



ACT

Government

Justice and Community Safety

Open Access release outcome decision – Partial access granted

Document Category: Ministerial Briefs

Title of document: Minister for Police and Emergency Services – Quarter 1 2019 briefs

Description of the information: Question Time Briefs provided to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services between 12 February and 21 March 2019.

The original record of this document contained information the release of which would be contrary to the public interest. This information has been redacted from this publicly available version of the document for the reasons outlined below.

Grounds for decision to withhold disclosure

It was decided certain information contained in the document would not be disclosed as, on balance it would be contrary to the public interest test set out in section 17 of the FOI Act.

I have included below the relevant factors considered in making this decision.

2.1 Factors favouring disclosure in the public interest

- (a) *Disclosure of the information could reasonably be expected to do any of the following:*
 - (i) *promote open discussion of public affairs and enhance the government's accountability;*
 - (ii) *contribute to positive and informed debate on important issues or matters of public interest;*
 - (iv) *ensure effective oversight of expenditure of public funds;*
 - (viii) *reveal the reason for a government decision and any background or contextual information that informed the decision.*

I consider that the release of the ministerial briefs may be expected to help inform ongoing discussions and debate on matters of continued public importance. The disclosure of this information also helps to promote government accountability and transparency.

2.2 Factors favouring non-disclosure in the public interest

- (a) *Disclosure of the information could reasonably be expected to do any of the following:*
 - (ii) *prejudice the protection of an individual's right to privacy or any other right under the Human Rights Act 2004;*

Open Access Decision – Quarter 2 2018 – Attorney General

On balance, I consider the ministerial briefs to be in the public interest to release, with minor redactions. This includes redactions to the personal information of ACT Policing staff where disclosure could reasonably be expected to prejudice their right to privacy.

Review rights

My decision to withhold open access information is a reviewable decision as identified in Schedule 3 of the FOI Act. You can seek an Ombudsman review of this outcome under section 73 of the Act within 20 working days from the day that my decision is published on the Justice and Community Safety Directorate website, or a longer period allowed by the Ombudsman.

If you wish to request a review of my decision, you may write to the ACT Ombudsman at:

The ACT Ombudsman
Attention: ACT Strategy and FOI Section
GPO Box 442
CANBERRA ACT 2601
Via email: actfoi@ombudsman.gov.au

Further assistance

If you have any queries regarding this Open Access release, please contact JACSFOI@act.gov.au or phone (02) 6207 2167.

Authorised by



Naveen Wijemanne
Information Officer
2 April 2024



OPEN ACCESS Q1 2019 SCHEDULE

PORTFOLIO: MINISTER FOR POLICE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

No.	Folio	Description	Date	Status	Reason for non-release or deferral
Question Time Briefs - Sitting Weeks 12-14 & 19-21 February 2019					
1	1-2	Question Time Briefs Index - 12-14 & 19-21 February 2019	February	Full release	
2	3-4	2018-19 Budget Summary - Minister for Police and Emergency Services	February	Full release	
3	5-7	Wellbeing and Support for Frontline Emergency Responders	February	Full release	
4	8	Assaults on Police and Emergency Services Personnel	February	Full release	
5	9-12	Serious and Organised Crime Response	February	Full release	
6	13-17	Criminal Motorcycle Gang Incidents	February	Full release	
7	18-19	Safety of Women in our Community	February	Partial release	Schedule 2, s2.2(a)(ii)
8	20-21	Vehicle Fires (ESA & ACTP Input)	February	Partial release	Schedule 2, s2.2(a)(ii)
9	22-24	ACT Policing Key Data	February	Partial release	Schedule 2, s2.2(a)(ii)
10	25-27	ACT Policing Crime Statistics	February	Partial release	Schedule 2, s2.2(a)(ii)
11	28-30	ACT Policing Staffing Demands	February	Partial release	Schedule 2, s2.2(a)(ii)
12	31-34	Public Safety CCTV Network	February	Full release	
13	35-38	National Security Issues	February	Full release	
14	39-45	ESA Key Data	February	Full release	
15	46	ACT Ambulance Service Resourcing	February	Full release	
16	47-52	ACT Emergency Services Election Commitments	February	Full release	
17	53	Update on testing of per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) at Pialligo	February	Full release	
18	54-55	PFAS - Other matters	February	Full release	
19	56	ESA Communication Centre (ComCen) Reform	February	Full release	
20	57	Molonglo Rural Fire Service Station Upgrade	February	Full release	
21	58	Fire Responses in the Molonglo District	February	Full release	
22	59-61	Bushfires ('Complacency Can Kill' Campaign, Lessons from 2003 Bushfires, Pierces Creek, Potters Hill, Fire Towers)	February	Full release	

No.	Folio	Description	Date	Status	Reason for non-release or deferral
23	62-63	ACT Bushfire Council Preparedness Report	February	Full release	
24	64	Bronto	February	Full release	
25	65-66	Eastman Trial Update	February	Full release	
26	67-68	Government Position on Drugs of Dependence (Personal Cannabis Use) Amendment Bill	February	Full release	
27	69	Terrorism	February	Full release	
28	70	Aggravated Robberies - Licensed Clubs	February	Full release	
29	71	Aggravated Robberies	February	Full release	
30	72-73	Conducted Electrical Weapons	February	Full release	
31	74-75	AFP Initiative: Mental Health	February	Full release	
32	76	Underpayments of Superannuation	February	Full release	
33	77	Motor Vehicle Theft	February	Full release	
34	78	Police Pursuits	February	Full release	
35	79	Liquor Reform Package	February	Full release	
36	80	Bail Laws	February	Full release	
37	81	Social Media Pages - RBT and Speed Cameras	February	Full release	
38	82	On-Road Cyclists - A metre matters	February	Full release	
39	83	Complaints Regarding ACT Policing Members	February	Full release	
40	84-85	Petrol Drive Off Incidents	February	Full release	
41	86	ACTF&R Attending Medical Assists	February	Full release	
42	87	ACT Fire & Rescue (ACTF&R) and Light Rail	February	Full release	
43	88	ACT Ambulance Service Fees and Exemptions	February	Full release	
44	89	Defibrillators used by ACTAS	February	Full release	
45	90-91	UFU Matters in the Media	February	Full release	
46	92-93	MPES 2018-19 Half-Yearly Statement of Performance Report	February	Full release	
47	94	Bushfire Risk and Planning at Ginninderry	February	Full release	
48	95	Bushfire Abatement Zone	February	Full release	
49	96	ACT Ambulance Service Blueprint for Change	February	Full release	
50	97	ACT Emergency Services Agency Volunteer Concerns	February	Full release	
51	98-99	Independent Integrity Commission	February	Full release	

No.	Folio	Description	Date	Status	Reason for non-release or deferral
Question Time Briefs – Sitting Week 19-21 March 2019					
52	100-101	Question Time Briefs Index - 19-21 March 2019	March	Full release	
53	102	2018-19 Budget Summary - Minister for Police and Emergency Services	March	Full release	
54	103-105	Wellbeing and Support for Frontline Emergency Responders	March	Full release	
55	106	Assaults on Police and Emergency Services Personnel	March	Full release	
56	107-111	Serious and Organised Crime Response	March	Full release	
57	112-118	Criminal Motorcycle Gang Incidents	March	Full release	
58	119-120	Safety of Women in our Community	March	Partial release	Schedule 2, s2.2(a)(ii)
59	121-123	Vehicle Fires Bushfire Risk (ESA & ACTP Input)	March	Full release	
60	124-126	ACT Policing Key Data	March	Partial release	Schedule 2, s2.2(a)(ii)
61	127-129	ACT Policing Crime Statistics	March	Partial release	Schedule 2, s2.2(a)(ii)
62	130-133	ACT Policing Staffing Demands	March	Partial release	Schedule 2, s2.2(a)(ii)
63	134-136	Public Safety CCTV Network	March	Full release	
64	137-142	National Security Issues	March	Full release	
65	143-149	ESA Key Data	March	Full release	
66	150-151	ACT Ambulance Service Resourcing	March	Full release	
67	152-157	ACT Emergency Services Election Commitments	March	Full release	
68	158	ESA Communication Centre (ComCen) Reform	March	Full release	
69	159	Bushfires ('Complacency Can Kill' Campaign, Lessons from 2003 Bushfires, Pierces Creek, Potters Hill, Fire Towers)	March	Full release	
70	163-164	ACT Fire & Rescue - Aerial Capability	March	Full release	
71	165-168	United Firefighters Union (UFU) - Application for Protected Action under the Fair Work ACT	March	Full release	
72	169-171	Government Position on Drugs of Dependence (Personal Cannabis Use) Amendment Bill	March	Full release	
73	172-173	Aggravated Robberies	March	Full release	
74	174-175	AFP Initiative: Mental Health	March	Full release	
75	176	Calls for Police Assistance - Coombs and Wright	March	Full release	
76	177-178	Decrease in Random Breath Tests - The Canberra Times Enquiry	March	Full release	
77	179	Police Pursuits	March	Full release	

No.	Folio	Description	Date	Status	Reason for non-release or deferral
78	180	Liquor Reform Package	March	Full release	
79	181	Complaints Regarding ACT Policing Members	March	Full release	
80	182	ACTF&R Attending Medical Assists	March	Full release	
81	183	ACT Fire & Rescue and Light Rail	March	Full release	
82	184	ACT Ambulance Service Fees and Exemptions	March	Full release	
83	185	Defibrillators used by ACTAS	March	Full release	
84	186-187	MPES 2018-19 Half-Yearly Statement of Performance Report	March	Full release	
85	188-189	Building Quality	March	Full release	
86	190	Bushfire Risk and Planning at Ginninderry	March	Full release	
87	191	Bushfire Abatement Zone	March	Full release	
88	192	ACT Ambulance Service Blueprint for Change	March	Full release	
89	193	ACT Emergency Services Agency Volunteer Concerns	March	Full release	
90	194-195	Independent Integrity Commission	March	Full release	

MINISTER FOR POLICE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

QUESTION TIME BRIEFS

12 – 14 & 19-21 February 2019

Joint QTBs	
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
5.	OMCG incidents
6.	Safety of Women in our Community
7.	Vehicle Fires
ACT Police QTBs	
8.	Key Data ACT Policing
9.	ACT Policing Crime Statistics
10.	ACT Policing Staffing Demands
SEMB QTBs	
11.	Public Safety CCTV Network
12.	National Security Issues including crowded places strategy implementation
ESA QTBs	
13.	Key Data ESA
14.	ACTAS Resourcing
15.	Election Commitments
16.	PFAS – Pialligo and other detection in the ACT
17.	PFAS – Additional matters
18.	ComCen Update (UFU issues, recruitment of call techs) (recent developments in NSW)
19.	Molonglo RFS upgrades
20.	Fire Responses in the Molonglo District
21.	Bushfires
22.	Bushfire Council Preparedness Report
23.	Bronto (General)
24.	Eastman Trial Update (Shared from AG)
25.	Cannabis
26.	
27.	

Oversight Brief**ACT Policing Hot Issues**

1. Terrorism
2. Aggravated Robberies – Licensed Premises
3. Aggravated Robberies – General
4. Tasers
5. AFP Initiative: Mental Health
6. Underpayments of Superannuation
7. Car thefts, including covering CT story

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
13. Complaints regarding ACT Policing
14. Petrol Drive Off Incidents

ESA Hot Issues

15. ACTF&R Attending Medical Assists
16. ACTF&R and Light Rail
17. ACTAS Fees and Exemptions
18. Defibrillators used by ACTAS
19. UFU matters in the media
20. 2018-19 Half Yearly Statement of Performance for MPES

ESA Ongoing Issues

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

JACS Ongoing Issues

25. Independent Integrity Commission

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 2nd 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:	30/01/2019	
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

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: 30/01/2019
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

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.
- The ACT Emergency Services Agency has delivered a number of initiatives that enable its volunteers and staff to better manage ever-present stressors that are experienced by emergency service personnel as they seek to protect our community.
- ACT Policing recognises the stress factors of community policing, and is dedicated to early intervention and support strategies for all ACT Policing members.
- 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.
- I would encourage members to go to the Parliament House [website](#) and read the written submissions received. In particular, I draw Member's attention to a submission by the ACT Emergency Services Agency (ESA) Commissioner, Mr Dominic Lane, which is consistent with the Government's focus on improving support for emergency services first responders.
- On 7 November 2018, Mr Lane and ACT Ambulance Service Chief Officer, Mr Howard Wren, were also invited to give evidence at one of the Public Hearings in relation to the submission.
- I note the Senate Committee is expected to provide a report in February 2019. 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.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 24/01/2019
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 conducted a review of the 'early intervention wellbeing support system' implemented by Victoria Police and developed an equivalent AFP wellbeing program that is currently being trialled.
- In August 2018, AFP Organisational Health commenced this pilot wellbeing program with a number of ACT Policing teams. The program encourages members to seek early assistance with support from supervisors. This program is still in its infancy but is anticipated to assist in facilitating early intervention and support for ACT Policing members where required.
- Additional resources available to ACT Policing members include a Fitness app and the 'equipt' wellbeing app.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 24/01/2019
Cleared by: Commissioner Ext: 78383
Information Officer name: Dominic Lane
Contact Officer name: Brendan Stevens Ext: 79981
Lead Directorate: Justice and Community
Safety

Key Information

- Submissions to the Senate Committee inquiry were provided by the AFP, ESA, and Mr Pat Jones, an ACT firefighter who provided a submission in a personal capacity.
- The outcomes of the Senate Committee inquiry may provide guidance and inform the ongoing supports provided to first responders in the ACT.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 24/01/2019
Cleared by: Commissioner Ext: 78383
Information Officer name: Dominic Lane
Contact Officer name: Brendan Stevens Ext: 79981
Lead Directorate: Justice and Community
Safety

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

- There is currently no dedicated offence provision criminalising assaults against police or emergency service workers in the ACT.
- 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.
- ACT emergency service personnel also rely on ACT legislation for offences relating to obstruction or hindrance under Section 361 of the *ACT Criminal Code 2002*.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 24/01/2019
Cleared by: Commissioner Ext: 78383
Information Officer name: Dominic Lane
Contact Officer name: Howard Wren Ext: 70490
Lead Directorate: Justice and Community Safety

Portfolio: Attorney-General & Police and Emergency Services**ISSUE: SERIOUS AND ORGANISED CRIME RESPONSE**

Criminal gangs are involved in illegal 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 criminal gangs in order to ensure Canberra is a safe and secure community.
- ACT Policing has established Taskforce Nemesis – to focus on operational and investigative responses to criminal gang 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.
- Over the past 12 months a number of steps have been taken by the ACT Government to help law enforcement effectively target organised crime, including the introduction of crime scene powers, fortification laws and offences related to drive by shooting.
- In 2018 the Government committed \$980,000 to the ACT Office of the DPP to boost their ability to seize criminal assets depriving criminals and criminal organisations of proceeds of crime.
- In the 2018-19 Budget, a further \$1.6 million over four years was provided to Taskforce Nemesis. This funds two specialist officers, a forensic accountant and surveillance team member, to bolster the taskforces ability to combat organised crime, strip criminal wealth and improve surveillance capability to monitor the activity of criminal gangs.

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.
- 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: 29/01/2019
Cleared by: Executive Director
Information Officer name: Kelly Williams
Contact Officer name: Megan Sparke
Lead Directorate: Justice and Community Safety

- It should be noted that jurisdictions with consorting laws continue to face problems linked to the illegal activity of criminal gangs.
- Anti-consorting laws would need to be informed by strong evidence establishing the effectiveness of such laws and would also need to allay Government and community concerns about conflict with human rights and criminal law principles.

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 are being effectively used by ACT Policing to support its work to combat criminal groups in the ACT.

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 criminal gang club houses.
- The *Crimes (Fortification Removal) Amendment Act 2017* commenced on 1 September 2018.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 29/01/2019
Cleared by: Executive Director
Information Officer name: Kelly Williams
Contact Officer name: Megan Sparke
Lead Directorate: Justice and Community Safety

Unexplained wealth

- The Commonwealth Unexplained Wealth Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 passed Parliament on 19 September 2018.
- The Bill effectively introduces an unexplained wealth scheme in the ACT by extending Commonwealth unexplained wealth orders to ACT offences.
- Unexplained wealth laws provide a valuable tool to law enforcement to confiscate assets where a person linked to criminal activity cannot reasonably demonstrate that these assets have been lawfully obtained. These mechanisms complement traditional law enforcement responses.
- The Commonwealth scheme has been developed through consultation with states and territories over the past four years. The ACT has been part of these discussions, remaining vigilant in its commitment to work as part of the ongoing national effort to disrupt, disable and dismantle the activities of organised crime.
- The ACT Government has been working with the Commonwealth to finalise an Inter-governmental Agreement (IGA) that will allow the ACT to benefit from key aspects of the scheme including preferable treatment under new equitable sharing arrangements.
- On 20 November 2018, the Government agreed to the Attorney-General signing the IGA on behalf of the ACT.

Background

At the most recent meeting of the Council of Attorneys-General (CAG) 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. The principles will be considered in further detail at the first CAG meeting in 2019.

As at 30 January 2019, ACT Policing has identified four Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs (OMCGs) that operate in the ACT with a total number of members associated with the ACT chapters of these Criminal Gangs estimated at approximately 60 people.

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.

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.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	29/01/2019
Cleared by:	Executive Director
Information Officer name:	Kelly Williams
Contact Officer name:	Megan Sparke
Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety

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.

Recent media

- On 28 August 2018 [media](#) reported on an image of the Nomads OMCG on Mount Ainslie, which led to renewed calls for anti-consorting laws from Mr Hanson.
- On 15 November 2018 the [media](#) published an article reporting on the Annual Report hearing conducted on 14 November 2018 in the Police and Emergency Services (JACS) portfolio. The report makes reference to the ACT Opposition party indicating Mr Hanson will attempt to introduce anti-consorting laws for a second time in either late 2018 or early 2019.
- On 29 January 2019 [media](#) reported that the number of bikie gangs with chapters operating inside Canberra has grown to five with the arrival of the European outlaw motorcycle gang Satudarah. Please see QTB 'OMCG Incidents' for ACTP operational information on this issue.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 29/01/2019
Cleared by: Executive Director
Information Officer name: Kelly Williams
Contact Officer name: Megan Sparke
Lead Directorate: Justice and Community
Safety

Portfolio: Minister for Police & Emergency Services
Attorney-General

ISSUE: CRIMINAL MOTORCYCLE GANG INCIDENTS

This QTB focuses on the ACT Policing operational aspects. Information about legislative reform, 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.
- 2017-18 saw an increase in number of criminal gangs and criminal gang members operating in the ACT.
 - As at 30 January 2019, there are four known Criminal Motorcycle Gangs operating in the ACT.
 - As at 30 January 2019, the total number of members associated with ACT chapters of these Criminal Gangs is estimated at approximately 60 people.
- Through Taskforce Nemesis, ACT Policing continues to proactively disrupt criminal gang members to deter and detect criminal activity. This includes the confiscation of criminal assets.
- Serious and organised crime is not limited to openly-identifiable criminal gangs and ACT Policing will continue to proactively target, prosecute and disrupt those involved in serious and organised crime in the ACT - regardless of their individual affiliations.
- ACT Policing has, and will continue to deploy resources flexibly to ensure an appropriate police response to target and disrupt those seeking to cause harm in our community.
 - ACT Policing is in a unique position, in that it has the ability to call on resources from the broader AFP as operational requirements arise.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 05/02/2019
Cleared by: CPO
Information Officer name: ACT Policing (CI)
Contact Officer name: ACT Policing (MPP)
Lead Directorate: Justice and Community Safety

- These specialist and surge capabilities afford ACT Policing additional resources, to meet fluid and changing operational environments.
- The Government's 2018-19 Budget commitment of \$1.594 million over four years to bolster the capability of Taskforce Nemesis provides funding for one Forensic Accountant, one Surveillance Team Member, and associated equipment and training. These funded positions will enhance ACT Policing's capability to respond to serious and organised criminal activity in the ACT.
 - The surveillance team member position has been filled.
 - Recruitment for the Forensic Accountant is underway. Exact commencement date is dependent on completion of recruitment and security 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). Taskforce Nemesis works closely with the NAGS and other agencies, liaising on matters of operational and strategic importance. NAGS bring 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.
- ACT Policing has had additional powers available since 2017 that have enhanced our ability to respond to and prosecute criminal gang related acts of violence after the fact.

Recent strategic activity

- ACT Policing has established a working group with representatives from a number of government agencies to consider all aspects of criminal gang behaviour.
- The group is based on the Commonwealth National Anti-Gang Squad model that brings a whole-of-government approach to addressing this issue.
- Members of the working group include ACT Policing, ACT Housing, NSW Police (Monaro LAC), Australian Border Force, Australian Criminal

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Intelligence Commission, AUSTRAC, Department of Human Services, and the Australian Taxation Office.

Recent ACT Policing operational activity

Key Taskforce Nemesis figures (criminal gang related figures)*	2018	1 Jan 2019 to 24 Jan 2019
Criminal gang members charged**	27	2
Offences charged	78	4
Search warrants executed	100	1
Firearms seized	20	0

*As at 4 February 2019

**Person may be charged on numerous occasions

- On 4 February 2019 ACT Policing responded to a reported firearms and arson incident in Kambah. Investigations reveal a number of shots were fired into a residential premise and three vehicles set alight. No people were injured in the incident.
 - ACT Fire and Rescue also attended and extinguished the vehicles.
 - The incident is believed to be targeted and related to criminal gang (OMCG) activity.
 - As the matter remains subject to investigation by Taskforce Nemesis, it would be inappropriate to provide further comment.
- On 25 January 2019, Taskforce Nemesis arrested a 30 year-old man for aggravated robbery, inflict grievous bodily harm, make a demand with a threat to kill, and attempting to pervert the course of justice.
 - The man was the President of the ACT Chapter of the Satudarah OMCG.
 - On 26 January 2019, the man appeared before the ACT Magistrates Court, where he was charged and remanded in custody.
 - This matter is presently before the court.
- On 11 December, 2018, ACT Policing's Criminal Investigations Detectives executed a search warrant on an Isabella Plains residence.

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- During the search police located and seized approximately 134 grams of crystal methamphetamine. Police also seized more than \$20,000 which is believed to be the proceeds of selling methamphetamine.
- A 51-year-old Isabella Plains man with criminal motorcycle gang links was arrested and taken to the watch house where he was charged with trafficking in a controlled drug other than cannabis.
- The matter is presently before the court.
- On 9 November, 2018, ACT Policing's Taskforce Nemesis executed search warrants at the residence of the ACT Nomads President.
 - A significant quantity of cocaine, with an estimated street value of \$100,000, ammunition, cash and a prohibited item were seized by police from the residence.
 - A male has been charged with trafficking a prohibited substance, possessing ammunition, proceeds of crime and possessing a prohibited item.
 - The matter is presently before the court.
- Between 5 October and 7 October 2018, the Black Uhlans Criminal Motorcycle Gang held a National motorcycle run into Canberra.
 - Approximately 97 Black Uhlan members were identified during targeted Police interception by way of a vehicle checkpoint along the Barton Highway.
 - The Black Uhlans do not currently have an established chapter in the ACT.
- On 6 September 2018, a senior member of the Nomads Criminal Motorcycle Gang pleaded guilty to charges arising from a violent incident at a Monash Tattoo Parlour on 1 February 2018.
- On 5 September 2018, a previously convicted Comanchero Criminal Motorcycle Gang member completed a sentence of imprisonment arising from a firearms incident in March 2015.
 - Upon completion of his sentence, the Comanchero Criminal Motorcycle Gang member was apprehended by Australian Border Force and has been deported due to visa revocation.

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- On 3 September 2018, Taskforce Nemesis extradited a man from Victoria to the ACT in relation to a firearm shooting incident at two Calwell residential properties on 28 June 2018.
 - The man was charged with attempted murder and refused bail. This matter is presently before the court.
- On 25 August 2018, the ACT saw its first motorcycle run by the Nomads Outlaw Motorcycle gang.
 - There was approximately 30 fully participants in attendance that attracted significant public attention.

