Infralog

CFS Infrastructure and Logistics Monthly Update: September 2009

Hi Everyone,

Sorry that I didn't provide an 'Infralog' last month but I took some annual leave. The feedback I received on the first one was exceptional and caught me by surprise. When you work in an area every day you tend to take for granted what is going on and what is being achieved. In this months edition you will be brought up to date with what is happening in the world of CFS Infrastructure and Logistics. I have included some photos as well. I hope you find it informative,

Regards,
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Since the last Infralog:

VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT

- New Bulk Water Carriers have been delivered to Yorke Valley Group & Coorong Group.
- New 34 appliances have been delivered to Willunga Springton, Wiliamstown, Sheoak Log, Eden Valley and Mt Bryan,
- The tender for the supply of new Stowage equipment for the 09-10 new appliance program has been awarded to Pac Fire. Pac Fire is the new name for what was Pacific Helmets Australia. They are in the process of opening an Adelaide branch that will have a staff of two (both of whom are CFS volunteers).
- Tenders have been advertised for the supply of five Bulk Water Carriers. The tender will close in mid September and evaluation should be completed a few weeks after that.

- Two new Quick Response Vehicles (QRV's) have been delivered to CFS. These are currently unallocated and will be displayed around the State in the coming months. They are the same as those now being introduced into the CFA fleet and are based on a Tasmania Fire Service design. If you went to the Royal Show you would have seen one as one was provided for display purposes. You will note that it is on the Nissan Patrol chassis. This will obviously create some debate but the fact is other fire services have started using the Nissans as they cost less than the Toyotas, have more safety features and don't have front axle loading issues
  - Vehicle and Equipment Unit staff member, Phil Luxford, has just participated in this year's AFAC Fire Industry Study Tour. Former CFS CO Stuart Ellis organises these annual tours with the intent of allowing agency staff who wouldn't normally get the opportunity to get an insight of how other fire services operate. All States are visited during the tour.
  - Feedback received during a number of presentations given by MIL in relation to our fleet profile indicated that ladders are rarely used especially those on Rural appliances. I&L, after consultation with the State Vehicle and Equipment Committee, will move away from the rigid ladders that are currently supplied on rural appliances, (34), to a telescopic one, (refer photo). These ladders have an industrial rating of 150Kg and are ideal for the majority of brigades as they are compact, relatively lightweight and can be adjusted to a height that meets the specific need of a job.

BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION

2008/2009/2010 BUILDING PROJECTS – Progress Reports

Port Lincoln – (New Station and Regional HQ.) • Detention pond completed. (A requirement to divert water run off). • First Stage of the electrical and hydraulics works has commenced. • Concept plans are being prepared for landscaping of the adjacent site.	**Birdwood Station** • Stage 1 site works completed. • Planning/DAC approvals in place. • Project slightly delayed by tender process.
Saddleworth • Tender process in progress.	**Curramulka** • Carpentry works complete • Painting WIP. • Second fix electrical and plumbing WIP • Site works commenced. Project delayed by Council issues, trades not working to plan and ETSA Connection.
Georgetown • Appliance bay building complete. • Concrete floor slab complete • Second fix electrical and plumbing WIP • Council advised issues with blocked septic tank due to surrounding trees. Trees to be removed.	**STC HAZMAT Building** • Design amended, new architectural working drawings being prepared. • Application lodged with DAC.
Wilmington • DAC application lodged.	**Hamley Bridge** • Concept plans complete. • Working with Council and brigade on site related issues.

Balaklava • Concept plans complete. • Working with Council and brigade on site related issues.	**Binnum** • Concept plans completed.
Kybobolite • Concept plans completed. • Resolution of land issues still to be finalised.	

Port Lincoln Regional Office, Brigade Station and SES Unit under construction.

Region 6 Fire Sheds
Work is progressing on the R6 "Fire Appliance Storage Sheds" or "Fire Sheds". The 09/10 projects include Rudall, Tumby Bay Air Ops, Scales Bay and Tuckey with work also commencing on Buckleboo, Cockaleechie, Mt Hope and Karkoo which are due for completion in the 10/11 financial year. SAFECOM Project Manager Asset Services, Paul Sargent, will visit R6 between 15-17 September to discuss land requirements for the new sheds. Wherever possible these buildings will be located at a community facility, such as an oval, so as to create a community focus whilst also reducing costs by allowing the shared use of facilities.

COAC
The COAC Building Consultative Committee met for the first time on Sunday 26th July. The first meeting was fully taken up providing the representatives, (who came from each Region), with an understanding of the process undertaken to construct a new CFS facility and why we do it the way we do. The second meeting will involve site visits to stations constructed in the past couple of years to provide an understanding of what is actually provided and gain some feedback from the volunteers who use them.

