of 10 emergency ambulance crews during each shift and provides for two additional demand crews each 24 hour period.
- Where it is known that there are not enough staff rostered to crew 10 emergency ambulances in the middle of a day, every effort is made to back fill the rostered shifts. This is done by offering overtime to fill shifts.
- Overtime is also offered to fill night shifts, however, this is not taken up as readily. ACTAS has accepted operating with fewer than 10 emergency ambulance crews in these periods of known low demand in the knowledge that the high standard of care for the community is maintained.
- As announced during the recent debate on this matter, ACTAS will review minimum crewing levels so that they more accurately reflect the minimum crews required during periods of known demand.
- The Chief Officer – ACTAS is currently monitoring minimum crewing levels and, in consultation with ACTAS staff, may amend the ACTAS policy in the coming months.
- I am also advised by ACTAS that the minimum crewing metric is not used by all ambulance services in the country and is also not routinely used as a KPI. Rather, response times and patient satisfaction provide better measures of the service provided.

### If asked about the FOI regarding Question on Notice number 662

- The majority of the documents released relate to correspondence between my office and the ESA Commissioner's Office in providing various drafts of the response.
- Responding to this question required a considerable amount of staff time in the ESA, primarily in ACTAS.

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## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

### ROGS

- Despite demand for ambulance response in Canberra increasing by 25 per cent since 2012-13, the ACT has continued to record the best response times in the country during this time, as well as the highest levels of patient satisfaction.

### Key Information

- Report on Government Services data for 2016-2017 indicates that the ACT continues to have the fastest response times in the country, however, response times at the 50th percentile are trending upwards having increased from 2014-2015 (8 minutes) and 2015-2016 (8.5 minutes) to 2016-2017 (8.7 minutes).
- To continue to meet increased demand, whilst maintaining the welfare of ACTAS staff, the Government announced in December 2017, the recruitment of 23 additional paramedics. The additional frontline resources hitting the road in 2018 should ensure response times remain the fastest in the country.

### Background Information

- On 21 June 2018, Mrs Giulia Jones MLA submitted two separate Freedom of Information requests seeking access to information ACTAS minimum crewing levels, and Question on Notice 662 regarding ACTAS minimum crewing levels. You were briefed on this matter in MIN:2018/002820.

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## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

TRIM Ref: 2018/000144-001

**Portfolio:** Police & Emergency Services

### **ISSUE: ACT EMERGENCY SERVICES (ESA) ELECTION COMMITMENTS**

#### **Talking points:**

#### Legislate 40km/h speed limit passing emergency vehicles with flashing lights

- This initiative was launched on 9 April 2018 and came into effect on 14 April 2018, following the commencement of the Road Transport (Safety and Traffic Management) Amendment Regulation 2018 (No 1).
- Drivers in the ACT must slow to 40km/h when passing a roadside emergency vehicle with flashing red or blue lights that is stationary or slow moving.
- Our emergency services are often required to work on or near the road, protecting the community when we are most vulnerable. For an emergency services worker, this is their workspace and they have a right to feel safe in their working environment.
- This law is consistent with existing speed restrictions in place in other areas where vulnerable road users are commonly found, such as school zones, road works, and town centres.

#### New Aerial Pumper Appliance

- The ACT Government is committed to providing a new aerial pumper appliance during this term of government.
- Funding for a new pumper was announced in the 2018-19 ACT Budget, and the ESA is now working to have the new aerial pumper on the road in the 2019-20 financial year.

#### If asked whether two aerial appliances provide adequate firefighting capability

- The ESA regularly and routinely reviews the risk profile across the ACT. The ESA informs me that two aerial appliances will provide sufficient operational capability for firefighters to deal with emergency incidents in high-rise and medium-rise buildings in the ACT.
- The ESA also advise that aerial appliances are not the primary source of fire protection, with firefighters relying more on building design and the National Construction Code requirements, including fire separations, fire doors and fire stairs, and buildings over 25 metres high having sprinklers.

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### Recruitment of Additional Firefighters

- Funding for a further recruit college was announced in the 2018-19 ACT Budget. This follows on from the 2017 recruitment which resulted in an additional 17 firefighters on duty in June 2018.
- Of the 17 firefighters to graduate, there are four female firefighters and two Indigenous firefighters.
- The recruitment program actively encourages female participation in line with the Women in Emergency Services Strategy and promotes opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Canberra to join ACTF&R as firefighters.
- The recruitment of 17 firefighters follows on from the 16 firefighters who joined ACTF&R as part of the 2016 Recruit College, and the nine firefighters who commenced duty as part of a lateral recruitment in November 2017.

### If asked about funding for the Recruit College

- Funding of \$332,000 for another recruit college was announced in the 2018-19 ACT Budget.
- A total of \$147,000 was included in the 2017-18 ACT Budget for this initiative. The full cost of the Recruit College was \$455,000, which was partly funded by reprioritising internal ESA resources.
- The 2017-18 Budget also included funding for the Modernising Emergency Services Call-taking initiative, which will allow ACTF&R to return firefighters to frontline roles.
- Over the next five years, ESA will transition to a unified ComCen model. Changes are being introduced to better utilise new technology and infrastructure and to modernise working practices and methods. This will include aligning resources with demand and introducing better ways to manage surge events and peak demand.
- The objective of this project is to ensure that all calls for assistance to the ComCen are handled in a consistent manner, using the same technological approaches by professionally qualified staff.



### Recruitment of Additional Ambulance Crew

- The ACT Government is committed to the recruitment of an additional ambulance crew during this term of government, and announced funding for this proposal in December 2017, as part of the mid-year Budget Review.
- Emergency responsiveness will be boosted across Canberra with the recruitment of 23 paramedics as well as two new ambulances.
- Despite demand for ambulance response in Canberra increasing by 25 per cent since 2012-13, the ACT has continued to record the best response times in the country during this time, as well as the highest levels of patient satisfaction.
- The professionalism of the women and men of the ACT Ambulance Service (ACTAS) has ensured our response times have remained the fastest.

### Provide Two New Intensive Care Ambulances

- The ACT Government is committed to providing two new emergency ambulance vehicles during this term of government, and funding for the purchase of two additional ambulance vehicles was announced in December 2017. This initiative aligns with the commitment to recruit an additional ambulance crew.
- Two ambulances are required for each crew. This ensures that an ambulance is available for paramedics on an incoming shift, when paramedics on the previous shift are attending to a late case.
- The two new ambulances will be built to ACTAS specifications, and delivery will coincide with the commencement of the new ambulance crew.

### Enhanced Mental Health Services for Emergency Services Personnel

- The increase in demand puts pressure on the welfare of a committed ambulance workforce as they continue to meet the community's expectations.
- Ensuring that our emergency service employees and volunteers have the right support to do their jobs well and safely remains a top priority for the ACT Government.

## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- The position of Manager, Welfare Programs in ESA commenced during this term of government. The Manager, Welfare Programs is responsible for the Peer Support Program in ESA.

### If asked about activities or progress to date

- ESA is currently developing the training package for the Peer Support Program. This will support the currently developed draft Peer Support Policy. This work was informed by the experience gained by the Manager, Welfare Programs co-facilitating a similar Peer Support Program with the Queensland Ambulance Service.
- Applications for Clinical support staff and peer support candidates are being considered, and successful applicants will commence training in the Peer Support Program soon.

### Feasibility Study for a New Ambulance and Fire & Rescue Station in Civic

- The ESA City Station Feasibility Study was included in the 2017-18 ACT Budget, and rolled over into the 2018-19 ACT Budget.
- A city facility is being considered as part of the SURP revised activities and priorities. A procurement of services to undertake a feasibility study was undertaken in the 2017-18, with the engagement starting in early 2018-19; hence the rollover.

### No part-time stations

- The Government has given a clear commitment that there will be no part-time stations.

### Give volunteer firefighters subsidised gym memberships

- The 2017-18 ACT Budget includes a \$100 annual subsidy for ACT Rural Fire Service (ACTRFS) volunteers for fitness programs and gym memberships, which meets an Election Commitment.
- ACTRFS requires all active volunteers to undertake annual standardised fitness tests to ascertain their fitness for duty. This initiative provides a positive impact on the cost of living for firefighting volunteers by reducing their out of pocket expenses for fitness-related activities.
- ACTRFS Fitness reimbursements are aligned with the fire season year, which runs from 1 October – 30 September.
- I encourage ACTRFS volunteers to take advantage of this subsidy to support their wellbeing and fitness.