Background

- Developments in criminal gang membership in the ACT have highlighted the fluid nature of the criminal gang operating environment. Criminal gang membership has traditionally been relatively stable, however, changes to criminal gang membership in recent years highlights a shift towards more fluid concepts of membership. Presently, it is not uncommon for club members to ‘patch-over’ and change membership to other criminal gangs.
- While such ‘patch-overs’ have been known to occur from time to time, large numbers of patch overs have occurred in recent years. These changes to club numbers can affect the structure and strength of a criminal gang, and has had a significant impact upon the strength and rivalry between criminal gangs in the ACT.
- 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.
- The increase in criminal gang members and conflict in the ACT has placed increased resource pressure on ACT Policing requiring ACT Policing to divert considerable resources in support of Taskforce Nemesis.

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Portfolios: Police & Emergency Services

ISSUE: SAFETY OF WOMEN IN OUR COMMUNITY

Talking points:

- Canberra remains safe city to live in, with the 2017-18 financial year showing a 16.2% decrease in sexual assaults, down to 465 from 555 in 2016-17.
- ACT Policing takes all aggravated assault very seriously and invests every available effort in providing a safer community for ACT residents.
- In 2017-18 the ACT recorded a result of 92.6 per cent for community members who feel safe at home during the night. This is 4.2 per cent above the National average (88.4 per cent).
- 40 per cent of ACT community members surveyed had feelings of safety on public transport in the ACT at night. This is well above the National average of 32.1 per cent.
- These strong results reflect the efforts of the ACT Government and ACT Policing continuing to work with partner agencies and the community to maintain and improve community safety in Canberra's public spaces and in the intelligence led targeting of criminal activities.

Key Information

- 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 incidences in Haig Park. Haig Park has seen a reduction in offences since 2013 from 17 down to 15 in 2018.

Year (Calendar)	Number of Offences
2013	17
2014	17
2015	11
2016	13
2017	10
2018	15
2019 (YTD)	1

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- There has been two recorded sexual assaults in Haig Park since 2013. Both incidents occurred in 2017.
- One incident in Haig Park has been reported in 2019 to date. That incident was a property offence (the theft of a bicycle).

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Safety

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Trim Ref: 2019/000031-037

Portfolio: Police & Emergency Services

ISSUE: VEHICLE FIRES (ESA & ACTP INPUT)

Talking points:

- ESA, in conjunction with colleagues from EPSDD, are well equipped to address all fires in rural areas of the ACT.
- ESA recognises there is a risk from vehicle fires contributing to further issues, such as bush and grass fires, in rural areas.
- Not all vehicle fires are stolen vehicles.

Statistics

- The recent increase in vehicle fires over the hot, dry and windy summer months gives reason for extra concern.
- Statistics from 1 July 2018 to 14 December 2018 show an average of approximately 14 vehicle fires per month. December 2018 showed a increase in vehicle fire incidents reported to ACT, with 54 incidents reported.
- Over the past two financial years:
 - 2016-17, averaged 22 vehicle fires per month and,
 - 2017-18, averaged 24 vehicle fires per month
- Deliberately lit vehicle fires place the Canberra community at risk of bushfire and our first responders at risk of harm. Arson is a serious offence and our police and emergency services have been diligently responding to car fires this summer.
- The recent Pierces Creek bushfire, in which a fire from a deliberately lit vehicle burnt more than 204 hectares of forest, demonstrated the very real danger of such fires.

Police investigation

- Suspicious vehicle fires reported to ACT Policing are investigated to determine how the fire started and by who.
- ACT Policing acknowledge the emotional and financial impact vehicle thefts and arson can have on individuals and families.

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- Vehicle owners can help reduce the risk of theft by keeping their vehicles locked and the keys away from the vehicle when parked.

Initiatives like CCTV network expansion and increased funding for police can help prevent theft of vehicles and enhance police capacity to investigate vehicle thefts and related arson.

How to report concerns or vehicle fires

- If anyone is aware of any vehicle fire, deliberate or otherwise during the fire season, I urge them to report it on Triple Zero immediately so that the authorities can take swift action.
- Anyone with any information about a deliberately-set fire should contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or via their website. Information can be supplied anonymously.

Key Information

- The increase in stolen motor vehicles and vehicle arsons has been identified as a Regional Operational Priority for ACT Policing.
- The Criminal Investigations – Crime Disruption Team (CI-CDT) is leading the ACT Policing response in combating with this issue. By having the issue identified as a Regional Priority, CI-CDT is able to draw upon resources from all ACT Policing portfolios.
- ACT Policing Intelligence has compiled a significant amount of data relating to these offences which indicates there is a core group of offenders responsible for the increase.
- The reasons behind increases in offences are often complex and difficult to attribute to a single cause. Factors such as the time of year, availability of opportunistic targets and recidivist offenders being out in the community can contribute to changes in offence rates.
- These types of property offences are often cyclic, and peaks and troughs can be seen for a variety of reasons. It is difficult to attribute recent increases to any one factor.

ISSUE: ACT POLICING KEY DATA

ACT Policing

Staffing as reported in previous annual reports

2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
FTE – 968.48	FTE – 946.47	Average FTE - 931.27*
Headcount - 909	Headcount - 884	Headcount - 893

*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 ¹	\$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.

¹ As published in 2017-21 Purchase Agreement.

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Call Outs –Financial Year comparison

Number of Call outs YTD, as at 31 December 2018 (End Q2 2018-19Y).

Category	2017-18 FY # of call outs	2017-18 FY Average Response time H:MM:SS	2018-19 FY (YTD) # of call outs	2018-19 FY (YTD) Average Response time H:MM:SS
Priority 1	328 7.2% increase from 2016-17 (306)	0:10:34 0:03:21 increase from 2016-17	151	0:07:50
Priority 2	13,437 2.6% decrease from 2016-17 (13,802)	0:34:08 0:01:00 decrease from 2016-17	6857	0:42:11
Priority 3	24,415 23.8% decrease from 2016-17 (32,026)	3:44:07 1:05:39 increase from 2016-17	11367	5:14:43

Summary of Key Strategies

As part of 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

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ACTP-DCS

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Contact Officer name:

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Lead Directorate:

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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.

	2017-18	2018-19 YTD*
Total Number of matters	29	16
Total Asset value	\$13,355,172	\$608,186
Assets for which value is yet to be assessed:	-	8 vehicles 1 residence
Penalty order value	\$7,179,000	-

*As at 15 January 2019.

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

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ISSUE: ACT POLICING CRIME STATISTICS

Talking points:

General crime trends – 2018

- I am pleased to see that the number of offences in the 2018 calendar year shows a **decrease of 10.7 per cent (or 3908 offences)** when compared to the 2017.
- Offences that recorded significant **decreases** included:
 - Burglaries at dwellings (**down 23.3 per cent or 427 offences**).
 - Motor vehicle theft (**down 23.8 per cent or 380 offences**).

Offences against the person – 2018

- The total number of offences recorded against the person in 2018 shows a **decrease of 6.3 per cent (or 240 offences)**, when compared to 2017.
- Alcohol-related assaults **decreased by 6.3 per cent (or 49 offences)** when compared to 2017.
- There were **seven** homicide related offences in 2018, the same result when compared to 2017.

Family violence – 2018

- The ACT 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 by 14.1 per cent (or 183 offences)**, when compared to 2017.

Offences against property– 2018

- I am advised there has been a **23.8 per cent decrease** in motor vehicle theft in 2018, when compared to 2017.

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- ACT Policing’s Crime Disruption Team (CDT) has seen positive results during 2018. The number of armed robbery offences has **decreased by 6.4 per cent** when compared to 2017.
- In 2018, there were two aggravated robbery offences at licenced clubs.

What is ACT Policing doing to address crime?

- Positive clearance rates achieved by ACT Policing demonstrate ACT Policing remains effective in addressing criminal activity.
- ACT Policing’s Crime Disruption Team (CDT), whose primary focus has been on recidivist offending, disrupting aggravated robbery offences and ram raids across the ACT, have heavily contributed to these results by utilising sophisticated targeting models.

Key Information

Offence	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	12 Month % Change	Long Term % Change
Homicide	8	6	9	4	8	5	4	10	4	7	7	0.0%	-12.5%
Assault - FV	721	768	860	836	728	640	737	882	1305	1302	1119	-14.1%	55.2%
Assault - Non-FV	1794	1668	1692	1679	1560	1516	1232	1387	1554	1684	1651	-2.0%	-8.0%
Sexual Assault	421	365	317	393	445	504	390	488	509	546	512	-6.2%	21.6%
Other offences against a person	110	118	133	111	99	89	109	140	344	270	280	3.7%	154.5%
Robbery - armed	83	114	172	129	121	93	94	93	108	125	117	-6.4%	41.0%
Robbery - other	127	210	137	112	96	70	72	74	90	111	104	-6.3%	-18.1%
Burglary dwellings	2690	3651	3194	1970	1705	1499	1528	1553	1418	1836	1409	-23.3%	-47.6%
Burglary shops	439	450	459	335	279	230	259	397	348	314	314	0.0%	-28.5%
Burglary other	778	826	699	517	477	406	505	674	639	591	549	-7.1%	-29.4%
Motor vehicle theft	1954	2226	1681	1031	1155	765	852	1106	1112	1597	1217	-23.8%	-37.7%
Theft (excluding Motor Vehicles)	13079	13294	12785	9930	9967	9640	9471	11280	9858	9969	8856	-11.2%	-32.3%
Property damage	8785	9560	8135	6670	5536	4973	4176	5344	4804	5449	4510	-17.2%	-48.7%
Other offences	10971	10396	10549	9680	9643	10058	10772	10213	11255	12693	11941	-5.9%	8.8%
Total	41960	43652	40822	33397	31819	30488	30201	33641	33348	36494	32586	-10.7%	-22.3%

- Long term trends indicate that overall offences have decreased by 22.3 per cent when comparing 2018 to 2008.

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.

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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 of 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.

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Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	

ISSUE: ACT POLICING STAFFING DEMANDS

Talking points:

- The ACT is one of Australia’s safest jurisdictions. ACT Policing has a strong record of meeting key performance indicators and the overall reduction in crime in the ACT over the past year reflects this performance.
- ACT Policing delivers an agile and intelligence-lead policing service to the ACT. Through the enabling services for the broader AFP, ACT Policing has access to an additional suite of specialist and surge –capacity resources.

If asked about police numbers

- ACT Policing FTE and headcount, like all emergency services, constantly fluctuates. As at 30 June 2018, ACT Policing had a headcount of 893 members (677 sworn and 216 professional), as reported in the 2017-18 Annual Report. The current headcount is within expectations and near projected FTE for the last financial year.
- The current headcount and FTE in ACT Policing are within expectations for the first half of the financial year 2018-19. To date in the 2018-19 financial year 68 new recruits have graduated:
 - 25 new recruits commenced with ACT Policing on 23 July 2018
 - 29 new recruits commenced on 15 October 2018
 - 14 new recruits on 21 December 2018, and
 - One further recruit class began training on 28 October 2018 and are due to graduate in April 2019
- Between 1 July 2018 and 22 January 2019, 24 ACT Policing members have separated from the organisation. Of these, 18 were sworn and six were professional.
- On 24 January 2019, the AFP launched its ‘*Unique Opportunities Remarkable Careers*’ recruitment campaign. Media and Public Engagement will be undertaking a number of communication activities to increase applications to ACT Policing and support the national recruitment campaign.

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If asked about a freeze on transfers

- There is no freeze on regional transfers.
- Ensuring there is regular mobility both into and out of ACT Policing is a priority for the Australian Federal Police as it generates benefits for both staff and the organisation as a whole.
- Transfers ‘at current level’ are considered on a case by case basis using an open and transparent decision making framework. Where ACT Policing members are found suitable for promotions or higher duties positions outside of ACT Policing, these transfers are automatically approved as a matter of course.

Police Service Reforms

- In March 2017, ACT Policing commenced a reform program tasked with ensuring ACT Policing is best positioned to serve the Canberra community now and into the future. The program is ensuring that our members are provided with the tools, technology, governance, policies and resources to do their work efficiently, effectively and to the best of their ability. Part of the program has assessed the current service delivery model of ACT Policing and this will inform ongoing discussions with the ACT Government regarding the appropriate level of resources required to provide the best possible service delivery to the ACT Community.

Health and Wellbeing

- The health and wellbeing of our people is our highest priority. The AFP is taking careful steps to ensure its health support systems are right, across the entire organisation. This includes the Wellness@Work holistic approach to mental and physical wellbeing. AFP members are afforded extensive support services which provide services domestically and internationally. The network comprises a multi-disciplinary team which includes internal welfare officers, psychologists, nurses, chaplains, work health and safety advisers, rehabilitation case managers, 24 hour Employee Assistance Program and a Chief Medical Officer to ensure our members receive the right care, at the right time.

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If asked about Police numbers and/or over-time:

- The 2017-18 financial year saw an increase in total headcount, up to 893 employees from 884 in 2016-17.
- Professional ACT Policing members increased by 16 people, whilst sworn police officers decreased by seven.
- In recent years, ACT Policing has reclassified previously sworn positions, like communications officers, to professional roles. This accounts for the slight decrease in sworn officers and allows sworn officers to focus on police work.
- The FTE count shows a decrease from 946.47 in 2016-17 to 931.27 in 2017-18. The decrease is partly attributable to ACT Policing utilising an average FTE count for the first time in 2017-18. In previous years, the FTE count was calculated as FTE on 30 June each year.
- The averaging approach provides a more accurate representation of ACT Policing's resourcing across a year.

ACT Policing Workforce Composition:

	2016-17	2017-18	Change
FTE	946.47	931.27	↓15.2
Headcount	884	893	↑9
Sworn*	684	677	↓7
Professional	200	216	↑16

*Including Sworn Protective Service Officers

Background Information

- On Friday 26 October 2018 The Canberra Times published an article titled '*ACT police shortage causing serious fatigue issues*'.
- The article suggests ACT Policing was struggling to meet their minimum staff targets. The article included comments from the police union who said members are over worked, over stressed and stretched thin.
- ACT Policing's Staffing Profile is detailed in Chapter 7 of the 2017-18 Annual Report.

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TRIM Ref: 2019/000039-002

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 (ACTP) to support incident management, criminal investigations and prosecutions in court. The Network is also used by the ACT Government to support the management and operations of crowded place events to 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 ACTP
 - Upgrading CCTV recording equipment
 - Upgrading the CCTV systems at bus stations and depots.
- The Government continues to trial portable, solar powered CCTV technology at 12 sites across Canberra to enhance the capabilities of the Public Safety CCTV Network. Solar powered CCTV units were used during Summernats, New Year's Eve and Australia Day, with units proposed for installation at the Enlighten Festival.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	23/01/2019	
Cleared by:	Executive Director	Ext: 78628
Information Officer name:	Bren Burkevics	
Contact Officer name:	David Wheeler	Ext: 55089
Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	

- The Government has commenced a trial of using the CBRFree Wi-Fi network to route Public Safety CCTV camera information. The trial will enable the Government to understand how third party networks can be used to make the expansion of the Public Safety CCTV Network more efficient. Two cameras, located in the Tuggeranong CBD and Haig Park have been commissioned for the trial.
- The Government is developing a CCTV Strategy to guide future government investment in this important security technology that is now widely used across ACT public venues and open spaces to support community safety.

Key Information

If asked about recent media reporting around the risks of using Chinese manufactured CCTV equipment made by Hikvision and Dahua.

- The Government does not use any CCTV equipment manufactured by the two companies as part of the ACT's Public Safety CCTV Network.
- The Government has, however, identified several facilities where CCTV equipment manufactured by the two identified companies is in use.
- The Government has completed a risk assessment and implemented instructions for the ongoing management and use of these cameras.

If asked about the cyber risks of using the Chinese manufactured CCTV equipment.

- Refer the question to the Attorney-General as the Minister responsible for security.

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

- The Public Safety CCTV Network does not utilise facial-biometric capability.
- The Public Safety CCTV Network complies with ACT privacy and human rights laws.

If asked about the trial of portable solar powered CCTV units

- 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.
- 12 units are in use across Canberra. Four are installed at the National Arboretum Canberra, three in the City, two at Glebe Park, one at the Owl Artwork and one at Griffith Shops.
- 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.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	23/01/2019	
Cleared by:	Executive Director	Ext: 78628
Information Officer name:	Bren Burkevics	
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Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	

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

- The Government has commenced a trial to determine how the CBRfree Wi-Fi network infrastructure can be used to support the efficient expansion of the Public Safety CCTV Network.
- Two sites at Greenway and at Haig Park have been commissioned for the trial.
- A third trial site is under consideration.

If asked about CCTV on the Light Rail network

- Officials that manage the Public Safety CCTV Network 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 CCTV Network Security

- The Public Safety CCTV Network operates within the secure ACT Government ICT network. Access to the Network 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 Network capabilities

- The Public Safety CCTV Network 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.
- 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.
- ACTP has dedicated staff that actively monitor the Public Safety CCTV Network 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. ACTP may also use the Network at any other times to assist with incident management, investigations and response.

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Lead Directorate: Justice and Community
Safety

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.
- ACTP started CCTV monitoring in the Civic Precinct in 2001. In 2007, responsibility for the network transferred to JACS and the network 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 ACTP to ensure the network 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 Network 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.

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TRIM Ref: 2019/000039-003

Portfolios: Chief Minister

Police & Emergency Services

Attorney-General

ISSUE: NATIONAL SECURITY ISSUES (INCLUDING CROWDED PLACE SAFETY)

TALKING POINTS

Counter Terrorism - General (Chief Minister)

- The ACT is a successful and harmonious multicultural society. This is one of our greatest strengths against acts of terrorism and violent extremism occurring in Canberra.
- Our identity is defined by an overriding commitment to our nation, its democratic values and the rule of law, 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.
- We cannot eliminate entirely the risk of terrorism any more than we can eliminate the risk of any serious crime. But we will do all we can to keep our community safe from those who seek to do us harm.
- 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 and violent extremism.

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Information Officer name:	Bren Burkevics	
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Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	

- 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.
- If a situation requires a police response, call Police Operations on 131 444. If the situation is potentially life threatening, call Triple-Zero (000).

Safety in Public Places (MPES)

- The safety of Canberrans as they go about their business in public places remains a key focus for the government.
- While the national terrorism public alert level remains at PROBABLE, there is no specific or credible threat to the ACT. The ACT Government in conjunction with ACT Policing continually reviews its security arrangements within the current risk environment.
- In 2017, the Commonwealth Government launched *Australian's Strategy for Protecting Crowded Places from Terrorism*. The Strategy provides a consistent, national approach to protecting crowded places which can be applied flexibly to suit local circumstances.
- The ACT Government continues to work in partnership with ACT Policing and other law enforcement and intelligence agencies to implement the Strategy and provide for the safety of resident and visitors who enjoy Canberra's public places.
- While ultimate responsibility for event security always lies with event organisers, ACT Policing are proactively engaging with organisers to provide appropriate advice and guidance in accordance with the strategy through both direct engagement and regular crowded places forums.
- From 2019, ACT Policing will deliver a consistent schedule of two crowded places forums per year. These forums will focus on encouraging different sectors to come together and present their strategy alignment considerations, location or event risk mitigation

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strategies as well as any learning outcomes from the implementation of risk mitigation they may have experienced.

- Additional resourcing for ACT Policing, provided in the 2016-17 ACT Budget over two financial years, has further assisted in the delivery of the crowded places strategy responsibilities, with the half coverage cost of a full time appointment of an ACT Policing Crowded Places staff member.
- In the 2018-19 budget, the ACT Government allocated over \$1.5 million in funding towards improving the security of public places through CCTV enhancements, security risk assessments and additional resources for ACT Policing to implement the strategy.
- Concerns about national security or terrorism should be reported immediately to the National Security Hotline on 1800 123 400.

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 amendments were passed by Parliament on 27 November 2018 and have a six month delayed commencement. The amendments will:

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- make it easier for states and territories to request ADF support where necessary to assist in the event of a violent or terrorist incident
- allow the Government to pre-authorise the ADF to respond to threats on land, at sea and in the air
- simplify, expand and clarify the ADF's powers to search, seize, and control movement during a violent or terrorist incident
- enhance the ability of the ADF to respond to incidents occurring in more than one jurisdiction.

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Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	

Portfolio: Police & Emergency Services

ISSUE: ESA KEY DATA (as at 1 July 2018)

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	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
Total Incidents	52,084	52,412	54,552	55,563

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

- Recruitment of additional Paramedics
- 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

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 Lead Directorate: Justice and Community Safety

- Dickson
- 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	
Incident Type	Incidents	Responses	Incidents	Responses
Fires				
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
Total Fires	961	2,912	964	2,638
Other Emergencies and Incidents				
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
Total other emergencies and incidents	8,737	14,709	7,904	15,318
Non-fire rescue calls (including road rescue)				
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
Total Non-fire rescue calls (including road rescue)	1,659	3,463	1,729	3,429
Total ACTF&R Operational Activity	11,357	21,084	10,597	21,385

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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 Automated External 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

A city facility is being considered as part of the Station Upgrade and Relocation Program 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.

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%
# ACTRFS Volunteers					
390					

Vehicles

Operational	Operational support	Support Vehicles	Total
48	16	16	80

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 Lead Directorate: Justice and Community Safety

Call Outs

ACT Rural Fire Service – Operational Activity	2016-17		2017-18	
	Incidents	Responses	Incidents	Responses
Grass and bushfires	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
Total Incidents	631	1,436	348	1,133

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

Fire Towers

There are four fire towers

- Mount Tennent
- Kowen
- Coree
- One Tree Hill

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 Lead Directorate: Justice and Community Safety

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%
# ACTSES Volunteers					
325					

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
Total Incidents	1,148	1,093	660	946

Summary of Key Strategies

- ACTSES Business Plan

Stations

There are a total of seven units and one support group:

- Gungahlin Unit, Joint Emergency Services Complex
- Tuggeranong Unit, Calwell
- Majura Unit, Hackett
- Belconnen Unit, Belconnen
- Woden Unit, Phillip
- Pialligo Unit, ESA Fairbairn precinct
- Rivers Unit, Cotter Road, Stromlo
- ESA Headquarters Support

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 Cleared by: Commissioner Ext:78383
 Information Officer name: Dominic Lane
 Contact Officer name: Lianna Guest Ext:76326
 Lead Directorate: Justice and Community Safety

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					

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
141,531	Total Ordinary Expenses	144,381	147,924	2

Summary of Key Strategies

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

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 Information Officer name: Dominic Lane
 Contact Officer name: Lianna Guest Ext:76326
 Lead Directorate: Justice and Community
 Safety

Facilities

ESA Headquarters, Fairbairn

ESA Workshops, Fairbairn

ESA Resource Centre, Fairbairn

ESA Training Centre, Hume

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Cleared by:	Commissioner	Ext:78383
Information Officer name:	Dominic Lane	
Contact Officer name:	Lianna Guest	Ext:76326
Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	

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 for the past seven years, as well as the highest levels of patient satisfaction.
- The dedication and professionalism of our paramedics should be highly commended as they continue to provide life-saving services to members of the community who are experiencing their worst day.
- The Government continues to provide support for our ambulance workforce and remains focussed on their health and welfare as they continue to meet community expectations. This is demonstrated with the significant funding packages announced during this term of Government to date, which will deliver 53 additional paramedics, seven new ambulances, and powered stretchers in all operational ambulance vehicles.

Key Information

- For the seventh year in a row ACT Ambulance Service response times are the best in the country. This impressive result has once again been achieved despite an increasing demand for services.
- The ACT Ambulance Service reported the second highest percentage of Emergency Triple Zero (000) calls answered within 10 seconds, outperforming the national average by 7.1%.
- The Annual Ambulance Patient Satisfaction Survey results show the ACT Ambulance Service continues to maintain high levels of patient satisfaction at 97% for another year.

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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

- ESA regularly and routinely reviews the risk profile across the ACT. 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.
- 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.

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 ACT Fire & Rescue (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.

- 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 Station Upgrade and Relocation Program 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.

- 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 the Justice and Community Safety Directorate, the Chief Minister, Treasury, and Economic Development Directorate, and other ACT Government Directorates and Agencies on the implementation of all Election commitments.

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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 Lead Directorate: Justice and Community Safety

2019

Portfolio/s: Planning and Land Management**ISSUE: Update on testing of per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) at Pialligo.****Talking points:**

- PFAS are a group of manufactured chemicals used in products that resist heat, oil, stain and water. PFAS above national standards have been detected at Canberra and neighbouring Pialligo.
- The ACT Health Directorate commissioned testing and a report on potential pathways for PFAS exposure at Pialligo and provide recommendations on potential human health impacts associated with identified PFAS in the project area.
- The final report found that no properties reported using bore water or surface water drinking purposes, meaning that potential exposure route to PFAS for residents, workers, and visitors to this area is likely to be low.

