

Radio Communication Allocation to Brigade Members Policy

Objective

To ensure radio communication equipment is appropriately allocated.

Policy Statement

To ensure an adequate level of radio communications is established throughout the City of Albany, and to ensure equity in the use of public funds (*supplied through the Emergency Services Levy (ESL) contributions*), the City of Albany may allocate radios using the following principles:

- All City of Albany fire appliances shall be provided with a mobile radio;
- The CBFCO shall be supplied with 1 base station, 1 mobile radio and 1 hand held radio;
- The DCBFCO shall be supplied with 1 base station, 1 mobile radio and 1 hand held radio;
- The Senior FCO South West Sector; Senior FCO North East Sector and nominated Deputy will be supplied with 1 base station, 1 mobile radio and 1 hand held radio;
- The primary and secondary FCO for each VBFB shall be supplied with 1 base station and 1 mobile radio;
- VBFB members specifically tasked as a Call Out Officer (at the date of implementation of this policy) shall be supplied 1 base station;
- Each FWO shall be supplied 1 base station;
- Fire stations manned during a vehicle call out shall be supplied one base station;
- The Wellstead and Youngs Siding General Stores may, subject to operational requirements, be supplied 1 base station;
- The City of Albany Ranger and Emergency Services vehicles shall each be supplied 1 mobile radio;
- The North Road Administration Building Incident Control Centre and Emergency Management Co-ordinator shall receive a total of 3 base stations;
- The Incident Control Centres located at Little Grove, Bornholm and Wellstead shall each receive 1 base station.

Variations to this allocation for specific local operational purposes may occur at the discretion of the Manager, Ranger and Emergency Services, in consultation with the Chief Bushfire Control Officer.

Upon a change in appointment of an officer, the allocated radio(s) is to be returned to the City of Albany for reallocation by the City's Designated Officer.

VHF radios purchased by a VBFB shall remain the property of the VBFB and are not included in the WAERN maintenance and future replacement projects.

Where, due to specific operational circumstances, a VBFB Designated Officer does not consider the level of radio equipment supplied to that officer is warranted, that equipment may, be distributed to another VBFB officer within the brigade.

All radio equipment supplied to the City of Albany VBFB officers under the WAERN project are to remain the property of the City of Albany with installation, maintenance and removal undertaken by a qualified communications technician. All communications equipment shall be programmed to DFES standards and no officer shall alter the programmed settings of the communications equipment.

Scope

Telecommunications equipment controlled and allocated by the City of Albany.

Legislative and Strategic Context

This policy relates to the following elements of the City of Albany Strategic Bush Fire Plan 2014 – 2019:

- **Focus Area:** Preparedness
- **Focus Objective:** 1.10 Volunteer Bush Fire brigade.

Review Position and Date

This policy and procedure is to be reviewed by the document owner every two years.

Associated Documents

- City of Albany Strategic Bush Fire Plan 2014 – 2019

Definitions

- CBFCO – Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
- DCBFCO – Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
- ESL – Emergency Services Levy
- FCO – Fire Control Officer
- FWO – Fire Weather Officer
- VBFB – Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade
- WAERN – Western Australian Emergency Radio Network

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