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## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- In line with the 2016 Election commitment, this commitment is a tangible means by which the ACT Government can encourage and support volunteers to maintain the required fitness standard.

### Partner with NSW to contract another helicopter and remote access fire teams

- The community can be assured that ESA is well placed to protect and preserve life, property and the environment during ACT bushfire seasons.
- The ACT Government is committed to implementing this commitment during this term of government, subject to agreement with the National Aerial Firefighting Centre, and the NSW Rural Fire Service.

### **Key Information**

- ESA is currently working with JACS, the Chief Minister, Treasury, and Economic Development Directorate, and other ACT Government Directorates and Agencies on the implementation of all Election commitments.

### ACT on Fire Campaign

- The United Firefighters Union (UFU) ran the 'ACT on Fire' campaign targeting all candidates standing at the 2016 ACT Election. The six key priorities of their campaign were more firefighters, proper equipment, no part-time stations, a strong organisation, a strong plan and ready for emerging threats. A copy of the Webpage can be viewed at <http://actonfire.com.au/>.
- The previous Minister for Police and Emergency Service was briefed on the UFU Campaign in MIN:2016/00469.

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# QUESTION TIME BRIEF

## Background Information

### Status of Election Commitments

- The table below shows the current status of each ESA related Election Commitment:

Title	Included in Budget (which year)	Status Summary (not yet, in progress, completed)
New Aerial Firefighting Pumper	2018-19	In progress
Recruitment of Additional Firefighters	2017-18 and 2018-19	In progress
Recruitment of Additional Ambulance Crew	December 2017 mid-year review	In progress
Provide Two New Intensive Care Ambulances	December 2017 mid-year review	In progress
Enhanced Mental Health Services for Emergency Services Personnel	2017-18	Completed
Funding for the position of Manager, Welfare Programs	2017-18	Completed
Feasibility Study for a New Ambulance and Fire & Rescue Station in Civic	2017-18	In progress
Give volunteer firefighters subsidised gym memberships	2017-18	Completed
Partner with NSW to contract another helicopter and remote access fire teams	Not yet included	Business Case to be prepared for 2019-20
Legislate a 40km/h speed limit when passing emergency vehicles with flashing lights	Not required	Completed

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## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

TRIM Ref: 2018/000144-010

**Portfolio:** Police & Emergency Services

**ISSUE: UNITED FIREFIGHTERS UNION – BUDGET SUBMISSION AND  
ESA ROUNDTABLE MEETINGS**

### Talking points

- Our firefighters are often called upon to respond to a variety of hazards and emergencies. I thank all of our firefighters for their hard work and commitment in keeping our community safe.
- The ACT Government has a strong track record of supporting our emergency services and we continue to consult with the ACT Emergency Services Agency (ESA) and volunteer and employee representatives, including the United Firefighters Union (UFU), in relation to the needs of our frontline responders.
- The ACT Government's commitment to our emergency services ensures that the ACT is one of the safest places to live, as highlighted in the Productivity Commission's 2018 Report on Government Services (ROGS).
- The ESA has a strong plan to ensure Canberra remains one of the safest communities in the world and the ACT Government will continue to support that mission.

### *If asked about the recruitment of additional firefighters and recruit colleges*

- The claim that ACT Fire & Rescue (ACTF&R) is around 40 firefighters short of its funded establishment is simply incorrect.
- Additional staff are regularly recruited to take the place of firefighters who are non-operational or on long-term leave.
- The current staffing situation does not impact on the ability of ACTF&R to fully staff appliances.
- The successful 2018 Recruit College, which graduated on 15 June 2018, saw 17 new firefighters, including four female and two Indigenous firefighters, join ACTF&R.
- This followed a lateral recruitment campaign in 2017 which resulted in the recruitment of nine suitably experienced candidates, from around Australia, graduating in November 2017.

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## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- A further recruit college for new firefighters, funded in the 2018-19 ACT Budget, will see an additional 18 firefighters placed in frontline positions in 2019. This includes two places as part of the Indigenous Fire and Rescue Employment Strategy (IFARES), and up to eight female firefighters as part of the Women in Emergency Services Strategy.
- The Government's proposed Communication Centre reforms will also put additional firefighters on the road.

### If asked about claims that Canberra population has grown, but firefighter numbers have not

- The ACT Government is confident in the advice received from the Chief Officer – ACTF&R, that the ACT has sufficient operational firefighters available to keep our community safe.
- This is evidenced by our response times to emergency incidents, which remain among the best in the nation. The Government continues to resource our fire and rescue service, including funding firefighters.
- The rate of growth in work claimed by the UFU does not accurately represent the overall picture.
- Each year, ROGS publishes figures for 'Total fires, other emergencies and incidents' attended by fire service organisations. It is important to note that fire service organisations includes both ACTF&R and the ACT Rural Fire Service.
- For the ACT, reported 'Total fires, other emergencies and incidents' increased from 9,773 in 2002-03 to 11,358 in 2016-17. This is a 16 per cent increase in total incidents over 15 years.
- By way of some comparison, over the same period, ACT Ambulance Service incidents increased from 26,599 in 2002-03 to 51,894 in 2016-17. This is a 95 per cent increase in total incidents over 15 years.

### If asked about the new aerial pumper appliance

- The ACT Government is committed to providing a new aerial pumper appliance during this term of government.
- Funding for a new pumper was announced in the 2018-19 ACT Budget, and the ESA is now working to have the new aerial pumper on the road in late 2019.
- Training will be provided to firefighters on the new aerial pumper in due course.

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Cleared by:	Commissioner	Ext: 78383
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Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	

## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

### If asked whether two aerial appliances provide adequate firefighting capability

- The ESA regularly and routinely reviews the risk profile across the ACT. The ESA informs me that two aerial appliances will provide sufficient operational capability for firefighters to deal with emergency incidents in high-rise and medium-rise buildings in the ACT.
- The ESA also advise that aerial appliances are not the primary source of fire protection, with firefighters relying more on building design and the National Construction Code requirements, including fire separations, fire doors and fire stairs, and buildings over 25 metres high having sprinklers.

### If asked about a City Station for ACTF&R

- As Canberra expands, the population grows and demand for services increases, there is a continual need to review the strategic placement and upgrade of stations.
- This includes investigating options for a city station for ESA services, including a facility for ACTF&R.
- The ESA City Station Feasibility Study was included in the 2017-18 ACT Budget, and rolled over into the 2018-19 ACT Budget.
- A city facility is being considered as part of the SURP revised activities and priorities. A procurement of services to undertake a feasibility study was undertaken in the 2017-18, with the engagement starting in early 2018-19; hence the rollover.

### If asked about Ainslie Fire and Rescue Station

- The ACT Government is committed to improving ESA facilities and ensuring the location of stations enable response times that meet predicted community demand.
- In the 2017-18 ACT Budget under “Better support when it matters”, the ACT Government allocated \$576,000 to modify Ainslie Fire & Rescue Station to allow for a second pumper.
- The upgrade will also provide improved facilities in order to accommodate an additional pumper crew, which would result from the implementation of reforms to the ESA Communication Centre.
- The UFU has notified a dispute in relation to the upgrade of Ainslie Fire and Rescue Station and this matter is listed to be heard in the Fair Work Commission. This has resulted in a significant delay in the project, with funding rolled over into the 2018-19 ACT Budget.

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*If asked about issues with recent works at ACTF&R stations*

*Ainslie Station*

- \$576,000 funding is being provided for upgrades to Ainslie Fire Station, which will cover construction and project fees including ICT, insurance, auditing and project management. These fees are generally standard across all projects.
- The funding was approved for a Privacy and Dignity upgrade to the existing facility. This included work to the existing recline areas, creation of male and female amenities and locker rooms.
- The “User Requirements Brief” the UFU are referring to is for new station builds only. This document cannot be used when upgrading existing facilities.
- The building is not heritage listed. Confirmation of this was received via letter from the ACT Heritage Council on 20 March 2018.
- Air quality testing was completed on site. This testing found that it would be safe to house an accommodation demountable within the engine bay for the duration of construction.
- A gymnasium has been included in the preliminary designs.

