

Infralog

CFS Infrastructure and Logistics Update: August/September 2011

Hi Everyone,

Please accept my sincere apology for the delays in publishing this latest Infralog. The workload of I&L staff over the past month has been significant and as a result the publication of Infralog, which takes a significant amount of time to produce, was overlooked. Following is an overview of what has been happening - read on.....

Regards,

Arthur Tindall AFSM

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Since the last Infralog:

VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT, (V&E)

(V&E Team currently comprises Sandy Paterson, (Manager), Andrew Plush, and Wayne Box. Wayne Byrne manages Leased vehicles and Command and Logistics vehicles and reports to MIL)

Recent Deliveries

Avenue Range received a refurbished 34.

11-12 New Appliance Program

Work has begun on all models of appliances for this financial year's new appliance program.

Fraser Fire and Recue has committed to delivering all of the nineteen 34's and the four 34P's by the end of June 2012. We will be watching this closely given that this is the first time we have used Frasers and that historically all suppliers have struggled to deliver appliances in the financial year that they were ordered.

Moore Engineering has begun construction of two Bulk Water Carriers and is completing the final design review of the four 14's it will build. The review is taking into consideration feed back received on the Booleroo 14 that was built in 2009.

Bell Environmental are well under way with construction of a Rescue appliance and three QRV's.



CFS has accepted delivery of a new Pumper from Fraser Fire and Recue. This was displayed at the recent AFAC Conference and attracted a great deal of interest. The appliance is built on an Iveco Eurocargo crew cab chassis and is fitted with a PTO driven Darley KSPH 750 rear mounted pump. The functional capacity of this appliance is very similar to the previous Pumpers purchased via a Fire and Rescue NSW contract.

CFS is currently waiting on second stage manufacturer compliance for this vehicle before it is delivered to its host brigade, Morphett Vale where it will replace a Dennis Pumper

2010 - 2011 34/34P Appliance Build

All of the 2010 - 2011 appliances ordered from SEM have now been delivered and will soon be delivered to brigades. It is planned that deliveries should be completed by the end of October.

Since the last Infralog delays in the delivery of these appliances were experienced due to the need to resolve some contractual matters. These have been resolved and I&L staff are currently undertaking pre delivery checks before delivery commences.

Shortly after CFS received delivery of its remaining appliances it was announced that SEM had been purchased by the Varley Group. This is seen as a good result for the fire appliance manufacturing industry and for SEM staff. Varley built a total of forty two appliances for CFS from 2007 to 2009.

CFS Volunteer Vehicle and Equipment Consultative Committee.

The State V&E committee met on Saturday September 10. At the meeting MIL expressed his frustration about the lack of agenda items being provided by the Regional representatives as without issues to discuss it was pointless having meetings. This led to criticism of I&L staff for failing to hold meetings even though there were no items tabled for discussion.

A discussion followed and the consensus was that the information provided in Infralog largely addresses most of the issues that would have been previously discussed at V&E meetings. As a consequence it was agreed that the V&E Committee would only meet face to face twice a year with the option of another two face to face meetings being available if required. The first of the two meetings will be called when the first new appliances are received by CFS and the second at the end of the fire season. Specific issue will be addressed via a teleconference.

Other items discussed at the meeting include –

- Isuzu FTS800 door locks: Design a suitable flap to be fitted over the lever that will prevent inadvertent locking of the door. Activating mechanisms are not to be removed as this will create a major OHS issue.
- Bulk Water Carriers will be provided with a Green E Flare to help identify a water point. This can be located on a high point for visibility or left with a dam when the BWC goes to fill up.
- New batteries will be fitted to appliances just before delivery to the Brigade in order to reduce the incidence of battery failures.
- Consideration to be given to stop using electronic water gauges and reverting to sight gauges. Low level alarm still need to be provided.
- Regional V&E Committees to share minutes with all other V&E committees so as to achieve visibility of common issues.
- Appliance feedback forms to be sent out after brigades have had the opportunity to test the vehicle and HQ staff to follow up to ensure they are returned.

