

If calling please ask for: Kim Arnott
Telephone: 0429 094 736
Reference: ESS-21-5285



99 Wakefield Street
Adelaide SA 5000

GPO BOX 98
Adelaide SA 5001

Tel +61 8 8204 3600
Fax +61 8 8204 3838

www.mfs.sa.gov.au

ABN 26 897 550 904



Via email: [Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION APPLICATION

I refer to your application made under the Freedom of Information Act 1991 (FOI Act) of 15 October 2021 for access to:

"I'm seeking access documents specifically reports, ministerial/executive briefings and attachments, audits, reviews, correspondence such as emails, since 1 February 2021 to the date of this application regarding areas/cities/suburbs in SA where there are concerns about water pressure for fighting fires.

Please exclude duplicates, documents that have already been publicly released, media reports/articles/statements and correspondence with media. Please note I do not consent to information in documents being deemed irrelevant without consultation. However, I do consent to personal information such as names and addresses and phone numbers of third parties being redacted.

If emails are captured, please limit to the final thread of the conversation?"

In accordance with the requirements of Premier and Cabinet Circular PC045, details of your FOI application, and the documents to which you are given access, may be published in the agency's disclosure log. A copy of PC045 can be found at: <https://www.dpc.sa.gov.au/resources-and-publications/premier-and-cabinet-circulars>

A search of files has been conducted and eleven (11) documents were located that fall within scope of your application. These are the documents that remained after excluding duplicates etc as requested. The documents are identified in the attached schedule.

In respect of these documents, I have determined as follows.

Determination	Document number
Partial access	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8
Full release	9,10,11



Appeal Rights

If you are dissatisfied with this determination you are entitled to apply for an internal review, in accordance with section 29 of the FOI Act. To make an internal review application, please either write a letter or send an [Application for Review of Determination](#) to the Principal Officer of this agency, Chief Officer Michael Morgan, within 30 (calendar) days after you receive this letter. Should you submit an application for an Internal Review, please include an application fee of \$36.75.

For more information about seeking a review or appeal, please contact the Ombudsman SA on telephone (08) 8226 8699 or SACAT on 1800 723 767.

Should you have any enquiries in relation to this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me on 0429 094 736.

Yours sincerely



Kim Arnott

Accredited Freedom of Information Officer

10 January 2022

Encl: Schedule of documents
Determination
Documents for full or partial release

SCHEDULE OF DOCUMENTS

Doc No	Description	Proposed determination pursuant to Schedule 1 of FOI AC
1.	Attachment to email dated 28 Jan 2021	Partial access Names of individuals and address and information pertaining to personal affairs exempt from disclosure under clause 6 (1) of the FOI Act.
2.	Email thread last dated 29 Jan 2021	
3.	Attachment to email dated 8 Feb 2021 briefing	
4.	Attachment to email dated 8 Feb 2021 draft letter	
5.	Email thread last dated 10 Feb 2021	
6.	Scanned copy of CFS draft briefing and letter of reply dated 16 Feb 2021	
7.	Email thread last dated 16 Feb 2021 duplicates emails removed	
8.	Email dated 22 Feb 2021	
9.	Email dated 25 Feb 2021	Full release
10.	Attachment to email dated 25 Feb 2021	Full release
11.	Attachment email dated 25 Feb 2021	Full release

DETERMINATION

1. I have determined to provide partial access to documents 1 through to 8 and have nominated to explain my reasons for this collectively, rather than address each document separately.
2. In your application you stated "*I do consent to personal information such as names and addresses and phone numbers of third parties being redacted.*"
3. The content redacted in these documents are the names, address, and other information a reasonable person could use to identify third parties. This content has been determined as exempt under the following provisions of Schedule 1 of the FOI Act:
4. Schedule 1 Clause 6(1) provides that "a document is an exempt document if it contains matter the disclosure of which would involve the unreasonable disclosure of information concerning the personal affairs of any person (living or dead)".
5. Disclosure of the personal information in this instance would be unreasonable as I consider the constituents named in the documents could reasonably be expected to be opposed to the disclosure of their personal information given the small size of the Moonta Mines community and that:
 - (a) Disclosure under the FOI Act is "disclosure to all the world" (Re Sunderland and Department of Defence, (1986) 11 ALD 258; Re Williams and Registrar, Federal Court of Australia, (1985) 8 ALD 814; Re Anderson and the Australian Federal Police, (1986) 11 ALD 355).
 - (b) Re Chandra and Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, (1984) 6 ALN N 257, which has been applied in South Australia, says that I should consider "...all the circumstances including:
 - The nature of the information disclosed;
 - The circumstances in which the information is obtained;
 - The likelihood of the information being information that the person concerned would not wish to have disclosed without consent; and
 - Whether the information has any current relevance" (aN259).
6. It is practicable to delete the names of the constituents and other information that could reasonably be considered to identify them and release the remainder of the documents in accordance with subsection 20(4) of the FOI Act so I have done so.

Ref 200040

6th August 2020

Hon. Vincent Tarzia
GPO Box 668
ADELAIDE SA 5001

Cc Minister Hon. David Speirs

Dear Minister Tarzia,

I write regarding an issue brought to my attention by constituents [REDACTED]

On Tuesday 16 June the [REDACTED] home was unfortunately destroyed by fire. Local CFS and MFS crews attended the scene but were unable to save the home. After the incident [REDACTED] contacted my office concerned by events which took place while crews worked to contain the blaze.