*City Station*

- Options for a City station are still being investigated.

*Fyshwick Fire Station*

- The Demountable at Fyshwick station was existing before the refurbishment. The refurbishment included an extensive renovation to this demountable to include a further three recline rooms and two bathrooms for the station.
- The temporary accommodation was Work Health and Safety approved and the UFU consulted in relation to the installation of covered walkways and external lighting.
- All accommodation had individual heating and cooling units in each room.
- Upgraded air-conditioning and heating was installed in the station as part of the renovation.



### *Belconnen Station at Aranda*

- There is a transition area at the Belconnen station.
- The construction of the new Belconnen Ambulance and Fire & Rescue Station was delivered under budget, however it is unclear where the UFU plucked the \$4m figure in their claims that costs were cut.
- The Belconnen Ambulance and Fire & Rescue Station is a state of the art, modern facility, that is allowing our paramedics and firefighters to continue to improve our delivery of services, which we know are already the best in the nation.

### *South Tuggeranong Station*

- All work orders received to date have been completed.

### *If asked about Personal Protective Equipment*

- I share the UFU's view that our firefighters need safe protective equipment to allow them to do their job effectively and safely.
- I am happy to inform you that all of the current personal protective clothing used within ACTF&R conforms to the required Australian Standards for structural firefighting.
- The Government is committed to upgrading our firefighters' personal protective clothing and equipment when required and committed in the 2018-19 ACT Budget to replace all structural fire helmets across ACTF&R.

### *If asked about the Fire and Emergency Services Levy*

- The Fire and Emergency Services Levy is imposed on rateable properties across the ACT, and is a component of the total rates payable by property owners to contribute towards funding the many essential services provided by government to property owners.
- The Fire and Emergency Services levy is adjusted annually, as with other components of property rates, to reflect inflation and other events that impact on the cost of providing government services.
- Other sources of revenue that assist in funding emergency services include ambulance and fire service fees, Commonwealth fire service funding and grants.

## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

### If asked about the UFU's analysis of the ESA Roundtable Meetings

- I am aware that the UFU has raised a number of concerns in relation to the ESA Roundtable process.
- I must say, this doesn't accord with the feedback I have received from any of the participants in the ESA Roundtable meetings.
- Four meetings were conducted from January to March 2017. They were all planned and conducted by an independent facilitator, and were successful in providing an opportunity for all ESA volunteer and staff members, and key stakeholders, to participate and share their views.
- A summary report of the Roundtable Meetings was released to stakeholders in April 2017, and the ESA response was circulated in September 2017.
- The UFU concerns have now been raised in April 2018, over 12 months since the meetings were conducted.
- That said, the Government will consider the matters raised by the UFU in relation to the ESA Roundtable process, to try and better understand their concerns. The Government will respond to the UFU in due course and remains committed to appropriately engaging with ESA staff and volunteers.

### **Key Information**

- Funding was provided in the 2017-18 ACT Budget for reforms to the ESA Communications Centre, which would ultimately result in the transfer of firefighter positions back to operational firefighting. These reforms are being progressively implemented over several years.

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## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

TRIM ref: 2018/000144-019

**Portfolios:** Whole of Government

**ISSUE:** Per and Poly-fluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Contamination

**Talking points:**

### General points on PFAS

- Per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are man-made chemicals that have been used in industry and consumer products worldwide since the 1950s.
- They have been used in aqueous film forming foam (AFFF), for fire fighting purposes, non-stick cookware, water-repellent clothing, stain-resistant fabrics and carpets, some cosmetics, and products that resist grease, water, and oil.
- AFFF firefighting foam concentrates that were used to suppress flammable liquid fires previously contained PFAS.
- The phasing out of these concentrates by ACT Fire & Rescue (ACTF&R) commenced in September 2004. It was withdrawn as the foam concentrate stored in tanks on the ACTF&R fire trucks in April 2005.
- ACTF&R replaced its nine (9) litre portable AFFF fire extinguishers on fire fighting vehicles with fluorine-free alternatives in early 2017.

### Health and PFAS

- PFAS are very stable compounds and do not break down in the environment (i.e. they persist in the environment and in human bodies for a long time).
- I am advised that there is no conclusive proof that PFAS causes a large impact on an individual's health, including no evidence of an increase in the overall cancer risk.
- I am advised that there is also no conclusive evidence that PFAS causes adverse human health outcomes in pregnant women or their babies.
- Expert advice currently does not advise any specific biochemical or disease screening for groups exposed to PFAS outside of specific research studies.

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**PFAS Nationally**

- Governments in Australia work to a framework for PFAS management in accordance with the *Intergovernmental Agreement on a National Framework for Responding to PFAS Contamination* (March 2018) and the PFAS National Environment Management Plan (NEMP), adopted by all jurisdictions in February 2018.
- The NEMP defines the level of PFAS in soil and water that require further investigation.
- The NEMP also details methods for site assessments, sampling protocols and analytical determinations.
- Issues with PFAS that have been widely reported in other jurisdictions have involved direct contamination of drinking water and/or food supplies.
- Such issues are unlikely in the ACT because of the remote catchments used for town water supply and the insignificant volume of food production in the ACT.

**The ACT and PFAS**

- There are four known affected sites for PFAS in the ACT:
  - Canberra Airport
  - the former Charnwood Fire Station
  - the former Belconnen Fire Station and Training Centre; and
  - the West Belconnen Resource Management Centre (landfill).
- In recent years the ACT Environmental Protection Authority (EPA), in conjunction with the National Capital Authority and Icon Water, undertook sampling across ACT waterways to determine background levels of PFAS. The water sampling results did not detect PFAS in ACT waterways.
- An assessment is being undertaken by the ACT Government to determine what further investigations may be required of ACT sites, in accordance with the NEMP.
- The United Firefighters Union has recently raised concerns around potential health impacts for firefighters who may have come into contact with PFAS. (More detail below).

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**Fire and Rescue/Emergency Services (UFU Concerns)**

- Our firefighters, and the community can be assured that the ACT Emergency Services Agency (ESA), and Government, take this issue very seriously, we did thirteen years ago, and continue to do so today. ACT Fire & Rescue phased out PFAS, that is, in the form concentrate stored in tanks on the fire truck, thirteen years ago (2005).
- ESA has been working hard to ensure equipment is replaced and changed over. Four fire pumpers have been replaced and all equipment has either been flushed clean or replaced since foam concentrate containing PFAS was phased out.
- Australian health authorities, including ACT Health, report that there is no conclusive proof that PFAS cause any specific illnesses in humans, including cancer.
- There is also no consistent evidence that PFAS causes adverse human health outcomes in pregnant women or their babies.
- Expert advice currently does not advise any specific biochemical or disease screening for groups exposed to PFAS outside of specific research studies.
- ESA is working with WorkSafe ACT to ensure work health and safety obligations are met.
- ESA has undertaken a risk assessment to prioritise the testing of remaining sites and further testing will be done at the higher priority locations in the near future.

**Jervis Bay and PFAS**

- The Jervis Bay Territory (JBT) is a separate Commonwealth Territory where ACT law applies. The ACT Government is contracted by the Australian Government to supply certain services to (JBT), including education, licences, justice services, health protection and environmental water testing.
- ACT Health has actively participated in consideration of the effects on health of Jervis Bay residents, in particular, those living in the Wreck Bay Aboriginal community.

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- A potential issue has been identified with some Lilly Pilly trees present at Jervis Bay School. However, there is no immediate risk since the trees are currently not producing fruit. (They only produce fruit between December-February).
- Even when fruiting, a small child would need to eat large quantities to exceed daily intake limits of PFAS.
- The Department of Defence has undertaken a national program of investigation and response to PFAS contamination from Defence sites.
- One such site is the Jervis Bay Range Facility in the JBT.
- Defence is leading the response to PFAS contamination in JBT, including conducting water testing. The ACT Government is a member of Defence's Project Control Group and provides advice and support where required.
- Defence's PFAS investigation in JBT is ongoing and the ACT continues to provide support and advice where possible.
- A Defence Factsheet as well as a contact for further media enquiries is available on the [Defence website](#)).
- At the request of the Commonwealth, the ACT Government undertook tests of both drinking and recreational waters in JBT in 2016-17. The results of these tests were:
  - No detectable PFAS has been found in the potable (drinking) water supply.
  - Low levels of PFAS were found in environmental waters, and will be the subject of ongoing monitoring as part of the Defence-led investigation program.
- A number of separate PFAS investigations are also being conducted by Defence on the South Coast of NSW. NSW EPA recently issued dietary advice warnings for the Currumbene Creek area in NSW, near Jervis Bay Territory, and is engaging with local residents so they are aware of the issue and any changes in their activities which should be made to support health and safety.

