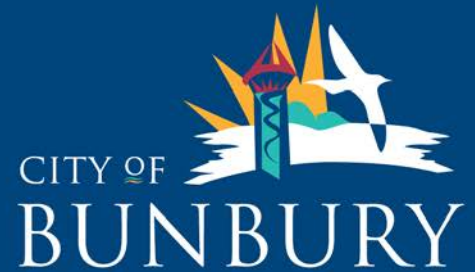


MEDIA STATEMENT



Thursday, 5 April 2018

City and Bunbury Volunteer Bushfire Brigade agree on resolution

On Wednesday night City of Bunbury CEO Mal Osborne met with the Bunbury Volunteer Bushfire Brigade to reach a decision relating to one of the brigade's fire fighting vehicles.

The Nissan Patrol utility – a City-owned asset – has exceeded a reasonable operational age, and as with any other fleet vehicle needs to be considered for replacement. The vehicle was a former City Rangers vehicle in 2002 and was then loaned to the brigade.

Due to Bunbury being relatively small in area, it is often used outside of the City of Bunbury when assisting other communities in the fighting of fires.

The City – utilising funds from the Emergency Services Levy – has been working closely with the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) on the acquisition of a brand new purpose-built vehicle for the brigade and potentially, a new purpose-built fire station.

Recent media reports have suggested the brigade was to end up with one less vehicle, however the City has always maintained there will be no reduction in the number of brigade vehicles.

Mr Osborne acknowledges the brigade wishes to retain the Nissan Patrol and has agreed it may be kept until the purpose-built vehicle arrives however, it will first undergo an independent inspection to ensure the volunteers have a vehicle which is roadworthy and suitable for use.

“Bunbury is indebted to the important work carried out by the Bunbury Volunteer Bushfire Brigade, especially for all their efforts in protecting lives and property during the recent Picton fires,” Mr Osborne said.

“Our aim is to ensure the brigade has the latest and greatest and most importantly, correct equipment to suit their requirements.

“We will continue to work with the brigade to ascertain what the most appropriate vehicle will be and in the interim the Nissan – subject to inspection – will remain in their care.”

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The City will continue to work together with the brigade and DFES strive to ensure the Bunbury Bushfire Brigade has a viable future.

ENDS



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