[REDACTED] reported to my office that firefighters who attended the scene that night were unable to access fire hydrants and therefore had to wait for a water tanker to arrive in order to attempt to control the blaze.

After the [REDACTED] correspondence I contacted the local MFS station in Moonta to investigate the issue further. The senior crew member whom I spoke with advised that low water pressure is a significant issue in East Moonta and the distance between fire hydrants renders the infrastructure unusable.

This issue is of major concern. Response times within regional communities are already far greater than those in the metropolitan areas without the issue of insufficient resources being a factor.

I wish to both draw your attention to this issue and urge that the situation be investigated further to ensure the efficiency of MFS and CFS crews and also the safety of the community.

Yours sincerely,



Fraser Ellis MP
Member for Narunga

Arnott, Kim (SAMFS)

From: Firth, Lisa (SAMFS)
Sent: Friday, 29 January 2021 11:17 AM
To: Thompson, Roy (SAMFS)
Cc: Fletcher, Paul (SAMFS)
Subject: FW: URGENT - 21EMS0039 - ELLIS MP, Fraser - Member for Narungga - On behalf of [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] - Regarding response times and resources for firefighting in regional communities

Importance: High

Good Morning Roy,

My apologies but I have received an **urgent ministerial briefing and draft letter of reply** request via SAFECOM for correspondence from the Member for Narungga dated August 2020 about response times and water supply in regional areas for firefighting purposes. I also believe it would be worthwhile to seek details of the particular fire incident in advance of preparing a response to this request.

Please also note that the Minister's office is also seeking information from DEW.

I am aware that this matter is urgent and that the response deadline to the Minister's office is noted as **5 February (a week today)**, so I would appreciate your support to provide this response as soon as possible. I have advised SAFECOM that given the number of requests to which we are currently responding I cannot guarantee that we will meet this deadline, but that we will do our best to respond in a timely manner.

I have commenced both the briefing and the draft reply – please use the attached objective link to draft the required documents. If you have any questions regarding this request, please let me know asap.

Kind regards, Lisa

From: SAFECOM:Ministerial Liaison <SAFECOMMinisterialLiaison@sa.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 28 January 2021 4:10 PM
To: Firth, Lisa (SAMFS) <Lisa.Firth2@sa.gov.au>
Subject: FW: URGENT - 21EMS0039 - ELLIS MP, Fraser - Member for Narungga - On behalf of [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] - Regarding response times and resources for firefighting in regional communities
Importance: High

Hi Lisa, please refer below and attached . Is this something MFS can respond to?

Kind regards, Pavla

Pavla Soucek
Project Officer, Governance Board and Executive Support

(in the office Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays)

SA Fire & Emergency Services Commission (SAFECOM)
Level 6, 60 Waymouth Street
Adelaide SA 5000

T (08) 8115 3907 | F (08) 8115 3908 | M 0433988354 | E Pavla.Soucek@sa.gov.au
Volunteer Recruitment Hotline T 1300 364 587



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From: DCS:Min Tarzia Correspondence <MinTarziaCorrespondence@sa.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 28 January 2021 2:51 PM
To: SAFECOM:Ministerial Liaison <SAFECOMMinisterialLiaison@sa.gov.au>
Cc: Meneaud, Georgia (DCS) <Georgia.Meneaud2@sa.gov.au>
Subject: URGENT - 21EMS0039 - ELLIS MP, Fraser - Member for Narungga - On behalf of [REDACTED]
- Regarding response times and resources for firefighting in regional communities
Importance: High

Good afternoon

Can you please provide an **URGENT briefing and draft response** for the Minister's consideration.

Note, we are also liaising with the Minister for Environment and Water on this matter.

Due date: 5 February 2021

Kind regards

Rebecca North | Senior Business Support Officer
Office of the Hon Vincent Tarzia MP
Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services

T: (08) 8303 0613 | Level 12, Roma Mitchell House -136 North Terrace

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Government
of South Australia



TO MINISTER FOR POLICE, EMERGENCY SERVICES AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

FOR NOTING

RE: ELLIS MP, FRASER – MEMBER FOR NARUNGA – ON BEHALF OF ██████████
██████████ – REGARDING RESPONSE TIMES AND RESOURCES FOR FIREFIGHTING IN REGIONAL COMMUNITIES

Critical Date: / / 2021

Reason:

RECOMMENDATION(S):

MFS Recommendation(s)	CE/CO Initials	Minister's Response
That you note the contents of this briefing in regards to the house fire in Moonta Mines and access to fire hydrants.	WJ	Approved / Not Approved / Noted
That you consider the draft letter of reply to the Member for Narunga.	WJ	Approved / Not Approved / Noted

Minister's Office use: Comments	
Comments:	<p>-----</p> <p>Hon Vincent Tarzia MP</p> <p>/ / 2021</p>

ISSUE:

On 6 August 2020, Fraser Ellis MP, Member for Narunga wrote to you on behalf of his constituents, ██████████ raising concerns about response times and the availability of adequate water supply via fire hydrants, following a fire at their neighbours' property in June.

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BACKGROUND:

In response to this incident, the letter from Mr Ellis states that:

- The [REDACTED] reported to his office that firefighters who attended the scene were unable to access fire hydrants and therefore had to wait for a water tanker to arrive in order to attempt to control the blaze.
- He contacted the local MFS station in Moonta to investigate the issue further. The senior crew member whom he spoke with advised that low water pressure is a significant issue in East Moonta and the distance between fire hydrants renders the infrastructure unusable.

The purpose of Mr Ellis's correspondence was to draw your attention to this issue and urge that the situation be investigated further to ensure the efficiency of MFS and CFS crews and the safety of the community.