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## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- More information is available at [www.epa.nsw.gov.au](http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au)
- The ACT Government remains in contact with NSW Government counterparts and is monitoring the situation.

### **Charnwood (former Fire Station) site**

- The development application (DA) for the child care centre on the site of the former Charnwood Fire Station was approved following assessment of the site, on the condition that requirements of the Health Protection Service and the Environment Protection Authority were met.

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## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- To comply with the conditions set out in the Notice of Decision the proponent has prepared an Operational Environmental Management Plan (OEMP) that has been endorsed by the EPA and a Landscape Plan endorsed by ACT Health.
- The proponent has submitted a subsequent DA with the Directorate.
- This DA seeks to include the approved OEMP into the lease to ensure the management of contamination issues is ongoing.
- This DA is still to be lodged for assessment.
- The site was sampled numerous times in 2014 and 2015 for PFAS. Lab results for the sampling concluded the contaminants were below the threshold levels for the proposed land-use of a childcare centre (compared to the US EPA screening criteria as no Australian criteria existed).
- The Territory Plan variation process includes mandatory referral of proposals to the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) for their comment, particularly in regards to potential contamination of sites.
- EPA provided advice that they were aware of environmental investigations into the contamination (associated with past activities) of the site.
- In accordance with the ACT Government's Strategic Plan Contaminated Sites Management 1995, and EPA endorsed guidelines, the variation would be supported provided the findings of the investigation demonstrate the site is suitable for the proposed uses. The assessment report must be reviewed and endorsed by the EPA prior to the Territory Plan being varied.
- Follow up comments from the EPA stated that they agreed that the site was capable of supporting a CFZ land use with potential for a child care from a contamination perspective subject to the condition that a 'site specific unexpected finds protocol' must be developed by a suitably qualified environmental consultant, implemented during development works at the site and is by the EPA prior to occupancy.
- As a result the Variation 335 commenced on 17 February 2016.

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## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- The former fuel storage infrastructure has been removed and validated with the site being found suitable for community use, including childcare.
- Notwithstanding this, both Health Protection and the EPA imposed additional protection measures that need to be satisfied by the builder before the building and surrounding grounds can receive a certificate of occupancy and be used – for example, the installation of permanent physical barriers to limit direct contact with shallow site soils.
- As part of the EPA conditions, the building owners have prepared an Operational Environmental Management Plan (OEMP) which was endorsed by the Environment Protection Authority on 15 March 2018.
- Prior to occupancy of the site the lease must be varied to include the approved OEMP and the EPA receive endorsement from a suitably qualified environmental consultant confirming that the mitigation measures required by the OEMP have been successfully installed, protecting any users of the site from contaminants.

### **West Belconnen Resource Management Centre**

- There will be further sampling undertaken at the West Belconnen Resource Management Centre as part of the environmental audit that is being undertaken for its redevelopment, consistent with NEMP.

### **Belconnen (former Fire Station and Training Centre)**

- The former Belconnen Fire Station and Training Centre is on the Register of Contaminated Sites as it is subject to a formal environmental audit to enable its redevelopment.

### **Former West Belconnen Sewerage Treatment Plant (WBSTP) - Jarramlee nature reserve**

- Preliminary investigations associated with the subsidence at the site indicate the presence of PFAS in very low concentrations in the groundwater with nil readings in the water and sediments in the adjacent Gininderra Creek. These are preliminary results and further testing is being undertaken.

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## Canberra Airport

- Canberra Airport is on Commonwealth land and is therefore under the control of the Commonwealth Government and should be managed in accordance with the PFAS National Environment Management Plan.

### Key Information

Environment Protection Authority – key points/technical detail on testing

#### ***How are sites tested for PFAS? (ie. soil samples? Water samples?)***

Depending on the characteristics of the site, samples are taken of soil and groundwater.

Sampling methodology and procedures should be consistent with the established methods for contaminated site investigation as detailed in the ACT EPA 2017, Contaminated Sites Environment Protection Policy and PFAS NEMP 2018.

#### ***Who does the testing?***

Suitable qualified environmental consultants collect the soil and groundwater samples. The samples are then sent to an accredited laboratory to be analysed for PFAS.

#### ***Which sites trigger testing (ie. fuel stations, former emergency services or airport sites etc?)***

Sites identified in risk assessments may trigger further testing. Priorities for risk assessments and methods for testing for PFAS are detailed in the National Environment Management Plan (NEMP).

#### ***How are the known sites monitored or recorded?***

The former Belconnen Fire Station is on the Register of Contaminated Sites as it is subject to a formal environmental audit to enable its redevelopment. The Register can be found on the Access Canberra website at:

[https://www.accesscanberra.act.gov.au/app/services/contaminated\\_sites#/](https://www.accesscanberra.act.gov.au/app/services/contaminated_sites#/)

#### ***Are there any requirements for remediation or ongoing monitoring of known sites?***

Levels at the Charnwood site are below criteria for its proposed use as a childcare centre and is subject to the implementation of an Operational Environmental Management Plan and a Landscape Plan.

There will be further sampling undertaken at West Belconnen as part of the environmental audit that is being undertaken for its redevelopment.

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## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

Canberra Airport is on Commonwealth land and is therefore under the control of the Commonwealth Government and should be managed in accordance with the PFAS National Environment Management Plan.

The former Belconnen Fire Station is subject to redevelopment and the assessment of any contamination and environmental audit of the site are ongoing. The EPA must endorse the environmental audit for the site to ensure it is suitable for the proposed development.

***When did PFAS testing commence in the ACT?***

The past couple of years (2016) as PFAS has only recently emerged as a contaminate of concern.

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# QUESTION TIME BRIEF

TRIM Ref: 2018/000144-020

**Portfolio:** Police & Emergency Services**ISSUE:       ESA Communication Centre (ComCen) Reform****Talking points:**

- The Government announcement in June 2016 about ComCen reforms was made following extensive consultation and consideration of all the issues and feedback received.
- A long-term outcome of the ComCen project is to expand the current call-taker/dispatch model used by the ACT Ambulance Service (ACTAS) across the ESA ComCen.
- Professional call-takers and dispatchers will be provided with appropriate training to manage Emergency Triple Zero (E000) calls directed to ACT Fire & Rescue (ACTF&R), thus freeing up qualified firefighters to work in front line operations.
- A restructured ComCen will be resourced on a tiered model of service delivery which aligns resourcing to demand over a 24 hour period.
- The ESA will also use the changes in service delivery models to explore options in terms of better use of technology including integrating systems to facilitate the provision of information between services and external agencies e.g. ACT Policing, timely release of media alerts and updates, updating relevant websites, and providing information to the public.

**If asked about engagement with Unions and staff**

- ESA is working with staff and the unions on these changes.

**Key Information**

- An independent review of the Bega Valley fires in NSW examined other ComCens in NSW and other Australian states and formed the view that the Ambulance Service of NSW has an excellent model. It is a model that accurately tracks and pre-emptively positions resources according to demand and availability. A strategic and long term solution needs to be found that sees each of the agencies working side by side in a civilianised ComCen.

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## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- The Bega Valley Fires Review aligns with the reform of the ESA ComCen, and effectively addresses the issues detailed in the independent review (see separate QTB on Bega Valley Fires - Independent Review - 2018/000144-021).