Key Information

- The GHD report recommended additional testing at Pialligo to close data gaps on potential exposure pathways and inform completion of a more robust and site-specific Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA). Noting additional testing would be required to assess the environmental and ecological impacts of PFAS at Pialligo
- The ACT Chief Health Officer (CHO) responded to the report findings and concluded the PFAS levels detected at Pialligo represent a very low risk to human health as direct pathways of human consumption appear limited and/or likely to involve low levels of PFAS.
- The CHO concluded that further testing of PFAS at Pialligo should only be considered in the context of an overall environmental assessment of PFAS in the ACT.

Background Information

- There is no conclusive evidence that PFAS causes any specific illness in people, pets or livestock. Health guidance on PFAS is based on the amount a person can consume on a regular basis over a lifetime without any significant risk to health.

2019

Portfolio/s: Planning and Land Management**ISSUE: PFAS – Other matters**Fire and Rescue/Emergency Services Agency

- Our firefighters and the community can be assured that the ACT ESA, and government, take this issue very seriously. As we did thirteen years ago, and continue to do so today. ACT Fire & Rescue phased out PFAS thirteen years ago (2005).
- ACT ESA has been working hard to ensure equipment is replaced and changed over. Ten fire pumpers have been replaced and all equipment has either been decontaminated or replaced.
- Expert advice currently does not advise any specific biochemical or disease screening for groups exposed to PFAS outside of specific research studies.
- ACT ESA is working with WorkSafe ACT to ensure work health and safety obligations are met.
- ACT ESA has undertaken a risk assessment to prioritise the testing of remaining sites and this is expected to be completed in early 2019

Jervis Bay Territory

- The Jervis Bay Territory (JBT) is a separate Commonwealth Territory. Under Commonwealth law, ACT legislation is applied in JBT.
- The ACT Government is contracted by the Australian Government to supply certain services to Jervis Bay Territory (JBT), including education, licences, justice services and environmental water testing.
- 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, plant and marine animal testing. The ACT Government is a member of Defence's Project Control Group and provides advice and support where required.
- Defence's investigation is still ongoing in JBT and the Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities, and the ACT, are consulted by Defence as results become available.
- [A Defence Factsheet](#) as well as a contact for further media enquiries is available on the Defence website.
- At the request of the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development the ACT has undertaken under a fee for service arrangement a number of specific activities in JBT in relation to PFAS, including:
 - Testing 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.
 - Assisting the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development with the development precautionary advice relating to waterways and marine life in JBT.

The Commonwealth has now issued a [Community Bulletin](#) providing precautionary advice to the JBT community that while Defence's investigation is ongoing consumption of fish and shellfish from a number of marine locations should be avoided.

- Access Canberra's call centre service is assisting DIRDC to respond to public enquiries relating to precautionary signage in JBT regarding PFAS.
- Defence will soon release the final Human Health Risk Assessment in relation to PFAS contamination in JBT. A JBT PFAS Management Plan is expected to be developed by Defence following this Assessment.
- The ACT will continue, when requested, to work with the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development to support the Commonwealth in its role as the authority responsible for responding to PFAS in JBT.

Jervis Bay School

- As part of a comprehensive testing program on the presence of PFAS in the Jervis Bay Area, Defence sampled the fruit of several Lilly Pilly trees at Jervis Bay School.
- Low levels of PFAS were found in a small number of samples.
- The only way people can be exposed to PFAS from the trees is to eat the fruit.
- In line with the school's wishes to take a zero-risk approach, the trees were removed from the school grounds in early October.
- The Education Directorate worked with the school to ensure the community were provided accurate and timely information.

TRIM Ref: 2019/000013-036

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

- The ESA is working with staff and the unions on these changes. A Workplace Consultative Committee has been established to discuss issues specific to the future ComCen model.
- 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 ACT Emergency Services Agency (ESA) ComCen.
- Call-takers and dispatchers will be recruited and existing ambulance Comcen staff who already hold accredited qualifications, will be provided with 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.
- ESA will also use the changes in service delivery models to explore options in terms of better use of technology. This includes integrating systems to facilitate the provision of timely information between services and external agencies, and with the public.

Key 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 under the *ACTF&R Enterprise Agreement 2013-17* as a specific forum for communicating with affected ACT Fire & Rescue staff on the ComCen reform.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 25/01/2019
Cleared by: Commissioner Ext: 78383
Information Officer name: Dominic Lane
Contact Officer name: Dominic Lane Ext: 78383
Lead Directorate: Justice and Community
Safety

TRIM Ref: 2019/000013-015

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 (RFS) 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.
- The hydrant was commissioned, inspected and a final certificate of occupancy was received for the Molonglo RFS Shed on 30 August 2018, prior to the 1 September 2018 commencement of the ACT bushfire season.
- 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 was the capability of the ACT Rural Fire Service compromised, and we thank the volunteers for their patience while this work was being undertaken.

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 488.99m² to 544.12m². 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 500m².

Cleared as complete and accurate: 25/01/2019
Cleared by: Commissioner Ext: 78383
Information Officer name: Dominic Lane
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Lead Directorate: Justice and Community Safety

ISSUE: FIRE RESPONSES IN THE MOLONGLO DISTRICT

Talking points:

- A fire in a display home in Denman Prospect on Saturday, 13 October 2018 was reported as having “burnt to the ground” prior to the arrival of ACT Fire & Rescue (ACTF&R).
- While the house did suffer significant damage as the result of the fire, at the time of the arrival of the first ACTF&R crew the fire was confined to the garage and roof space. The structural integrity of the building was maintained throughout firefighting operations and firefighters were able to operate within the structure wearing breathing apparatus.
- At no time on 13 October 2018 were any ACTF&R crews unable or unavailable to respond to emergency incidents, regardless of whether they were participating in doorknocking or undertaking training activities.
- The entire fleet of ACTF&R fire appliances are location monitored in real time. Appliance locations are mapped and where gaps in coverage may occur appliances are relocated to fill those gaps with the closest crews, prioritised to respond to areas where coverage is low.
- The ACT Emergency Services Agency (ESA) is currently investigating potential sites in the Molonglo valley for future ACTF&R and ACT Ambulance Service stations.

Key Information

- The 2015 ORH report was commissioned by the ACT Emergency Services Agency to plan for future fire stations, based on forecast growth across the Canberra region.
- In 2015 ORH highlighted the need for a future fire station in Molonglo, dependent upon *forecast* population growth in the area.
- The ESA has already commissioned ORH to update their analysis based on the *actual* levels of population growth, which has been faster than originally predicted in some areas of Canberra.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	24/01/2019	
Cleared by:	Commissioner	Ext: 78383
Information Officer name:	Dominic Lane	
Contact Officer name:	Mark Brown	Ext: 78122
Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	

ISSUE: BUSHFIRES ('Complacency Can Kill' Campaign, Lessons from 2003 Bushfires, Pierces Creek, Potters Hill, Fire Towers)**Talking points:***'Complacency Can Kill' Campaign*

- On 18 January 2019, the 16th anniversary of the January 2003 bushfires, the ACT Emergency Services Agency (ESA) launched a digital media campaign to urge Canberra to be ready for bushfire.
- While the ESA and the wider ACT Government is better prepared than ever before for a bushfire emergency, we need the community to be bushfire ready as well.
- The digital media campaign features a 30-second video with the headline "Complacency can kill". The video graphically captures the firestorm firefighters were confronted with in January 2003.
- I realise playing back this old footage may upset some people but that is not the intention. We need to be very clear to the community about the risk we all face this summer and we are hoping when people see it will prompt them to be ready before a fires starts.
- ESA volunteers and staff have doorknocked more than 5,000 homes this summer providing information and resources to help residents prepare. This includes going to the ESA website (esa.act.gov.au) to download a Bushfire Survival Plan, then completing it with your household.

Lessons from 2003 Bushfires

- The devastation caused by the 2003 bushfires provided a test for our emergency services like no incident ever experienced in this region.
- The Government, including the ACT Emergency Services Agency (ESA), learnt a lot from the 2003 bushfires. This includes the scrutiny that came with Ron McLeod's review, the coronial inquiry, at least four reviews by the ACT Auditor-General, and information gathered from many other significant natural disasters and emergencies that have occurred across Australia since that time.

- While the Canberra community has enjoyed 16 safe summers since the bushfire tragedy of 2003, the time will come again when emergency services will be put to the test. However, the community can have confidence that if the ACT experiences another major incident of this nature the ACT is better prepared for a bushfire emergency than ever before.
- The Government, including the ESA, has invested in ensuring that appropriate measures are in place, and that our community continue to live in one of the safest cities in the world, with well-funded, well-resourced and well-governed emergency services.

Pierces Creek

- On Thursday, 1 November 2018, there was a report of a smoke sighting in the Pierces Creek area. The ACT Emergency Services Agency (ESA) quickly formed an Incident Management Team to manage the incident, and engaged a variety of resources including firefighters, aircraft, heavy plant and vehicles.
- On Thursday, 8 November 2018, the Pierces Creek fire was in patrol status. This means the fire is contained, under control, and there is no active fire on the fire ground.
- The incident was closed on Monday, 12 November 2018, after final hand held infrared scans were conducted by ACT Parks and Conservation Service crews.
- I would like to thank staff across all ACT Government Directorates for their support to the Emergency Coordination Centre. In particular, I would like to thank ACT Rural Fire Service volunteers and staff, ACT Parks and Conservation staff, and NSW Rural Fire Service volunteers and staff for their contribution to managing the Pierces Creek fire and helping to protect the ACT community.

Potters Hill

- I am aware that the Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council (AFAC) has finalised its review into the Potters Hill fire, and has provided the ACT Emergency Services Agency (ESA) and the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) with their final report.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 25/01/2019
Cleared by: Commissioner Ext: 78383
Information Officer name: Dominic Lane
Contact Officer name: Joe Murphy Ext: 78396
Lead Directorate: Justice and Community
Safety

- I have been provided with an initial briefing from both agencies. I am advised that the report does not highlight any gaps that impact on the safety of the community or firefighters during this current bushfire season. It does, however, suggest a number of future improvements.
- As a joint directorate initiated review, both ESA and EPSDD have commenced the process to work together on implementing the recommendations of the report as part of their continual improvement processes. The aim is to have all of the recommendations implemented prior to the 2019-20 ACT bushfire season, and I will be provided with updates on the progress of their implementation.
- I would like to thank AFAC for their work on the review. I would also like to thank all the volunteers and staff from the ESA and EPSDD in their continued efforts to keep our community safe.

Fire Towers

- The ACT Rural Fire Service uses fire towers for monitoring and early detection of bushfire threats.
- Fire towers are located at Coree, Mount Tennent, One Tree Hill, and Kowen.
- All fire towers underwent some remedial work to address WorkSafe concerns, which have been fully addressed.
- All four fire towers are fully operational. At no time was community safety compromised as a result of these works.

Key Information

- After consulting with the ACT Bushfire Council at their meeting on 1 August 2018, and discussing the risks presented to the ACT and the seasonal outlook, the ESA Commissioner declared that the bushfire season for 2018-19 will commence early, on 1 September 2018.
- The *Emergencies Act 2004* (the Emergencies Act) under which the ESA operates is viewed as best practice in emergency management. The Emergencies Act was introduced following the 2003 Canberra bushfires, and consolidated all previous emergency legislation in the ACT.
- Under the Emergencies Act, the ESA Commissioner must prepare a Strategic Bushfire Management Plan (SBMP) which sets out complementary and integrated strategies through which the Government and the community reduce the risks of bushfire in the ACT.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 25/01/2019
Cleared by: Commissioner Ext: 78383
Information Officer name: Dominic Lane
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Lead Directorate: Justice and Community
Safety

Portfolio/s: Police & Emergency Services

ISSUE: ACT BUSHFIRE COUNCIL PREPAREDNESS REPORT

Talking points:

- On 24 October 2018, Dr Sarah Ryan, the Chair of the ACT Bushfire Council (the Council), provided me with their annual preparedness report for the 2018-2019 bushfire season. The Council has made three recommendations relating to:
 - the management of fire towers,
 - the need for a changed approach to bushfire preparedness in the Strategic Bushfire Management Plan due to new climate risks, and
 - inclusion of the Council as a stakeholder in the planned review of the ACT Recovery Plan, and consider recent developments and lessons learnt.
- In response to the report's recommendations, I have sought advice from the ACT Emergency Services Agency and the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD).
- I am advised that all the recommendations made in the report are supported and have either been implemented or are in the process of implementation.
- I thank the Council for their recommendations focusing on high level planning within the ACT through the Recovery Plan and the Strategic Bushfire Management Plan. I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the great work of ACT Rural Fire Service volunteers and staff, and ACT Parks and Conservations staff in their continued efforts to keep the ACT prepared, and to minimise the impacts of bushfires especially as we approach a particularly hazardous bushfire period over summer.
- The recent work done to contain the Pierces Creek bushfire is a timely reminder of how valuable their contributions are to the safety of the ACT community, and the need for everyone in the ACT to be bushfire ready, and to have a bushfire plan.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	16/11/2018	
Cleared by:	Commissioner	Ext: 78383
Information Officer name:	Dominic Lane	
Contact Officer name:	Joe Murphy	Ext: 78396
Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	

Key Information

- Under section 129 of the *Emergencies Act 2004* (the Act), you appointed members of the ACT Bushfire Council with the relevant skills, experience and representation. The mandatory qualities are to represent the interests of rural lessees, have skills or experience to represent the community interest in the environment and represent the community's interests generally. The skills or experience you must try to appoint are in fire sciences, land management, firefighting and indigenous land management.
- Under section 130(1) of the Act, the Council has the function of advising the Minister for Police and Emergency Services about matters relating to bushfires. Section 4 of the Council's terms of reference aligns with section 130(1) of the Act. It provides that the Council must, prior to the bushfire season, prepare an annual report providing advice on the state of preparedness of the ACT to bushfires including the status of actions of the Strategic Bushfire Management Plan (SBMP).

Cleared as complete and accurate: 16/11/2018
Cleared by: Commissioner Ext: 78383
Information Officer name: Dominic Lane
Contact Officer name: Joe Murphy Ext: 78396
Lead Directorate: Justice and Community
Safety

Portfolio/s: Police & Emergency Services**ISSUE: BRONTO****Talking points:**

- The Bronto has had overheating issues since 2015 resulting in loss of power and breakdowns. The vehicle underwent two major engine overhauls in 2015 and 2016 due to overheating.
- In 2018, the Bronto was extensively assessed by the manufacturer (Scania) in regards to the overheating issues. During this assessment, Scania identified a possible remedy to the overheating issues which requires the vehicle to have substantial modifications to the engine cooling system. The modifications required a substantial amount of engineering which is intellectually owned by Scania. The work was conducted in Scania's workshops in Sydney and forms part of their good faith warranty.
- The risk of the ACTF&R Bronto engine overheating again during the hot temperatures was considered extremely high. Therefore, the decision was made to conduct the repairs immediately (9 January 2019), given the ongoing risk of break down or overheating.
- In summary, the ESA assessed that the risk was greater in keeping the Bronto online, as opposed getting the repairs done immediately, even factoring in that the Melbourne Fire Brigade aerial appliance was not available to cover the ACT until 15 January 2019.
- Public safety was not been compromised as a result of no aerial appliance being available in the ACT between 9 – 15 January 2019. ACTF&R's ability to respond to fires where the aerial appliance would normally be utilised did not change. Other appliances could have been utilised to manage these incidents.

Key Information

- There are no Scania workshop in the ACT or surrounds. Even if the Bronto was repaired in the ACT, the vehicle would still be unavailable during the repairs, so the only difference is the travel to and from Sydney. Whatever work and replacement of parts that can be conducted in the ACT, has been done by the ESA Workshop.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 24/01/2018
Cleared by: Commissioner Ext: 78383
Information Officer name: Dominic Lane
Contact Officer name: Jason Jones Ext: 78474
Lead Directorate: Justice and Community Safety

TRIM Ref: 2019/000034-040

Portfolio: Attorney-General

ISSUE: EASTMAN TRIAL UPDATE

Talking points:

- The retrial of Mr David Harold Eastman demonstrated that the ACT judicial system is functioning independently and appropriately. The system has upheld the defendant's right to an open, transparent, and fair trial.
- I thank the jury for its service on this matter.
- The interests of justice have been served and it is not appropriate to comment on either the outcome or the antecedents of the trial.
- The murder of Colin Winchester has had a profound impact on our community. Our thoughts are with the Winchester family.

If asked -

Was this a waste of taxpayer money?

- We have a responsibility to provide our community with transparent, accessible, and timely court services. As a Government we have and will continue to invest the necessary resources to meet that obligation.
- The ACT Government provided funding for the ACT Courts and Tribunal, Legal Aid, the Director of Public Prosecutions and ACT Policing for the retrial of Mr David Eastman.

Why was Eastman retried when there were so many doubts?

- Everyone affected by a crime – victims, family members, the person accused, and the whole community – is entitled to a fair trial.
- The Government's role in this process is to support the justice system to afford fair trials. Decisions about whether to prosecute, appeal, or take any other legal action in relation to crime are properly within the remit of the Director of the Public Prosecutions.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 23/11/2018
Cleared by: Deputy Executive Director Ext: 70674
Information Officer name: Kelly Williams
Contact Officer name: Adele Banks Ext: 59553
Lead Directorate: Justice and Community
Safety

What about compensation for Mr Eastman?

- At this juncture, it would not be appropriate to discuss the question of any compensation to Mr Eastman as he has legal proceedings on foot arising from the circumstances of the original trial.

Will the Government hold an inquiry into ACT Policing's investigation of the Eastman matter?

- Our justice system depends on an open and transparent trial, and this has occurred. This has been a lengthy and complex trial.
- The government acknowledges the jury's decision and will not make further comment at this time.

Background Information

The re-trial of Mr Eastman was completed on 22 November 2018 with the jury returning a verdict of not guilty.

Total additional funding provided for the Eastman matter since 2012-13 is approximately \$29m (as detailed below). This amount relates to the additional funding provided, not the expenditure, for the Eastman matter.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	23/11/2018	
Cleared by:	Deputy Executive Director	Ext: 70674
Information Officer name:	Kelly Williams	
Contact Officer name:	Adele Banks	Ext: 59553
Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	

Portfolio/s: Chief Minister, Health & Wellbeing, Attorney-General, Police & Emergency Services

ISSUE: Government Position on Drugs of Dependence (Personal Cannabis Use) Amendment Bill

Talking points:

- The Government takes a clear harm minimisation position to drug use in our community.
- We do not condone personal use of cannabis and we know there are health risks for individuals that do use it. However, we also acknowledge the simple reality that it's happening Canberra.
- We want to provide an appropriate scheme for those individuals who are already using cannabis and will continue to do so, acknowledging that outright prohibition can bring people into contact with the justice system unnecessarily and prevent people seeking help when they need it.
- The Government supports the Private Members Bill in principle, but notes this is a complex issue that requires proper consideration and debate.
- The ACT has decriminalised personal use of small amounts of cannabis for some time, and the Private Members Bill is largely consistent with the scheme already in place.
- We will take time to consider the scrutiny report and potential Government amendments we believe will improve the Bill from both a health and justice perspective.

Key Information

- We want to put these measures in place to move focus away from small personal users of cannabis so that police efforts can go where they are really needed.
- We know there is still some uncertainty about how these changes will unfold given the complex legal environment. The government is supporting these changes as a trial and will monitor and review their impacts over the coming years.

Cleared as complete and accurate:

Cleared by:

Contact Officer Name:

Lead Directorate:

Director

Andrew Mehrton

Chief Minister, Treasury and
Economic Development

Ext: 58507

Ext: 58507

- We're also taking time to consider government amendments. We want to think this through and take on board the feedback we receive, noting our approach in principle is to support cannabis reform.
- The Bill proposes to legalise the personal cultivation, possession and use of small amounts of cannabis for persons aged 18 or older; possession and use of up to 50 grams of cannabis and cultivation of up to four cannabis plants.
- For persons under 18 years of age it would remain an offence to possess cannabis or cannabis plants and SCONs would continue to be available for use by police.
- The Bill includes other minor elements such as new offences for smoking cannabis in public places or near children; and consequential amendments to the *Criminal Code 2002* (ACT) and the *Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act 2008*.
- Whilst no other Australian jurisdiction has legalised the personal use of cannabis, National and ACT surveys show community support for the decriminalisation and/or legalisation of cannabis for personal use.

Background Information – may not be suitable for public disclosure

- Under current ACT legislation, the *Drugs of Dependence Act 1989* (Drugs Act), it is an offence to possess cannabis or to cultivate cannabis plants, including in small quantities for personal use.
- The Drugs Act also allows for the use of a Simple Cannabis Offence Notice (SCON) as an alternative to an arrest for the possession of cannabis, if the offence is possession of cannabis weighing no more than 50 grams or possession of no more than two cannabis plants. A SCON is effectively a \$100 fine which, if paid within 60 days, and avoids a criminal conviction being recorded for the offender.
- On 28 November 2018, Michael Pettersson MLA introduced the *Drugs of Dependence (Personal Cannabis Use) Amendment Bill 2018* (the Bill) into the ACT Legislative Assembly.

Cleared as complete and accurate:

Cleared by:

Contact Officer Name:

Lead Directorate:

Director

Andrew Mehrton

Chief Minister, Treasury and
Economic Development

Ext: 58507

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OVERSIGHT BRIEF

Terrorism

- There have been no substantial developments on this issue since the last briefing.
- 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 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: 29 January 2019

OVERSIGHT BRIEF

Aggravated Robberies – Licensed Clubs

- There have been no substantial developments on this issue since the last briefing.
- 2017-18 saw an increase in aggravated robberies against licensed clubs in the ACT.
- ACT Policing established the Crime Disruption Team (CDT) in November 2017 with a primary focus on recidivist offending, including the disruption of robbery offences and ram raids across the ACT.
- The creation of the CDT in November 2017 has addressed the increase in aggravated robberies at licenced club premises through intelligence-led targeting of suspects and recidivist offenders.
- On 17 November 2018, an unidentified male entered the Mawson Club with what appeared to be a firearm.
 - After an unsuccessful attempt to open the cash register, the man ran from the club without taking anything
 - No persons were harmed during the incident
 - Investigations are ongoing
 - This is the first aggravated robbery on a licensed club since 6 February 2018.

Cleared by: ACTP-C-MPP

Date: 29 January 2019

OVERSIGHT BRIEF

Aggravated Robberies

General

- There have been no substantial developments on this issue since the last briefing.
- ACT Policing established the Crime Disruption Team (CDT) in November 2017 with a primary focus on recidivist offending, including the disruption of robbery offences and ram raids across the ACT.
- Aggravated robberies in the ACT decreased from 196 aggravated robberies in 2016-17 to 185 aggravated robberies in 2017-18.
- Aggravated robberies are being addressed by the CDT through;
 - Intelligence-led identification and targeting of known recidivist offenders.
 - Engagement with licensed premises and Clubs ACT.
 - Targeted recovery of stolen property and the instigation of COCA proceedings as appropriate.
 - The targeted recovery of stolen property from recidivist offenders. In 2017-18, CDT recovered in excess of \$2 million of stolen property.
- There have been 82 aggravated robberies reported to ACT Policing in between 1 July 2018 and 31 December 2018.
- On 17 November 2018, an unidentified male entered the Mawson Club with what appeared to be a firearm.
 - After an unsuccessful attempt to open the cash register, the man ran from the club without taking anything.
 - No persons were harmed during the incident.
 - Investigations are ongoing.
 - This is the first aggravated robbery on a licensed club since 6 February 2018.
- The ACT community can be confident ACT Policing is well resourced to deliver a quality service through the flexible deployment of our capabilities in response to changing 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: 29 January 2019

OVERSIGHT BRIEF

Conducted Electrical Weapons

- There have been no substantial developments on this issue since the last briefing.
- 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 Conducted Electrical Weapons (CEWs).
- The 480+ CEWs are inclusive of the replacement of existing CEWs that have reached the end of their 5-year operational life.
- How the new CEWs 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 CEWs fitted with body worn 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.
- As this matter remains before the ACT Coroner, it would be inappropriate to comment further.

