

Hon Pete Malinauskas MLC

Minister for Emergency Services

Tuesday, 22 June 2017

Six world-first fire trucks hit the MFS frontline in \$7.8m project

A \$7.8 million-dollar project to deliver six world-first fire trucks to the Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) is nearing completion, culminating in the sixth truck soon hitting the frontline.

The Combination Aerial Pumping Appliances, known as CAPAs, are a unique truck concept developed by the MFS at a cost of \$1.3 million per appliance.

The trucks have received international attention as they combine aerial firefighting and rescue capabilities with the water capacity and functionality of a general purpose pumping fire appliance.

The new CAPAs provide enhanced functionality for firefighters, with a tight turning circle and room to navigate narrow streets, along with the ability to reach 22 metres high in 60 seconds.

The MFS designed the CAPAs to suit modern emergency response, with medium density residential, industrial and commercial developments of between four and six storeys becoming prevalent in SA.

The trucks are strategically positioned across the state at Adelaide, Oakden, Woodville, Mount Gambier and Whyalla MFS Stations.

The sixth appliance will become operational at Christie Downs MFS Station in the next fortnight after a comprehensive training and commissioning process.

The \$7.8 million project has been funded entirely by the Emergency Services Levy (ESL).

Background

The six CAPAs were three years in the planning and steadily delivered to the MFS between December 2014 and early 2017, with the Christie Downs appliance to become operational on Friday 23 June.

The new trucks replace the organisation's ageing Skyjet appliances, which were used to fight fires in medium rise buildings and large industrial facilities.

With additional rescue capabilities and superior water pumping capacity, the CAPA reaches nine metres higher and can fully extend its ladder in a third of the time. It provides a safer elevated working platform and room for up to five firefighters in the cabin.

The appliances have already been instrumental in many emergencies, including the Edinburgh plastics factory fire in January, Para Hills West wooden pallets fire in May, a recent cliff rescue in the South-East and a high-angle rescue at Whyalla this week.

Quotes attributable to Emergency Services Minister Peter Malinauskas

The delivery of the sixth CAPA to the MFS completes a \$7.8 million project that's designed to meet the current and future emergency response needs of South Australians.

The project represents an enhancement in community safety, with the MFS better positioned to respond to rescues and fires as our population grows and medium density development continues to increase.

This project is a fantastic example of how our ESL supports our emergency services agencies to be world-leading, providing the best possible level of service to the community.

Quotes attributable to SA Metropolitan Fire Service Assistant Chief Fire Officer, Peter Mason

The MFS is proud to have designed a fire truck believed to be the only of its kind in the world – and one that other fire agencies in Australia and overseas have shown great interest in.

The CAPA's tight turning circle and ability to reach up several floors of a building means it is perfectly suited to emergency response in areas where narrow roads, apartment living and other medium rise developments exist.

The appliance's combination of firefighting, rescue, water storage and general pumping capabilities means it can meet the emergency response needs of our changing risk profile.