ASSET SERVICES, (A service provided by SAFECOM)

- **Echunga –** The construction of the new bore is being undertaken with Council having given verbal approval for it to proceed with formal approval to follow.
- **Mount Torrens CFS** – An updated design for the site has been provided to the owner for approval. Awaiting a response.
- **Montacute** – A lease has been registered on the landowner's title and this is now complete.
- **Iron Knob** – Negotiations with One Steel for a peppercorn lease over the existing Iron Knob Station site are progressing. Minor electrical work will be undertaken on the station during September.

- **Gawler River** – Crown Lands SA have been advised on CFS requirements to either have the station site dedicated to the Minister or to be licensed from the Council. Council has sought approval for the former School Building to be retained even if the property is sold. Crown Lands have advised the Council that the building is not on the State Heritage register and it retention will be dependent upon their planning laws. The Council has been advised of their rights in relation to the land division and the separation of the CFS land. Crown Lands are now waiting on a response from Council.
- **Curramulka** –The lease for the site is being prepared by Crown Law.
- **Macclesfield –** A letter has been received from the President of the Macclesfield Water Tanker Inc advising they are prepared to provide a bore and equipment to the brigade. In addition the CFS brigade wishes to make some minor alterations to the Station. Council has advised they will respond to CFS's request for the bore and approval for the alteration in due course.
- **Tea Tree Gully –** Awaiting a response from the Tea Tree Gully Council in relation to a proposal for the CFS to lease a portion of the former SES site. Council has sent correspondence indicating that a number of repairs and maintenance issues to be undertaken in the current CFS station. Many of the repairs are disputed and a response to their request was sent advising of CFS's disagreement with the issues raised. Waiting on a response from Council on this issue also.
- **Mount Lofty Fire Tower** – Waiting for the Department of Transport, Energy & Infrastructure to provide a new Agreement for the continued occupation of the Mount Lofty Fire Tower by the CFS.
- **Blewitt Springs –** Crown Lands are waiting on Ministers approval to progress the rededication of the Station.
- **Port Lincoln Land –** DEH has been engaged by LMC to deal with the sale of the Porter Street Land currently owned by CFS. It is anticipated a detailed outline of the marketing of the site will be received soon. The site will be slashed and mown this week following winter growth on the site.
- **Pekina -** The Crown Solicitor is progressing the transfer of the station land to the Minister.
- **Wharminda** – The underlease of the Crown Lease for the Wharminda CFS Station is being progressed by the Crown Solicitors Office.
- **Coromandel Valley –** Telstra have provided plans for a new tower to be constructed on the land at the front of the area occupied by SES. The local volunteers have reviewed the plans and their concerns have been dealt with and written approval for Telstra to proceed to the planning approval stage has been provided.
- **Nunjikompta –** Has closed and the Crown Solicitor has prepared the Surrender of Lease which has been forwarded to Council for execution.
- **Cockburn -** The Department of Transport, Energy & Infrastructure is progressing the closure of the station. All power to the station has been removed and the former communication tower is being removed.
- **Haslam -** CFS is currently reviewing its future use of the site and whether the current station can be relocated to another site. No further information has been received from Region 6.
- **Wilmington –** Council has indicated it is happy for CFS to progress towards DAC approval while other legal matters regarding tenure are being progressed.
- **Hamley Bridge & Balaklava –** Council has provided details of the requirements to progress these two stations. Council is seeking finalisation of CFS's financial contribution towards the car park area for Balaklava. Council has also advised formal approval from the owners of the adjoining property to share use of the current septic system will be required. Both matters are being progressed.
- **Naracoorte –** DTEI have advised a new lease is being prepared and should be provided to CFS by the end of September.