DISCUSSION:

The South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) notes that on the 6 June 2020 at 21.19hrs the Kadina branch of the South Australia Country Fire Service (CFS) responded to a structure fire in their gazetted fire district at [REDACTED] Moonta Mines.

On this occasion, the CFS brigade were backed up by a crew from the Moonta MFS. On arrival at 21:36hrs, crews experienced significant issues with fire plugs and low water pressure and therefore requested a water tanker to the incident.

In this instance, the MFS is unable to comment about the water infrastructure as this incident occurred outside of an MFS fire district.

SENSITIVE: Yes

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Are there financial implications?	No
Identify the source(s) of funds	
Is there an FTE Impact?	No
Are there any implications arising from the Public Finance and Audit Act 1987 and/or Treasurer's Instructions ?	No

MEDIA: Yes

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS: No

Contract Confidentiality Clause Inserted: No

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ATTACHMENTS:

1. Draft letter of reply to Mr Fraser Ellis MP, Member for Narungga.

<p>Contact Officer: Assistant Chief Fire Officer Roy Thompson Phone: 8204 3691 Date: 8 / 2 / 2021</p>  <p>..... Paul Fletcher DEPUTY CHIEF OFFICER, MFS</p> <p>8 / 2 / 2021</p>	<p>Approved by:</p>  <p>..... Michael Morgan CHIEF OFFICER/CHIEF EXECUTIVE, MFS</p> <p>8 / 2 / 2021</p>	<p>Noted by:</p> <p>..... Dominic Lane CHIEF EXECUTIVE SAFECOM</p> <p>/ / 2021</p>
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21EMS0039

Mr Fraser Ellis MPP
Member for Narungga
51 Rovers Street
MAITLAND SA 5573
By email: narungga@parliament.sa.gov.au

Dear Mr Ellis

Thank you for your correspondence dated 6 August 2020, on behalf of your constituents, [REDACTED] raising concerns about response times and the availability of adequate water supply via fire hydrants, following a fire [REDACTED] in June.

After receiving your correspondence, I asked the South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) for advice about this matter.

The MFS notes that on the 6 June 2020 at 21.19hrs the Kadina branch of the South Australia Country Fire Service (CFS) responded to a structure fire in their gazetted fire district at [REDACTED] Moonta Mines.

On this occasion, the CFS brigade were backed up by a crew from the Moonta MFS. On arrival at 21:36hrs, crews experienced significant issues with fire plugs and low water pressure and therefore requested a water tanker to the incident.

In this instance, the MFS is unable to comment about the water infrastructure as this incident occurred outside of an MFS fire district.

Yours sincerely

Hon Vincent Tarzia MP
Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services

/ / 2021

Arnott, Kim (SAMFS)

From: Meneaud, Georgia (DCS)
Sent: Wednesday, 10 February 2021 2:08 PM
To: CFS:Ministerials
Cc: Phelps, Kristy (SAFECOM); SAFECOM:Ministerial Liaison; Firth, Lisa (SAMFS)
Subject: RE: URGENT - 21EMS0039 - ELLIS MP, Fraser - Member for Narungga - On behalf of [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] - Regarding response times and resources for firefighting in regional communities

Hi Vic,

We are happy for these questions to be supplied via email with the letter updated also.
Can this advice however receive endorsement from Dom?

Kind regards
Georgia

From: CFS:Ministerials <CFSMinisterials@sa.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 10 February 2021 1:42 PM
To: Meneaud, Georgia (DCS) <Georgia.Meneaud2@sa.gov.au>
Cc: Phelps, Kristy (SAFECOM) <Kristy.Phelps@sa.gov.au>; SAFECOM:Ministerial Liaison <SAFECOMMinisterialLiaison@sa.gov.au>; Firth, Lisa (SAMFS) <Lisa.Firth2@sa.gov.au>
Subject: FW: URGENT - 21EMS0039 - ELLIS MP, Fraser - Member for Narungga - On behalf of [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] - Regarding response times and resources for firefighting in regional communities

Hey Georgia

Just for clarity are you after a combined MFS and CFS briefing as well or do I just provide inputs to yours question below via email and amend the letter.

My preference is to supplement the briefing and therefore If you concur can that be provided asap

Cheers Vic

From: Phelps, Kristy (SAFECOM) <Kristy.Phelps@sa.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 9 February 2021 4:14 PM
To: CFS:Ministerials <CFSMinisterials@sa.gov.au>
Cc: SAFECOM:Ministerial Liaison <SAFECOMMinisterialLiaison@sa.gov.au>; Soucek, Pavla (SAFECOM) <Pavla.Soucek@sa.gov.au>; Aquaro, Vittorio (CFS) <Vittorio.Aquaro@sa.gov.au>; Meneaud, Georgia (DCS) <Georgia.Meneaud2@sa.gov.au>
Subject: FW: URGENT - 21EMS0039 - ELLIS MP, Fraser - Member for Narungga - On behalf of [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Regarding response times and resources for firefighting in regional communities

Hi Vic,

Please see a request from MES for further information.

