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Public Accounts and Estimates Committee

Inquiry into the 2025-26 Budget Estimates

Vicki Ward MP

Minister for Emergency Services

Tuesday 3 June 2025



Victoria is experiencing emergencies that are increasing in frequency and intensity

2024-25 high risk weather season:

State Control Centre – was activated for 203 days

VicEmergency – over 2248 warnings issued to the Victorian community

Fires – Little Desert, Grampians, fire season extended into May

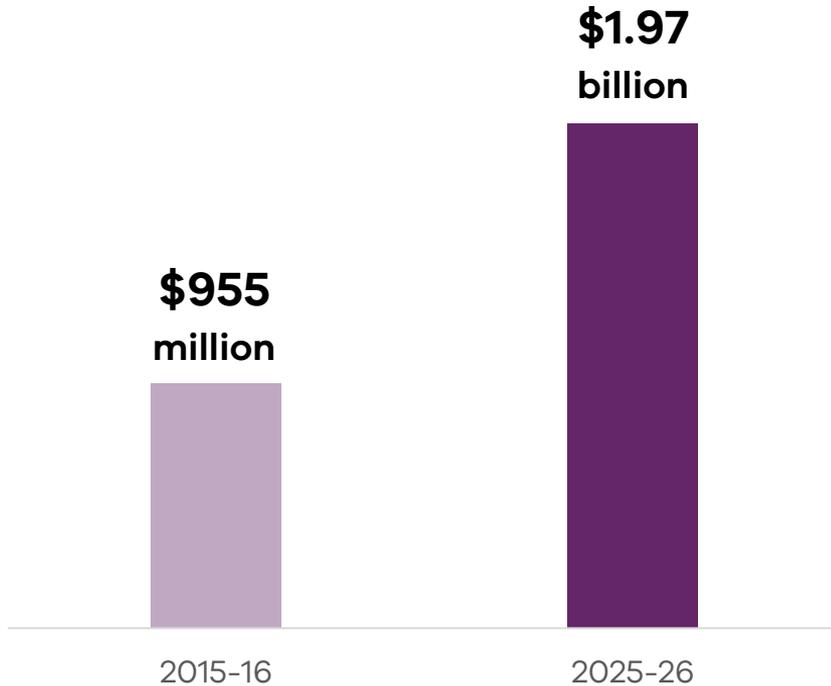
Storms – caused inundation, coastal damage, building damage and bushfire ignition from dry lighting

Heatwaves – 5 severe heatwave events. 12 days with severe heatwave warnings issued



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We have doubled annual investment in the emergency services Victorians count on



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

The 2025-26 Victorian Budget includes:

- **\$40 million** for a Rolling Fleet Replacement Program for Fire Rescue Victoria
- **\$20.8 million** to build more Country Fire Authority Stations
- **\$2.8 million** to boost Victoria's capability and capacity to respond to critical incidents
- **\$17.4 million** to better protect Fire Rescue Victoria from cyber security threats
- **\$6.8 million** to strengthen Marine Search and Rescue and deliver new vessels
- **\$13.9 million** for the Victorian Fire Season Campaign
- **\$24.7 million** to boost capacity for Triple Zero Victoria
- **\$14.5 million** to deliver a new Victoria State Emergency Service Footscray unit
- **\$10.4 million** for Victoria's State Control Centre
- **\$53.1 million** to further support our emergency services and volunteers
- **\$1.8 million** for the critical work of the Inspector General for Emergency Management Victoria



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Equipping our critical emergency services

Fire Rescue Victoria – Rolling fleet replacement program

\$40 million to replace 19 heavy pumper and 4 ladder platform appliances to support Fire Rescue Victoria's firefighting capability and help keep Victorians safe from fire.

Building more Country Fire Authority stations

\$20.8 million to deliver 2 new satellite Country Fire Authority stations at Wendouree and Hampton Park, and to deliver new CFA stations in Winnindoo, Hoddles Creek, Dartmoor, Leitchville, Kinglake West, Raywood and Yarram.

Delivering a new Victoria State Emergency Service Footscray unit

\$14.5 million for construction of a new Victoria State Emergency Service Footscray unit to support emergency response and recovery.

Boosting emergency services capability

Better protecting Fire Rescue Victoria from cyber security threats

\$17.4 million to strengthen cyber security to better protect Fire Rescue Victoria's information management systems from threats.

Backing Triple Zero Victoria to meet demand

\$24.7 million to increase capacity for Triple Zero Victoria to continue to meet demand and ensure timely emergency responses for Victorians.

Strengthening Marine Search and Rescue and delivering new vessels

\$6.8 million to strengthen support for marine search and rescue training and operations and deliver 2 new vessels.



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Supporting our volunteers

Boosting Victoria's capability and capacity to respond to critical incidents

\$2.8 million is provided to support Victoria's emergency Incident Management Teams and State and Regional Controllers.

Further supporting our emergency services and volunteers

\$53.1 million is provided to support emergency services and volunteers to ensure they have the tools and resources they need to respond and keep Victorians safe and assist recovery from emergency events and natural disasters. This builds on the **\$200 million** announced in the 2024-25 Budget Update for *Supporting our emergency services volunteers*, including over **\$62 million** to double the Volunteer Emergency Services Equipment Program Grants.



Keeping Victorians safe

Victorian Fire Season Campaign

\$13.9 million is provided to the annual Victorian fire season campaign, which prompts all Victorians to be better prepared against the threat of bush and grassfire and keep communities safer.

Supporting Victoria's State Control Centre

\$10.4 million for the State Control Centre to deliver critical 24/7 functions in support of the emergency services sector.

Supporting the Inspector-General for Emergency Management Victoria

\$1.8 million to support the Inspector-General for Emergency Management in its role to strengthen emergency management arrangements and community safety in Victoria.



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Thank you.