- **Wudinna & Kimba –** Both brigades have agreed to the draft MOU for the shared use of the station with SAAS. Only minor changes were required. Final draft will now be prepared for signing.
- **Mount Gambier** – Still waiting advice from the Management committee in relation to the MOU.
- **Greenhill:** Waiting for Adelaide Hills Council to progress the land swap with the adjoining owner.
- **Cummins:** Approval is being sought from the District Council of Lower Eyre Peninsula to extend the lease for the Region 6 Storage Shed in Cummins for a further one year.
- **Greenock:** The Light Regional Council has provided details of a proposal to alter the town square abutting the Greenock CFS Station. Parts of the proposal will have an impact on the operations of the station. A meeting has been held with Council to discuss CFS's concerns. Council has agreed to amend the plan and provide an alternative proposal in the near future.
- **Region 2 HQ:** Preliminary work is being undertaken to investigate alternate sites for a new Region2 HQ.
- **Western Districts:** Discussions have been held with Kangaroo Island Council Staff and member of the Western Districts Sports Club regarding the new station requirements. Crown Lands have provided comments on how best to deal with the encroachment of building on the site. That advice has been forwarded to Council for their consideration.
- **Port Broughton:** Council have sought changes to the existing lease arrangement in order for Council to undertake alteration to their offices. A meeting was held on site with representative from Council and CFS to discuss the issues. A number of proposals were put to Council and Council has provided a written response to those changes. The response has been forwarded to Regional staff to review.
- **BA Compressors Servicing:** Draeger Safety Pty Ltd has completed servicing of all compressors around the state.
- **Road Crash Rescue:** The first round of servicing for 09/10 for Lukas RCR gear will be undertaken in October covering Regions 3, 5 and parts of 2 and 1.
- **Fair Valuations:** All valuations were completed internally in SAFECOM for the 08/09 financial year for all agencies. Government Audit is now reviewing the work as part of the annual audit for SAFECOM.
- **Staff shortage in Crown Lands:** A staff shortage in Crown Lands will mean a longer than normal time for dealing with issues within their section.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

- **SAGRN Voice Terminal Equipment Replacement:** CFS Region 3 & 4 requirements for replacement GRN radios have been identified in preparation of the network becoming digital. CFS will proceed to a request for quotation, (RFQ), for the equipment.
- **SAGRN Voice & Paging – Wakefield Plains/Ardrossan:** An investigation was conducted into reports of degraded SAGRN Voice and Paging services in Wakefield Plains Group and Ardrossan. Problems with voice terminal equipment were identified and corrected.
- **Remote Area Communications:** A workable solution for the use of HF Radio in providing Remote Area Communications have been identified and arrangements are being made to trial revised antenna configurations.
- **State Volunteer Telecommunications Advisory Committee:** The Committee met on 4th July. During the meeting, (and in part), they considered the requirement for Communications Officers Training (referred by COAC) and Talk-group Mapping & Traffic Mitigation Proposals submitted by the Public Safety Communications Optimisation Project (under the auspices of the Department of Justice).
- **SAGRN Pagers:** The demand for additional and replacement SAGRN Pagers has almost exhausted current stocks. The current supplier requires a minimum order of 2,000, which

isn't a viable option for CFS. Á number of alternate suppliers has been identified and their products are in the process of being trialed and tested.

MANAGERS UPDATE

MIL is working closely with the CFS Volunteer Association to address concerns created by the implementation of national driver fatigue legislation. The legislation itself has merit as it will go some way to making our roads safer to drive on by ensuring that drivers involved in heavy transport operations have appropriate rest breaks. Unfortunately for CFS and its volunteer workforce it will cause collateral damage as any time spent driving for CFS will count as work hours so impacting on those members of CFS who drive heavy transport vehicles for a living. (For the purpose of the legislation a heavy transport is any vehicle with a GVM of greater than 12 tonne. All crew cab 34's, 34P's and a limited number of single cab vehicles fall into this category.) Discussions are occurring at Ministerial level and you will be kept informed of progress.

MIL is also involved in two Australasian Fire Authorities Council, (AFAC), projects of national importance that will provide long term benefit to CFS and its supplier base.

The first of these is creating an Australian Qualified Products List, (QPL), and associated testing regime for wildland fire chemicals. In accordance with the AFAC position on wildland fire chemicals CFS brigades are required to only use United States Department of Agriculture, (USDA), certified products. The certification process is rigorous and takes eighteen months to complete. CFS is approached on average about once every few months by Australian companies wanting to sell wildland fire chemicals to CFS. Without the USDA certification they can't. By facilitating an Australian testing regime using NATA accredited test laboratories, using the USDA process, we hope to streamlined the process and improve communication so making it easier for Australian innovators to have their products accepted by Australian rural fire agencies.

The second project is the creation of an Australian centre for resource sharing that covers all risks. In the USA they have the national Interagency Fire Centre, (NIFC), to co-ordinate resource deployment and in Canada they have the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre, CIFFC). Both are focussed on wildland fire although CIFFC is moving towards a limited all risk environment. To date here in Australia requests for deployment of resources interstate are facilitated by direct dialogue between Chief Officers. The intent of the project is create an Australian resource sharing centre by growing the National Aerial Firefighting Centre, (NAFC), to undertake the role. The intended outcome will be an all risk resource sharing process that ensures the most appropriate resources with the right training are despatched to an incident in a timely manner.

Some links to sites of interest:

AFAC: http://www.afac.com.au/
USDA Wildland Chemicals: http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/fire/wfcs/index.htm
CFS Volunteer Association: http://www.cfsva.org.au/

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