



Date issued: 15 January 2016
Authorised by: Deputy Mayor Greg Stocks
Record No: MR16117239

Volunteer fire fighters rally behind Waroona fire appeal

The City of Albany's volunteer firefighters are rallying behind the people and communities affected by the devastating bushfire that has been raging in the South West for more than a week and burnt about 72,000 hectares.

Tomorrow morning between 8am and midday, 12 volunteer fire fighters will be rattling tins at five locations across Albany to raise funds for the Lord Mayor's Waroona and Districts Bushfire Appeal.

Yesterday the City also sent five firefighting crew to the fire ground to assist with strengthening containment lines, the mop-up process, patrolling and controlling any flare ups.

Deputy Mayor Greg Stocks said the Albany community was very generous when volunteers held an appeal for the devastating Esperance bushfires late last year, donating more than \$14,000, and he hoped residents would dig deep again.

"More than 180 properties and two lives have been lost in this tragic fire in the South West and our hearts go out to everyone affected," Mr Stocks said.

"As a community we want to do anything we can to assist these communities to get back on their feet and hope the money we raise through this appeal will help."

Firefighters will be taking donations at Dog Rock Shopping Centre, Brooks Garden Shopping Centre, Albany Plaza, York Street and Collie Street Farmers' Markets.

The City will also have donation tins at Albany Leisure and Aquatic Centre, Albany Public Library, National Anzac Centre, Albany Visitor Centre and our North Road administration centre.

City staff will also take part in a free dress day next Friday, January 22, to fundraise for the appeal.

"As well as the money we raise we will be offering any other support we can to the shires affected by the fire," Mr Stocks said.

With WA's firefighting resources stretched over the past fortnight, the City of Albany was also called on to help fight a fire at Mt Cooke near Jarrahdale that was started by lightning and burnt about 1000 hectares.

Three Albany appliances and eight crew went to the fire on Sunday, January 10 and returned on Wednesday.



“All our volunteers do an outstanding job and their efforts over recent weeks and willingness to give up their Saturday morning to help with the appeal highlights their commitment to our communities,” Mr Stocks said.

IMAGE: City of Albany bushfire brigade volunteers Ron Scott, Heather Bell and Garry Turner with Deputy Mayor Greg Stocks ready to fundraise for the fire appeal. Picture: City of Albany

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