



# Public Accounts and Estimates Committee 2022-23

## Budget Estimates Hearings

Jaclyn Symes MP  
Attorney-General

Minister for Emergency Services

Wednesday 18 May 2022



# Investment for continuous improvement in Victoria's emergency services



The **Victorian Budget 2022/23** is investing **\$442 million** of additional funding in the emergency services sector to **increase capability and workforce capacity**

## The Victorian Budget 2022/23 provides:

- a significant funding boost to ESTA to respond to record demand from the COVID-19 pandemic
- funding to enable the State Control Centre to function with 24/7 operations in an ongoing capacity
- funding for VICSES to maintain its facilities, upgrade priority vehicles and help volunteers respond to floods, storms and other emergencies
- Support for our fire services with improved facilities, including female change rooms, volunteer driver training as well as an upgraded emergency vehicle fleet
- investment in water safety initiatives
- investment in critical marine search and rescue capabilities



## Funding boost for ESTA

A total additional investment of **\$360.992 million** for the Emergency Services Telecommunications Authority (ESTA) since the *2021-22 Victorian Budget*.

### This includes:

- **\$333.428 million** over five years included in the *Victorian Budget 2022/23* to bolster call-taking and dispatch capabilities and support resources.
- **\$27.564 million** provided in October 2021 for a range of initiatives to address call taking demand pressures experienced due to unprecedented COVID-19 service demand.

The additional 2022-23 Victorian Budget package represents the biggest ever investment in Victoria's triple zero capability and workforce capacity.

# Highlights of ESTA's funding

**\$170 million** extra for staffing across call-takers and dispatchers, team leaders, senior trainers, critical incident managers, technical critical incident responders and corporate support.

Out of the approximately additional **400 staff**, this will fund an additional **141.8 call-takers and dispatchers**.



**67 FTE**

New ambulance call takers and dispatchers



**60.5 FTE**

New police call takers and dispatchers



**14.3 FTE**

New fire call takers and dispatchers

**\$26 million** extra for critical initiatives to support workers and immediately boost capacity and flexibility.

**\$26 million** extra for stability and security maintenance of ESTA's CAD system.



# Key sector initiatives

## Fire Services

### \$27 million

- To enhance gender diversity and inclusion by building **female-friendly changing facilities** at three training centres, upgrading facilities at 40 CFA stations, and undertaking environmental impact assessments.
- To upskill and protect our volunteer firefighters by **enhancing volunteer driver training** and purchasing **additional training fleet**.

## VICSES

### \$28.5 million

- To replace **28 vehicles**, and deliver a volunteer health and safety program.
- To deliver training programs to develop **volunteer capability** to respond to floods, storms and other emergencies.



# Key sector initiatives

## Water Safety

### \$3 million

over four years for a **Marine Search and Rescue (MSAR)** vessel maintenance program and to connect MSAR to the Victorian Radio Network.

### \$12 million

over two years for continuation of **Life Saving Victoria's** public water safety programs, infrastructure upgrades at Sorrento Surf Life Saving Club and all abilities infrastructure for Seaford Surf Life Saving Club.

## Emergency Management Capability

### \$36 million

for ongoing funding for the **dedicated 24/7 workforce** of 51 FTE at the **State Control Centre**.

### \$2 million

over two years to enable **Emergency Management Victoria** to continue delivering sector-wide reforms.





Thank you.