Increase in use of CEW – ACT Policing Annual Report 2017-18

- An increase in the number of CEW available to ACT Policing can be expected to correspond with an increase in use. Use in relation to CEW encompasses instances where a member draws, aims or discharges a CEW.

OVERSIGHT BRIEF

- ACT Policing reports an increase use of CEW from 45 occasions in 2016-17 to 199 occasions in 2017-18 (an increase of 154 or 342%)
- During the same period, ACT Policing reports a 53.2% decrease in the use of a baton and a 24% decrease in the use of a chemical agent (OC).
- Overall, ACT Policing reports a decrease of 8.5% in the number of use of force reports in the 2017-18.
- ACT Policing also reports an increase in the number of instances of unauthorised discharge of CEW in 2017-18.
 - The majority of these discharges were found to have occurred during function testing performed at the commencement of a shift. These tests are administrative in nature and are conducted to ensure the CEWs are in proper working order.
 - In May 2018, ACT Policing released changes to the CEW test/load/unload process to enhance operational safety and, where possible, mitigate the risk of unauthorised discharge.
- 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 Commissioner's Order 3, ACT Policing officers may only use a CEW 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
 - Deter attacking animals.

Cleared by: ACTP-C-MPP

Date: 29 January 2019

OVERSIGHT BRIEF

AFP Initiative: Mental Health

- In 2018, there were four suicides that took place within Australian Federal Police premises.
- Two suicide incidents occurred at Melbourne office. The other two suicides occurred at AFP Headquarters in Canberra, both within six weeks of each other.
- Over the past two years, the AFP has demonstrated that the physical and mental health of its people is a high priority by engaging professional expertise and support from both inside and outside Australia.
- The AFP will continue to explore new ways of providing support and easing the pressures on a workforce that is under constant pressure to get the job done.

Key initiatives

- AFP Health & Wellbeing Strategy launched in May 2018.
- The AFP has a contracted external Employee Assistance Program, provided by Benestar, which is a confidential counselling service available to all personnel, former members and their families.
- The AFP has an Early Access Program that provides early, coordinated and effective responses to work related injury/illness including medical, psychological and vocational rehabilitation.
- The welfare officer network provides peer support to members, families and former members.
- The AFP partnered with Lifeline Australia over intensive periods such as the Christmas and Australia Day holidays to provide a dedicated hotline for AFP personnel.
- The AFP will continue to partner with Lifeline Australia into the future to deliver a range of first-responder specific training (Road 2 Mental Readiness from Canada).
- The AFP participated in the Beyond Blue national mental health and wellbeing study of police and emergency services.
 - Results indicate that the ACT Policing and AFP are on average below the police average for:
 - Prevalence of very high stress and probable PTSD
 - Suicidal thoughts
 - Substance misuse
 - The AFP scored higher than the police average in demonstrating a commitment to addressing mental illness.

OVERSIGHT BRIEF

- In late 2018, the AFP changed its policy to access firearms afterhours at AFP Headquarters. .
- This has not been implemented within ACT Policing as it would have a significant adverse affect on operational responsiveness.
- ACT Policing is undertaking a review to consider firearm storage arrangements for ACT Policing within the context of organisation health and member welfare.

Cleared by: ACTP-C-MPP

Date: 25 January 2019

OVERSIGHT BRIEF

Underpayments of Superannuation

- There have been no substantial developments on this issue since the last briefing.
- In 2018, the AFP identified a shortcoming in its calculation of superannuation entitlements for a number of employees.
- It is estimated 3700 past and present federal police employees across Australia have been underpaid.
- Due to the complex nature of the adjustments required, work is still underway to identify those members affected, and determine the quantum of shortcoming.
- The correction process will take some time as ACT Policing works through each member's individual situation.
- At present, the AFP has allocated \$24.466m to address this shortcoming.
- While the AFP works through the full implications of this matter, there will be no direct effect to community policing services delivered by ACT Policing.

Cleared by: ACTP-C-MPP

Date: 29 January 2019

OVERSIGHT BRIEF

Motor vehicle theft

- Motor vehicle theft offences have decreased by 23.8% (or 380 offences) in the 2018 calendar year, when compared with the 2017 calendar year (1217 offences in 2018, down from 1597 in 2017).
- ACT Policing continues to target recidivist motor vehicle offenders, resulting in the following outcomes during the 2018 Calendar year:
 - 91 individual offenders arrested for theft and/or illegal use of a motor vehicle.
 - 319 charges laid for theft and/or illegal use of a motor vehicle
 - More than \$1.4 million in stolen vehicles and property recovered
- ACT Policing continues to engage the community to raise awareness about motor vehicle theft and opportunistic crime prevention.
 - On Friday 18 January 2018, ACT Policing issued a media release reminding the community about the importance of vehicle security.
- ACT Policing Crime Disruption Team, Intelligence teams, and General Duties Officers continue to work collaboratively to apply intelligence lead approaches to identifying offenders in this crime type.

Cleared by: ACT-MPP

Date: 31 January 2019

OVERSIGHT BRIEF

Police Pursuits

- There have been no substantial developments on this issue since the last briefing.

Police Vehicle 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.
- The Government introduced new laws in 2016 to give police enhanced investigative powers and higher penalties to deal with drivers who fail to stop for police.
 - The penalties for failing to stop for police are among the highest for any traffic offence with a maximum penalty of 12 months imprisonment and \$15,000 in fines, or 3 years imprisonment and \$45,000 for repeat offenders.
- These laws were introduced at the same time ACT Policing moved to a limited pursuit policy.
- Police do not pursue drivers unless it is to prevent a serious risk to public health or safety, or to prevent serious injury or death.

Canberra Times Article – Cross Border Pursuits

- On Sunday 28 October 2018, the Canberra Times published an article on ACT Policing's limited pursuit policy and cross-border pursuits.
- Part 3.17 of the AFP National Guideline on Urgent Duty Driving and Pursuits details governance in the event of cross border pursuits.
 - ACT Policing operations must take all reasonable steps to seek permission from NSW Police to continue the pursuit until NSW Police can take over.
 - ACT Police officers continuing a pursuit into NSW must comply with both the ACT pursuit policy and the NSW 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.
- It should be noted that ACT Policing's current pursuit policy was not in effect at the time this incident occurred. ACT Policing has reviewed the findings from Coroner Morrison's report.

Cleared by: ACTP-C-MPP

Date: 29 January 2019

OVERSIGHT BRIEF

Liquor Reform Package

- There have been no substantial developments on this issue since the last briefing.
- The ACT 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 ACT Government's investment of \$4.814 million over four years commencing from 2017-18 financial year, 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: 29 January 2019

OVERSIGHT BRIEF

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: 29 January 2019

OVERSIGHT BRIEF

Social media pages – RBT and Speed cameras

- There have been no substantial developments on this issue since the last briefing.
- 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.

Cleared by: ACTP-C-MPP

Date: 29 January 2019

OVERSIGHT BRIEF

On-road cyclists – A metre matters

- There have been no substantial developments on this issue since the last briefing.
- Road safety is a priority for ACT Policing and should be a priority for all road users.
- ACT Policing, in conjunction with the Justice and Community Safety Directorate (JaCS) is dedicated to the ACT Road Safety Strategy 2011-2020, which prioritises a Vision Zero approach to road safety.
- 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.

Inquest into the Death of of Michael Hall

- ACT Policing notes the conclusion of the inquest into the death of UK cyclist Michael Hall.
- As the Coroner has not yet handed down their findings, it would be inappropriate to provide further comment at this time.

Cleared by: ACTP-C-MPP

Date: 29 January 2019

OVERSIGHT BRIEF

Complaints regarding ACT Policing members

- There have been no substantial developments on this issue since the last briefing.
- A request under the *Freedom of Information Act* was received by ACT Policing from the *Canberra Times* seeking details of serious misconduct and use of force allegations made against ACT Policing members from July 2016 – June 2018.
 - Records relating to 85 complaint allegations were released
 - 28 complaints resulted in a finding of misconduct
 - One complaint resulted in a finding of corruption
 - 45 complaints since July 2016 related to use of excessive force
- ACT Policing does not tolerate misconduct from its members and all allegations against ACT Policing members are thoroughly investigated.
 - Complaints relating to serious misconduct are investigated by the AFP's Professional Standards area and are also reported to the Commonwealth Ombudsman for additional oversight.
 - Complaints relating to customer service matters and minor misconduct are investigated by ACT Policing's Complaint Management Team.
- In the 2017-18 financial year, almost 40 per cent of alleged conduct breaches were reported by an ACT Policing member, including conduct that was self reported. This high percentage of internally-generated complainants indicates the strength of the AFP complaint management framework.

Use of Force

- All AFP members, including ACT Policing members, must act in accordance with Commissioner's Order 3 (CO3), which governs the use of force by members.
- Under CO3, all ACT Policing officers are required to successfully complete use of force training annually. The training focuses on communication and conflict de-escalation as alternatives to physical force.
- ACT Policing reviews every instance of a use of force to ensure it complies with ACT Policing and AFP standards and policies.

Cleared by: ACTP-C-MPP

Date: 31 January 2019

OVERSIGHT BRIEF

Petrol Drive off Incidents

- ACT Policing has a standard operating procedure for attending Petrol Drive Off (PDO) incidents in the ACT.
- All decisions to commence prosecution for criminal activity are made on a case by case basis and having regard to the availability of admissible evidence. Standard operating procedures, such as the PDO stand operating procedure, assist Police Officers in managing investigations.
- The standard operating procedure and “Petrol Drive Off – Report to Police” form available on the ACT Policing Website are in the process of being updated. Once this update has been completed, Petrol Station owners will be appraised of changes, if any.
- Complainants are required to report PDO incidents to ACT Policing utilising the “Petrol Drive Off- Report to Police” form available on the ACT Policing Website.
- In the event of an emergency of life threatening incident, members of the public should contact Police on 000. Under the current standard operating procedure, ACT Policing undertakes the following course of action;
 - Where the complainant elects to report the incident without provision of supporting evidence and police detect no evidence of secondary criminality, the complainant will be provided with a PROMIS incident number for their reporting/insurance use and no further action will be taken by police. Such records provide important intelligence for Police, and can lead to subsequent police action and/or prosecutions.
 - Where the complainant elects to report the incident without provision of supporting evidence and police identify evidence of secondary criminality such as repeat offences, stolen number plates or stolen vehicles, an investigation will be undertaken by Police.
 - Where the complainant elects to report the incident and provides supporting evidence such as CCTV and a witness statement, and there is no evidence of secondary criminality, a police investigation will be undertaken by Police
 - Complainants will be required, within seven days of reporting the incident, to commit to the judicial process and attend the relevant police station with supporting evidence and to provide a witness statement.

OVERSIGHT BRIEF

- It is important to note;
 - Police will not demand payment on behalf of complainants as a means to finalising PDO incidents.
 - ACT Policing’s principal focus is on the criminality of the offence and will not recover debts on behalf of service stations or complainants.
- ACT Policing encourages the adoption of “Pay before you pump” practices as a method of crime reduction.
- ACT Policing assesses all incidents on a case-by-case basis. Police encourage members of the public to report all crimes to Police on 131 444, and life threatening or time critical emergencies on 000.

Cleared by: C-MPP

Date: 29 January 2019

OVERSIGHT BRIEF

ACTF&R Attending Medical Assists

Talking points

- In general, ACTF&R will attend a medical assist if they are the closest unit in the area or if ACTAS has requested assistance. In circumstances such as this, ACTF&R can initially respond to a medical incident until such time as an ambulance resource is available. This is coordinated through the ESA Communications Centre (ComCen) under the direction of ACTAS.
- Between 1 July 2017 and 30 June 2018, ACTF&R attended 368 medical assist incidents. This ranges from conducting assessment only to providing CPR to a patient. This averages to around one per day. To put this into context, as reported in the 2017-18 Justice and Community Safety Annual Report, over the same period:
 - ACTAS responded to 52,426 medical incidents, which averages to approximately 144 incidents per day; and
 - ACTF&R responded to 10,464 fire, rescue, and other incidents including hazardous materials (Hazmat) and Automatic Fire Alarms, which averages to approximately 29 incidents per day.
- ACTF&R personnel are all first aid-qualified and can provide a range of immediate assistance, including use of a defibrillator.
- ACTAS has utilised ACTF&R's first response capacity for many years, where CPR is in progress and the ACTF&R unit is closer. This is in line with international best practice and is one of many factors that has resulted in steadily increasing survival rates for out-of-hospital cardiac arrest in the ACT.

Key Information

- The Council of Ambulance Authorities (of which ACTAS is a member) has adopted the 10 point out-of-hospital cardiac arrest improvement plan, as developed by the Resuscitation Academy in Seattle, USA. Seattle is recognised as having the world's best community cardiac arrest survival rates. This plan highlights that responding the closest first response unit with CPR and defibrillator capability is a key element to improving survival from cardiac arrests.
- Survival from out-of-hospital cardiac arrest is typically quite low; historically around 10%. An audit of cardiac arrest survival in the ACT was conducted in 2014 and found a survival discharge rate of 18%. The latest audit conducted in 2017 found survival to discharge had increased to 31%.

Cleared by: Dominic Lane

Date: 24 January 2019

OVERSIGHT BRIEF

ACT Fire & Rescue (ACTF&R) and Light Rail

- A Light Rail 'Extrication exercise' between ACTF&R and Canberra Metro was successfully carried out on 6 December 2018.
- ACTF&R are working closely with Canberra Metro to refine their emergency call out procedures to manage any Light Rail incidents involving motor vehicle or trapped pedestrian issues.
- ACTF&R have developed, and introduced into service, Standard Operating Guidelines which detail the unique operating environment and hazard mitigation strategies and procedure for firefighters called to any Light Rail incident.
- ACTF&R are awaiting the arrival of an extra airbag for their Technical Rescue Pod to support Light Rail rescue operations. It is expected the airbag will arrive prior to the commencement of Light Rail operations. This equipment complements the carriage heavy lifting equipment that is currently being introduced into service by ACTF&R.

Cleared by: Dominic Lane

Date: 30 January 2019

OVERSIGHT BRIEF

ACT Ambulance Service (ACTAS) Fees and Exemptions

- Ambulance fees and charges are approved by the Minister for Police and Emergency Services and are reviewed annually, on 1 July. Currently, the cost of an emergency ambulance service (including treatment and transport) is \$959 plus \$13 per kilometre for every kilometre travelled outside the ACT. An emergency ambulance service (including treatment but not transport) is \$665. Medicare does not cover the cost of the provision of ambulance services.
- Those exempt from paying ambulance fees in the ACT include:
 - School Students
 - Pensioners and Concession Card Holders who are in receipt of Centrelink entitlements
 - Incidents involving a motor vehicle on an ACT road or road related area
 - Acts of Good Samaritans
 - Persons in lawful custody
 - Minors under Care Orders
 - Deceased Persons
 - Victims of domestic or family violence or sexual assault
- Applications for review of an ambulance account on the basis of financial hardship, other exceptional circumstances, or disputing the invoice, must be made in writing, accompanied by any supporting documentation to Shared Services Ambulance Finance.
- Further information is available on the ESA website at <http://esa.act.gov.au/actas/fees-and-charges/>

Cleared by: Dominic Lane

Date: 25 January 2019

OVERSIGHT BRIEF

Defibrillators used by ACTAS

- The safety of patients is paramount for the ACT Ambulance Service (ACTAS). ACTAS actively checks and maintains equipment regularly to ensure its safety and effectiveness.
- MRx defibrillator units are currently used in the ACT. All defibrillator units are regularly serviced and, in addition, all ambulance vehicles carry an additional defibrillator at all times.
- Replacement of all MRx defibrillator units will occur in 2019 as part of a scheduled equipment renewal process.

Cleared by: Dominic Lane

Date: 25 January 2019

OVERSIGHT BRIEF

UFU matters in the media

Talking Points:

Application to High Rise Buildings in Canberra

- Recent Canberra Times reporting has quoted the Chairman of 'Engineers Australia's Society of Fire Safety' (EASFS) declaring "sloppy commissioning and maintenance of fire prevention systems could put lives at risk". Reference is also made in the article to the Fire Protection Association of Australia (FPAA).
- The ESA Commissioner is a referral entity for building approval applications under the *Building Regulation 2008* and the ACTF&R Community Resilience section provide advice on those referrals as required.
- Despite intimation to the contrary by the Canberra Times, ACTF&R actively carry out inspections of fire prevention systems in new buildings with a floor space greater than 500 metres and older buildings where renovations involved more than 50 per cent of the floor space.
- ACTF&R Community Safety Section staff also undertake post occupancy inspections where there is a suspected or identified contravention of the Emergency Services Act 2004, for example, blocked fire doors or compromised exit pathways.
- Post occupancy inspections are also carried out if it is identified or suspected that building fire safety systems (e.g. sprinklers, smoke alarms) are not being maintained to a "reasonable standard" as required by the Emergencies Act 2004. ACTF&R are currently pursuing adoption of *AS 1851-2012 Routine service of fire protection systems and equipment*, to clarify maintenance requirements for industry.

Design and Construction Fire Risk Warning

- Recent reporting in the Canberra Times states that the ACT Government was warned of "very disturbing" design and construction practices by Mal Wilson, a structural engineer. In particular, the reporter, Dan Jervis-Brady, wrote that he had seen a letter written by Mr Wilson, dated 23 March 2013, that was "sent to the government construction services" which warned of design flaws.
- The article refers to an independent fire consultant's report as the basis for the warning to government. It should be noted that an independent fire consultant's report is not part of the building approval process. It is more probable that it could have been raised as a post-occupancy report commissioned by a concerned party.
- There is no record of any fire related issues pertaining to the five properties listed in the letter allegedly sent to the construction services branch and copied to the ACT Chief Fire Officer in 2013.
- ACTF&R have no record of ever receiving the aforementioned letter or of the fire consultant's report for the Elara Apartments.

OVERSIGHT BRIEF

- Of the five properties listed, ACTF&R have one fire engineering report for the Pulse Apartments in Gungahlin.
- Disputed issues surrounding water leakage or other structural concerns are outside of ACTF&R's legislated area of authority or responsibility.

Station Upgrade and Relocation Program (SURP)

- I am aware of the recent article published in The Canberra Times, suggesting that the ACT Emergency Service Agency's (ESA) Station Upgrade and Relation Program (SURP) is a "litany of disasters".
- I am advised by the ESA that the article itself, and the claims within it made by the United Firefighters Union (UFU), contains a number of inaccuracies.
- Since SURP was announced in 2011, it has delivered our emergency service personnel with state-of-the-art facilities that are the envy of most jurisdictions in Australia.
- The strategic location and design of these facilities allow for faster response times which has a direct impact on community safety, and ensures that Canberra remains ones of the safest communities in the world to live.
- This is reflected in the Report on Government Services (ROGS). ROGS is published annually by the Productivity Commission and examines the performance of governments across Australia in key service areas, including emergency management.
- The ACT is consistently amongst the leading performers nationally in relation to fire and other events and ambulance services.

Cleared by: Dominic Lane

Date: 8 February 2019

OVERSIGHT BRIEF

MPES 2018-19 Half-Yearly Statement of Performance Report

Talking Points:

Financial Summary

- The YTD Actual for Total Cost and Controlled Recurrent Payments are in line with the YTD Target with no significant variances.

Prevention and Preparedness – Accountability Indicator 4.1(b)

- The YTD Actual for 4.1 (b) Field Assessments of Access Management Upgrades and Hazard Reduction burns conducted in accordance with Bushfire Operational Plans (BOP) of ACT Government directorates has been stated as Not Applicable. So far in the 2018-19 FY, there have been no hazard reduction burns or access upgrades activities conducted in accordance with any approved BOPs and therefore no field audits have been conducted. These activities are heavily reliant on advantageous weather conditions in order to conduct the activities safely and to limit the risk of escape. So far in the 2018-19 FY the conditions have not been conducive for these activities to be undertaken. This is why the result is Not Applicable.

Prevention and Preparedness – Accountability Indicator 4.1(c)

- The YTD Actual for (c) Percentage of ESA staff who have completed accredited training in AIMS was 71%, this represented a -11% variance on the 80% target. The target for this indicator was raised from 70% to 80% for the 2018-19 FY. This was due to ESA consistently achieving the previous target. ESA Training have made a concerted effort to promote the AIMS Training and have achieved great success, but this training has not previously been mandated to ACT Ambulance Service. ESA Training are now working with the ACT Ambulance Service to help staff undertake this training. As a result ESA has not yet met this target.

Response and Recovery – Accountability Indicator 4.1 (f)

- The YTD Actual for (f) Ambulance priority 1 - Incident Response Time 50th percentile (minutes) was 9.1, this represented a 14% variance on the 8.0 minute target. The lower than target result for this performance measure is due to an increase in demand for ambulance services. The ACT Ambulance Service is currently engaged in a process of recruiting lateral and graduate paramedics, which should help alleviate this pressure. This is to meet the election commitment to increase front line staff during this term of government.

OVERSIGHT BRIEF

Response and Recovery – Accountability Indicator 4.1 (h)

- The YTD Actual for (h) Percentage of Patient Transport Services 'fixed booking' attended by booked time was 73%, this represented a 12% variance on the 65% target.

The higher than target result for this performance measure is due to improved booking procedures. Prior to the improved procedures being implemented, there was fixed bookings being made at times where the Patient Transport Services were unable to meet the booking time due to rostering and booking conflicts. This has now been addressed with the new booking procedure and has resulted in improved performance against this performance measure.

Cleared by: Dominic Lane

Date: 7 February 2019

OVERSIGHT BRIEF

Bushfire Risk and Planning at Ginninderry

- In planning for new estates in or near bushfire-prone areas the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate works very closely with the ESA.
- 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 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 formal lodgement of a Development Application and advice from technical experts, including those within ESA Risk and Planning and the ACT Rural Fire Service.

Cleared by: Dominic Lane

Date: 25 January 2019

OVERSIGHT BRIEF

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 Bushfire Abatement Zone (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 in recent fire seasons, 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.

Cleared by: Dominic Lane

Date: 25 January 2019

OVERSIGHT BRIEF

ACT Ambulance Service (ACTAS) Blueprint For Change

- The Blueprint For Change implementation project continues to be a high priority for the ACTAS. It also aligns with the broader ACT Emergency Services Agency (ESA) Strategic Reform Agenda.
- During the February 2019 sitting period I will make a Ministerial Statement, updating the Assembly on the closure of all outstanding items, and providing information on the transition to new governance.
- All eight of the original Blueprint For Change recommendations are substantially addressed or have been completed. In light of this, the Blueprint For Change Oversight Committee has recognised a transition of governance and oversight to ACTAS ‘business as usual’ is now required.
- A Transition Plan articulating the key activities and responsibilities to successfully transition these responsibilities to “business as usual” has been accepted and endorsed by the Oversight Committee.
- As the project enters its final stage, ACTAS is extremely well positioned to deliver the remaining outcomes. As such, it will now transition from the Oversight Committee to the Governance and Compliance Committee. The new Committee will still seek the input of independent representatives to ensure a variety of perspectives continue to be considered in the final delivery phases.
- The project continues to receive strong support from Government, the Transport Workers Union and workplace representatives.

Cleared by: Dominic Lane

Date: 25 January 2019

OVERSIGHT BRIEF

ACT Emergency Services Agency (ESA) 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.

Cleared by: Dominic Lane

Date: 30 January 2019

OVERSIGHT BRIEF

JACS Ongoing Issues

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

Integrity Commission background

- The ACT Legislative Assembly passed the Integrity Commission Act 2018 on 29 November 2018.
- Establishing the Commission was an election commitment of this Government and is an item in the Parliamentary Agreement.
- The Act was the product of two Select Committee inquiries, sustained public consultation and extensive negotiations between the Government, the Opposition and Greens MLAs.
- The Act creates an ACT Integrity Commission tasked with investigating corrupt conduct relating to the public sector, referring complaints to appropriate entities and conducting education and training.
- The Integrity Commission has jurisdiction to investigate corrupt conduct committed by a range of public officials, including ACT public servants, MLAs and their staff, statutory office holders including boards and committees and third party contractors.
- The Commission must prioritise the investigation of serious or systemic corrupt conduct.
- The ACT Integrity Commission is tasked with investigating prospective and current matters, with some limited ability to retrospectively review matters committed after the Territory acquired self-government in 1989.
- 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

OVERSIGHT BRIEF

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.

- The Integrity Commission is due to commence operations on 1 July 2019.