### Background Information

- In Clause 151.1 of the ACTF&R Enterprise Agreement 2013-17, the Head of Service and the United Firefighters Union (UFU) committed to improve the efficiency of the ComCen.
- This clause was in several previous agreements and it was decided in 2013 to commence its implementation as a part of the Expenditure Review process. Under this process a Review Steering Committee was formed in 2013 and incorporated the UFU in all of its work.
- The ESA entered discussions with the UFU to develop agreed Terms of Reference to establish a Workplace Consultative Committee (WCC) under the Fire and Rescue Enterprise Agreement 2013-17 as a specific forum for communicating with affected ACT Fire & Rescue staff on the ComCen reform.
- The WCC is currently the only forum in which the UFU agree to ComCen reforms being discussed. Discussions at the WCC with the UFU have reinforced that the forum is established to consult on how to progress the ComCen project. The WCC forum is not established to consult on the decision of Government to reform the ComCen.
- A ComCen Project Working Group has also been established within ESA to develop initiatives that support the implementation of a call-taker/dispatch capability into the ESA ComCen. The Working Group is made up of the Chief Officers of all services, and the Director – ESA Risk and Planning.
- At the WCC meeting of 7 June 2018, the ESA notified the UFU that briefings requesting additional firefighters be trained as ComCen operators had been received. The UFU was advised that whilst the training would go ahead, it would be provided to existing call-takers. This will enable E000 calls to be answered efficiently and effectively in support of ACTF&R.
- The requirements for the call-taker function will be documented, informed by the workings of the ComCen Project Working Group. This work will include shaping scripts, business rules, training, etc.
- This will enable the call-taker capability to be progressively introduced into the ComCen ahead of the 2018/19 ACT bushfire season.

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## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

TRIM Ref: 2018/000144-016

**Portfolio:** Police & Emergency Services

**ISSUE: MOLONGLO RURAL FIRE SERVICE STATION UPGRADE**

**Talking points:**

- Work was undertaken at the ACT Rural Fire Service Molonglo Volunteer Brigade shed for privacy and dignity upgrades.
- During the final building inspection it was noted that due to the increased floor size, the facility would require a fixed fire hydrant to be installed.
- A partial occupancy certificate to the building has been issued, allowing the Molonglo Brigade to house two appliances on site, and to have access to the meeting/training facilities while the additional works are being carried out to install the fire hydrant.
- The water connection for the hydrant required trenching across Drake-Brockman Drive, in accordance with the Icon Water approved plans. These works were completed on 9 August 2018.
- The works were staged to accommodate traffic flows by closing one lane at a time and directing traffic through the remaining lane. This process was managed in accordance with the Temporary Traffic Management Plans submitted by the contractor for approval by Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate.
- The community can be assured that at no time has the capability of the ACT Rural Fire Service been compromised, and we thank the patience of volunteer members while this work is being undertaken.

*If asked*

- The partial Certificate of Occupancy was issued on 22 December 2017. The final Certificate of Occupancy after the fire hydrant works were completed was expected to be received in July 2018. Project delays have resulted in the date being revised to early September 2018.

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**Key Information**

- The initial budget for the renovations was \$1,152,000 (GST exclusive). The amount spent as at 30 April 2018 was \$1,152,000. The funded sources were:
  - \$602,000 allocated under the Commonwealth Grant - National Disaster Resilience Program, and
  - The ESA contributed \$550,000 from its own funds and/or in-kind contribution.
- As a result of the extensions, the floor area at the Molonglo facility increased from 488.99m<sup>2</sup> to 544.12m<sup>2</sup>. The Building Code of Australia, Clause E1.3, provides that a fire hydrant system must be installed to serve a building with a floor area greater than 500m<sup>2</sup>.
- A partial Certificate of Occupancy was issued on 22 December 2017. Once the fire hydrant is installed, a full Certificate of Occupancy can be issued. You were briefed advising that the complete Certificate of Occupancy was expected to be received in early October 2018. This is now expected to be received in early September 2018.
- The expected budget to meet the Certificate of Occupancy requirements is approximately \$83,000.

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# QUESTION TIME BRIEF

TRIM Ref: 2018/000144-021

**Portfolio:** Police & Emergency Services**ISSUE: Bega Valley Fires – Independent Review****Talking points:**

- The NSW Minister for Police and Emergency Services, the Hon Troy Grant MP, requested an Independent Review (the Review) into the Bega Valley bushfires that occurred on 18 March 2018. The review was formally commissioned by the NSW Office of Emergency Management.
- The review focused on two specific areas, being the:
  - adequacy of the fire services response to the Bega Valley fires
  - call taking and dispatch arrangements of both Fire & Rescue NSW (FRNSW) and the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS)
- The Review was completed in June 2018 and detailed 24 findings and 12 recommendations to the NSW Government.
- Key among these findings was that although there are several areas for improvement, it is unlikely that any better outcome could have resulted on the day.
- The ACT Government, including the ACT Emergency Services Agency (ESA), are currently examining the outcomes of the review to determine any learnings for the ACT.
- Of particular interest are the recommendations on a preferred ComCen model, automatic vehicle location (AVL) devices and lack of collaboration between services.
- The Fires Review recommendations align with the proposed reforms of the ESA ComCen, and all emergency services vehicles in the ACT are fitted with AVL devices.
- The ESA computer aided dispatch system already incorporates business rules that ensure that the nearest and most appropriate resource responds to emergency incidents, regardless of which service it belongs to.

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Safety



## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- The existing response arrangements in the ACT outline that the first response to all grass and bushfires in the ACT will be by the nearest available and most appropriate resource, irrespective of jurisdiction or Service.
- Ultimately, this is the intention of the *Emergencies Act 2004*. This legislation recognises the importance of the four operational services under the command of Chief Officers, brought together through the function of the ESA Commissioner, allowing the ESA to effectively manage all hazards and incidents across the ACT region.
- Consistent with these arrangements, the ACT community can be assured that both ACT fire services, including the Chief Officers of both fire services, continue to operate side-by-side under the direction of the ESA Commissioner.
- This is why the ESA has crafted its mission statement around seven simple words: we work together to care and protect. This mission emphasises; we work together; through Cohesive Operations, Collaborative Management, and as a Unified Executive.
- Key recommendations to come from the Bega Valley Fire Review are being progressed through the projects of the ESA Strategic Reform Agenda.

### Key Information

- On 18 March 2018, the Bega Valley fires, comprising of five separate fires that were extremely fierce and quick moving, burnt through more than 1,250 hectares destroying 65 homes and 70 caravans or cabins. Thanks to the combined efforts of firefighters, police and residents, no lives were lost and 810 houses were saved.

### Background Information

- Three themes emerge from the 24 findings:
  - The need for an urgent reform of Emergency Triple Zero (E000) call taking and dispatch arrangements in order to make them more efficient and accountable. The current arrangements resulted in a lack of situational awareness with two completely different reports provided of the resources available to fight the Bega Valley fires. This is common in the early stages of an incident when resource deployment and situational awareness is unavailable.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	24/07/2018	
Cleared by:	Commissioner	Ext: 78383
Information Officer name:	Dominic Lane	
Contact Officer name:	Dominic Lane	Ext: 78383
Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	

## QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- Lack of effective collaboration between FRNSW and NSW RFS. This dates back decades and involves animosity between paid staff and volunteers, competitiveness between agencies, ignoring policy and disputes over which agency is responsible for responding to an incident.
- A lack of Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) and GPS technology available to NSW RFS vehicles. Unlike the NSW Police Force, Ambulance Service of NSW and FRNSW – the NSW RFS relies solely on radio and telephone communications. The Review found that this is detrimental to NSW RFS understanding situational awareness and providing efficient resource allocation.
- In addition to these findings, the Review made 12 recommendations to the NSW Government. These recommendations are aimed at minimising or removing issues observed during the Bega Valley fires. Again three themes emerged and include:
  - Implementation of new E000 call taking and dispatch arrangements. The Review examined other ComCens in NSW and other Australian states and formed the view that the Ambulance Service of NSW has an excellent model. It is a model that accurately tracks and pre-emptively positions resources according to demand and availability. A strategic and long term solution needs to be found that sees each of the agencies working side by side in a civilianised ComCen.
  - Immediate commencement of installation of AVL devices (interoperable with those already in use by FRNSW and the SES) in all NSW RFS vehicles in order to provide a clearer image of resource availability and situational awareness.
  - Elimination of the fire boundary system for the purposes of dispatch in order to fight fire with the quickest and most appropriate resource regardless of agency. This should improve the efficiency of call and dispatch to fires in NSW and also reduce competitiveness between agencies.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 24/07/2018  
Cleared by: Commissioner Ext: 78383  
Information Officer name: Dominic Lane  
Contact Officer name: Dominic Lane Ext: 78383  
Lead Directorate: Justice and Community  
Safety

## ACT Policing Hot Issues

### 1. Conder explosion and death

- About 4.55pm, Thursday 2 August 2018, ACT Policing responded to a report of a vehicle explosion at St Claire of Assisi Primary School, Heidelberg Street, Conder.
- ACT Fire & Rescue and ACT Ambulance Service also attended the incident.
- One male sustained fatal injuries as a result of the vehicle explosion. The male was treated by ACT Ambulance Service and transported to The Canberra Hospital, where he later died from his injuries.
- No other members of the public were injured during the incident, and the scene was promptly secured and contained by ACT Policing.
- St Claire of Assisi Primary School entered a state of lock down whilst emergency services contained the initial incident. The Primary School remained closed until late 3 August 2018, while forensic examination of the car park and surrounds was undertaken.
- While the matter remains subject to police and Worksafe ACT investigation, preliminary enquires indicate the matter was an accidental death and no suspicious circumstances exist.
- ACT Policing are working in partnership with Worksafe ACT to prepare a brief for the Coroner.

