

STATE BUDGET

2023-24

STEPHEN MULLIGHAN MP
TREASURER

JOE SZAKACS MP
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES

FUNDING OUR EMERGENCY SERVICES

The budget includes a significant investment into aerial firefighting for South Australia, with an additional \$26.7 million over four years to enhance the Country Fire Service's aerial firefighting fleet.

These funds will support the addition of up to nine aircraft to significantly enhance the State's aerial firefighting capability to combat the risk of bushfire.

This will be the largest number of aircraft ever to support South Australia during bushfires.

It will mean quicker response to fires and more support for firefighters.

Composition for the expanded aerial firefighting fleet will be finalised at the conclusion of the procurement process managed by the National Aerial Firefighting Centre. This is expected to be completed before the next bushfire season.

The 2023-24 budget will also provide \$1.3 million over four years to establish a strategic flood barrier reserve such as DefenCell which was used in South Australia for the first time during the River Murray flood event earlier this year.

Helping protect the town and provide peace of mind to locals, the installation of DefenCell on Randell Street in Mannum was particularly useful and demonstrated its value in helping to protect critical infrastructure.

There is also \$1.9 million over four years for additional mental health and wellbeing support for emergency services volunteers, staff and their families.

Quotes attributable to Stephen Mullighan

When lives or properties are at risk, we turn to our emergency services for help. They need and deserve the best, and they will be receiving a significant investment to help protect South Australian communities.

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Quotes attributable to Joe Szakacs

This investment in our aerial firefighting fleet is the largest of its kind in a generation. Our emergency services personnel make sacrifices every day in their dedicated work to serve and protect all South Australians.

An upgraded aerial firefighting fleet is critical in supporting front line firefighters and protecting communities.

In our changing climate, where bushfires are becoming more frequent and more intense, we need boots on the ground and aerial firefighting planes in the air.

All South Australians noticed the hard work of emergency services career staff and volunteers during the recent River Murray flood event.

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