DSE Trial of Booleroo 14.

The Booleroo 14 has been on loan to Department Sustainability and Environment, (DSE), in Victoria for several months. Following completion of the trials DSE invited



Manager Vehicles and Equipment and Manager Infrastructure and Logistics to attend a meeting where the background to the trial and results obtained were explained. The meeting was also attended by representatives from other Australian fire agencies.

The background behind the trial was that DSE vehicle designs have not been comprehensively reviewed for around thirty years and with chassis cracking issues on current heavy

vehicles, axle loading issues on small vehicles and a massive increase in the requirement for prescribed burning the current designs may no longer be fit for their intended purpose.

In undertaking this review everything was considered 'in scope'. By taking this approach DSE opened a 'Pandora's Box' as they had no idea what success would look like and had to deal with many experts who had set ideas along the way. The whole idea of trialling other agencies vehicles was not to compare them but to expose operators to different technologies and in doing so stimulate ideas and discussion. The vehicles were displayed to as many staff as possible throughout Victoria, not just for one day but over a four day period so preconceptions could be overcome and genuine feedback gathered. Numerous staff surveys were also conducted to gain further information and feedback. This turned out to be a massive project that saw four staff fully committed over a three month period.

The specific feedback received in relation to the Booleroo 14 is that crews liked the crew protection systems, the pump and the fridge on the work-deck. Similar positive feedback was provided for all vehicles in the trial but no negative feedback was given as it was never the intent to criticise other agency resources. (The only negative feedback provided was in relation to the ergonomics of the two Landrovers included in the trial.)

The next step for DSE is to survey the market and develop prototypes based on the feedback received. The intent is put rigour behind their process and build the best possible vehicle for their intended use and the crews that use them. Along the way they have committed to sharing their findings with other agencies which can only be of benefit to all involved. DSE are commended for their initiative and commitment.

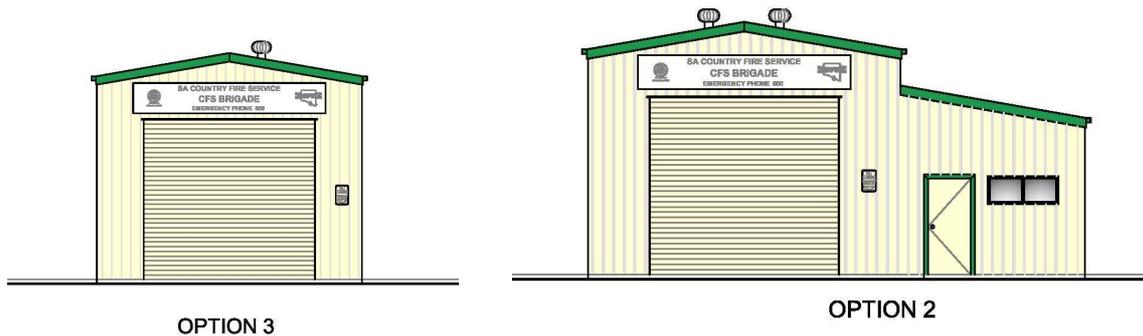
MIL

BUILDINGS & FIXED ASSET MANAGEMENT

(CFS Building and Construction Team – Manager - Colin Warner, (SAFECOM), Phil Luxford. Assets - Project Manager Asset Services – Paul Sargent, (SAFECOM))

Over the past six months a lot of work has gone into simplifying the way CFS delivers its buildings. We have implemented a number of generic designs that can be produced by shed manufacturers. CFS is still required to construct buildings to 'Post Disaster' standards but the designs we are using now use rolled sheet section rather than the structural steel work used

previously. By implementing this concept we have been able to deliver more stations and use local contractors to erect them. Following are depictions of the various 'Types':



OPTION 3

OPTION 2



OPTION 1

OPTION 4

Region 1

Blackwood – New single appliance bay, construction now complete. A fire rating issue has arisen and is in the process of being resolved with quotes being obtained for required work. Investigations to be undertaken in relation to installation of fire siren on nearby water tower.