Cleared by: ACTP-C-MPP

Date: 8 August 2018

## 2. Hackett Suspicious Package

- About 4.20pm, Sunday 5 August 2018, ACT Policing attended at a residence in Hackett ACT in response to a reported suspicious package.
- ACT Policing response and Criminal Investigations, AFP Forensic Services and Specialist Response Group (Bomb Response Team) attended the location and the incident was contained.
- Road closures of surrounding residential streets occurred together with the (voluntary) evacuation of neighbouring residences as a safety precaution.
- About 9.00pm that same date, the suspicious package was rendered safe by police and residents returned home. The package is the subject of examination and continued investigation by ACT Policing.

Cleared by: ACTP-C-MPP

Date: 8 August 2018

### **3. Referral by Magistrate Theakston**

ACT Policing is aware of a referral by Magistrate Theakston to the Chief Police Officer for the ACT.

The matter has been on-referred to AFP Professional Standards for review.

AFP Professional Standards has primary responsibility for resolving complaints concerning the AFP and its appointees relating to misconduct or AFP practices.

Cleared by: ACTP-C-MPP

Date: 8 August 2018

#### 4. Batons used on Indigenous Persons

- A request under the *Freedom of Information Act* has been received by ACT Policing, seeking particulars of incidents involving people of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent, in which ACT Policing officers used a baton.
  - Of the 61 instances in which a baton was used in 2016-17, three incidents involved a person who identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.
  - Of those three incidents, a baton was used against a person by a police officer on one occasion in self-defence when responding to a family violence incident.
- ACT Policing has a rigorous governance framework to regulate and record the use of force by police officers. Governance and oversight arrangements ensure that any use of force is reviewed to ensure it is appropriate and reasonably necessary in the circumstances.
- ACT Policing officers undergo extensive training in the use of force and alternate methods of conflict resolution, including containment and negotiation. ACT Policing emphasises the use of negotiation, communication and de-escalation techniques prior to using physical force.
- In accordance with AFP Commissioners Order 3, ACT Policing officers may only use a baton against another person to:
  - Defend themselves or others from the threat of physical injury in circumstances where protection cannot be afforded less forcefully;
  - Resolve an incident where a person is acting in a manner likely to injure themselves, an appointee or another person and the incident cannot be resolved less forcefully; or
  - Assist in resolving public order management or crowd control incidents.

Cleared by: ACTP-C-MPP

Date: 8 August 2018

## 5. Firearms and Firearms Amnesty

- There has been a significant rise in firearm seizures in the last 12 months.
- Between 1 May 2017 and 30 April 2018 there were 1236 firearm seizures (a single incident may involve multiple seizures).
- The significant increase in firearm seizures is due to the National Firearms Amnesty.
- The National Firearms Amnesty occurred between 1 July 2017 to 30 September 2017 and saw 699 firearms surrendered.
- 48 seizures were OMCG related.
- ACT Policing advises that firearm offences in the ACT have increased over the past five years. The ACT has experienced a 55.9 per cent increase in the past five years in the number of reported offences where a firearm has been used.

### ACT Policing Industrial Shredder

- On Wednesday 11 July 2018, an industrial shredder was commissioned at the AFP Exhibit Management Centre, Mitchell.
- The shredder was an investment of \$660,000 which was funded through the 2015-16 ACT Budget.
- The unit can destroy 50 firearms in a matter of minutes which used to take an officer all day to complete.
- The new shredder will increase the efficiency of our police and the safety of the destruction process.

Cleared by: ACTP-C-MPP

Date: 27 July 2018

## 6. Terrorism

- While the national terrorism threat level remains at PROBABLE, there is no known specific or credible threat to the ACT.
- People should continue to go about business as usual but be alert to any suspicious activity and, most importantly, to report suspicions and concerns to the appropriate authorities.
- Concerns about national security or terrorism should be reported immediately to the National Security Hotline on 1800 123 400. Alternatively, [www.nationalsecurity.gov.au](http://www.nationalsecurity.gov.au) provides more information.
- If a situation requires a police response, call Police Operations on 131 444. If the situation is life threatening; call Triple-Zero (000).

### Countering Violent Extremism

- Keeping Australians safe from home-grown terrorism is a complex and evolving field that requires ongoing attention.
- The ACT Government continues to work closely with all governments to identify and implement measures to prevent and protect communities against violent extremism, tackling the root of the problem.
- It is recognised that families, friends and community members are often in the best position to identify individuals who might be at risk of radicalisation towards violent extremism.
- Anyone who has any concerns about possible violent extremism can make an anonymous report to the National Security Hotline on 1800 123 400.
- If there is an immediate threat to life or an emergency response is required, people should call Triple Zero (000) immediately.

Cleared by: ACTP-C-MPP

Date: 27 July 2018



## 7. Aggravated Robberies

- The ACT community can be confident ACT Policing is well resourced to deliver a quality service through the flexible and nimble deployment of our capabilities in response to changing demands.
- Police have numerous strategies in place to tackle property offences, including aggravated robberies. ACT Policing has a crime disruption team ('CDT') which was established in late 2017 with a primary focus on recidivist offending, disrupting aggravated robbery offences and ram raids across the ACT, utilising sophisticated targeting models. ACT Policing has seen a number of positive results from the team including arrests and the recovery of stolen property.
- Since 6 February 2018, there have been no recorded aggravated robberies on licensed clubs in the ACT.
  - This is largely due to the arrest of a recidivist offender.
- ACT Policing is agile and uses surge capability to respond to changing priorities and demands. ACT Policing is intelligence-informed, and uses information to prioritise and allocate its workforce to best serve the people of Canberra.

Cleared by: ACTP-C-MPP

Date: 27 July 2018

## 8. Tasers

- Further to its 2016 election commitment, in June 2017 the ACT Government committed \$2.695 million (with the offset) over four years to equip ACT Policing members with TASERS.
- The 480+ Tasers are inclusive of the replacement of existing CEWs that have reached the end of their 5-year operational life.
- How the new Tasers are rolled out is a matter for ACT Policing, however I understand decisions around deployment will be based on risk and threat and will be reviewed based on operational requirements to ensure the greatest possible benefits and safety for the ACT community.
- The funding is for Tasers fitted with video cameras that record image and sound. The existing governance and specialist training will continue to ensure there is continued accountability around their use.
- ACT Policing has governance and oversight arrangements in place to assure the community that any use of force is reviewed to ensure it is appropriate and reasonably necessary in the circumstances.
- I am advised that all ACT Policing officers are trained in communication and negotiation techniques as the primary way to de-escalate a situation with vulnerable people, including those with mental health conditions or those affected by alcohol or other drugs and that ACT Policing emphasises the use of negotiation, communication and de-escalation techniques, prior to using physical force.

### Death in Waramanga

- My condolences go out to all of those affected by the recent tragic death involving a male in Waramanga.
- The cause of death in this incident is yet to be determined and is a matter for the ACT Coroner. The Direction's hearing for this matter is scheduled for 26 October 2018.
- As the matter remains before the ACT Coroner, it would be inappropriate to comment further.

