



## **PARKERVILLE-STONEVILLE-MT HELENA FIRE**

**12 JANUARY 2014**

### **BACKGROUND**

The Parkerville-Stoneville-Mt Helena Fire started approximately 11am on Sunday 12 January 2014 after a power pole on a Granite Road property fell causing sparking and ignition of vegetation.

Initial response and incident management functions were undertaken by the Local Government (LG) Chief Bush Fire Control Officer (CBFCO), and as the incident escalated suppression resources and incident management efforts were enhanced through the provision of Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) resources and personnel. At 12:30, approximately 90 minutes after the incident was first reported, a Bush Fires Act 1952 section 13 transfer of control declaration was invoked, after which DFES became both the Hazard Management Agency (HMA) and Controlling Agency for that incident.

Continued management and suppression of the incident was carried out through the coordination of joint agency resources, comprised of DFES, LG volunteers and the Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPaW) staff and equipment.

A Multi-agency Incident Management Team (IMT) was put in place with crews employing strategies to contain the spread of fire. During the incident DFES and DPaW joint aviation services achieved a peak of operational activity not previously experienced by both agencies.

Fifty-seven residential properties sustained major damage, 6 partial damage and numerous properties and sheds affected.

Fourteen hundred people were registered with the Department of Child Protection and Family Services (CPFS) at the evacuation centre – initially at Mundaring and subsequently Brown Park which then became the main and only evacuation centre recovery centre and one stop shop. The Mundaring Hub became the contact point for the community from 20 January 2014.

This report will inform both the Post Incident Analysis for the DFES and the State Emergency Management Committee's (SEMC) examination of strengths and opportunities of the State's emergency management approach. The Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC) will also participate in the review team.

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