

## EMERGENCY SERVICES FOR CANBERRA

**\$268 million**   
for Policing and  
Emergency Services

**563**   
Fire fighters and  
Ambulance Officers  
**plus 1945**  
ESA volunteers

additional  
**\$32.6 million**   
to boost  
emergency response

**\$11.9 million**   
for bushfire  
prevention

**\$154 million**  UP  
\$1.9M  
for ACT Policing

The 2015-16 Budget contains tens of millions of dollars in extra funding to ensure our frontline fire fighters, paramedics and police officers are well equipped to keep Canberrans safe and well.

This year's emergency services budget includes an extra investment of **\$41.4 million** for the ACT Emergency Services Agency (ESA) and ACT Policing.

This funding is a part of the **\$268.8 million** total funding for policing and emergency services in the ACT for 2015-16.

The budget also provides new funding to help fight and prevent bushfires.

### Boosting frontline support

An extra **\$32.6 million** in frontline services includes:

- **\$15.6 million** over four years in extra funding for the ESA to sustain the capability of frontline emergency services;
- **\$14.7 million** over three years to upgrade the Territory Radio Network, which is used by the ESA and other government agencies to communicate, particularly during emergencies;
- **\$1.3 million** in 2015-16 to provide an ambulance station at Greenway, allowing paramedics to use modern facilities in Canberra's south; and
- **\$971,000** in 2015-16 to replace the ESA's Direct Turnout System, which notifies crews of requests for assistance.

A feasibility study will also be conducted into potential new sites to replace the existing back-up communications centre at Curtin.

### Extra investment in ACT Policing

This Budget invests **\$3.5 million** over four years to boost ACT Policing's frontline operations.

As part of ACT Policing's 2015-16 Budget of **\$154.2 million**, the Government will provide extra funding to areas including high-tech crime and forensics services, information and communication technology, finance and human resources.

## Supporting women in emergency services

This Budget invests \$221,000 to attract and retain women in emergency services, including:

- **\$74,000** for design work to upgrade facilities at ESA stations; and
- **\$147,000** for an ACT Fire and Rescue recruit college to maintain operational capability and encourage female participation.

These initiatives are in line with the Women in Emergency Services Strategy.

## Bushfire prevention

This Budget invests more than \$11.9 million over four years to manage and prevent bushfires, including:

- **\$9.2 million** to implement the Strategic Bushfire Management Plan (version 3) to reduce Canberra's vulnerability to bushfire; and
- **\$2.7 million** for a fire management strategy in the lower Cotter catchment to protect the water supply.