Blewitt Springs – Still waiting for return from Council despite their promise Licence would be returned some months ago.

Coromandel Valley – Negotiations with Telstra: Response to terms and conditions advice from Crown Solicitor being considered.

Delamere – Land Purchase: Completed.

Eden Hills – New operations building and three bay appliance building: Application for planning approval has been lodged. Arborist report has been requested to comment on trees that need to be removed.

Lower Inman Valley – One bay extension to existing appliance bay. Contractor PO issued, site works commencing late September / early October.

Meadows – Structural changes and new sliding doors to convert appliance bay from 4 bays to three (wider) bays. Footings have been installed. Electrical modifications have been carried out. Contractor to return mid September to complete structural changes and install new doors.

Montacute – New option 1 building, 12m long with meeting room and amenities. Alternate site has been identified. Detail survey has been received which will allow preparation of concept plans. Initial negotiations with land owner completed.

Mylor – Brigade managed building addition. Waiting DAC approval

Nairne – Use of park for access. Council have not responded to information provided. A follow up phone call has also failed to get a response from Council.

Parndana – KI Group Appliance Storage – 30m x 10m Shed for pre positioned appliances. Planning approval received. Waiting for DENR to advise on rededication of land. Have received quotes for supply & erect of shed. Ready to go when we get green light from DENR

Parndana – New 6m x 6m storage shed and prefabricated toilet block at the KI Group Control Centre: Order has been issued to contractor for shed erection and concrete. Erection will commence in late September. Shed kit has been delivered to island and is being held by freight company until required.

Stirling – Replace existing appliance bay building plus other minor associate works: Waiting for development approval.

Western Districts – New option 4 building, 12m long: Need to finalise scope of project to allow planning to proceed.

Region 2

Balgowan – New option 2 building, 12 metres long with meeting room and amenities: Site works due to commence in September.

Concordia – Renew Licence: Waiting on Council to return signed Licence.

Gawler River – Land transfer: Waiting on Crown Land rededication.

Lyndoch – New purpose designed operations building and two bay appliance building: Waiting for DAC planning approval. Redesign of civil works being considered to help meet budget.

Maitland – Installation of new prefabricated toilet block purchased by SES: Toilet building has been delivered. Connection of services has commenced and will be completed by mid September.

Marrabel – New option 1, 12 metres long with meeting room and amenities: Civil works complete and shed has been erected. Laying of concrete is next followed by commencement of fit out of operations area.

Mt Torrens - New option 1, 15 metres long with meeting room and amenities: Trees have been removed. Plans have been signed off. Final drawings for DAC planning submission are being prepared. Lease sent to owners for signing.

Region 2 – R2 Office: Council has rejected land share at former Airport Site. Negotiations with owners of current HQ being undertaken for additional space.

Tea Tree Gully – Storage Shed: Council is reconsidering its Capital Work program and the need to shift CFS in relation to the storage shed.

Region 3

Coonalpyn – Need to identify new site - Scope to be confirmed: The search continues for a suitable site.

Palmer – New option 2 building, 12 metres long with meeting room and amenities: Final stages of design & preparation of DAC planning submission. Design sent to Council to finalise approval for required land.

Rockleigh – Land: Land tenure to be negotiated.

Salt Creek – Waiting on Crown Lands to send amended documentation.

Tailem Bend – Land: Additional land to be negotiated with Council.

Region 4

Appila – New option 3 building, 12m long: Some minor additional civil works and electrical connection required.

Brinkworth – Free standing vehicle garage (6 x 6 metres): Planning approval received. Lease to be finalised.

Burra – Extension to existing CFS station to provide for SES collocation: Project now complete and has been handed over to brigade and SES. Defects liability period has commenced.

Caltowie – Toilets: Licence for shared use of toilets being drafted.

