

Public Account and Estimates Committee

Inquiry into the 2026-27 Budget Estimates

Vicki Ward MP

Minister for Emergency Services

Friday 15 May 2026



Victoria is experiencing emergencies that are increasing in frequency and intensity

2025-26 higher risk weather season (HRWS):

State Control Centre – Activated at Tier 1 or above for 82 days for Class 1 emergencies during the HRWS.

VicEmergency – 2,799 warnings were issued through VicEmergency over the HRWS.

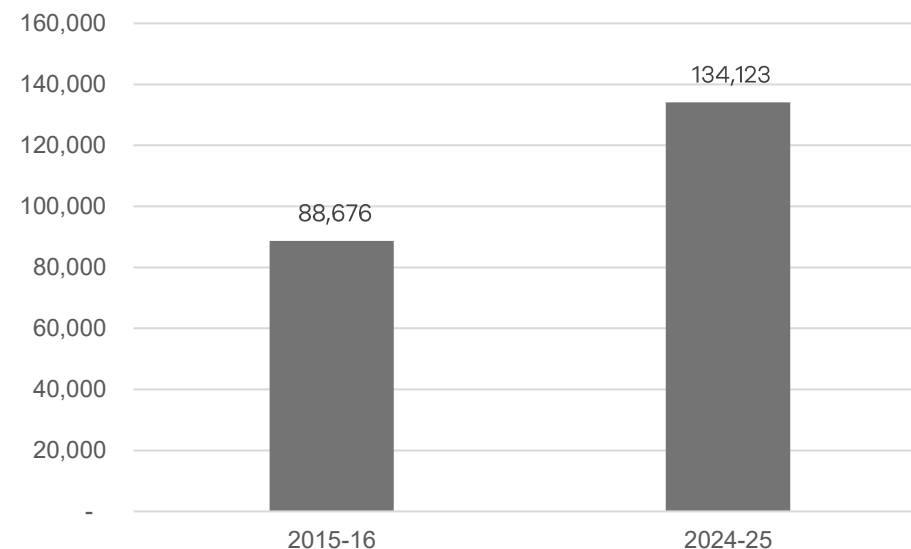
Fires – 30 fires or fire complexes progressed to State Line of Control during the HRWS of which 25 started on or after 05 January 2026.

Storms – on 8 January, Victoria experienced severe thunderstorms that travelled across the State and contributed to a significant number of fire starts.

Floods – On 15 January, a severe thunderstorm caused subsequent flash flooding along the Great Ocean Road.

Heat – SCC activated for 12 days for Class 2 – Heat. 13 warnings for Heat were issued via VicEmergency at the Advice level.

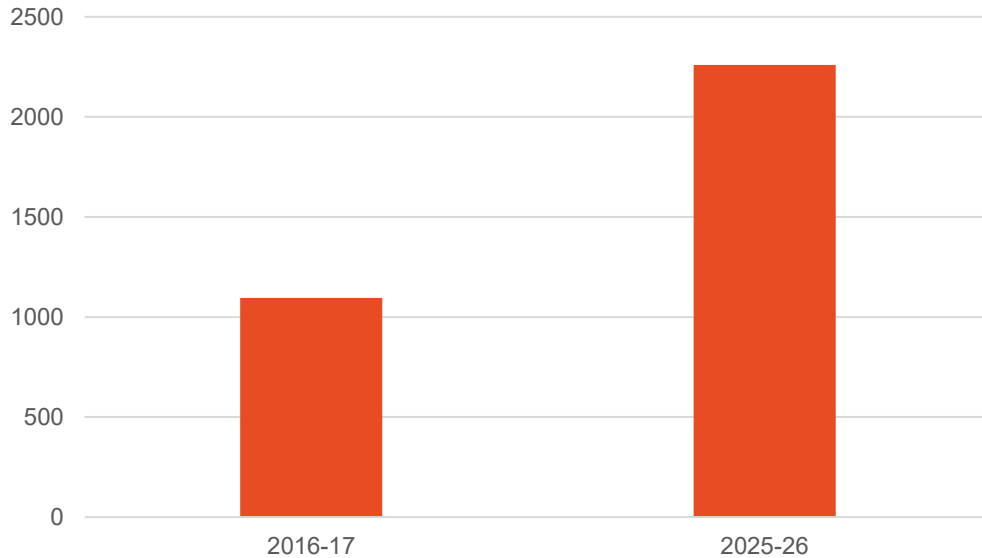
Incidents attended by Victorian emergency service organisations