Cleared by: ACTP-C-MPP

Date: 27 July 2018

## 9. Recent dog attack on Police Officer

- On 1 July 2018, members of ACT Policing attended a residence in Rivett in relation to a reported theft. While undertaking enquiries at the residence, a Police Officer was attacked by a dog.
- The Officer sustained serious injuries and was transferred to hospital for treatment.
- The animal, an American Pitbull, has been seized by Domestic Animal Services.
- One adult male was arrested and will appear before Court in relation to the incident.
- The matter is before the Courts and it would be inappropriate to comment further.
- ACT Policing supports the laws that protect the public from dangerous dogs.
- Domestic Animal Services is responsible for compliance activities under the *Domestic Animals Act 2000* (ACT).

Cleared by: ACTP-C-MPP

Date: 27 July 2018

## 10.Arson – Stockade training centre, Dickson

- On Thursday 28 June 2018 at about 6.13am, ACT Policing Operations received a phone call in relation to a fire at the Stockade Training Centre in Dickson.
- The fire was located in a sub-leased room which is occupied by Myogen Performance Movement Therapy.
- ACT Fire Service attended and determined the fire suspicious.
- ACT Policing advises there are no links to criminal gangs in relation to this incident.
- As this is an ongoing investigation, it would be inappropriate to comment any further.

Cleared by: ACTP-C-MPP

Date: 27 July 2018

## 11. Police Pursuits

- The ACT Government is committed to Vision Zero and deterring drivers from fleeing from police because of the risk this introduces on our roads.
- That is why the Government introduced new laws in March 2016 to give police enhanced investigative powers and higher penalties to deal with drivers who fail to stop for police.
- These laws were introduced at the same time ACT Policing moved to a limited pursuit policy.

### Vehicle collisions involving an ACT Policing vehicle

- On 1 June 2018, a 54 year old woman died as a result of injuries sustained in a collision at the intersection of Baldwin Drive and Maribyrnong Avenue, Kaleen that occurred on Friday, 4 May 2018.
- The collision occurred about 8.00pm, between the woman's vehicle and a marked police vehicle responding to a priority police incident. The Police vehicle had activated its emergency lights at the time of the collision.
- The officer involved has been suspended from duty and has been summoned to appear before Court.
- On 11 July 2018, Police directed a vehicle to stop on Berrigan Crescent, O'Connor. The vehicle failed to stop, accelerated heavily, and deliberately collided with a Police vehicle.
- One adult male was arrested and will appear before Court in relation to the incident.
- As both matters are before the Court, it would be inappropriate to make any further comment.

Cleared by: ACTP-C-MPP

Date: 27 July 2018

## 12. Liquor Reform Package

- There have been no substantial developments on this issue since the last briefing.
- The Government is committed to developing a regulatory regime that supports Canberra businesses, helps develop this community's vibrant night life and does so while ensuring public safety.
- The Government's investment of \$4.866 million for additional police resources will:
  - provide greater coverage of the broader ACT, focussing upon regional centres and entertainment precincts;
  - increase proactive liquor licensing enforcement activities and programs (including enforcement of new offences contained in the Amendment Act and increased enforcement of existing offences under the *Liquor Act 2010*);
  - increase collaboration with Access Canberra liquor enforcement teams;
  - develop targeted campaigns with key ACT Government stakeholders; and
  - support Regional Targeting Team officers being deployed to major ACT events in the capacity of subject matter experts in liquor legislation enforcement.
- ACT Policing continues to deliver liquor reform package capabilities through the Regional targeting Team and flexible intelligence informed arrangements.
- Police will continue to work closely with licensees to make sure the ACT's nightlife precincts are safe for the whole community.

Cleared by: ACTP-C-MPP

Date: 27 July 2018

### 13. Bail Laws

- There have been no substantial developments on this issue since the last briefing.
- Bail is a long established practice in the criminal law which allows, in appropriate cases, accused people to remain in the community until their charges can be determined by a court of law.
- The *Bail Act 1992* (Bail Act) operates to both protect the community and uphold the administration of justice, recognising the operation of the presumption of innocence and an accused person's human rights under the *Human Rights Act 2004*. It takes account of a variety of competing rights, interests and expectations.
- The Government is committed to ensuring that the Territory's bail laws operate effectively and appropriately within the criminal justice framework. The most substantive recent reform to the Bail Act was the *Crimes (Serious and Organised Crime) Legislation Amendment Act 2016* which introduced an own-motion bail review power for the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP).
- All bail decisions in the ACT must be made by a police officer, magistrate or judge. There are restrictions on their powers to grant bail in certain circumstances.
- Under the Bail Act, there is a general presumption in favour of the grant of bail. However, there are limitations on the entitlement to be at liberty. A person is entitled to be granted bail unless the court is satisfied that a refusal of bail is justified. For certain specified offences, the presumption in favour of bail is stated not to operate, creating what is sometimes referred to as a 'neutral presumption'. For murder and serious drug offences, there is a presumption against bail and a court must not grant bail to the person unless satisfied that special or exceptional circumstances exist favouring the grant of bail.
- In making a decision about the grant of bail, a decision-maker must consider a number of factors, including the likelihood of the person appearing in court in relation to the offence, the person's risk of reoffending, or harassing or endangering the safety or welfare of anyone, interfering with evidence, or intimidating a witness, and the interests of the person. The decision-maker may have regard to any relevant matter including the nature and seriousness of the offence, the person's character, background and community ties, and the likely effect of a refusal of bail on the person's family or dependents. This is focussed on ensuring that accused persons appear at court, and managing the risks that might arise while an accused person is on bail.

Cleared by: ACTP-C-MPP

Date: 27 July 2018

## 14.Social media pages – RBT and Speed cameras

- ACT Policing is aware of the social media pages purporting to reveal RBT locations.
- The posts include photos, videos, maps and suggested routes to avoid police.
- All ACT Policing patrols are RBT units which can test anyone at any time.
- ACT Policing continues to work with the private sector to identify and respond to social media pages and groups involved in all forms of criminal offending.
- The community can provide on criminal offending to Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or online at [www.act.crimestoppers.com.au](http://www.act.crimestoppers.com.au).

Cleared by: ACTP-C-MPP

Date: 27 July 2018



## 15. On-road cyclists – A metre matters

- Road safety is a priority for ACT Policing and should be a priority for all road users.
- Each month, ACT Policing focuses on a different road safety concern in conjunction with the Justice and Community Safety Directorate (JaCS). This campaign forms part of the ACT Road Safety Strategy 2011-2020 which prioritises a Vision Zero approach to road safety. Next month, the campaign will focus on vulnerable road users.
- Cyclists, as well as children, pedestrians and motorcyclists, are vulnerable road users as they do not have the same protection as a car during a collision. Motorists are reminded they are required to remain more than a metre away from cyclists while travelling under 60km/h, and 1.5 metres if a motorist is overtaking at more than 60 km/h.
- Ensuring the safety of cyclists on our roads is about improving our road-use culture. While culture changes can take time, it is important that all road-users are able to safely enjoy our roads.
- ACT Policing continues to work with the community, educating and enforcing all road safety laws. While there are a number of factors that contribute to the number of cautions, offences or prosecutions for a particular offence, all incidents are assessed on a case-by-case basis by ACT Policing.
- Community feedback indicates that, although slow, our road culture and cyclist safety is improving. ACT's peak cycling body, has recently commented that "Generally, we think [the rule is] improving the behaviour and awareness of people in cars".
- ACT Policing continues to work with the community on matters of road safety, and with a focus on laws offering affording important protections to vulnerable road users.