Thanks, Kristy

From: Meneaud, Georgia (DCS) <Georgia.Meneaud2@sa.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 9 February 2021 12:13 PM
To: SAFECOM:Ministerial Liaison <SAFECOMMinisterialLiaison@sa.gov.au>

Cc: Soucek, Pavla (SAFECOM) <Pavla.Soucek@sa.gov.au>; Phelps, Kristy (SAFECOM) <Kristy.Phelps@sa.gov.au>

Subject: RE: URGENT - 21EMS0039 - ELLIS MP, Fraser - Member for Narungga - On behalf of [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] - Regarding response times and resources for firefighting in regional communities

Hi Pavla and Kristy

Following consideration of MFS' briefing and draft response prepared for 21EMS0039, can this ministerial please be redirected to CFS to provide further information about this incident and an updated draft response which contains the following;

- Advice about the low water pressure concern in East Moonta and what actions are undertaken by the CFS to minimalise this risk when responding to incidents.
- Advice about the availability and effectiveness of water tankers to respond to these events.
- Response times for this regional district, in comparison to this particular event.
- Any other information considered suitable to respond to this matter.

Updated Due Date: **16 February 2021**

Happy to discuss if any clarification is required on the above.

Kind regards,
Georgia

Georgia Meneaud | Ministerial Liaison Officer (Emergency Services & Road Safety) and Cabinet Officer
Office of the Hon Vincent Tarzia MP

Minister for Police, Emergency Services & Correctional Services

Tel: (08) 8303 0619 | Level 12, Roma Mitchell House, ADELAIDE SA 5000 E: georgia.meneaud2@sa.gov.au

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From: Phelps, Kristy (SAFECOM) <Kristy.Phelps@sa.gov.au>

Sent: Monday, 8 February 2021 4:37 PM

To: Meneaud, Georgia (DCS) <Georgia.Meneaud2@sa.gov.au>

Cc: SAFECOM:Ministerial Liaison <SAFECOMMinisterialLiaison@sa.gov.au>; Firth, Lisa (SAMFS) <Lisa.Firth2@sa.gov.au>

Subject: FW: URGENT - 21EMS0039 - ELLIS MP, Fraser - Member for Narungga - On behalf of [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] - Regarding response times and resources for firefighting in regional communities

Hi Georgia,

Please find attached a briefing from MFS which has been noted by Dom Lane.

Thanks, Kristy

From: Lane, Dominic (SAFECOM) <Dominic.Lane@sa.gov.au>

Sent: Monday, 8 February 2021 4:14 PM

To: Phelps, Kristy (SAFECOM) <Kristy.Phelps@sa.gov.au>

Subject: RE: URGENT - 21EMS0039 - ELLIS MP, Fraser - Member for Narungga - On behalf of [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] - Regarding response times and resources for firefighting in regional communities

Approved thanks

Dom Lane
Chief Executive

SA Fire & Emergency Services Commission (SAFECOM)
Level 3, 60 Waymouth Street
Adelaide SA 5000

T 08 8115 3902 | E Dominic.Lane@sa.gov.au
Volunteer Recruitment Hotline T 1300 364 587



From: Phelps, Kristy (SAFECOM) <Kristy.Phelps@sa.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 8 February 2021 3:26 PM
To: Lane, Dominic (SAFECOM) <Dominic.Lane@sa.gov.au>
Subject: Fwd: URGENT - 21EMS0039 - ELLIS MP, Fraser - Member for Narungga - On behalf of [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] - Regarding response times and resources for firefighting in regional communities

For noting and approval.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Firth, Lisa (SAMFS)" <Lisa.Firth2@sa.gov.au>
Date: 8 February 2021 at 2:42:40 pm ACDT
To: "SAFECOM:Ministerial Liaison" <SAFECOMMinisterialLiaison@sa.gov.au>, "Phelps, Kristy (SAFECOM)" <Kristy.Phelps@sa.gov.au>
Cc: "Morgan, Michael (SAMFS)" <Michael.Morgan2@sa.gov.au>, "Fletcher, Paul (SAMFS)" <Paul.Fletcher@sa.gov.au>, "Thompson, Roy (SAMFS)" <Roy.Thompson@sa.gov.au>
Subject: RE: URGENT - 21EMS0039 - ELLIS MP, Fraser - Member for Narungga - On behalf of [REDACTED] - Regarding response times and resources for firefighting in regional communities

Good Afternoon Kristy,

As requested, please find attached a **ministerial briefing** and **draft letter of reply** regarding **(21EMS0039) Fraser Ellis MP – Member for Narungga – obo [REDACTED] – regarding response times and resources for firefighting in regional communities**, as approved by Chief Officer Michael Morgan for Mr Lane’s noting.

Please note that the MFS have just confirmed that this particular incident actually occurred in a CFS fire district – hence you may wish to seek a response from the CFS.

If you require any further details, please don't hesitate to contact me. I would appreciate being copied in to the email when the briefing is forwarded to the Minister's office.

Kind Regards, Lisa

From: Firth, Lisa (SAMFS)
Sent: Friday, 5 February 2021 3:41 PM
To: SAFECOM:Ministerial Liaison <SAFECOMMinisterialLiaison@sa.gov.au>
Subject: RE: URGENT - 21EMS0039 - ELLIS MP, Fraser - Member for Narungga - On behalf of [REDACTED] - Regarding response times and resources for firefighting in regional communities

Will do. thanks

From: SAFECOM:Ministerial Liaison <SAFECOMMinisterialLiaison@sa.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 5 February 2021 3:24 PM
To: Firth, Lisa (SAMFS) <Lisa.Firth2@sa.gov.au>
Cc: Phelps, Kristy (SAFECOM) <Kristy.Phelps@sa.gov.au>
Subject: RE: URGENT - 21EMS0039 - ELLIS MP, Fraser - Member for Narungga - On behalf of [REDACTED] - Regarding response times and resources for firefighting in regional communities

Hi Lisa, Georgia has noted that the briefing will be coming through Monday. I wont be here Monday, so can you please cc Kristy into your email when you send it through?

