



## POSITION STATEMENT

### MANAGEMENT OF VOLUNTEER BUSHFIRE BRIGADES

1. The City of Gosnells values its Bushfire Brigade and the contribution Brigade members make towards community safety and the community more broadly.
2. The City acknowledges the position paper prepared by Bushfire Volunteers and respects the views expressed by the Association.
3. The City has concerns over the implications of the *Work Health and Safety Act 2020* for City staff if current arrangements in relation to Volunteer Bushfire Brigades are allowed to continue.
4. The City wishes to continue its involvement with its Bushfire Brigade but believes that in order to support staff to meet their obligations under the *Work Health and Safety Act 2020*, the following is required:
  - a. Minimum mandatory training requirements for Bushfire Brigade volunteers need to be developed by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services and implemented for all volunteers as a matter of urgency.
  - b. Minimum physical capability standards need to be prescribed by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services for all Bushfire Brigade volunteers to ensure that volunteers are physically capable of undertaking the work they are requested to perform.
  - c. Fatigue Management Protocols that would apply to all Volunteer Bushfire Brigades need to be developed by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services to mitigate the risk of volunteers being exposed to harm as a result of fatigue.
  - d. Minimum standards for safety equipment to be provided on firefighting appliances and minimum standards for personal protective equipment to be supplied to volunteers need to be prescribed by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services and appropriately funded through the Emergency Services Levy.
  - e. New Emergency Services legislation needs to clearly prescribe who is responsible for the safety and welfare of Bushfire Brigade volunteers when attending incidents.