Coverage of ACT Policing

- Corrupt conduct committed by members of ACT Policing is currently investigated by Commonwealth bodies including Australian Federal Police's Professional Standards Unit and the Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity.
- The ACT Government believes the ACT should have oversight of corrupt conduct committed by its police force.
- The Legislative Assembly currently lacks legislative power to pass laws with respect to ACT Policing.
- The Commonwealth Government will need to amend a range of Commonwealth laws to remove the impediments that block the Legislative Assembly from legislating about ACT Policing, including parts of the *Australian Capital Territory (Self-Government) Act 1988*.
- The Government tabled the *Integrity Commission (ACT Policing) Amendment Bill 2018 (Exposure Draft)* in the Legislative Assembly on 27 November 2018.
- The purpose of the exposure draft is to signal to the Assembly, ACT Policing and the Australian Government that the ACT is committed to the Integrity Commission acquiring oversight of corrupt conduct committed by ACT Policing.
- This exposure draft provides an opportunity for the ACT Government to progress discussions with the Commonwealth.

MINISTER FOR POLICE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

QUESTION TIME BRIEFS

19-21 March 2019

Joint QTBs	
1.	Budget Review and Budget
2.	Wellbeing and support for frontline emergency responders
3.	Assaults on ACTAS Emergency Services Personnel and ACT Police
4.	Serious and Organised crime response
5.	OMCG incidents
6.	Safety of Women in our Community
7.	Vehicle Fires
ACT Police QTBs	
8.	Key Data ACT Policing
9.	ACT Policing Crime Statistics
10.	ACT Policing Staffing Demands
SEMB QTBs	
11.	Public Safety CCTV Network
12.	National Security
ESA QTBs	
13.	Key Data ESA
14.	ACTAS Resourcing
15.	Election Commitments
16.	ComCen Update (UFU issues, recruitment of call techs) (recent developments in NSW)
17.	Bushfires
18.	ACTF&R Aerial Capability
19.	UFU Application for Protected Action under the Fair Work Act
Cross-Government	
20.	Cannabis
21.	
22.	

Oversight Brief

ACT Policing Hot Issues)

1. Aggravated Robberies – (covering General & Licensed Premises)
2. AFP Initiative: Mental Health
3. Calls for Police Assistance - Coombs and Wright
4. Decrease in Random Breath Tests – The Canberra Times Enquiry

ACT Policing Ongoing Issues

5. Police Pursuits (include update on current investigation)
6. Liquor Reform Package - Policing
7. Complaints regarding ACT Policing

ESA Hot Issues

8. ACTF&R Attending Medical Assists
9. ACTF&R and Light Rail
10. ACTAS Fees and Exemptions
11. Defibrillators used by ACTAS
12. 2018-19 Half Yearly Statement of Performance for MPES
13. Building Site Fire Safety

ESA Ongoing Issues

14. Bushfire Risk and Planning at Ginninderry
15. Bushfire Abatement Zone
16. Blueprint for Change
17. Volunteer Concerns

JACS Ongoing Issues

18. Independent Integrity Commission

Portfolio: Police & Emergency Services**ISSUE: 2018-19 Budget Review Summary – Minister for Police and Emergency Services****Talking points:**

- *Emergency Services*

The 2018-19 Budget Review invests **\$18.7 million** recurrent and **\$2.5 million** capital to deliver:

- **\$2.3 million** over two years to help keep our first responders safe at work by providing new structural personal protective clothing to firefighters, including latest generation outer tunics and overpants.
- **\$2 million** recurrent over four years and **\$1.1 million** capital in 2018-19 year to continue improving the ACT's preparedness for bushfires, including by upgrading the ACT's aerial bushfire fighting aviation fleet to include a Specialist Intelligence Gathering-enabled helicopter. This will enable live-streaming of video and still images so that the Emergency Services Agency can accurately map fires, inform the deployment of firefighting resources, and assess emerging risks. The Government will also supply and install a portable air base at Canberra International Airport so that a large fixed-wing air tanker can be stationed there during the current bushfire season.
- **\$14.4 million** over four years to recruit two additional ambulance crews (30 paramedics) to help ensure the ACT's emergency response times remain the best in the country as our city grows. The capital investment of **\$1.4 million** will see ACTAS fleet expanded with five new ambulances fitted with state-of-the-art electronic stretchers, power loaders and defibrillators

Background

The ACT's 2018-19 Budget Review announcements will include MPES initiatives relating to:

- More services for our suburbs – Better protective clothing for our firefighters
- More services for our suburbs – Enhancing our bushfire preparedness
- More services for our suburbs – More paramedics and ambulances

Cleared as complete and accurate: 12/02/2019
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TRIM Ref: 2019/000013-032

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.
- The ACT Emergency Services Agency has delivered a number of initiatives that enable its volunteers and staff to better manage ever-present stressors that are experienced by emergency service personnel as they seek to protect our community.
- ACT Policing recognises the stress factors of community policing, and is dedicated to early intervention and support strategies for all ACT Policing members.
- 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.
- I would encourage members to go to the Parliament House [website](#) and read the written submissions received. In particular, I draw Member's attention to a submission by the ACT Emergency Services Agency (ESA) Commissioner, Mr Dominic Lane, which is consistent with the Government's focus on improving support for emergency services first responders.
- On 7 November 2018, Mr Lane and ACT Ambulance Service Chief Officer, Mr Howard Wren, were also invited to give evidence at one of the Public Hearings in relation to the submission.
- The Senate Committee Report was tabled in the Senate on 14 February 2019. The Government is considering what the

Cleared as complete and accurate: 07/03/2019
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Safety
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TRIM Ref: 2019/000013-032

Senate Committee had to say on this important subject and its recommendations, to inform how we might better support our first responders.

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 conducted a review of the 'early intervention wellbeing support system' implemented by Victoria Police and developed an equivalent AFP wellbeing program that is currently being trialled.
- In August 2018, AFP Organisational Health commenced this pilot wellbeing program with a number of ACT Policing teams. The program encourages members to seek early assistance with support from supervisors. This program is still in its infancy but is anticipated to assist in facilitating early intervention and support for ACT Policing members where required.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	07/03/2019	
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Information Officer name:	Dominic Lane	
TRIM Ref:	2019/000013-032	

- Additional resources available to ACT Policing members include a Fitness app and the 'equipt' wellbeing app.
- Earlier this month, the AFP committed to providing access to the Road to Mental Readiness Courses through Lifeline. These courses were launched in February 2019 and will be open to ACT Policing members for at least the next two years.
- This is an Australian-first partnership and the program will equip officers with coping strategies and tools to encourage them to address mental health concerns earlier.
- The program originated with Canadian armed forces before being expanded to first responders with great success over 10 years of operation.
- First responders that have participated in the program have shown:
 - an increase in resiliency skills;
 - a decrease in stigmatizing attitudes; and an increase in mental health well being.

Key Information

- Submissions to the Senate Committee inquiry were provided by the AFP, ESA, and Mr Pat Jones, an ACT firefighter who provided a submission in a personal capacity.
- The outcomes of the Senate Committee inquiry may provide guidance and inform the ongoing supports provided to first responders in the ACT.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 07/03/2019
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Information Officer name: Dominic Lane
TRIM Ref: 2019/000013-032

TRIM Ref: 2019/000013-024

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

- There is currently no dedicated offence provision criminalising assaults against police or emergency service workers in the ACT.
- 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.
- ACT emergency service personnel also rely on ACT legislation for offences relating to obstruction or hindrance under Section 361 of the *ACT Criminal Code 2002*.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	07/03/2019	
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Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Dominic Lane	
TRIM Ref:	2019/000013-024	

**ISSUE: SERIOUS AND ORGANISED CRIME RESPONSE
(including anti-consorting)**

Criminal gangs are involved in illegal 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 criminal gangs in order to ensure Canberra is a safe and secure community.
- Most recently the ACT Government has committed to the establishment of ACT-specific laws to strip unexplained wealth from people involved with criminal gangs.
- The ACT Government remains of the view that anti-consorting laws are not an effective mechanism for targeting and disrupting criminal gang activity in the ACT.
- ACT Policing has established Taskforce Nemesis – to focus on operational and investigative responses to criminal gang 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.
- Over the past 12 months a number of steps have been taken by the ACT Government to help law enforcement effectively target organised crime, including the introduction of crime scene powers, fortification laws and offences related to drive by shooting.
- In 2018 the Government committed \$980,000 to the ACT Office of the DPP to boost their ability to seize criminal assets depriving criminals and criminal organisations of proceeds of crime.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 05/03/2018
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Lead Directorate: Justice and Community
Safety
Cleared for release: Yes
Information Officer name: Richard Glenn
TRIM Ref: 2019/000034-028

- In the 2018-19 Budget, a further \$1.6 million over four years was provided to Taskforce Nemesis. This funds two specialist officers, a forensic accountant and surveillance team member, to bolster the taskforces ability to combat organised crime, strip criminal wealth and improve surveillance capability to monitor the activity of criminal gangs.

Anti-consorting laws

- The ACT Government has consistently not supported the introduction of anti-consorting laws. The Government remains unconvinced that these laws are the appropriate legislative mechanism for targeting criminal groups such as OMCGs. The fact is criminal gangs haven't stopped operating where these laws have been introduced.
- In jurisdictions that have had such laws in place for some time, most prominently in NSW following the review by the NSW Ombudsman, there is also evidence that anti-consorting laws disproportionately target vulnerable people including youth, people who are homeless, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
- The ACT Government's strong measures to tackle criminal gangs are evidence based. We have actively targeted the financial motivations behind organised crime by funding more police and prosecutors to seize criminal assets, and we are working with the Commonwealth and other jurisdictions to develop new ways of targeting unexplained wealth. That work has and will continue to show concrete results.
- The ACT Government is committed to laws that are evidence based and just and equitable for the entire ACT community.
- We'll keep monitoring the evidence as it becomes available about both the human rights impact and effectiveness in preventing crime of any new legislation.

Crime scene powers and drive-by shootings

- The *Crimes (Police Powers and Firearms Offence) Amendment Act 2017* commenced on 8 December 2017.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	05/03/2018	
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Information Officer name:	Richard Glenn	
TRIM Ref:	2019/000034-028	

- 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 are being effectively used by ACT Policing to support its work to combat criminal groups in the ACT.

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 criminal gang club houses.
- The *Crimes (Fortification Removal) Amendment Act 2017* commenced on 1 September 2018.

ACT Unexplained wealth

- The ACT Government has committed to adopt an unexplained wealth scheme for the ACT.

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- These new powers will complement existing confiscation of criminal assets laws in the ACT by deterring people from engaging in criminal activity and depriving people of their criminal profits.
- ACT Policing and the ACT Director of Public Prosecutions will be able to target those involved in drug trafficking or other serious organised criminal activity and those masterminding or directing criminal activity at arms-length.

National Unexplained Wealth

- The Commonwealth Unexplained Wealth Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 passed Parliament on 19 September 2018.
- The Bill extends Commonwealth unexplained wealth orders to ACT offences.
- Unexplained wealth laws provide a valuable tool to law enforcement to confiscate assets where a person linked to criminal activity cannot reasonably demonstrate that these assets have been lawfully obtained. These mechanisms complement traditional law enforcement responses.
- The Commonwealth scheme has been developed through consultation with states and territories over the past four years. The ACT has been part of these discussions, remaining vigilant in its commitment to work as part of the ongoing national effort to disrupt, disable and dismantle the activities of organised crime.
- On 6 December 2018 the Attorney-General signed the Inter-Governmental Agreement for the Scheme on behalf of the ACT. The IGA will allow the ACT to benefit from key aspects of the scheme including preferable treatment under new equitable sharing arrangements.

Background

At the meeting of the Council of Attorneys-General (CAG) 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. The principles will be considered in further detail at the first CAG meeting in 2019.

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TRIM Ref:	2019/000034-028	

As at 30 January 2019, ACT Policing has identified four Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs (OMCGs) that operate in the ACT with a total number of members associated with the ACT chapters of these Criminal Gangs estimated at approximately 60 people.

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.

Anti-Consorting Laws

On 20 February 2019, shadow Attorney-General, Mr Jeremy Hanson MLA CSC, introduced the Crimes (Anti-Consorting) Bill 2019.

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 (HRC) has provided advice to Mr Hanson on the Bill noting that the Bill's reliance on largely unfettered police discretion is, in their view, incompatible with human rights. The HRC has provided advice on amendments to the Bill they view necessary to make it compatible with human rights.

The ACT Government 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.

Recent media

- On 28 August 2018 [media](#) reported on an image of the Nomads OMCG on Mount Ainslie, which lead to renewed calls for anti-consorting laws from Mr Hanson.
- On 15 November 2018 the [media](#) published an article reporting on the Annual Report hearing conducted on 14 November 2018 in the Police and Emergency Services (JACS) portfolio. The report makes reference to the ACT Opposition party indicating Mr Hanson will attempt to introduce anti-consorting laws for a second time in either late 2018 or early 2019.
- On 29 January 2019 [media](#) reported that the number of bikie gangs with chapters operating inside Canberra has grown to five with the arrival of the European outlaw motorcycle gang Satudarah. Please see QTB 'OMCG Incidents' for ACTP operational information on this issue.

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TRIM Ref:	2019/000034-028	

TRIM Ref: 2019/000031-038

Portfolio: Minister for Police & Emergency Services

Attorney-General

ISSUE: CRIMINAL MOTORCYCLE GANG INCIDENTS

This QTB focuses on the ACT Policing operational aspects. Information about legislative reform, 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 a primary focus for the ACT Government and ACT Policing.
- As at 12 March 2019:
 - There are four known Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs (OMCGs) operating in the ACT.
 - The total number of members associated with ACT chapters of these OMCGs is estimated at approximately 60 people.
- Through Taskforce Nemesis, ACT Policing continues to proactively disrupt criminal gang members to deter and detect criminal activity. This includes the confiscation of criminal assets.
- Serious and organised crime is not limited to openly-identifiable criminal gangs and ACT Policing will continue to proactively target, prosecute and disrupt those involved in serious and organised crime in the ACT - regardless of their individual affiliations.
- ACT Policing has, and will continue to deploy resources flexibly to ensure an appropriate police response to target and disrupt those seeking to cause harm in our community.
- The Government’s 2018-19 Budget commitment of \$1.594 million over four years to bolster the capability of Taskforce Nemesis provides funding for one Forensic Accountant, one Surveillance Team Member, and associated equipment and training. These funded positions will enhance ACT Policing’s capability to respond to serious and organised criminal activity in the ACT.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	13/03/2019	
Cleared by:	Deputy Director-General	Ext:
Contact Officer name:	ACT Policing	Ext:
Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	David pryce	
TRIM Ref:	MIN2019/00031-038	

- The surveillance team member position has been filled.
- Recruitment for the Forensic Accountant is underway. Exact commencement date is dependent on completion of recruitment and security 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). Taskforce Nemesis works closely with the NAGS and other agencies through an embedded officer, liaising on matters of operational and strategic importance. NAGS bring 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.
- ACT Policing has had additional powers available since 2017 that have enhanced our ability to respond to and prosecute criminal gang related acts of violence after the fact.

Recent strategic activity

- ACT Policing has established a Whole of Government (WoG) interagency working group with representatives from a number of local and Commonwealth government agencies to consider all aspects of criminal gang behaviour in the ACT. The group is based on the Commonwealth National Anti-Gang Squad model that brings a whole-of-government approach to addressing this issue.
- Members of the working group include ACT Policing, ACT Housing, NSW Police (Monaro LAC), Australian Border Force, Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission, AUSTRAC, Department of Human Services, and the Australian Taxation Office.

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Recent ACT Policing operational activity

Key Taskforce Nemesis figures (criminal gang related figures)*	2018	1 Jan 2019 to 12 Mar 2019***
Criminal gang members charged**	27	13
Offences charged	78	27
Search warrants executed	100	13
Firearms seized	20	0

*As at 12 March 2019

**Person may be charged on numerous occasions

- On 11 March 2019, ACT Policing responded to firearm incident in Richardson. Investigations reveal a number of shots were fired into a residential premise. Three people were in the premise at the time, and one person was shot in the arm. The victim was transported by ambulance to hospital for further treatment.
 - While the motive for this attack is one matter subject to ongoing investigation, early investigation indicate the incident may be related to OMCG conflict.
- On 2 March 2019, ACT Policing responded to a firearm incident in Theodore. Investigations reveal a number of shots were fired into three separate residential premises, resulting in one person suffering with non-life threatening injuries. The victim was transported by ambulance to hospital for further treatment.
 - While the motive for this attack is one matter subject to ongoing investigation, early investigation indicate the involvement of former OMCG members and/or associates.
- On 4 February 2019, ACT Policing responded to a reported firearms and arson incident in Kambah. Investigations reveal a number of shots were fired into a residential premise and three vehicles set alight. No people were injured in the incident.
 - ACT Fire and Rescue also attended and extinguished the vehicles.
 - The incident is believed to be targeted and related to OMCG activity.

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- As the matter remains subject to investigation by Taskforce Nemesis, it would be inappropriate to provide further comment.
- On 25 January 2019, Taskforce Nemesis arrested a 30 year-old man for aggravated robbery, inflict grievous bodily harm, make a demand with a threat to kill, and attempting to pervert the course of justice in Oaks Estate on 10 January 2019.
 - The man was the President of the ACT Chapter of the Satudarah OMCG. The man is presently remanded in custody and the matter remains before the court
 - On 31 January 2019, a woman was arrested and charged in relation to this matter. The woman was remanded in custody and the matter remains before the court.
 - On 5 February 2019, a third person was arrested and charged with driving a motor vehicle with offences related to the use of a stolen motor vehicle. The man was subsequently charged in relation to the aggravated robbery and was remanded in custody. This man is believed to be the interim president of the ACT Chapter of the Satudarah OMCG.
 - On 9 March 2019, a fourth person was arrested in relation to this matter. The man was remanded in custody and the matter remains before the court.
 - A fifth offender has been identified and is currently remanded in custody in NSW for unrelated matters. Charges and extradition proceedings are being prepared by ACT Policing.
- On 18 January 2019, a physical altercation was reported at the Southern Cross Club in Woden. Approximately 16 Comanchero OMCG members and a number of Nomads OMCG members were involved in the affray.
 - While members of the public were in close proximity and became fearful for their safety, no members of the public were physically harmed in the incident, however, one Nomads OMCG member suffered facial injuries
 - On 8 February 2019, Taskforce Nemesis executed a search warrant on the residence of a Comanchero member. Five

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- Comanchero members, including the Commander of the ACT Chapter of the Comanchero OMCG, were arrested and charged in relation to the Southern Cross club incident.
- On 12 February 2019, a subsequent Comanchero associate was arrested and charged arising from the same matter.
 - Investigations remain ongoing.
 - On 11 December, 2018, ACT Policing's Criminal Investigations Detectives executed a search warrant on an Isabella Plains residence.
 - During the search police located and seized approximately 134 grams of crystal methamphetamine. Police also seized more than \$20,000 which is believed to be the proceeds of selling methamphetamine.
 - A 51-year-old Isabella Plains man with criminal motorcycle gang links was arrested and taken to the watch house where he was charged with trafficking in a controlled drug other than cannabis.
 - The matter is currently before the court.
 - On 9 November, 2018, ACT Policing's Taskforce Nemesis executed search warrants at the residence of the ACT Nomads President.
 - A significant quantity of cocaine, with an estimated street value of \$100,000, ammunition, cash and a prohibited item were seized by police from the residence.
 - A male has been charged with trafficking a prohibited substance, possessing ammunition, proceeds of crime and possessing a prohibited item.
 - The matter is currently before the court.
 - Between 5 October and 7 October 2018, the Black Uhlans Criminal Motorcycle Gang held a National motorcycle run into Canberra.
 - Approximately 97 Black Uhlan members were identified during targeted police activities by way of a vehicle checkpoint along the Barton Highway.
 - The Black Uhlans do not have an established chapter in the ACT.

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- On 6 September 2018, a senior member of the Nomads OMCG pleaded guilty to charges arising from a violent incident at a Monash Tattoo Parlour on 1 February 2018.
- On 5 September 2018, a previously convicted Comanchero OMCG member completed a sentence of imprisonment arising from a firearms incident in March 2015.
 - Upon completion of his sentence, the Comanchero OMCG member was apprehended by Australian Border Force and has been deported due to visa revocation.
- On 3 September 2018, Taskforce Nemesis extradited a man from Victoria to the ACT in relation to a firearm shooting incident at two Calwell residential properties on 28 June 2018.
 - The man was charged with attempted murder and refused bail. This matter is currently before the court.
- On 25 August 2018, the ACT saw its first Nomads OMCG motorcycle run.
 - There was approximately 30 fully participants in attendance that attracted significant public attention.

Background

- Developments in criminal gang membership in the ACT have highlighted the fluid nature of the criminal gang operating environment. Criminal gang membership has traditionally been relatively stable, however, changes to criminal gang membership in recent years highlights a shift towards more fluid concepts of membership. Currently, it is not uncommon for club members to 'patch-over' and change membership to other criminal gangs.
- While such 'patch-overs' have been known to occur from time to time, large numbers of patch overs have occurred in recent years. These changes to club numbers can affect the structure and strength of a criminal gang, and has had a significant impact upon the strength and rivalry between criminal gangs in the ACT.
- 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.

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- The increase in criminal gang members and conflict in the ACT has placed increased resource pressure on ACT Policing requiring ACT Policing to divert considerable resources in support of Taskforce Nemesis.

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Lead Directorate: Justice and Community
Safety
Cleared for release: Yes
Information Officer name: David pryce
TRIM Ref: MIN2019/00031-038

TRIM Reference MIN:2019/000031-036

Portfolios: Police & Emergency Services

ISSUE: SAFETY OF WOMEN IN OUR COMMUNITY

Talking points:

- Canberra remains safe city to live in. ACT Policing advises that the 2018 calendar year showed a 6.2% decrease in sexual assaults, down to 512 from 546 in 2017.
- ACT Policing takes all aggravated assault very seriously and invests every available effort in providing a safer community for ACT residents.
- In 2017-18 the ACT recorded a result of 92.6 per cent for community members who feel safe at home during the night. This is 4.2 per cent above the National average (88.4 per cent).
- 40 per cent of ACT community members surveyed had feelings of safety on public transport in the ACT at night. This is well above the National average of 32.1 per cent.
- These strong results reflect the efforts of the ACT Government and ACT Policing continuing to work with partner agencies and the community to maintain and improve community safety in Canberra’s public spaces and in the intelligence led targeting of criminal activities.

Key Information

- 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 incidences in Haig Park. Haig Park has seen a reduction in offences since 2013 from 19 down to 15 in 2018.

Year (Calendar)	Number of Incidents
2013	19
2014	19
2015	14
2016	18
2017	12
2018	15

Cleared as complete and accurate: 13/03/2019
 Cleared by: Executive Branch Manager
 Contact Officer name: Sch 2, s2.2 (a)(ii)
 Lead Directorate: Justice and Community Safety
 Cleared for release: Yes
 Information Officer name: David Pryce
 TRIM Ref: MIN:2019/000031-036

Ext: [REDACTED]

2019 (YTD)	6
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- There has been three recorded sexual assaults in Haig Park since 2013.

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TRIM Ref: MIN:2019/000031-036

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Trim Ref: 2019/000031-037

Portfolio: Police & Emergency Services**ISSUE: VEHICLE FIRES BUSHFIRE RISK (ESA & ACTP INPUT)****Talking points:**

- The ACT Emergency Services Agency (ESA) and ACT Policing are aware that abandoned vehicles within the rural areas of the ACT pose a potential risk to the community and environment, especially in cases where these vehicles are the cause of a fire.
- The community can be assured that should a vehicle be identified as being abandoned in the rural area, there are processes in place and existing legal powers to have it removed as quickly as possible.
- In December 2018 there was an increase in the number of vehicle fire and stolen motor vehicle incidents reported across the ACT. An increase of this type of offence suggests a possible link to recidivism within the community. Not all vehicle fires are stolen vehicles.
- Due to the recent increase in vehicle fires this bushfire season, the ESA and ACT Policing are working in conjunction with the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate, Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate and Access Canberra to determine whether existing processes can be further improved into the future.
- In addition, the ACT Policing Crime Disruption Team (CDT) were tasked with targeting recidivist car thieves. The CDT subsequently arrested a number of offenders which resulted in the number of stolen motor vehicles in January 2019 almost halving from the previous month.
- The Government is also looking at how technology could be utilised to help improve the detection of abandoned vehicles that may pose a fire risk including through the use of public safety CCTV cameras.