Kind regards, Pavla

From: SAFECOM:Ministerial Liaison
Sent: Friday, 5 February 2021 1:58 PM
To: Firth, Lisa (SAMFS) <Lisa.Firth2@sa.gov.au>
Subject: RE: URGENT - 21EMS0039 - ELLIS MP, Fraser - Member for Narungga - On behalf of [REDACTED] - Regarding response times and resources for firefighting in regional communities

Thanks Lisa, I will advise Georgia

Kind regards, Pavla

From: Firth, Lisa (SAMFS) <Lisa.Firth2@sa.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 5 February 2021 1:52 PM
To: SAFECOM:Ministerial Liaison <SAFECOMMinisterialLiaison@sa.gov.au>
Subject: RE: URGENT - 21EMS0039 - ELLIS MP, Fraser - Member for Narungga - On behalf of [REDACTED] - Regarding response times and resources for firefighting in regional communities

Hi Pavla,

My apologies, but I have just received confirmation from the relevant ACFO that this response is yet to be finalised; hence I will do my best to send through the response as soon as can on Monday. I hope that this is workable.

Kind regards, Lisa

From: SAFECOM:Ministerial Liaison <SAFECOMMinisterialLiaison@sa.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 5 February 2021 10:12 AM
To: Firth, Lisa (SAMFS) <Lisa.Firth2@sa.gov.au>
Subject: FW: URGENT - 21EMS0039 - ELLIS MP, Fraser - Member for Narungga - On behalf of [REDACTED] - Regarding response times and resources for firefighting in regional communities

Hi Lisa, see below, Georgia is chasing this ministerial today.. Can you advise me of status, would this be coming through to me today?

Kind regards, Pavla

From: Meneaud, Georgia (DCS) <Georgia.Meneaud2@sa.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 5 February 2021 9:30 AM
To: SAFECOM:Ministerial Liaison <SAFECOMMinisterialLiaison@sa.gov.au>
Subject: RE: URGENT - 21EMS0039 - ELLIS MP, Fraser - Member for Narungga - On behalf of [REDACTED] - Regarding response times and resources for firefighting in regional communities

Hi Pavla,

Can you please advise the status of this ministerial noting it is due today?

Apologies, this ministerial has had short turnaround however, I am mindful as the author has been in contact with the Adviser on this matter.

Kind regards
Georgia

From: DCS:Min Tarzia Correspondence
Sent: Thursday, 28 January 2021 2:51 PM
To: 'SAFECOM:Ministerial Liaison' <SAFECOMMinisterialLiaison@sa.gov.au>
Cc: Meneaud, Georgia (DCS) <Georgia.Meneaud2@sa.gov.au>
Subject: URGENT - 21EMS0039 - ELLIS MP, Fraser - Member for Narungga - On behalf of [REDACTED] - Regarding response times and resources for firefighting in regional communities
Importance: High

Good afternoon

Can you please provide an **URGENT briefing and draft response** for the Minister's consideration.

Note, we are also liaising with the Minister for Environment and Water on this matter.

Due date: 5 February 2021

Kind regards

Rebecca North | Senior Business Support Officer
Office of the Hon Vincent Tarzia MP
Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services

T: (08) 8303 0613 | Level 12, Roma Mitchell House -136 North Terrace

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(SAMFS)

From: Aquaro, Vittorio (CFS)
Sent: Tuesday, 16 February 2021 12:48 PM
To: Hastie, Brenton (CFS); Firth, Lisa (SAMFS)
Subject: FW: URGENT - 21EMS0039 - ELLIS MP, Fraser - Member for Narungga - On behalf of [REDACTED] - Regarding response times and resources for firefighting in regional communities
Attachments: 21EMS0039 Draft Letter.doc; 200040 Minister Tarzia - Fire hydrants Moonta.pdf; LATEST MINISTER BRIEFING NOTE.docx; LATEST MINISTER RESPONSE.doc

Hey Brenton

Can you kindly fact check this 'Latest' briefing and 'Latest' response with some urgency please or add anything relevant .

Hey Lisa

Doe MFS have any comment to both

Cheers Vic



RESPONSE SUPPORTED

From: Phelps, Kristy (SAFECOM) <Kristy.Phelps@sa.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 9 February 2021 4:14 PM
To: CFS:Ministerials <CFSSMinisterials@sa.gov.au>
Cc: SAFECOM:Ministerial Liaison <SAFECOMMinisterialLiaison@sa.gov.au>; Soucek, Pavla (SAFECOM) <Pavla.Soucek@sa.gov.au>; Aquaro, Vittorio (CFS) <Vittorio.Aquaro@sa.gov.au>; Meneaud, Georgia (DCS) <Georgia.Meneaud2@sa.gov.au>
Subject: FW: URGENT - 21EMS0039 - ELLIS MP, Fraser - Member for Narungga - On behalf of [REDACTED] - Regarding response times and resources for firefighting in regional communities

Hi Vic,

Please see a request from MES for further information.