Data Source: 2026 Report on Government Services

Increase in annual investment in the emergency services Victorians count on

Emergency Management Output Cost



* 2025-26 result is the expected outcome for 2025-26 rather than the actual



This budget backs our emergency services with the resources they need to keep communities safe

The 2026-27 Victorian Budget includes net total funding of:

- **\$100.0 million** for Delivering new Country Fire Authority fleet
- **\$26.2 million** for Building more Country Fire Authority stations
- **\$22.4 million** for A stronger, safer Country Fire Authority
- **\$13.5 million** for Delivering new Fire Rescue Victoria fleet
- **\$6.3 million** for Strengthening Fire Rescue Victoria's fire station safety
- **\$37.1 million** for Upgrading Fire Rescue Victoria's human resources information system
- **\$7.0 million** for Backing Life Saving Victoria
- **\$101.9 million** for Upgrading Victoria's triple zero telephony
- **\$2.4 million** for Backing VICSES to keep communities safe from flooding
- **\$3.6 million** for Opening new Victoria State Emergency Service units
- **\$17.4 million** for Strengthening Victoria State Emergency Service
- **\$4.3 million** for Backing Victoria's marine search and rescue and delivering new vessels
- **\$9.3 million** for Emergency Alert



Over
\$350 million in
funding

Continuing to modernise our emergency services fleet

Delivering new CFA fleet

\$100.0 million to replace fire fighting appliances over 10 years.

Delivering new FRV fleet

\$13.5 million for new ultra large pumper and heavy pumper fire appliances, a fireboat and for maintenance and repairs to critical operational fleet.

Backing Victoria's marine search and rescue and delivering new vessels

\$4.3 million for MSAR vessel maintenance and the replacement of MSAR response vessels at Port Welshpool and Torquay.





Continuing to build and upgrade emergency services facilities

Strengthening VICSES

\$17.4 million to construct a new facility for the Corio unit, deliver a refurbished facility for the Port Phillip unit and acquire land for the Whitehorse unit.

Building more CFA stations

\$26.2 million for Country Fire Authority stations at Charlton, Mirboo North, Kingston, Woodvale, Yarrambat, Barongarook West, Lakes Entrance, Dereel, Nar Nar Goon and Beveridge.

Strengthening FRV's fire station safety

\$6.3 million to continue to install diesel-emission capture systems across Fire Rescue Victoria fire stations, and improvements to Eastern Hill and Richmond stations including improving bedroom facilities.



Supporting our volunteers

A stronger, safer CFA

\$22.4 million to deliver personal protective clothing, improved internet connectivity and wellbeing support.

Opening new VICSES units

\$3.6 million to operationalise VICSES units in Kalkallo and Devon Meadows.

Keeping Victorians Safe

Backing VICSES to keep communities safe from flooding

\$2.4 million to update VICSES Local Flood Guides and Municipal Flood and Storm Emergency Management Plans.

Backing Life Saving Victoria

\$7.0 million to support the completion of surf lifesaving facilities at Bancoora and Point Lonsdale, paid lifeguard services, rescue watercraft services, rescue helicopter and drone services, and public information, relations and messaging.

Emergency Alert

\$9.3 million for Victoria's contribution to operating and maintaining the national Emergency Alert system.



Boosting emergency services capability

Upgrading FRV's human resources information system

\$37.1 million to replace FRV's human resource management systems.

Upgrading Victoria's triple zero telephony

\$101.9 million to replace Victoria's triple zero telephony system.



Thank you.