Statistics

- The recent increase in vehicle fires over the hot, dry and windy summer months gives reason for extra concern.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 07/03/2019
Cleared by: Commissioner Ext: 78383
Contact Officer name: Dominic Lane Ext: 78383
Lead Directorate: Justice and Community
Safety
Cleared for release: Yes
Information Officer name: Dominic Lane
TRIM Ref: 2019/000031-037

- Statistics from 1 July 2018 to 14 December 2018 show an average of approximately 14 vehicle fires per month. December 2018 showed a increase in vehicle fire incidents reported to ACT, with 54 incidents reported.
- Over the past two financial years:
 - 2016-17, averaged 22 vehicle fires per month and,
 - 2017-18, averaged 24 vehicle fires per month
- Deliberately lit vehicle fires place the Canberra community at risk of bushfire and our first responders at risk of harm. Arson is a serious offence and our police and emergency services have been diligently responding to car fires this summer.
- The recent Pierces Creek bushfire, in which a fire from a deliberately lit vehicle burnt more than 204 hectares of forest, demonstrated the very real danger of such fires.

Police investigation

- Suspicious vehicle fires reported to ACT Policing are investigated to determine how the fire started and by who.
- ACT Policing acknowledge the emotional and financial impact vehicle thefts and arson can have on individuals and families.
- Vehicle owners can help reduce the risk of theft by keeping their vehicles locked and the keys away from the vehicle when parked.
- Initiatives like CCTV network expansion and increased funding for police can help prevent theft of vehicles and enhance police capacity to investigate vehicle thefts and related arson.

How to report concerns or vehicle fires

- If anyone is aware of any vehicle fire, deliberate or otherwise during the fire season, I urge them to report it on Triple Zero immediately so that the authorities can take swift action.
- Anyone with any information about a deliberately-set fire should contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or via their website. Information can be supplied anonymously.

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Contact Officer name: Dominic Lane Ext: 78383
Lead Directorate: Justice and Community
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Cleared for release: Yes
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TRIM Ref: 2019/000031-037

Key Information

- These increases in stolen motor vehicles and vehicle arson offence were identified as a Regional Operational Priority for ACT Policing. Identification as a Regional Operation Priority facilitates the alignment and allocation of resources from all ACT Policing portfolios
- The Criminal Investigations – Crime Disruption Team (CI-CDT) led the ACT Policing response in combating with this issue. CI-CDT is a flexible resource within ACT Policing that can be redirected to deal with emerging and priority issues for the Canberra Community.
- CI-CDT were tasked with combating with increase in these crime types and a number of offenders have been charged for vehicle related offences. As a result of the work undertaken by CI-CDT, ACT Policing has seen a decrease in this offence type offence.
- While vehicle arson is not presently a Regional Operational Priority, ACT Policing will continue to monitor this crime type.
- The reasons behind increases in offences are often complex and difficult to attribute to a single cause. Factors such as the time of year, availability of opportunistic targets and recidivist offenders being out in the community can contribute to changes in offence rates.
- Through educational programs for the community, redirecting resources to priority issues and interdicting in the cycle of offending for recidivist offenders, the increase in offences can be addressed.
- These types of property offences are often cyclic, and peaks and troughs can be seen for a variety of reasons. It is difficult to attribute recent increases to any one factor.
- Section 32 of the *Road Transport (Safety and Traffic Management) Act 1999* provides that a police officer or authorised person may remove an unattended vehicle from a road or road related area to a retention area in certain circumstances, including, if the police officer or authorised person believes on reasonable grounds that the vehicle is causing, or is likely to cause, a danger to the public or unreasonable obstruction.
- It is considered that the potential bushfire risk posed by someone setting fire to an abandoned vehicle constitutes a sufficient danger to the public. There is no time restriction on when this can be done so vehicles can be removed immediately.
- The Security and Emergency Management Branch of JACS is working with ACT Policing around the use of portable solar public safety CCTV cameras to help improve the detection of abandoned vehicles that may pose a fire risk.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 07/03/2019
Cleared by: Commissioner Ext: 78383
Contact Officer name: Dominic Lane Ext: 78383
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TRIM Ref: 2019/000031-037

TRIM Ref: 2019/000031-021

Portfolio: Police & Emergency Services

ISSUE: ACT POLICING KEY DATA

ACT Policing

Staffing as reported in previous annual reports

2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
FTE – 968.48	FTE – 946.47	Average FTE - 931.27*
Headcount - 909	Headcount - 884	Headcount - 893

*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**	\$158,895,000	\$166,919,000

**As published in 2017-21 Purchase Agreement.

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.

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Call Outs –Financial Year comparison

Number of Call outs YTD, as at 31 December 2018 (End Q2 2018-19Y).

Category	2017-18 FY # of call outs	2017-18 FY Average Response time H:MM:SS	2018-19 FY (YTD) # of call outs	2018-19 FY (YTD) Average Response time H:MM:SS
Priority 1	328 7.2% increase from 2016-17 (306)	0:10:34 0:03:21 increase from 2016-17	151	0:07:50
Priority 2	13,437 2.6% decrease from 2016-17 (13,802)	0:34:08 0:01:00 decrease from 2016-17	6857	0:42:11
Priority 3	24,415 23.8% decrease from 2016-17 (32,026)	3:44:07 1:05:39 increase from 2016-17	11367	5:14:43

Summary of Key Strategies

As part of 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

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- Traffic Operations Centre

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.

	2017-18	2018-19 YTD*
Total Number of matters	29	17
Total Asset value	\$13,355,172	\$628,921
Assets for which value is yet to be assessed:	-	8 vehicles 1 residence
Penalty order value	\$7,179,000	-

*As at 12 March 2019.

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

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ISSUE: ACT POLICING CRIME STATISTICS

Talking points:

General crime trends – 2018

- I am pleased to see that the number of offences in the 2018 calendar year shows a **decrease of 10.7 per cent (or 3908 offences)** when compared to the 2017.
- Offences that recorded significant **decreases** included:
 - Burglaries at dwellings (**down 23.3 per cent or 427 offences**).
 - Motor vehicle theft (**down 23.8 per cent or 380 offences**).

Offences against the person – 2018

- The total number of offences recorded against the person in 2018 shows a **decrease of 6.3 per cent (or 240 offences)**, when compared to 2017.
- Alcohol-related assaults **decreased by 6.3 per cent (or 49 offences)** when compared to 2017.
- There were **seven** homicide related offences in 2018, the same result when compared to 2017.

Family violence – 2018

- The ACT 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 by 14.1 per cent (or 183 offences)**, when compared to 2017.

Offences against property– 2018

- I am advised there has been a **23.8 per cent decrease** in motor vehicle theft in 2018, when compared to 2017.

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- ACT Policing’s Crime Disruption Team (CDT) has seen positive results during 2018. The number of armed robbery offences has **decreased by 6.4 per cent** when compared to 2017.
- In 2018, there were two aggravated robbery offences at licenced clubs.

What is ACT Policing doing to address crime?

- Positive clearance rates achieved by ACT Policing demonstrate ACT Policing remains effective in addressing criminal activity.
- ACT Policing’s Crime Disruption Team (CDT), whose primary focus has been on recidivist offending, disrupting aggravated robbery offences and ram raids across the ACT, have heavily contributed to these results by utilising sophisticated targeting models.

Key Information

Offence	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	12 Month % Change	Long Term % Change
Homicide	8	6	9	4	8	5	4	10	4	7	7	0.0%	-12.5%
Assault - FV	721	768	860	836	728	640	737	882	1305	1302	1119	-14.1%	55.2%
Assault - Non-FV	1794	1668	1692	1679	1560	1516	1232	1387	1554	1684	1651	-2.0%	-8.0%
Sexual Assault	421	365	317	393	445	504	390	488	509	546	512	-6.2%	21.6%
Other offences against a person	110	118	133	111	99	89	109	140	344	270	280	3.7%	154.5%
Robbery - armed	83	114	172	129	121	93	94	93	108	125	117	-6.4%	41.0%
Robbery - other	127	210	137	112	96	70	72	74	90	111	104	-6.3%	-18.1%
Burglary dwellings	2690	3651	3194	1970	1705	1499	1528	1553	1418	1836	1409	-23.3%	-47.6%
Burglary shops	439	450	459	335	279	230	259	397	348	314	314	0.0%	-28.5%
Burglary other	778	826	699	517	477	406	505	674	639	591	549	-7.1%	-29.4%
Motor vehicle theft	1954	2226	1681	1031	1155	765	852	1106	1112	1597	1217	-23.8%	-37.7%
Theft (excluding Motor Vehicles)	13079	13294	12785	9930	9967	9640	9471	11280	9858	9969	8856	-11.2%	-32.3%
Property damage	8785	9560	8135	6670	5536	4973	4176	5344	4804	5449	4510	-17.2%	-48.7%
Other offences	10971	10396	10549	9680	9643	10058	10772	10213	11255	12693	11941	-5.9%	8.8%
Total	41960	43652	40822	33397	31819	30488	30201	33641	33348	36494	32586	-10.7%	-22.3%

- Long term trends indicate that overall offences have decreased by 22.3 per cent when comparing 2018 to 2008.

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

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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 of 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.

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ISSUE: ACT POLICING STAFFING DEMANDS

Talking points:

- The ACT is one of Australia’s safest jurisdictions. ACT Policing has a strong record of meeting key performance indicators and the overall reduction in crime in the ACT over the past year reflects this performance.
- ACT Policing delivers an agile and intelligence-lead policing service to the ACT. Through the enabling services for the broader AFP, ACT Policing has access to an additional suite of specialist and surge–capacity resources.

If asked about police numbers

- ACT Policing FTE and headcount, like all emergency services, constantly fluctuates. As at 30 June 2018, ACT Policing had a headcount of 893 members (677 sworn and 216 professional), as reported in the 2017-18 Annual Report.
- The current headcount and FTE in ACT Policing are within expectations for the first half of the financial year 2018-19. In the 2018-19 financial year to date, 68 new recruits have graduated:
 - 25 new recruits commenced with ACT Policing on 23 July 2018
 - 29 new recruits commenced on 15 October 2018
 - 14 new recruits on 21 December 2018, and
 - One further recruit class began training on 28 October 2018 and are due to graduate in April 2019
- Between 1 July 2018 and 20 February 2019, 26 ACT Policing members have separated from the organisation. Of these, 18 were sworn and 8 were professional.
- On 24 January 2019, the AFP launched its ‘*Unique Opportunities Remarkable Careers*’ recruitment campaign. Media and Public Engagement undertook a number of communication activities to increase applications to ACT Policing and support the national recruitment campaign.

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Lead Directorate: Justice and Community Safety
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Information Officer name: David Pryce
TRIM Ref: MIN:2019/000031-035

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- As a result of this recent recruitment campaign, the AFP received just over 1400 applications. The majority of the applicants nominated to be an ACT Policing police officer as their preference.

If asked about a freeze on transfers

- There is no freeze on regional transfers.
- Ensuring there is regular mobility both into and out of ACT Policing is a priority for the Australian Federal Police as it generates benefits for both staff and the organisation as a whole. In determining mobility releases outside of ACT Policing, ACT Policing's primary consideration is in ensuring that resourcing meets the requirements set out by ACT Government and the expectations of the ACT Community.
- Transfers 'at current level' are considered on a case by case basis using an open and transparent decision making framework. Where ACT Policing members are found suitable for promotions or higher duties positions in excess of 6 months duration outside of ACT Policing, these transfers are automatically approved in accordance with AFP governance framework.
- The mandatory releases to National AFP ensure that ACT Policing members have regular opportunities for significant professional development across the organisation.

Police Service Reforms

- In March 2017, ACT Policing commenced a reform program tasked with ensuring it is best positioned to serve the Canberra community now and into the future.
- The program is ensuring that our police officers are provided with the tools, technology, governance, policies and resources to do their work efficiently, effectively and to the best of their ability.
- Part of the program was to look at the current service delivery model of ACT Policing. This work will inform ongoing discussions with the ACT Government about the appropriate level of resources required to provide the best possible service delivery to the ACT Community.

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Health and Wellbeing

- The health and wellbeing of our people is our highest priority. The AFP is taking careful steps to ensure its health support systems are right, across the entire organisation including ACT Policing.
- This includes the Wellness@Work holistic approach to mental and physical wellbeing. AFP members are afforded extensive support services which provide services domestically and internationally.
- The network comprises a multi-disciplinary team which includes internal welfare officers, psychologists, nurses, chaplains, work health and safety advisers, rehabilitation case managers, 24 hour Employee Assistance Program and a Chief Medical Officer to ensure our members receive the right care, at the right time.

If asked about Police numbers and/or over-time:

- The 2017-18 financial year saw an increase in total headcount, up to 893 employees from 884 in 2016-17.
- Professional ACT Policing members increased by 16 people, whilst sworn police officers decreased by seven.
- In recent years, ACT Policing has reclassified previously sworn positions, like communications officers, to professional roles. This accounts for the slight decrease in sworn officers and allows sworn officers to focus on police work.
- The FTE count shows a decrease from 946.47 in 2016-17 to 931.27 in 2017-18. The decrease is partly attributable to ACT Policing utilising an average FTE count for the first time in 2017-18. In previous years, the FTE count was calculated as FTE on 30 June each year.
- The averaging approach provides a more accurate representation of ACT Policing's resourcing across a year.

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ACT Policing Workforce Composition:

	2016-17	2017-18	Change
FTE	946.47	931.27	↓15.2
Headcount	884	893	↑9
Sworn*	684	677	↓7
Professional	200	216	↑16

*Including Sworn Protective Service Officers

Background Information

- On 24 January 2019, The Canberra Times published an article titled 'ACT has the lowest police-to-resident ratio in the nation.' An additional article was published the following day (25 January 2019) titled 'It's galling: ACT police union slams decline in officer numbers'.
- Both articles report the findings of the Productivity Commission's Report on Government Services Report, specifically the ACT continues to have the lowest proportion of operational police officers by population nationally.
- ACT Policing's Staffing Profile is detailed in Chapter 7 of the 2017-18 Annual Report.

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TRIM Ref: 2019/000039-002

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 Public Safety CCTV Network is a key tool in the fight against crime.
- The Public Safety CCTV Network provides live and recorded CCTV footage to ACT Policing (ACTP) to support incident management, criminal investigations and prosecutions in court. The Public Safety CCTV Network is also used by the ACT Government to support the management and operations of crowded place and events to strengthen public safety.
- The government through the ACT Budget 2018-19 is investing \$975,000 over four years to further upgrade and expand the Public Safety CCTV Network. These upgrades will focus on areas identified in the Strategic Operations Plan for the CCTV Network for the period 2017-2022, including:
 - additional high definition cameras (with enhanced coverage, resolution and performance in low light areas) across Canberra's public venues and open spaces, including GIO Stadium, Manuka Oval, EPIC, the Kingston and the Manuka shopping precincts
 - Software upgrades to enhance the CCTV investigation capability of ACTP
 - Upgrading of the CCTV recording equipment
 - Upgrading the CCTV systems at bus stations and depots.
- The government continues to trial portable, solar powered CCTV units at 12 units across Canberra to enhance the capabilities of the Public Safety CCTV Network. A solar powered CCTV unit was used during the Enlighten Festival, and three units will be installed in March 2019 to help ACT Policing counter and investigate car fires in rural areas.

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Cleared by: Executive Branch Manager Ext: 78628
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Lead Directorate: Justice and Community
Safety
Cleared for release: Yes
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TRIM Ref: 2019/000039-002

- The government continues to trial the use of the CBRFree Wi-Fi network to route CCTV camera information. A second trial CCTV camera has been installed Haig park in the City. This high definition camera gives a 360 degree view of the pedestrian pathway from Girrahween to Henty Streets in Braddon with live and recorded footage available to the government and ACT Policing. The trial will enable the government to understand how third party networks can be used to make the expansion of the CCTV Network more efficient.
- The government is developing a CCTV Strategy to guide future government investment in this important security technology, that is now widely used across ACT public venues and open spaces to support community safety.

Key Information

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

- The Public Safety CCTV Network does not utilise facial-biometric capability.
- The Public Safety CCTV Network complies with ACT privacy and human rights laws.

If asked about CCTV on the Light Rail network

- Officials that manage the Public Safety CCTV Network have been actively involved in the planning and design for the CCTV system to be used on the Canberra Metro light rail project.

If asked about CCTV Network Security

- The Public Safety CCTV Network operates within the secure ACT Government ICT network. Access to the Network 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 Network capabilities

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

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- ACTP has dedicated staff that actively monitor the Public Safety CCTV Network 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. ACTP may also use the Network 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.
- ACTP started CCTV monitoring in the Civic Precinct in 2001. In 2007, responsibility for the network transferred to JACS and the network 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 ACTP to ensure the network 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 Network 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 developed to guide future investment by the Government in this essential security technology.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	13/03/2019	
Cleared by:	Executive Branch Manager	Ext: 78628
Contact Officer name:	David Wheeler	Ext: 55089
Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	David Pryce	
TRIM Ref:	2019/000039-002	

MIN:2019/000039-003

Portfolio/s: Chief Minister

Police & Emergency Services

Attorney-General

ISSUE: NATIONAL SECURITY ISSUES (INCLUDING CROWDED PLACE SAFETY)

TALKING POINTS

Christchurch New Zealand Terrorism Incident

Statements of Sympathy (Chief Minister)

- On behalf of all Canberrans, I share our deepest sympathies for those affected by this devastating terrorist attack in Christchurch.
- Our thoughts are with all New Zealanders at this tragic time as we unite as a community to express our solidarity.
- Canberrans share a common view that our city is stronger because of our diversity and inclusivity. There is no place in Canberra for the abhorrent views behind the attack.
- Canberra has a rich and vibrant multicultural community where every citizen has a right to feel safe and respected in their religious affiliations.

Community Inclusion and Support (Chief Minister)

- I encourage the Canberra community to continue to express our acceptance of all forms of diversity, so that everyone who visits or lives in our city knows they are welcome here.
- On 22 March 2019, the ACT Government will hold a public forum at the Australian National University about the Importance of Belonging.
- Canberrans that need support or assistance during this difficult time should call Lifeline Australia on 13 11 14.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	20/03/2019	
Cleared by:	Bren Burkevics	Executive Branch Manager
Contact Officer name:	Andrew Butters	Ext: 78628
Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	Ext: 70317
Cleared for release:	Yes	
Information Officer name:	David Pryce	
TRIM Ref:	MIN:2019/000039-003	

Community Safety (Minister for Police and Emergency Services)

- The Government and ACT Policing are communicating with Commonwealth Government agencies as we work to learn how this tragedy occurred and what can be done to prevent it happening in the future.
- The government and ACT Policing are engaging with the ACT Muslim community to provide support and reassurance. Muslim community members have expressed their appreciation for the support and well wishes they continue to receive from the Government and community.
- While there is no credible or specific threat to the ACT or its Mosques and places of worship, ACT Policing has increased patrols around these facilities.
- Anyone with information on suspicious activity is urged to call the National Security Hotline on 1800 123 400 or Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

Measures to regulate firearm use in the ACT (Attorney-General)

- Semi-automatic firearms, such as the one that appears to have been used in the attack are highly controlled in Australia.
- The ACT Government strongly supports the National Firearms Agreement (NFA) which acknowledges the principle that firearms possession and use is a privilege that is conditional on the overriding need to ensure public safety.
- The ACT has historically had very strong regulation of firearms and we have been involved in the national discussions before and since 1996 when the NFA was agreed.
- The ACT Government is a strong supporter of protecting the community against crime involving firearms, while balancing the needs of legitimate and authorised firearms users.
- The ACT Government will work with its Commonwealth, State and Territory counterparts to ensure our laws support safety in our community in the context of the NFA and any learnings from the Christchurch Terrorist attack.

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Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community	Ext: 70317
	Safety	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	David Pryce	
TRIM Ref:	MIN:2019/000039-003	

Counter Terrorism - General (Chief Minister)

- The ACT is a successful and harmonious multicultural society. This is one of our greatest strengths against acts of terrorism and violent extremism occurring in Canberra.
- Our identity is defined by an overriding commitment to our nation, its democratic values and the rule of law, 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.
- We cannot eliminate entirely the risk of terrorism any more than we can eliminate the risk of any serious crime. But we will do all we can to keep our community safe from those who seek to do us harm.
- 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 and violent extremism.
- 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.
- If a situation requires a police response, call Police Operations on 131 444. If the situation is potentially life threatening, call Triple-Zero (000).

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Cleared for release	Yes	
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Safety in Public Places (MPES)

- The safety of Canberrans as they go about their business in public places remains a key focus for the government.
- While the national terrorism public alert level remains at PROBABLE, there is no specific or credible threat to the ACT. The ACT Government in conjunction with ACT Policing continually reviews its security arrangements within the current risk environment.
- In 2017, the Commonwealth Government launched *Australian's Strategy for Protecting Crowded Places from Terrorism*. The Strategy provides a consistent, national approach to protecting crowded places which can be applied flexibly to suit local circumstances.
- The ACT Government continues to work in partnership with ACT Policing and other law enforcement and intelligence agencies to implement the Strategy and provide for the safety of resident and visitors who enjoy Canberra's public places.
- While ultimate responsibility for event security always lies with event organisers, ACT Policing are proactively engaging with organisers to provide appropriate advice and guidance in accordance with the strategy through both direct engagement and regular crowded places forums.
- From 2019, ACT Policing will deliver a consistent schedule of two crowded places forums per year. These forums will focus on encouraging different sectors to come together and present their strategy alignment considerations, location or event risk mitigation strategies as well as any learning outcomes from the implementation of risk mitigation they may have experienced.
- Additional resourcing for ACT Policing, provided in the 2016-17 ACT Budget over two financial years, has further assisted in the delivery of the crowded places strategy responsibilities, with the half coverage cost of a full time appointment of an ACT Policing Crowded Places staff member.

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Contact Officer name: Andrew Butters Ext: 70317
Lead Directorate: Justice and Community
Safety
Cleared for release Yes
Information Officer name: David Pryce
TRIM Ref: MIN:2019/000039-003

- In the 2018-19 budget, the ACT Government allocated over \$1.5 million in funding towards improving the security of public places through CCTV enhancements, security risk assessments and additional resources for ACT Policing to implement the strategy.
- Concerns about national security or terrorism should be reported immediately to the National Security Hotline on 1800 123 400.

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 amendments were passed by Parliament on 27 November 2018 and have a six month delayed commencement. The amendments will:
 - make it easier for states and territories to request ADF support where necessary to assist in the event of a violent or terrorist incident

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Information Officer name:	David Pryce	
TRIM Ref:	MIN:2019/000039-003	

- allow the Government to pre-authorise the ADF to respond to threats on land, at sea and in the air
- simplify, expand and clarify the ADF's powers to search, seize, and control movement during a violent or terrorist incident
- enhance the ability of the ADF to respond to incidents occurring in more than one jurisdiction.

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Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	Ext: 70317
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	David Pryce	
TRIM Ref:	MIN:2019/000039-003	

TRIM Ref: 2019/000013-016

Portfolio: Police & Emergency Services
ISSUE: ESA KEY DATA (as at 1 July 2018)
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	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
Total Incidents	52,084	52,412	54,552	55,563

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

- Recruitment of additional Paramedics
- Blueprint for Change
- Upgrade of Defibrillators
- Electric Stretchers for Ambulances

Stations

There are a total of eight ACTAS stations:

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 Contact Officer name: Dominic Lane Ext: 78383
 Lead Directorate: Justice and Community
 Safety
 Cleared for release: Yes
 Information Officer name: Dominic Lane
 TRIM Ref: 2019/000013-016

- Gungahlin, Joint Emergency Services Complex
- Belconnen, Aranda
- West Belconnen, Charnwood
- Dickson
- 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	
Incident Type	Incidents	Responses	Incidents	Responses
Fires				
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
Total Fires	961	2,912	964	2,638
Other Emergencies and Incidents				
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
Total other emergencies and incidents	8,737	14,709	7,904	15,318
Non-fire rescue calls (including road rescue)				
Road Accident Rescue Operations	1,182	2,817	1,135	2,641
Medical Assists	298	399	355	475

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Other Rescue (includes animal rescue)	179	247	239	313
Total Non-fire rescue calls (including road rescue)	1,659	3,463	1,729	3,429
Total ACTF&R Operational Activity	11,357	21,084	10,597	21,385

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 Automated External 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

A city facility is being considered as part of the Station Upgrade and Relocation Program 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.