Thanks, Kristy

From: Meneaud, Georgia (DCS) <Georgia.Meneaud2@sa.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 9 February 2021 12:13 PM
To: SAFECOM:Ministerial Liaison <SAFECOMMinisterialLiaison@sa.gov.au>
Cc: Soucek, Pavla (SAFECOM) <Pavla.Soucek@sa.gov.au>; Phelps, Kristy (SAFECOM) <Kristy.Phelps@sa.gov.au>
Subject: RE: URGENT - 21EMS0039 - ELLIS MP, Fraser - Member for Narungga - On behalf of [REDACTED] - Regarding response times and resources for firefighting in regional communities

Hi Pavla and Kristy

Following consideration of MFS' briefing and draft response prepared for 21EMS0039, can this ministerial please be redirected to CFS to provide further information about this incident and an updated draft response which contains the following;

- Advice about the low water pressure concern in East Moonta and what actions are undertaken by the CFS to minimise this risk when responding to incidents.
- Advice about the availability and effectiveness of water tankers to respond to these events.

- Response times for this regional district, in comparison to this particular event.
- Any other information considered suitable to respond to this matter.

Updated Due Date: **16 February 2021**

Happy to discuss if any clarification is required on the above.

Kind regards,
Georgia

**Georgia Meneaud | Ministerial Liaison Officer (Emergency Services & Road Safety) and Cabinet Officer
Office of the Hon Vincent Tarzia MP**

Minister for Police, Emergency Services & Correctional Services

Tel: (08) 8303 0619 | Level 12, Roma Mitchell House, ADELAIDE SA 5000 E: georgia.meneaud2@sa.gov.au

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From: Phelps, Kristy (SAFECOM) <Kristy.Phelps@sa.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 8 February 2021 4:37 PM
To: Meneaud, Georgia (DCS) <Georgia.Meneaud2@sa.gov.au>
Cc: SAFECOM:Ministerial Liaison <SAFECOMMinisterialLiaison@sa.gov.au>; Firth, Lisa (SAMFS) <Lisa.Firth2@sa.gov.au>

Subject: FW: URGENT - 21EMS0039 - ELLIS MP, Fraser - Member for Narungga - On behalf of [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Regarding response times and resources for firefighting in regional communities

Hi Georgia,

Please find attached a briefing from MFS which has been noted by Dom Lane.

Thanks, Kristy

From: Lane, Dominic (SAFECOM) <Dominic.Lane@sa.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 8 February 2021 4:14 PM
To: Phelps, Kristy (SAFECOM) <Kristy.Phelps@sa.gov.au>
Subject: RE: URGENT - 21EMS0039 - ELLIS MP, Fraser - Member for Narungga - On behalf of [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Regarding response times and resources for firefighting in regional communities

Approved thanks

Dom Lane
Chief Executive

SA Fire & Emergency Services Commission (SAFECOM)
Level 3, 60 Waymouth Street
Adelaide SA 5000

T 08 8115 3902 | E Dominic.Lane@sa.gov.au
Volunteer Recruitment Hotline T 1300 364 587

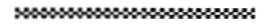


Government of South Australia
South Australian Fire and
Emergency Services Commission

Disasters:
prepare
and stay
safe...



SA Country Fire Service



TO MINISTER FOR POLICE, EMERGENCY SERVICES AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

FOR NOTING/APPROVAL

**RE: 21EMS0039 - ELLIS MP, Fraser - Member for Narungga - On behalf of [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] - Regarding response times and resources for firefighting in regional communities**

Critical Date: 16 February 2021

Reason: Requested by Minister's Office

RECOMMENDATION(S):

SACFS Recommendation (s)	CO Initials	Minister's Response
The Minister notes the contents of this briefing.		Approved / Not Approved / Noted
The Minister signs the attached response letter.		Approved / Not Approved / Noted

Minister's Office use: Comments

Comments:

Hon Vincent Tarzia MP

/ / 2021

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ISSUE:

The Member for Narungga, Mr Fraser Ellis MP wrote to the Minister with a copy to Minister Speirs on behalf of constituents [REDACTED]

BACKGROUND:

Moonta Mines (adjoins the town of Moonta) is approximately 18kms from Kadina and falls within the responsibility of SA Country Fire Service (CFS) Region 2. The SA Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) has a station in Moonta.

Moonta Mines is within the primary response area of Kadina CFS (incorporating Northern Yorke Peninsula Group), while noting Cunliffe CFS and Weetulla/Nalyappa CFS are identified as brigades that can also respond in the Moonta area.

The Member advises that on 16 June 2020 the [REDACTED] was destroyed by fire noting CFS and MFS crews attended.

The Member raises:

- difficulties experience accessing fire hydrants and the need to call on a CFS water tanker;
- low water pressure within that area;
- a correlation between SA Water infrastructure usability and distances between fire hydrants in that locality;
- response times within regional communities being far greater than in metropolitan areas; and
- the situation be investigated further to ensure MFS/CFS efficiency and community safety.

DISCUSSION:

The matter was referred to MFS in the first instance and a subsequent briefing and draft letter was prepared but the matter was redirected to CFS as CFS is the 'primary response' agency in respect to the Moonta Mines locality. In redirecting the matter, the Minister's Office sought supplementary information as follows:

- advice about the low water pressure concern in East Moonta and what actions are undertaken by the CFS to minimize this risk when responding to incidents;
- advice about the availability and effectiveness of water tankers to respond to these events;
- response times for this regional district, in comparison to this particular event; and
- any other information considered suitable to respond to this matter.

