



# Media release

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**Authorised by: CEO Andrew Sharpe**

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## **CEO visits fire ground and thanks volunteers**

City of Albany chief executive officer Andrew Sharpe today visited volunteer firefighters to thank them for their efforts fighting the Two People's Bay bushfire.

The fire started at the Norman's Beach campground on New Year's Day and quickly spread in strong easterly winds.

Police are investigating the blaze, which was allegedly sparked by fireworks set off at the campsite.

The fire was 11km long and 2.5km wide, burnt 2100 hectares and caused the urgent evacuation of three nearby campgrounds.

At its peak, more than 25 fire crews and four water bombers including two from Perth were fighting the fire.

Today 50 firefighters remained at the scene mopping up to reduce the risk of flare ups and secure containment lines.

City of Albany bushfire volunteers, fire crews from Albany Volunteer Fire and Rescue and shires of Plantagenet and Denmark, Department of Fire and Emergency Services, Department of Parks and Wildlife, WA Police and State Emergency Services responded to the fire at different stages.

Mr Sharpe said the City was grateful to everyone who helped bring the fire under control, especially volunteers.

"This disrupted their New Year's period and we thank them for giving up their time with family and friends to protect the community," Mr Sharpe said.

"They have done an amazing job containing the fire and ensuring it did not impact lives and homes."

Mr Sharpe said the fire was a timely reminder to everyone to be aware of the danger of fire and be prepared for the bushfire season.

"It is summer and peak fire season and it does not take much to start a fire that can have catastrophic consequences, so everyone needs to be vigilant and take care not to engage in an activity that might start a fire," he said.

Call 000 to report a fire. Call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 if you witness any suspicious activity.

**ENDS**

*IMAGES:*

*DSC018: Volunteer firefighters Mike Caldwell, Nevile Phillips and Kevin Martin with bulldozer driver Grant Witham.*

*DSC043: Volunteer Dylan Mostert hoses down a smouldering log.*

*DSC050: (L-R) City of Albany CEO Andrew Sharpe, volunteers John Briggs, David Nunn, Bev Seenan, Brian Hart and Mark Bennett, City executive director of planning and development Dale Putland, volunteer Dylan Mostert and City community emergency services manager Derek Jones.*

*DSC052: Volunteers Malcolm Pearce and Hamish Fell.*