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%
# ACTRFS Volunteers					

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 Lead Directorate: Justice and Community
 Safety
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 TRIM Ref: 2019/000013-016

390

Vehicles

Operational	Operational support	Support Vehicles	Total
48	16	16	80

Call Outs

ACT Rural Fire Service – Operational Activity	2016-17		2017-18	
	Incidents	Responses	Incidents	Responses
Grass and bushfires	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
Total Incidents	631	1,436	348	1,133

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

Fire Towers

There are four fire towers

- Mount Tennent

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- Kowen
- Coree
- One Tree Hill

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%
# ACTSES Volunteers					
325					

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
Total Incidents	1,148	1,093	660	946

Summary of Key Strategies

- ACTSES Business Plan

Stations

There are a total of seven units and one support group:

- Gungahlin Unit, Joint Emergency Services Complex
- Tuggeranong Unit, Calwell
- Majura Unit, Hackett
- Belconnen Unit, Belconnen
- Woden Unit, Phillip

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- Pialligo Unit, ESA Fairbairn precinct
- Rivers Unit, Cotter Road, Stromlo
- ESA Headquarters Support

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					

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
141,531	Total Ordinary Expenses	144,381	147,924	2

Summary of Key Strategies

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

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Facilities

ESA Headquarters, Fairbairn

ESA Workshops, Fairbairn

ESA Resource Centre, Fairbairn

ESA Training Centre, Hume

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Contact Officer name:	Dominic Lane	Ext: 78383
Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Dominic Lane	
TRIM Ref:	2019/000013-016	

TRIM Ref: 2019/000013-039

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 for the past seven years, as well as the highest levels of patient satisfaction.
- The dedication and professionalism of our paramedics should be highly commended as they continue to provide life-saving services to members of the community who are experiencing their worst day.
- The Government continues to provide support for our ambulance workforce and remains focussed on their health and welfare as they continue to meet community expectations.
- This is demonstrated with the significant funding packages announced during this term of Government to date, which will deliver 53 additional paramedics, seven new ambulances, new defibrillator units, and powered stretchers in all operational ambulance vehicles, which will reduce physical demands on paramedics and improve patient safety. This is well above the Government's election commitment, and recognises the support required to maintain a nation leading ambulance service.

Key Information

- For the seventh year in a row ACT Ambulance Service response times are the best in the country. This impressive result has once again been achieved despite an increasing demand for services.
- The ACT Ambulance Service reported the second highest percentage of Emergency Triple Zero (000) calls answered within 10 seconds, outperforming the national average by 7.1%.

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- The Annual Ambulance Patient Satisfaction Survey results show the ACT Ambulance Service continues to maintain high levels of patient satisfaction at 97% for another year.

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TRIM Ref: 2019/000013-039

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.
- Feedback from first responders is that there has been good compliance with the law by motorists.

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

- ESA regularly and routinely reviews the risk profile across the ACT. 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.

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TRIM Ref: 2019/000013-033

- 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.

Recruitment of Additional Firefighters

- Funding for a further recruit college was announced in the 2018-19 ACT Budget.
- 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 ACT Fire & Rescue (ACTF&R) as firefighters.
- This follows on from the 2017 recruitment which resulted in an additional 17 firefighters on duty in June 2018, and the 16 firefighters who joined ACTF&R as part of the 2016 Recruit College.
- In addition, six firefighters have commenced frontline duties as part of a lateral recruitment and will graduate in April 2019. This follows on from 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.

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- 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 53 paramedics. This is well above the Government's election commitment, and recognises the support required to maintain a nation leading ambulance service.
- 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 Emergency Ambulances

- The ACT Government 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.
- In line with the additional 53 paramedics announced, the Government has since committed to seven new ambulances. Each new ambulance will have powered stretchers, which will reduce physical demands on paramedics and improve patient safety. This is well above the

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TRIM Ref:	2019/000013-033	

Government's election commitment, and recognises the support required to maintain a nation leading ambulance service.

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.
- 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 Station Upgrade and Relocation Program 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.

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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.
- 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 the Justice and Community Safety Directorate, the Chief Minister, Treasury, and Economic Development Directorate, and other ACT Government Directorates and Agencies on the implementation of all Election commitments.

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Cleared by:	Commissioner	Ext: 78383
Contact Officer name:	Dominic Lane	Ext: 78383
Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Domniic Lane	
TRIM Ref:	2019/000013-033	

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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 TRIM Ref: 2019/000013-033

ISSUE: ESA Communication Centre (ComCen) Reform**Talking points:**

- The ESA is working with staff and the unions on these changes. A Workplace Consultative Committee has been established to discuss issues specific to the future ComCen model.
- 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 ACT Emergency Services Agency (ESA) ComCen.
- Call-takers and dispatchers will be recruited and existing ambulance Comcen staff who already hold accredited qualifications, will be provided with 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.
- ESA will also use the changes in service delivery models to explore options in terms of better use of technology. This includes integrating systems to facilitate the provision of timely information between services and external agencies, and with the public.

Key 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 under the *ACTF&R Enterprise Agreement 2013-17* as a specific forum for communicating with affected ACT Fire & Rescue staff on the ComCen reform.

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TRIM Ref: 2019/000013-036

ISSUE: BUSHFIRES ('Complacency Can Kill' Campaign, Lessons from 2003 Bushfires, Pierces Creek, Potters Hill, Fire Towers)

Talking points:

'Complacency Can Kill' Campaign

- On 18 January 2019, the 16th anniversary of the January 2003 bushfires, the ACT Emergency Services Agency (ESA) launched a digital media campaign to urge Canberra to be ready for bushfire.
- While the ESA and the wider ACT Government is better prepared than ever before for a bushfire emergency, we need the community to be bushfire ready as well.
- The digital media campaign features a 30-second video with the headline "Complacency can kill". The video graphically captures the firestorm firefighters were confronted with in January 2003.
- I realise playing back this old footage may upset some people but that is not the intention. We need to be very clear to the community about the risk we all face this summer and we are hoping when people see it will prompt them to be ready before a fires starts.
- ESA volunteers and staff have doorknocked more than 5,000 homes this summer providing information and resources to help residents prepare. This includes going to the ESA website (esa.act.gov.au) to download a Bushfire Survival Plan, then completing it with your household.

Lessons from 2003 Bushfires

- The devastation caused by the 2003 bushfires provided a test for our emergency services like no incident ever experienced in this region.
- The Government, including the ACT Emergency Services Agency (ESA), learnt a lot from the 2003 bushfires. This includes the scrutiny that came with Ron McLeod's review, the coronial inquiry, at least four reviews by the ACT Auditor-General, and information gathered from many other significant natural disasters and emergencies that have occurred across Australia since that time.

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- While the Canberra community has enjoyed 16 safe summers since the bushfire tragedy of 2003, the time will come again when emergency services will be put to the test. However, the community can have confidence that if the ACT experiences another major incident of this nature the ACT is better prepared for a bushfire emergency than ever before.
- The Government, including the ESA, has invested in ensuring that appropriate measures are in place, and that our community continue to live in one of the safest cities in the world, with well-funded, well-resourced and well-governed emergency services.

Pierces Creek

- On Thursday, 1 November 2018, there was a report of a smoke sighting in the Pierces Creek area. The ACT Emergency Services Agency (ESA) quickly formed an Incident Management Team to manage the incident, and engaged a variety of resources including firefighters, aircraft, heavy plant and vehicles.
- On Thursday, 8 November 2018, the Pierces Creek fire was in patrol status. This means the fire is contained, under control, and there is no active fire on the fire ground.
- The incident was closed on Monday, 12 November 2018, after final hand held infrared scans were conducted by ACT Parks and Conservation Service crews.
- I would like to thank staff across all ACT Government Directorates for their support to the Emergency Coordination Centre. In particular, I would like to thank ACT Rural Fire Service volunteers and staff, ACT Parks and Conservation staff, and NSW Rural Fire Service volunteers and staff for their contribution to managing the Pierces Creek fire and helping to protect the ACT community.

Potters Hill

- I am aware that the Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council (AFAC) has finalised its review into the Potters Hill fire, and has provided the ACT Emergency Services Agency (ESA) and the

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Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) with their final report.

- I have been provided with an initial briefing from both agencies. I am advised that the report does not highlight any gaps that impact on the safety of the community or firefighters during this current bushfire season. It does, however, suggest a number of future improvements.
- As a joint directorate initiated review, both ESA and EPSDD have commenced the process to work together on implementing the recommendations of the report as part of their continual improvement processes. The aim is to have all of the recommendations implemented prior to the 2019-20 ACT bushfire season, and I will be provided with updates on the progress of their implementation.
- I would like to thank AFAC for their work on the review. I would also like to thank all the volunteers and staff from the ESA and EPSDD in their continued efforts to keep our community safe.

Fire Towers

- The ACT Rural Fire Service uses fire towers for monitoring and early detection of bushfire threats.
- Fire towers are located at Coree, Mount Tennent, One Tree Hill, and Kowen.
- All fire towers underwent some remedial work to address WorkSafe concerns, which have been fully addressed.
- All four fire towers are fully operational. At no time was community safety compromised as a result of these works.

Key Information

- After consulting with the ACT Bushfire Council at their meeting on 1 August 2018, and discussing the risks presented to the ACT and the seasonal outlook, the ESA Commissioner declared that the bushfire season for 2018-19 will commence early, on 1 September 2018.
- The *Emergencies Act 2004* (the Emergencies Act) under which the ESA operates is viewed as best practice in emergency management. The Emergencies Act was introduced following the 2003 Canberra bushfires, and consolidated all previous emergency legislation in the ACT.

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- Under the Emergencies Act, the ESA Commissioner must prepare a Strategic Bushfire Management Plan (SBMP) which sets out complementary and integrated strategies through which the Government and the community reduce the risks of bushfire in the ACT.

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TRIM Ref:	2019/000013-037	

TRIM Reference: MIN:2019/000013-042

Portfolio/s: Police & Emergency Services

ISSUE: ACT FIRE & RESCUE – AERIAL CAPABILITY

Talking points:

- As at 19 February 2019, the current ACTF&R aerial appliance is at ESA workshops where a scheduled quarterly service is being carried out. Additional work is also being undertaken to diagnose a reoccurring electrical fault. The appliance is not currently operational.
- Our firefighters are well-trained and can utilise a number of methods to manage all types of incidents, to keep Canberrans safe.
- This was demonstrated in the recent response to a fire on the twelfth floor of a construction site in Cooyong Street, Civic on 18 February 2019, where the fire was quickly extinguished without the utilisation of an aerial appliance.
- This is just one example of the how our firefighters can quickly adapt and have the skills to safely and effectively respond to and control a range of fires and emergencies.
- The use of aerial appliances complements internal firefighting techniques, consistent with building design and the requirements of the National Construction Code.
- When the ACTF&R aerial appliance is offline, the crew will utilise a tanker as a mode of transport to the incident. The tanker is not used as an operational capability.

New Aerial Pumper Appliance

- I am advised procurement of the second aerial capability has commenced.
- The ESA Commissioner has assured me that the purchase and commissioning of a second appliance is a priority for the ESA.
- The ESA is also considering options within its Vehicle Replacement Program to replace the current aerial appliance as soon as possible.

Previous Issues with current ACTF&R aerial appliance

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Lead Directorate: Choose directorate:
Cleared for release: Choose an item
Information Officer name:
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- The current aerial appliance has had numerous issues since its introduction in 2009. The ESA has been working with the manufacturer to diagnose the issues. Despite all efforts from the ESA Workshop, the manufacturer, and aerial specialists, certain issues persist and others just present under normal wear and tear.
- Despite these issues, the vehicle is designed with multiple back-up features to prevent injury to firefighters, and is deemed safe to use.
- The ESA has deemed that the vehicle has almost reached its useful lifespan, even though these types of vehicles should normally have a lifespan of up to 20 years. ESA is currently investigating reasons for the premature wear.
- I am advised the ESA currently has a strategy in place to ensure its continued safe use, including additional technical expertise and limiting its use to confirmed incidents that require an aerial appliance (e.g. water tower, observation, rescue).

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Portfolio/s: Minister for Police and Emergency Services

ISSUE: UNITED FIREFIGHTERS UNION (UFU) – APPLICATION FOR PROTECTED ACTION UNDER THE FAIR WORK ACT

Talking points:

- I note that United Firefighters Union (UFU) members have voted in favour of 21 protected industrial actions under the Fair Work Act.
- The ACT Emergency Services Agency (ESA) continues to work with the UFU and to bargain in good faith. While we go through this process the priority for the ESA is maintaining the highest standard in community safety.
- In this regard, the ESA fully supports and acknowledges workers' rights to undertake industrial action, and accepts 10 of the proposed actions, on the basis that community safety is not compromised:
 - Only engaging on behalf of the employer in communications with the media for the immediate purpose of public health or safety.
 - A ban on wearing uniform shirts, uniform jumpers or uniform jackets.
 - Only attending meetings at which any of the ESA Commissioner, Chief Officer, Executive Officer, or ESA Directors, attend if the purpose of the meeting is notified in advance as about operational incidents, operational de-briefing, training, securing public health or occupational health and safety, or enterprise agreement bargaining.
 - Refusing to report or record the code or type of false alarms triggered at protected premises other than reporting via the radio where faults require maintenance.
 - A ban on conducting any process relating to employee misconduct or discipline.
 - A ban on assisting in the preparation of ministerial reports.
 - Responding to emails via the employers email system with the caps lock function turned on (including reports and attached documents).

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TRIM Ref: 2019/000013-046

- A ban on saluting, including standing when a senior officer enters the room.
- A ban on the processing of accounts, including a ban on billing all external agencies, entities or persons for any work performed or undertaken.
- A ban on signing receipts for the delivery of goods.
- The ESA remains concerned about community and firefighter safety around the other 11 actions:
 - Stoppages, except responding to fire calls, which shall include emergency incidents, for up to two hours to communicate and display union badging and industrial campaign material in work locations and to the public and to wear industrial campaign t-shirts, badges and stickers in association with that activity.
 - Stoppages, except responding to fire calls, which shall include emergency incidents, for up to one hour for the purpose of making public and media statements in relation to the employer's bargaining position or employees' experiences as firefighters employed by the employer.
 - A ban on complying with a direction to remove union badging or industrial material displayed on, in or around work locations, appliances or UFU members.
 - A ban on creating a record of any employee's participation in protected industrial action.
 - A refusal to comply with a direction to transfer between work locations until and unless notified within fourteen (14) days of the proposed transfer.
 - Refusing to act up or perform higher duties above an employee's substantive rank in "on shift" positions.
 - Stoppages for the purpose of attending the ACT Legislative Assembly on sitting days, except to respond to fire calls, which shall include emergency incidents.

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- A ban on appliances leaving a station, for the purpose of training, if after a risk assessment is undertaken by the UFUA member and it is the opinion of the UFUA member that the response time is greater than 10 minutes for a pumper.
- A ban on cross-crewing of appliances leaving a station, if after a risk assessment is undertaken by the UFUA member and it is the opinion of the UFUA member that the response time is greater than 10 minutes for a pumper.
- Employees start and finish work in accordance with the rostered hours as set out in the Enterprise Agreement, except in the case of emergency fire calls, which shall include emergency incidents.
- A ban on any restriction of the approval for leave if the restriction is not in accordance with the Enterprise Agreement.
- It is unfortunate that this proposed protected action includes stoppages from one of our essential emergency services. It also means that the Government will be obliged, in compliance with the Fair Work Act, to deduct pay while stoppages are undertaken by UFU members.
- The ESA Commissioner intends to write to the UFU to explain what actions the ESA will take should each or any of these 11 actions be activated.
- This includes the use of any firefighting equipment. For this reason, whilst the rights to undertake action are understood, the ESA makes it very clear that no firefighting equipment should be used as part of any protected industrial action.
- Despite the UFU's assurances that their actions will not impact on community and firefighter safety, the union is not in a position to give this assurance. The ESA is legally responsible for the safety of the community and firefighters, and considers that the activation of these 11 actions, by themselves or in combination, have the potential to impact on community and firefighter safety.

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- It is, therefore, incumbent on the ESA to ensure that it has strategies in place to mitigate any potential operational risk, in anticipation of any of these 11 actions proceeding. This may include, but is not limited to, any changes to operational orders, policy changes, and additional resources from other Services and agencies.
- It is through these strategies that the ESA will strive to maintain the highest standard in community safety.
- The ESA is very appreciative of the support of all areas of ESA, and external bodies, who have indicated their willingness to assist at short notice if required.
- The ESA's all-hazards approach to emergency incidents in its day-to-day operations, in working together to care and protect, will certainly assist in maintaining community safety during any industrial action.

If asked about the status of negotiations

- The Enterprise Agreement team is happy to keep working through any points of difference with the UFU. I understand the Enterprise Agreement meetings scheduled for 1 and 12 March 2019 did not go ahead due to unavailability of both parties, and alternate meeting dates are being arranged.
- It is envisaged that at the next meeting the UFU will provide some further clarity on the actual points of difference. It is unfortunate that the UFU have raised these matters in the media, but have not been willing to discuss the detail within the Enterprise Agreement bargaining process.
- In the interim, I understand that the ESA Commissioner wrote to the UFU on 14 March 2019 to progress negotiations, specifically in relation to the proposed implementation of core content of the Enterprise Agreement.
- I am assured that the ESA is doing its best to ensure this dispute is resolved smoothly and with minimal disruption. I am also very conscious that industrial disputes can be a workplace stressor for staff. If you are affected, please be aware that there are wellness and wellbeing programs available to you.

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Portfolio/s: Chief Minister, Health & Wellbeing, Attorney-General, Police & Emergency Services

ISSUE: Government Position on Drugs of Dependence (Personal Cannabis Use) Amendment Bill

Talking points:

- The Government takes a clear harm minimisation approach to drug use in our community.
- We do not condone personal use of cannabis and we know there are health risks for individuals that do use it. However, we also acknowledge the simple reality that it's happening Canberra.
- We want to provide an appropriate scheme for those individuals who are already using cannabis and will continue to do so, acknowledging that outright prohibition can bring people into contact with the justice system unnecessarily and prevent people seeking help when they need it.
- The ACT has decriminalised personal use of small amounts of cannabis for some time, and the parameters of the Private Members Bill are largely consistent with the scheme already in place.
- The Government supports the Private Members Bill in principle, but notes this is a complex issue that requires proper consideration and debate.
- The Government has indicated it will move a number of amendments to improve the Bill. This includes limiting the number of legal plants to two per person and introducing a household limit; distinguishing between 'wet' and 'dry' cannabis; and adding restrictions intended to prevent children and young people coming into contact with cannabis.
- The Government will provide advice on its amendments to the inquiry being undertaken by the Standing Committee on Health, Ageing and Community Services.

Cleared as complete and accurate:

Cleared by:

Contact Officer Name:

Lead Directorate:

Director

Andrew Mehrton

Chief Minister, Treasury and
Economic Development

Ext: 58507

Ext: 58507

Key Information

- We want to put these measures in place to move focus away from small personal users of cannabis so that police efforts can go where they are really needed.
- We know there is still some uncertainty about how these changes will unfold given the complex legal environment. The government is supporting these changes as a trial and will monitor and review their impacts over the coming years.
- We want to think this through and take on board the feedback we receive, noting our approach in principle is to support cannabis reform. To that end, the Government has announced it will seek to make amendments to:
 - Retain a limit of two plants per person – in line with the current SCON regime – and introduce a further total household limit;
 - Provide more effective and implementable restrictions to ensure children are not exposed to cannabis smoke;
 - Ensure cannabis is securely stored in a way that is not accidentally accessible to children or other vulnerable people;
 - Restrict cannabis growing to enclosed, private residences where a clear nexus of ownership can be established;
 - Distinguish between wet and dry cannabis to reflect differences in weight at different stages of processing.
- These amendments will aim to address implementation challenges with the bill as it stands, and include clear definitions that will support ACT Policing to clearly distinguish between small-scale, individual cannabis users and those involved in more serious or organised crime.
- The Government also intends that the legislation include provision for a mandatory review to take place not more than two years after legalisation occurs, with the full impacts and effects of this change being evaluated at that point to guide further policy reform.
- Whilst no other Australian jurisdiction has legalised the personal use of cannabis, National and ACT surveys show community support for the decriminalisation and/or legalisation of cannabis for personal use.

Background Information – may not be suitable for public disclosure

- Under current ACT legislation, the *Drugs of Dependence Act 1989* (Drugs Act), it is an offence to possess cannabis or to cultivate cannabis plants, including in small quantities for personal use.
- The Drugs Act also allows for the use of a Simple Cannabis Offence Notice (SCON) as an alternative to an arrest for the possession of cannabis, if the offence is possession of cannabis weighing no more than 50 grams or possession of no more than two

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Lead Directorate:	Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development	

cannabis plants. A SCON is effectively a \$100 fine which, if paid within 60 days, and avoids a criminal conviction being recorded for the offender.

- On 28 November 2018, Michael Pettersson MLA introduced the *Drugs of Dependence (Personal Cannabis Use) Amendment Bill 2018* (the Bill) into the ACT Legislative Assembly.
- The Bill proposes to legalise the personal cultivation, possession and use of small amounts of cannabis for persons aged 18 or older; possession and use of up to 50 grams of cannabis and cultivation of up to four cannabis plants.
- For persons under 18 years of age it would remain an offence to possess cannabis or cannabis plants and SCONs would continue to be available for use by police.
- The Bill includes other minor elements such as new offences for smoking cannabis in public places or near children; and consequential amendments to the *Criminal Code 2002* (ACT) and the *Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act 2008*.

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Lead Directorate:

Director

Andrew Mehrton

Chief Minister, Treasury and
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OVERSIGHT BRIEF

Aggravated Robberies

General

- ACT Policing established the Crime Disruption Team (CDT) in November 2017 with a primary focus on recidivist offending, including the disruption of robbery offences and ram raids across the ACT.
- Aggravated robberies in the ACT decreased from 196 aggravated robberies in 2016-17 to 185 aggravated robberies in 2017-18.
- Aggravated robberies are being addressed by the CDT through;
 - Intelligence-led identification and targeting of known recidivist offenders.
 - Engagement with licensed premises and Clubs ACT.
 - Targeted recovery of stolen property and the instigation of COCA proceedings as appropriate.
 - The targeted recovery of stolen property from recidivist offenders. In 2017-18, CDT recovered in excess of \$2 million of stolen property.
- There have been 82 aggravated robberies reported to ACT Policing in between 1 July 2018 and 31 December 2018.
- The ACT community can be confident ACT Policing is well resourced to deliver a quality service through the flexible deployment of our capabilities in response to changing demands.
- ACT Policing is intelligence-informed, and uses information to prioritise and allocate its workforce to best serve the people of Canberra.

Aggravated Robberies – Licensed Clubs

- 2017-18 saw an increase in aggravated robberies against licensed clubs in the ACT.
- ACT Policing established the Crime Disruption Team (CDT) in November 2017 with a primary focus on recidivist offending, including the disruption of robbery offences and ram raids across the ACT.
- The creation of the CDT in November 2017 has addressed the increase in aggravated robberies at licenced club premises through intelligence-led targeting of suspects and recidivist offenders.
- As a result, only 2 aggravated robberies at licensed clubs were recorded in the ACT.
- On 17 November 2018, an unidentified male entered the Mawson Club with what appeared to be a firearm.
 - After an unsuccessful attempt to open the cash register, the man ran from the club without taking anything.
 - No persons were harmed during the incident.

OVERSIGHT BRIEF

- On 5 March 2019, ACT Policing released CCTV footage of this incident in a media release.
- A media release appealing to the public for information is one of many investigative avenues open to police. While ACT Policing endeavours to provide information of serious offences to the public in a timely manner, where there is no imminent risk to public safety, the issuance of a media release is assessed in line with investigative requirements.
- Investigations into this matter remain ongoing.
- This is the first aggravated robbery on a licensed club since 6 February 2018.

Cleared by: ACTP-C-MPP

Date: 12 March 2019

OVERSIGHT BRIEF

AFP Initiative: Mental Health

- In 2018, there were four suicides that took place within Australian Federal Police premises.
- Two suicide incidents occurred at Melbourne office. Two suicides occurred at AFP Headquarters in Canberra. Both incidents occurred within six weeks of each other.
- Over the past two years, the AFP has demonstrated that the physical and mental health of its people is a high priority by engaging professional expertise and support from both inside and outside Australia.
- The AFP will continue to explore new ways of providing support and easing the pressures on a workforce that is under constant pressure to get the job done.