In terms of incident the CFS website, the news and media page was uploaded with the following on 16 June 2020:

"\$80,000 house fire Moonta Mines

- *At 9.20pm this evening CFS crews were alerted to a house fire on Bower Street, Moonta Mines.*
- *Five CFS fire trucks with 35 CFS volunteers and an MFS crew arrived to find the house fully involved upon arrival.*

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- *An occupant in their mid 60's was treated for facial burns at the scene by SAAS and has been transported to hospital for further treatment.*
- *The fire was started by an open fire in the living room fire and the house is a complete loss with estimated damages at around \$80,000".*

CFS responds to all incidents including structure fires on the basis that it may encounter a number of scenarios which may include one or more of the following:

- unavailability of mains water;
- awareness of localities where poor water pressure exists; and
- no or distant SA Water infrastructure exists (mains and hydrants).

Region 2 confirmed the initial response brought 5000ltr of water through 2 CFS trucks and then a Bulk Water Carrier. Given MFS locality within Moonta, the CFS was assisted by the MFS but unfortunately the advanced state of the fire (*fully involved*) meant a complete loss could not be prevented.

Variability to mains and hydrant infrastructure locations and water pressure are matters that are all factored in to CFS preparedness and response to incidents.

The media release 'SA firefighters among nation's fastest first responders' by the Premier (link below) dated 9 February 2021 is also pertinent to this matter and the relevant findings of the Productivity Commission's national 2021 Report on Government Services (RoGS) – the media release states in part:

"It also revealed South Australian MFS and CFS are among the nation's leaders for the fastest response times to structure fires.

The latest RoGS provide information on the equity, effectiveness and efficiency of government services in Australia, which includes a focus on the Marshall Liberal Government's delivery of important services to South Australians.

The comprehensive Report covers the Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS), Country Fire Service (CFS) and State Emergency Service (SES) in the Emergency Services Sector.

It has revealed the state's volunteer firefighter numbers increased to 765 volunteers per 100,000 people, compared to 754 volunteers per 100,000 people in 2019/20. South Australia now has almost 15,000 active volunteers in the Emergency Services Sector.

MFS and CFS response times to structure fires continue to be among the quickest in Australia, remaining steady at 9.8 minutes".

[SA firefighters among nation's fastest first responders | Premier of South Australia](#)

SENSITIVE: No

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: No

MEDIA: No

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS: No

Contract Confidentiality Clause Inserted: No

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Draft Response

<p>Contact Officer: Vic Aquaro Phone: 8115 3338 Date: / / Manager: / / 2021</p>	<p>Approved: Mark Jones QFSM Chief Officer SA Country Fire Service / / 2021</p>	<p>Noted: Dominic Lane Chief Executive SAFECOM / / 2021</p>
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21EMS0039

Mr Fraser Ellis MP
Member for Narungga
51 Robert St

Dear Mr Ellis

Thank you for your recent correspondence on behalf of [REDACTED] Schultz of Moonta Mines regarding the adjoining structure fire on 16 June 2020.

After receiving your correspondence, I asked the SA Country Fire Service and (CFS) and the SA Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) for advice about this matter.

Both CFS and MFS appreciate the observations and concerns by [REDACTED] [REDACTED] seeing [REDACTED] destroyed by fire and notes your overall apprehensions about response times and resources.

Moonta Mines is within the primary response area of Kadina CFS (incorporating Northern Yorke Peninsula Group), and the Moonta township and immediate surrounds is also served by a MFS station in Moonta. Both CFS and MFS worked in a coordinated manner in responding to this structure fire and all parties including the SA Ambulance Services found solace to no loss of life.

Appliances Kadina24P and Kadina34 initially responded with 5000ltr of water including supplementation of resources by MFS resources. Unfortunately the advanced state of the fire (*fully involved*) unfortunately meant a complete loss could not be prevented. The Northern Yorke Peninsula Group Bulk Water Tanker (BW13) followed the initial response.

Lack of access to and/or variability of, mains and hydrant infrastructure locations and water pressure variances are matters that are all factored in to CFS preparedness and response to incidents.

It was reassuring to note that the Productivity Commission's National 2021 Report on Government Services (RoGS) identified that MFS and CFS response times to structure fires continue to be among the quickest in Australia, remaining steady at 9.8 minutes".

Despite this pleasing result all the emergency sectors will continue to be resourced and have access to technology that ensures responsiveness to all incidents and for community safety.

Yours sincerely

Hon Vincent Tarzia MP

Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services

/ / 2021

From: [Firth, Lisa \(SAMFS\)](#)
To: [Aquaro, Vittorio \(CFS\)](#)
Subject: RE: URGENT - 21EMS0039 - ELLIS MP, Fraser - Member for Narungga - On behalf of [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Regarding response times and resources for firefighting in regional communities
Date: Tuesday, 16 February 2021 1:18:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.jpg](#)

Hi Vic,

Please note that the MFS **supports** the content of the briefing and letter of reply as drafted (although you may wish to note a typo on the top of page 3. ("*CFS responds to all incidents including structure fires on the basis that it may encounter a number of scenarios which may include **one or more** of the following:*")

Kind regards, Lisa

From: Aquaro, Vittorio (CFS) <Vittorio.Aquaro@sa.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 16 February 2021 12:48 PM
To: Hastie, Brenton (CFS) <Brenton.Hastie@sa.gov.au>; Firth, Lisa (SAMFS) <Lisa.Firth2@sa.gov.au>
Subject: FW: URGENT - 21EMS0039 - ELLIS MP, Fraser - Member for Narungga - On behalf of Elizabeth & Malcolm Schultz - Regarding response times and resources for firefighting in regional communities

Hey Brenton

Can you kindly fact check this 'Latest' briefing and 'Latest' response with some urgency please or add anything relevant .

