

1.44 Radio Communication Allocation to Brigade Members Policy

Policy Owner	Executive Director Corporate & Commercial Services
Responsible Officer	Manager Public Health & Safety
Date of Approval	01/07/2025
Amended/Revised	09/07/2025

Objective

To ensure radio communication equipment is appropriately allocated.

Scope

Telecommunications equipment is controlled and allocated by the City of Albany.

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 one (1) base station, 1 mobile radio and 1 handheld radio.
- The DCBFCO shall be supplied with one (1) base station, 1 mobile radio and 1 handheld 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 handheld radio.
- The primary and secondary FCO for each VBFB shall be supplied with 1 base station and one (1) mobile radio.
- VBFB members specifically tasked as a Call Out Officer (*at the date of implementation of this policy*) shall be supplied with one (1) base station.
- Each FWO shall be supplied with one (1) base station.
- Fire stations manned during a vehicle call-out shall be supplied with one (1) base station.
- The Wellstead and Youngs Siding General Stores may, subject to operational requirements, be supplied with one (1) base station.
- The City of Albany Ranger and Emergency Services vehicles shall each be supplied with one (1) mobile radio.
- The North Road Administration Building Incident Control Centre and Emergency Management Co-ordinator shall receive three (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 is 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.

Legislative and Strategic Context

The City of Albany Community Strategic Plan 2032 includes several elements that are still relevant to fire brigades. Here are some key points:

- **Community Safety and Emergency Management:**
 - The plan emphasises the importance of community safety and effective emergency management. This includes the role of volunteer bushfire brigades in delivering bushfire community engagement activities.
- **Local Emergency Management Arrangements:**
 - The City has specific arrangements in place for local emergency management, which involve coordination with fire brigades to ensure preparedness and response capabilities.
- **Safer Albany Plan 2020-2023:**
 - This plan, aligned with the Community Strategic Plan, directs community safety activities and includes themes related to fire safety and emergency response³.
- **Community Engagement:**
 - Ongoing community engagement and education about bushfire risks and safety measures are crucial elements. Fire brigades play a significant role in these efforts.

Review Position and Date

This policy is to be reviewed annually.

Associated Documents

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