Cleared by: ACTP-C-MPP

Date: 27 July 2018

## ACT Emergency Services Agency Hot Issues

### 16. ACT Fire & Rescue and Light Rail

- All ACT Fire & Rescue (ACTF&R) firefighters have already been provided with an on-line learning package on the hazards associated with the Light Rail project.
- This will be followed by a more detailed learning package to be jointly developed with Capital Metro, with a lesson plan for all firefighters to complete. This will cover risks associated with working within the rail corridor, safe working practices for firefighters, shutting down overhead power, liaison with Capital Metro staff and the Light Rail Control Centre.
- Additional hydraulic rams with 25 tonne lifting capacity have been purchased to enable the lifting of the Light Rail cars. This was done from within ESA's existing budget and no additional funding was required. These will be placed in an upgraded Technical Rescue POD, which will be deployed to all rescue incidents involving Light Rail vehicles.
- A practical training program in the use of the new rams and associated equipment (known as a re-railing kit), including positioning these on a Light Rail vehicle undercarriage will be delivered to all ACTF&R Level 3 Rescue Operators.
- All ACTF&R operational staff will undertake a familiarisation of the Light Rail Vehicles and rail corridor on a scheduled, platoon basis to be developed in consultation with Capital Metro and a Standard Operational Guideline will also be promulgated, which will cover response to incidents involving the Light Rail.
- The United Firefighters Union has been informed of these actions.

Cleared by: Mark Brown Chief Officer ACTF&R

Date: 15 August 2018

## 17. Controlled House Burns in Monash

- On 2 August 2018, ACT Fire & Rescue (ACTF&R) will be undertaking live, controlled, house burns in conjunction with the current Station Officer Development Program (SODP).
- The purpose of the controlled burns is to provide SODP participants the opportunity to supervise operational crews in real-time scenarios. Participants will also be returning to the scene the following day to conduct a fire investigation.
- There will be approximately three controlled burns taking place, with the first burn scheduled to commence at approximately 9:20am.
- The location for the house burns is 32 Kneeshaw Street, Monash. The house being burned for training has been provided to ACTF&R by Housing ACT.
- Local residents, including the management of the Goodwin Aged Retirement Village, have been notified of the burns. ESA Media will issue Single Point of Truth (SPOT) alerts to notify the community before the burns take place. Firefighters have also conducted a mailbox drop to surrounding houses to notify residents of the burns.

Cleared by: Dominic Lane

Date: 31 July 2018

## 18.The Aerial Ladder Appliance (Bronto) – Beard Fire

- The Aerial Ladder Appliance (Bronto) could not have been deployed at the fire as poor ground conditions at the scene would have prevented the safe elevation of the booms to working height.

Cleared by: Dominic Lane

Date: 31 July 2018

## 19. Bushfire Risk and Planning at Ginninderry

- The ACT Emergency Services Agency (ESA) will closely oversee the Ginninderry development in West Belconnen to ensure it meets current Australian Standards for construction in a bushfire prone area and as well as any other specific directions deemed necessary by the ESA Commissioner.
- In planning for new estates in or near bushfire-prone areas the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate works very closely with the ESA.
- In addition to the Australian Standards for construction in a bushfire prone area, the *Emergencies Act 2004* also allows the ESA Commissioner to set additional standards in a situation where a development proposal is received that would concentrate vulnerable members of our community in a bushfire prone area.
- This decision would usually be made following advice from technical experts, including those within ESA Risk and Planning and the ACT Rural Fire Service. Talking points.

Cleared by: Dominic Lane

Date: 6 February 2018

## 20. Bushfire Abatement Zone

- The current model for the provision of emergency services in the ACT is serving the community very well. It ensures a seamless response across agencies, and across services, to any emergency incidents faced by the people of the ACT.
- The BAZ incorporates rural areas immediately surrounding the built-up area where specific measures may be required to reduce risk to life and property in the built-up area of Canberra from fires occurring in that zone.
- It is important to highlight that the existing response arrangements remain, whereby the first response to all grass and bushfires in the ACT will be by the nearest available most appropriate resource, irrespective of jurisdiction or service.
- As has been demonstrated, including in the most recent 2016-17 fire season, our fire services have an excellent record of working together collaboratively and cohesively in responding to fires in the BAZ to protect the ACT community. Talking points.

Cleared by: Dominic Lane

Date: 6 February 2018

## 21.ESA Strategic Reform Agenda

- The Strategic Reform Agenda (SRA) comprises six projects: Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) System/Territory Radio Network (TRN) upgrade and website hosting, Communications Centre Reform, Blueprint for Change, Station Upgrade and Relocation Project, Women in Emergency Services, Strategic Bushfire Management Plan.
- Significant progress has been made to help the ESA improve its services for the wider community, support its people and mature as an agency.
- A Joint Consultative Committee was established on 11 February 2016 to provide a formal mechanism for consultation between employee representatives and the Directorate on the reasons for proposed changes and their likely impact, and to enable employees and their representatives to contribute to the decision making process. Talking points.

Cleared by: Dominic Lane

Date: 6 February 2018

## 22. ACTAS Blueprint for Change

- The Blueprint for Change Implementation project commenced in 2017. It continues to be a high priority for the ACT Ambulance Service and aligns with the broader ESA Strategic Reform Agenda.
- The Oversight Committee is headed up by an Independent Chair, Mr David Place, an experienced senior operational manager from the South Australian Ambulance Service. I receive regular updates, the last on 28 September.
- In his most recent update, Mr Place noted that positive change is occurring such as the commencement of implementation of the new ACTAS Leadership Framework, considerable progress towards the introduction of a Peer Support program, Flexible Work Arrangements, Wi-Fi on all ambulance stations as well as a successful trial of powered stretchers.
- I am pleased with the progress being made and strong support from all involved including the Transport Workers Union and workplace representatives.
- On 21 December 2017, I announced the Government's commitment to provide additional ambulance resources, including the recruitment of 24 additional staff as well as two new ambulances.
- This will ensure that Canberrans continue to receive the fastest ambulance response times in the country. Talking points.

Cleared by: Dominic Lane

Date: 6 February 2018



## 23. Volunteer Concerns

- Thank you to all of our volunteers who have an enormous impact on improving the health and well-being of communities, not just in the ACT and Australia, but worldwide.
- I also thank volunteers for taking the time to write to me, to express their opinion on a number of matters they consider important as volunteers.
- All feedback is appreciated and contributes to ESA's program of continuous improvement. Talking points.

Cleared by: Dominic Lane

Date: 6 February 2018

## JACS Ongoing Issues

### 24.Independent Integrity Commission

#### ACT Policing Update:

- The AFP supports the establishment of an independent integrity body in the ACT.
- The AFP has existing robust internal and external integrity mechanisms, including the AFP's Professional Standards Framework, independent oversight from ACLEI and the Commonwealth Ombudsman, enshrined in Commonwealth legislation (the AFP Act and the LEIC Act).
- ACT Policing also has extensive reporting obligations to the ACT Government.
- Additional oversight over ACT Policing members will duplicate existing arrangements and add complexity in its administration owing to external oversight frameworks already in existence.
- Cleared by: ACTP-C-MPP
- Date: 27 July 2018

- The ACT Government released its Integrity Commission Bill on 26 July 2018 as an Exposure Draft.
- The ACT Government tabled an exposure ACT Integrity Commission Bill for referral to the Select Committee on Independent Integrity Commission 2018 on 31 July 2018.
- The 2017 Select Committee report recommendations informed the establishment of the new integrity body, which will be broadly structured as those operating in jurisdictions of a similar size to the ACT and will have its functions delineated from existing independent oversight bodies.
- The Government has agreed that the proposed body will investigate significant and serious allegations of corruption by ACT public servants, ACT Police officers (subject to Commonwealth Government Agreement), MLAs and their staff and statutory office holders including boards and committees and third party contractors and consultants.
- Establishing the body is an election commitment of this Government and is an item in the Parliamentary Agreement.
- The Government considers the ACT Integrity Commission would focus on prospective and current matters, with some limited ability to review retrospective or previous matters, subject to certain requirements, such as a public interest test. Matters to be investigated by the Commission would not go beyond self-government, given that the ACT was administered by the Commonwealth Government prior to 1989 and that these matters would fall to the Commonwealth.

- The Exposure Bill does not create any new offences in relation to any retrospective conduct being investigated or will not change the law - it simply creates a mechanism to investigate breaches of the law.
- The establishment of an Integrity Commission and developing its enabling legislation is complex and has required careful consideration given the number of existing independent integrity bodies. A consultation process has been undertaken with these bodies.
- In the 2018-19 Budget, the Government committed funding of \$8.4m over four years towards the establishment of the Integrity Commission. The 2018-19 funding is being provided to the Office of the Legislative Assembly to allow the Speaker to access the funding and commence initial establishment arrangements including the recruitment of the Integrity Commissioner.