Key initiatives

- AFP Health & Wellbeing Strategy launched in May 2018.
- The AFP has a contracted external Employee Assistance Program, provided by Benestar, which is a confidential counselling service available to all personnel, former members and their families.
- The AFP has an Early Access Program that provides early, coordinated and effective responses to work related injury/illness including medical, psychological and vocational rehabilitation.
- The welfare officer network provides peer support to members, families and former members.
- The AFP partnered with Lifeline Australia over intensive periods such as the Christmas and Australia Day holidays to provide a dedicated hotline for AFP personnel.
- The AFP will continue to partner with Lifeline Australia into the future to deliver a range of first-responder specific training (Road 2 Mental Readiness from Canada).
- The AFP participated in the Beyond Blue national mental health and wellbeing study of police and emergency services.
 - Results indicate that the ACT Policing and AFP are on average below the police average for:
 - Prevalence of very high stress and probable PTSD
 - Suicidal thoughts
 - Substance misuse
 - The AFP scored higher than the police average in demonstrating a commitment to addressing mental illness.

OVERSIGHT BRIEF

- In late 2018, the AFP changed its policy to access firearms afterhours at AFP Headquarters.
- This has not been implemented within ACT Policing as it would have a significant adverse affect on operational responsiveness.
- ACT Policing is undertaking a review to consider firearm storage arrangements for ACT Policing within the context of organisation health and member welfare.
- Earlier this month, the AFP committed to providing access to the Road to Mental Readiness Courses through Lifeline. These courses were launched in February 2019 and will be open to ACT Policing members for at least the next two years.
- This is an Australian-first partnership and the program will equip officers with coping strategies and tools to encourage them to address mental health concerns earlier.
- The program originated with Canadian armed forces before being expanded to first responders with great success over 10 years of operation.
- First responders that have participated in the program have shown:
 - an increase in resiliency skills;
 - a decrease in stigmatizing attitudes; and
 - an increase in mental health well being.

Cleared by: ACTP-C-MPP

Date: 12 March 2019

OVERSIGHT BRIEF

Calls for Police Assistance - Coombs and Wright

- ACT Policing is aware of some community concern regarding low level anti-social behaviour in the Molonglo Valley. These concerns relate to door-knocking, canvassing or requests by individuals for money.
- The incidents are sporadic in nature and are usually limited to individual approaches. No individuals have been asked to 'move on' in the Molonglo Valley recently and ACT Policing does not believe there is an immediate or ongoing threat to residents.
- ACT Policing undertake routine patrols and engagement across the ACT in response to operational priorities, reported concerns, developing trends and as part of ongoing community engagement efforts. Direct community engagement, high-visibility deterrence and proactive policing are cornerstones of community policing and important components of ACT Policing's efforts to reducing anti-social behaviour.
- The fluid nature of the community policing environment precludes the identification of how many times police have attended a particular street for community engagement, high-visibility patrols, or community policing patrols.
- ACT Policing assesses all calls for assistance on a case-by-case basis, and will continue to monitor reports of anti-social behaviour across the ACT, including in the Molonglo Valley.
- Depending on the nature of a request to police, resources may be deployed, the matter may be followed up at a later date or the matter may not require further police action.

Cleared by: ACTP-C-MPP

Date: 13 March 2019

OVERSIGHT BRIEF

Decrease in Random Breath Tests – The Canberra Times enquiry

- On Thursday 14 March 2019, ACT Policing Media received an enquiry from the Canberra Times regarding a decrease in Random Breath Tests (RBTs) within the ACT.

Random Breath Tests

- ACT Policing's Traffic Operations team conducts roadside breath testing for both the presence of alcohol and other drugs. Random Breath Testing is one component of ACT Policing's approach to reducing road trauma.
- Drivers are selected randomly however locations and timing are based on historical data, intelligence and other factors.
- Over the past five years the number of random breath tests conducted quarterly ranged from a high of 45,604 tests in the October to December 2014 quarter to a low of 14,028 tests in the January to March 2017 quarter. ACT Policing's Traffic Operations team conducts roadside breath testing for both the presence of alcohol and other drugs.
- In the past five years, quarterly figures have ranged between 1 in 167 drivers testing positive (Oct-Dec 2014) and 1 in 61 (Apr-Jun 2018) drivers testing positive for alcohol.
- Over the longer term, we are seeing increases in the rates of detection of impaired drivers. This increase in rates of detection highlights the dedicated work of ACT Policing, who are working hard to ensure they have the right people, in the right place, at the right time.
- A shift from the traditional bulk approach to Random Breath Testing, to a more targeted, intelligence-lead approach means our Police are having greater success in removing impaired drivers from our roads.
- Both the number of tests conducted and the proportion of drivers recording a positive reading have historically fluctuated. The number of tests conducted varies due to a range of factors including operational priorities, time of year, event occurrence and staffing levels.
- Every ACT Policing member can conduct random breath testing of road users in the ACT. There are a number of road safety areas that are targeted throughout the year as part of the ACT Policing and ACT Government Road Safety Calendar and RBT is a significant tool for ACT Policing in removing impaired drivers from the road and increasing road safety.

OVERSIGHT BRIEF

Roadside Drug Tests

- ACT Policing's Traffic Operations team conducts roadside breath testing for both the presence of alcohol and other drugs. Roadside Drug Testing is an increasingly important component of ACT Policing's approach to reducing road trauma.
- Drivers are selected randomly however locations and timing are based on historical data, intelligence and other factors.
- The number of roadside drug tests conducted over the past five years ranged between a low of 360 in the April to June 2015 quarter to a high of 1072 in the January to March 2018 quarter.
- An important factor to note is that when conducting drug driving tests, each test takes significantly longer to complete when compared to drink driving tests. This has had an impact on the overall number of tests able to be completed.
- In the past five years quarterly figures have ranged between 1 in 11.3 (Jan-Mar 2016) drivers testing positive and 1 in 4.1 (Apr-Jun 2018) drivers testing positive for drugs.
- As Police have increased the use of Roadside Drug Testing, a targeted approach to testing has also seen an increase in rates of detection. This intelligence-lead, targeted approach is removing impaired drivers from our roads, and reducing road trauma.
- ACT Policing will continue to deploy resources in the most effective manner possible, ensuring that the right people, are in the right place, at the right time.
- ACT Policing remains committed to reducing road trauma and improving the safety on our roads. Random Breath Testing and Roadside Drug Testing will continue to be important tools available to our Police, and will continue to be key methods through which Police remove impaired drivers from our roads.

Cleared by: ACTP-DCPOR

Date: 19 March 2019

OVERSIGHT BRIEF

Police Pursuits

Police Vehicle 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.
- The Government introduced new laws in 2016 to give police enhanced investigative powers and higher penalties to deal with drivers who fail to stop for police.
 - The penalties for failing to stop for police are among the highest for any traffic offence with a maximum penalty of 12 months imprisonment and \$15,000 in fines, or 3 years imprisonment and \$45,000 for repeat offenders.
- These laws were introduced at the same time ACT Policing moved to a limited pursuit policy.
- Police do not pursue drivers unless it is to prevent a serious risk to public health or safety, or to prevent serious injury or death.

Canberra Times Article – Cross Border Pursuits

- On Sunday 28 October 2018, the Canberra Times published an article on ACT Policing’s limited pursuit policy and cross-border pursuits.
- Part 3.17 of the AFP National Guideline on Urgent Duty Driving and Pursuits details governance in the event of cross border pursuits.
 - ACT Policing operations must take all reasonable steps to seek permission from NSW Police to continue the pursuit until NSW Police can take over.
 - ACT Police officers continuing a pursuit into NSW must comply with both the ACT pursuit policy and the NSW 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.
- It should be noted that ACT Policing’s current pursuit policy was not in effect at the time this incident occurred. ACT Policing has reviewed the findings from Coroner Morrison’s report.

Cleared by: ACTP-C-MPP

Date: 12 March 2019

OVERSIGHT BRIEF

Liquor Reform Package

- The ACT 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 ACT Government's investment of \$4.814 million over four years commencing from 2017-18 financial year, 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: 12 March 2019

OVERSIGHT BRIEF

Complaints regarding ACT Policing members

- A request under the *Freedom of Information Act* was received by ACT Policing from the *Canberra Times* seeking details of serious misconduct and use of force allegations made against ACT Policing members from July 2016 – June 2018.
 - Records relating to 85 complaint allegations were released
 - 28 complaints resulted in a finding of misconduct
 - One complaint resulted in a finding of corruption
 - 45 complaints since July 2016 related to use of excessive force
- ACT Policing does not tolerate misconduct from its members and all allegations against ACT Policing members are thoroughly investigated.
 - Complaints relating to serious misconduct are investigated by the AFP's Professional Standards area and are also reported to the Commonwealth Ombudsman for additional oversight.
 - Complaints relating to customer service matters and minor misconduct are investigated by ACT Policing's Complaint Management Team.
- In the 2017-18 financial year, almost 40 per cent of alleged conduct breaches were reported by an ACT Policing member, including conduct that was self-reported. This high percentage of internally-generated complainants indicates the strength of the AFP complaint management framework.

Use of Force

- All AFP members, including ACT Policing members, must act in accordance with Commissioner's Order 3 (CO3), which governs the use of force by members.
- Under CO3, all ACT Policing officers are required to successfully complete use of force training annually. The training focuses on communication and conflict de-escalation as alternatives to physical force.
- ACT Policing reviews every instance of a use of force to ensure it complies with ACT Policing and AFP standards and policies.

Cleared by: ACTP-C-MPP

Date: 12 March 2019

OVERSIGHT BRIEF

ACTF&R Attending Medical Assists

Talking points

- In general, ACTF&R will attend a medical assist if they are the closest unit in the area or if ACTAS has requested assistance. In circumstances such as this, ACTF&R can initially respond to a medical incident until such time as an ambulance resource is available. This is coordinated through the ESA Communications Centre (ComCen) under the direction of ACTAS.
- Between 1 July 2017 and 30 June 2018, ACTF&R attended 368 medical assist incidents. This ranges from conducting assessment only to providing CPR to a patient. This averages to around one per day. To put this into context, as reported in the 2017-18 Justice and Community Safety Annual Report, over the same period:
 - ACTAS responded to 52,426 medical incidents, which averages to approximately 144 incidents per day; and
 - ACTF&R responded to 10,464 fire, rescue, and other incidents including hazardous materials (Hazmat) and Automatic Fire Alarms, which averages to approximately 29 incidents per day.
- ACTF&R personnel are all first aid-qualified and can provide a range of immediate assistance, including use of a defibrillator.
- ACTAS has utilised ACTF&R's first response capacity for many years, where CPR is in progress and the ACTF&R unit is closer. This is in line with international best practice and is one of many factors that has resulted in steadily increasing survival rates for out-of-hospital cardiac arrest in the ACT.

Key Information

- The Council of Ambulance Authorities (of which ACTAS is a member) has adopted the 10 point out-of-hospital cardiac arrest improvement plan, as developed by the Resuscitation Academy in Seattle, USA. Seattle is recognised as having the world's best community cardiac arrest survival rates. This plan highlights that responding the closest first response unit with CPR and defibrillator capability is a key element to improving survival from cardiac arrests.
- Survival from out-of-hospital cardiac arrest is typically quite low; historically around 10%. An audit of cardiac arrest survival in the ACT was conducted in 2014 and found a survival discharge rate of 18%. The latest audit conducted in 2017 found survival to discharge had increased to 31%.

Cleared by: Dominic Lane

Date: 7 March 2019

OVERSIGHT BRIEF

ACT Fire & Rescue (ACTF&R) and Light Rail

- ACT Fire & Rescue (ACTF&R) is confident that planned arrangements for emergency incidents involving the Light Rail provides an appropriate level of protection to ensure public safety. The community can be confident in the knowledge that trained firefighters, with the right equipment will come to their aid in the unfortunate event it be required.
- The ACT Emergency Services Agency works closely with Transport Canberra and City Services (TCCS) and Canberra Metro to ensure all emergency services are prepared and able to respond in the unlikely event of a light rail emergency. The safety of the community is a priority for all involved.
- The response arrangements developed by ACTF&R are very similar to those already in place in other jurisdictions with light rail i.e. in Melbourne and the Gold Coast, as well as the arrangements being developed in Sydney.
- ACTF&R has already purchased two 50 tonne hydraulic rams and two 35 tonne airbags (used to displace or remove industrial strength or heavy objects), noting that the mass of a Light Rail Vehicle is 40 tonnes. This equipment allows rescuers to lift a Light Rail Vehicle to a sufficient height to access any trapped casualties.
- As part of the planning process, ACTF&R benchmarked rescue techniques and equipment used for Light Rail services nationally.
- The ACTF&R equipment has very similar capability to that already in service in Victoria and being used by the Metropolitan Fire Brigade as well as the Queensland Fire & Emergency Service for the Gold Coast Light Rail and the capability that will be placed into service by Fire & Rescue NSW for the Sydney Light Rail.
- The delivery of the specialised Light Rail rescue capability in Canberra is similar to that used for other specialised rescue incidents, such as a building collapse, trench or confined space rescue. This uses specialised rescue Platform On Demand (POD) trucks transported to the scene to enhance the lifting equipment already carried on all front-line ACTF&R fire trucks.
- The specialised PODs and equipment is already in place and the truck used to transport them to an incident are already staffed 24 hours a day by trained firefighters.

Cleared by: Dominic Lane

Date: 7 March 2019

OVERSIGHT BRIEF

ACT Ambulance Service (ACTAS) Fees and Exemptions

- Ambulance fees and charges are approved by the Minister for Police and Emergency Services and are reviewed annually, on 1 July. Currently, the cost of an emergency ambulance service (including treatment and transport) is \$959 plus \$13 per kilometre for every kilometre travelled outside the ACT. An emergency ambulance service (including treatment but not transport) is \$665. Medicare does not cover the cost of the provision of ambulance services.
- Those exempt from paying ambulance fees in the ACT include:
 - School Students
 - Pensioners and Concession Card Holders who are in receipt of Centrelink entitlements
 - Incidents involving a motor vehicle on an ACT road or road related area
 - Acts of Good Samaritans
 - Persons in lawful custody
 - Minors under Care Orders
 - Deceased Persons
 - Victims of domestic or family violence or sexual assault
- Applications for review of an ambulance account on the basis of financial hardship, other exceptional circumstances, or disputing the invoice, must be made in writing, accompanied by any supporting documentation to Shared Services Ambulance Finance.
- Further information is available on the ESA website at <http://esa.act.gov.au/actas/fees-and-charges/>

Cleared by: Dominic Lane

Date: 7 March 2019

OVERSIGHT BRIEF

Defibrillators used by ACTAS

- The safety of patients is paramount for the ACT Ambulance Service (ACTAS). ACTAS actively checks and maintains equipment regularly to ensure its safety and effectiveness.
- MRx defibrillator units are currently used in the ACT. All defibrillator units are regularly serviced and, in addition, all ambulance vehicles carry an additional defibrillator at all times.
- Replacement of all MRx defibrillator units will occur in 2019 as part of a scheduled equipment renewal process.

Cleared by: Dominic Lane

Date: 7 March 2019

OVERSIGHT BRIEF

MPES 2018-19 Half-Yearly Statement of Performance Report

Talking Points:

Financial Summary

- The YTD Actual for Total Cost and Controlled Recurrent Payments are in line with the YTD Target with no significant variances.

Prevention and Preparedness – Accountability Indicator 4.1(b)

- The YTD Actual for 4.1 (b) Field Assessments of Access Management Upgrades and Hazard Reduction burns conducted in accordance with Bushfire Operational Plans (BOP) of ACT Government directorates has been stated as Not Applicable. So far in the 2018-19 FY, there have been no hazard reduction burns or access upgrades activities conducted in accordance with any approved BOPs and therefore no field audits have been conducted. These activities are heavily reliant on advantageous weather conditions in order to conduct the activities safely and to limit the risk of escape. So far in the 2018-19 FY the conditions have not been conducive for these activities to be undertaken. This is why the result is Not Applicable.

Prevention and Preparedness – Accountability Indicator 4.1(c)

- The YTD Actual for (c) Percentage of ESA staff who have completed accredited training in AIMS was 71%, this represented a -11% variance on the 80% target. The target for this indicator was raised from 70% to 80% for the 2018-19 FY. This was due to ESA consistently achieving the previous target. ESA Training have made a concerted effort to promote the AIMS Training and have achieved great success, but this training has not previously been mandated to ACT Ambulance Service. ESA Training are now working with the ACT Ambulance Service to help staff undertake this training. As a result ESA has not yet met this target.

Response and Recovery – Accountability Indicator 4.1 (f)

- The YTD Actual for (f) Ambulance priority 1 - Incident Response Time 50th percentile (minutes) was 9.1, this represented a 14% variance on the 8.0 minute target. The lower than target result for this performance measure is due to an increase in demand for ambulance services. The ACT Ambulance Service is currently engaged in a process of recruiting lateral and graduate paramedics, which should help alleviate this pressure. This is to meet the election commitment to increase front line staff during this term of government.

OVERSIGHT BRIEF

Response and Recovery – Accountability Indicator 4.1 (h)

- The YTD Actual for (h) Percentage of Patient Transport Services 'fixed booking' attended by booked time was 73%, this represented a 12% variance on the 65% target.

The higher than target result for this performance measure is due to improved booking procedures. Prior to the improved procedures being implemented, there was fixed bookings being made at times where the Patient Transport Services were unable to meet the booking time due to rostering and booking conflicts. This has now been addressed with the new booking procedure and has resulted in improved performance against this performance measure.

Cleared by: Dominic Lane

Date: 7 March 2019

TRIM Reference MIN:2019/000013-047

Portfolio/s: Building Quality Improvement
Minister for Police and Emergency Services

ISSUE: BUILDING QUALITY

Talking points:

- **126** complaints relating to building issues were received between 1 July 2018 to 30 December 2018.
- **48** cases (67 complaints) were resolved through engagement action by Access Canberra, rather than formal enforcement action.
- **Cladding** - Physical inspections of ACT Government buildings with potentially combustible cladding are continuing to take place to ensure that aluminium composite panels have been installed correctly and do not pose any undue risk to building occupants. During the initial review and subsequent inspections, no buildings have been found unsafe to occupy.
- **Fire precautions during construction** - The National Construction Code (NCC), Clause E1.9, provides prescriptive requirements for buildings during the construction phase of works. ACT Fire & Rescue (ACTF&R) do not inspect all buildings during construction for compliance with Clause E1.9. It is the responsibility of the Building Certifier/Builder to ensure compliance to the NCC is maintained throughout the construction phase. ACTF&R will, however, inspect buildings during construction where concerns have been raised in direct relation to fire safety matters.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	19/02/2019	
Cleared by:	Chief Operating Officer	Ext: 79828
Information Officer name:	David Snowden	
Contact Officer name:	Belinda Josey	Ext: 70382
Lead Directorate:	Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development	

Key Information

Enforcement activity between 1 July 2018 – 30 December 2018.

Type of Notice	Number issued 2018-19	Comments
Notice of Intention to issue a Rectification Order	5	(including where a rectification order was subsequently issued)
Rectification Order	1	Currently before ACAT
Show Cause Notice (pre-Controlled Activity Order)	10	Including where there was an active decision to make or refuse to make a controlled activity order
Controlled Activity Order	4	Including one Ongoing Controlled Activity Order
Decision to <u>not</u> make a Controlled Activity Order	3	Evidence supplied by respondent demonstrated order not required
Demerit points	34	
Direction to undertake building work	9	Also referred to as 'section 62 notice' Includes one notice subsequently withdrawn through ACAT proceedings
Stop work notice	13	

Background Information

- Additional information not included in the above summary:
 - 9 cases were determined to be unsubstantiated complaints and were resolved with no further action; and
 - 14 cases relating to swimming pool compliance and/or safety were resolved.

Cleared as complete and accurate: 19/02/2019
 Cleared by: Chief Operating Officer Ext: 79828
 Information Officer name: David Snowden
 Contact Officer name: Belinda Josey Ext: 70382
 Lead Directorate: Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development

OVERSIGHT BRIEF

Bushfire Risk and Planning at Ginninderry

- In planning for new estates in or near bushfire-prone areas the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate works very closely with the ESA.
- 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 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 formal lodgement of a Development Application and advice from technical experts, including those within ESA Risk and Planning and the ACT Rural Fire Service.

Cleared by: Dominic Lane

Date: 7 March 2019

OVERSIGHT BRIEF

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 Bushfire Abatement Zone (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 in recent fire seasons, 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.

Cleared by: Dominic Lane

Date: 7 March 2019

OVERSIGHT BRIEF

ACT Ambulance Service (ACTAS) Blueprint For Change

- The Blueprint For Change implementation project continues to be a high priority for the ACTAS. It also aligns with the broader ACT Emergency Services Agency (ESA) Strategic Reform Agenda.
- During the February 2019 sitting period I delivered a Ministerial Statement, updating the Assembly on the closure of all outstanding items, and providing information on the transition to new governance.
- All eight of the original Blueprint For Change recommendations are substantially addressed or have been completed. In light of this, the Blueprint For Change Oversight Committee has recognised a transition of governance and oversight to ACTAS ‘business as usual’ is now required.
- A Transition Plan articulating the key activities and responsibilities to successfully transition these responsibilities to “business as usual” has been accepted and endorsed by the Oversight Committee.
- As the project enters its final stage, ACTAS is extremely well positioned to deliver the remaining outcomes. As such, it will now transition from the Oversight Committee to the Governance and Compliance Committee. The new Committee will still seek the input of independent representatives to ensure a variety of perspectives continue to be considered in the final delivery phases.
- The project continues to receive strong support from Government, the Transport Workers Union and workplace representatives.

Cleared by: Dominic Lane

Date: 7 March 2019

OVERSIGHT BRIEF

ACT Emergency Services Agency (ESA) 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.

Cleared by: Dominic Lane

Date: 7 March 2019

OVERSIGHT BRIEF

JACS Ongoing Issues

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

Integrity Commission background

- The ACT Legislative Assembly passed the Integrity Commission Act 2018 on 29 November 2018.
- Establishing the Commission was an election commitment of this Government and is an item in the Parliamentary Agreement.
- The Act was the product of two Select Committee inquiries, sustained public consultation and extensive negotiations between the Government, the Opposition and Greens MLAs.
- The Act creates an ACT Integrity Commission tasked with investigating corrupt conduct relating to the public sector, referring complaints to appropriate entities and conducting education and training.
- The Integrity Commission has jurisdiction to investigate corrupt conduct committed by a range of public officials, including ACT public servants, MLAs and their staff, statutory office holders including boards and committees and third party contractors.
- The Commission must prioritise the investigation of serious or systemic corrupt conduct.
- The ACT Integrity Commission is tasked with investigating prospective and current matters, with some limited ability to retrospectively review matters committed after the Territory acquired self-government in 1989.
- 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

OVERSIGHT BRIEF

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.

- The Integrity Commission is due to commence operations on 1 July 2019.

Coverage of ACT Policing

- Corrupt conduct committed by members of ACT Policing is currently investigated by Commonwealth bodies including the Australian Federal Police's Professional Standards Unit and the Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity.
- The ACT Government believes the ACT should have oversight of corrupt conduct committed by its police force.
- The Legislative Assembly currently lacks legislative power to pass laws with respect to ACT Policing.
- The Commonwealth Government would need to amend a range of Commonwealth laws to remove the impediments that block the Legislative Assembly from legislating about ACT Policing, including parts of the *Australian Capital Territory (Self-Government) Act 1988*.
- The Government tabled the *Integrity Commission (ACT Policing) Amendment Bill 2018 (Exposure Draft)* in the Legislative Assembly on 27 November 2018.
- The purpose of the exposure draft was to signal to the Assembly, ACT Policing and the Australian Government that the ACT is committed to the Integrity Commission acquiring oversight of corrupt conduct committed by ACT Policing.
- The Commonwealth Government has formally advised the ACT Government that it does not support the ACT Integrity Commission acquiring jurisdiction over ACT Policing.
- The Commonwealth Government has advised they are open to strengthening information sharing with the ACT Integrity Commission to enhance the level of insight into ACT Policing integrity matters.