Hey Lisa

Does MFS have any comment to both

Cheers Vic

From: Phelps, Kristy (SAFECOM) <Kristy.Phelps@sa.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 9 February 2021 4:14 PM
To: CFS:Ministerials <CFSMinisterials@sa.gov.au>
Cc: SAFECOM:Ministerial Liaison <SAFECOMMinisterialLiaison@sa.gov.au>; Soucek, Pavla (SAFECOM) <Pavla.Soucek@sa.gov.au>; Aquaro, Vittorio (CFS) <Vittorio.Aquaro@sa.gov.au>; Meneaud, Georgia (DCS) <Georgia.Meneaud2@sa.gov.au>
Subject: FW: URGENT - 21EMS0039 - ELLIS MP, Fraser - Member for Narungga - On behalf of Elizabeth & Malcolm Schultz - Regarding response times and resources for firefighting in regional communities

Hi Vic,

Please see a request from MFS for further information.

Duplicated emails in thread removed
refer to document 6

Arnott, Kim (SAMFS)

From: CFS:Ministerials
Sent: Monday, 22 February 2021 3:59 PM
To: Firth, Lisa (SAMFS)
Subject: RE: Follow up for briefing

With immense thanks Lisa

Cheers Vic

From: Firth, Lisa (SAMFS) <Lisa.Firth2@sa.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 22 February 2021 3:49 PM
To: CFS:Ministerials <CFSSMinisterials@sa.gov.au>
Subject: Follow up for briefing

Good Afternoon Vic,

For the purpose of the ministerial briefing, I promised to followed up regarding the MFS appliance that attended the incident last year at [REDACTED], Moonta Mines.

I have been advised that the MFS appliance in attendance was a Medium Urban Pumper which carries a total of 1450 litres of water.

Kind regards, Lisa

Lisa Firth
Manager, Executive Services
South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service

99 Wakefield Street, ADELAIDE, SA 5000
GPO Box 98, ADELAIDE, SA 5001
Tel: 08 8204 3754
Mobile: 0472 829 073
Fax: 08 8204 3838
Email: Lisa.Firth2@sa.gov.au

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Arnott, Kim (SAMFS)

From: Firth, Lisa (SAMFS)
Sent: Thursday, 25 February 2021 3:52 PM
To: Aquaro, Vittorio (CFS)
Subject: RE: Multiple Documents - "Copy of Moonta Mines SF appliance timings" (A1472471), "LATEST MINISTER BRIEFING NOTE" (A1464404), "LATEST MINISTER RESPONSE" (A1464406), "SACAD map Moonta Mines" (A1472473)

All good Vic - ACFO Thompson (Regional Operations) is happy with the content referencing the MFS.

Kind regards, Lisa

-----Original Message-----

From: Aquaro, Vittorio (CFS) <Vittorio.Aquaro@sa.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 25 February 2021 3:10 PM
To: Firth, Lisa (SAMFS) <Lisa.Firth2@sa.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Multiple Documents - "Copy of Moonta Mines SF appliance timings" (A1472471), "LATEST MINISTER BRIEFING NOTE" (A1464404), "LATEST MINISTER RESPONSE" (A1464406), "SACAD map Moonta Mines" (A1472473)

Hi Lisa

The MO are chasing this one and I have needed to alter the minute and the draft response since MFS last saw

Can you quickly ascertain if MFS have any further comments/changes

Cheers Vic

Vic Aquaro
Executive Officer, Office of the Chief Officer South Australian Country Fire Service Level 7, 60 Waymouth Street
Adelaide SA 5000 GPO Box 2468, Adelaide SA 5001

T 08 8115 3338 | E Vittorio.aquaro2@sa.gov.au

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Document 10

Unit	Dispatch - When Adelaide Fire send the response pager message to the SACAD recommended brigades.	Acknowledge- When the brigade acknowledges the pager message with Adelaide Fire	Turnout- When the appliance leaves the fire station and onroute to the incident	Arrival- When the appliance arrives at the incident	Return- When the appliance arrives back in the station and is available for further incidents.
KDNA24P_H CFS	Jun 16 2020 21:19:45	Jun 16 2020 21:22:13	Jun 16 2020 21:22:34	Jun 16 2020 21:35:59	Jun 17 2020 0:53:41
MNT681 MFS	Jun 16 2020 21:22:16	Jun 16 2020 21:28:05	Jun 16 2020 21:28:26	Jun 16 2020 21:32:43	Jun 16 2020 23:58:32
KDNA34 CFS	Jun 16 2020 21:19:45	Jun 16 2020 21:22:28	Jun 16 2020 21:25:43	Jun 16 2020 21:40:18	Jun 17 2020 0:36:30
R2_HAYNES	Jun 16 2020 21:39:31	Jun 16 2020 21:39:31			Jun 16 2020 21:39:34
NYPG_BW13 CFS	Jun 16 2020 21:39:34	Jun 16 2020 21:43:10	Jun 16 2020 21:45:24	Jun 16 2020 22:18:55	Jun 17 2020 0:09:20
WAL671 MFS	Jun 16 2020 21:39:34	Jun 16 2020 21:44:18	Jun 16 2020 21:44:49	Jun 16 2020 21:57:59	Jun 16 2020 22:44:02
KAD661 MFS	Jun 16 2020 21:40:21	Jun 16 2020 21:40:21	Jun 16 2020 21:40:38	Jun 16 2020 21:54:23	Jun 16 2020 22:41:14
NYPGC1	Jun 16 2020 21:54:46	Jun 16 2020 21:54:46	Jun 16 2020 21:54:47	Jun 16 2020 22:06:31	Jun 16 2020 23:25:36