Crystal Brook – Extension to existing building - new kitchen and toilets: Waiting for planning approval.

Farrell Flat – New option 3 building, 15m long: Brigade/group/region signoff has been received. DAC planning approval submission is being prepared.

Iron Knob – Lease: No further progress.

Laura – Drainage Issue: Council is progressing easement through neighbour's property.

Orroroo – Licensing arrangements still being drafted.

Pekina – New option 3 building, 12metres long: Waiting on ETSA electrical connection.

Region 5

Binum – New option 3 building, 15m long with external tank type toilet: Waiting for ETSA to complete installation of transformer and final connection of power. Lease at LTO for Registration.

Callendale – New tank type toilet: Works due to commence in September.

Hynam – New tank type toilet: Almost complete, awaiting connection of water to toilet.

Kongal – New tank type toilet: Works complete but soil subsidence around septic tank to be rectified by contractor.

Kybybolite - New option 3 building, 15m long with external tank type toilet: Complete apart from final connection of power which is expected within two weeks. Licence with Council to be completed.

Lochaber – New option 3 building, 15m long: Waiting on planning approval.

Nangwarry - New option 2 building, 12 m long with meeting room and amenities: Construction documentation & tender package is being prepared.

Woolumbool – New tank type toilet: Site works commencing by mid September.

Region 6

Buckleboo – New option 3 building, 12m long: Erection of shed almost complete, to be followed by laying of concrete.

Cockaleechee – New option 3 building, 12m long: Works substantially complete, some minor civil works and electrical connection to be finalised.

Karkoo – New option 3 building, 12m long: Substantially complete

Mount Hope – New option 3 building, 12m long: Substantially complete apart from minor civil works and electrical connection. Lease to be completed with Council.

Mount Wedge – New option 3 building, 12m long: Shed has been erected, waiting for concrete & electrical connection.

Port Neil – Extension to existing appliance bay: Planning approval has been received.

Rudall – New option 4 building, 12m long: Shed kit has been ordered and builder has been selected to erect the shed.

Sceale Bay – New option 3 building, 12m long: Works now complete. Electrical connection to be finalised. Considering Solar if connection to ETSA is uneconomical. Owner happy to negotiate use of ETSA pole as part of the Lease.

Streaky Bay - Extension to house group command vehicle 10.5m x 3.45m: Plans have been prepared for DAC submission.

Tooligie Hill – New option 3 building, 12m long: Plans have been signed off, waiting for soil tests. Shed kit ordered. Builder has been selected.

Tuckey – New option 3 building, 12m long: Works have commenced, footings have been poured, erection of shed to follow soon.

Tumby Bay Air Operations – New building with 2 appliance bays and storage: Waiting for planning approval. Quotes from shed suppliers and builders have been received.

Wharminda – New option 3 building, 12m long: Old shed demolished, new shed has been manufactured. Waiting for builder to complete other CFS projects before starting at this site.

Wirrulla – New non standard building (single appliance bay 7.5 x 12metres): Old shed has been demolished and site works completed. Builder expected to commence mid September.



New Mt Wedge Station under construction.



New Kybybolite station nearing completion

State Training Centre

CBRN/HAZMAT Facility – Awaiting planning approval

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

(CFS Telecommunications Team - Manager Telecommunications – Mario D’Agostino and Telecommunications Support Officer, Marilyn Hughes)

Radio

The digital capable radios for installation in Region 1 have been received and sorted. Paperwork has been sent to the SAGRN Helpdesk for processing them onto the network. Once this is completed the programming process will commence. Mobile radios will be programmed first due to the tight installation schedule

The tender for the installation of the digital capable radios in Region 1 closes on 26th September and tender responses will be evaluated as a matter of urgency so that the roll out can be finalised by early December. Region 1 involves the largest roll-out of all CFS Regions and contractors may require additional time to complete the installations.

VHF Radio Testing

The State Volunteer Telecommunications Advisory Committee, (SVTAC) are still in the process of testing VHF radios in Digital P25 mode. Region 1, 2 and 3 delegates have completed testing and the radios are now in Region 4. Following testing in R4 they will be

circulated to Region 5, and Region 6. SVTAC have endorsed the use of VHF radios with Mic Control Heads on new VHF radios. Further consultation will occur before a specification is prepared that outlines CFS's digital VHF requirements.

HF Radios

SVTAC in consultation with Regions have put forward a suggested radio trial profile configuration for HF radios. Radios with this configuration will be installed in vehicles in Region 4 and Region 6 with their main functionality being to provide interconnect capability to relevant personnel as contingency in remote areas.

CB Radio

CB Radios recently supplied (GME TX3440) have been installed in 40-channel, wide band format but are upgradeable to the new 80-channel format when required. This is a process that can be carried out by the user. A key sequence to make the change will be provided when we switch to the narrow band format.

SAGRN Upgrade

The Network will be upgraded at 21 sites with the installation of a total of 67 new channels. This is being done to relieve the risk of voice network congestion during day-to-day use and during incidents.

The Transmission Network is also being upgraded in the South East of the State to reduce the likelihood of transmission outages caused by environmental factors. This will result in network performance improvement. Batteries are being replaced at six sites to return these sites to specified endurance without mains power.

Common Codeplug

The SVTAC discussed the long term issue of a common codeplug for emergency services. During these discussions it was suggested that the non used zones in the radio could be utilised for this purpose by populating them with relevant talkgroups. If and when there was a requirement to communicate with other services you would switch Zones and have their Talkgroups available. The delegates of the committee are now endeavouring to consult with their Regions and provide feedback on this matter to see if this proposal is viable.

MANAGERS UPDATE

Fire Boots

As you may be aware, our suppliers have been unable to supply certified Type 1, Wildland and Type 2, Structural, fire boots for some time. This is because the major supplier of fire boots to the Australian market ceased production due to financial difficulties. Unfortunately all of the larger agencies purchased from this company which left everyone searching for an alternate product.

A new boot that has been certified to AS4821:2006 has now come on the market. It is produced by Magnum and uses an interesting process called Ion-Mask Technology to make the leather used waterproof.

Only limited supplies of the Magnum boot are currently available due to the backlog of orders that exist around Australia but back orders are being progressively filled.

Early in the New Year Oliver will reintroducing their redesigned fire boots onto the market. They have done a significant amount of work on them to make them more user friendly including making them lighter. These will also be approved for use by CFS.

CFS Volunteer PPE Committee

The CFS Volunteer PPE Committee will meet for the first time in mid October. The intent of this committee is to create a forum where two way dialogue on PPE related matters can occur. If you have a PPE related issue that you want discussed please contact your Region or I so the issue can be put on the agenda.

Potential New Fabric for Wildland PPE



At the recent AFAC conference a relatively new fabric, Tecasafe plus from TenCate, (pronounced Ten-Carta), USA was displayed. This product is for wildland use and is inherently fire safe which means that its fire resistance rating remains for the life of the garment and cannot be washed out like Proban.

Tecasafe plus generated a significant amount of interest because its pricing appears to be similar to that for Proban, it has a nice feel and drape, it has a wicking effect, (draws moisture away from the skin), and it can be use at a lighter weight than Proban so making it more comfortable to wear. It is also available in true CFS Gold unlike some of the other products available on the market. Only time will tell if this is a suitable and cost effective replacement for Proban but initial impressions are positive.

Updated Logo Design for Appliances

Following is an updated logo that I have been working on. It is primarily intended for use on appliances. Our logo is often criticised as looking like a taxi company logo and the intent of the work undertaken is to clearly define what CFS is and provide some depth and character.

It was used for display purposes at the AFAC Conference display, (look at pumper photo on page one). Please provide your feedback – should I pursue its development and acceptance?



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(Feedback, both positive and negative, is encouraged and welcomed)