

Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience & Emergency Management

WACOSS welcomes investment into the Fitzroy Crossing recovery efforts and strengthening bushfire mitigation and prevention. However, given the likelihood of increased disasters, it is concerning that there is not additional funding towards disaster mitigation across hazards and building community resilience to disasters.

Initiative	Brooking Channel Bridge Replacement (BP3, P193)
Investment	\$107 million over 2024-25
Description	Funding will be delivered in the next year to replace the Brooking Channel Bridge in the Kimberley. This funding includes unspent funds from the Fitzroy River Bridge replacement and will provide dual-lane crossing.
Implications	This bridge will help improve the resilience of the region through better road safety and supply chain improvement.

Initiative	Enhanced Capacity for Firefighting (BP2, V2, P450)
Investment	\$23 million over four years
Description	There will be \$23 million invested into 60 career fire and rescue service firefighters over the next four years. There will be an additional \$2.6 million toward corporate service supporting building firefighting capacity. This will also support planning towards a new WA Emergency Management Training Centre.
Implications	This supports improved resilience for communities with high bushfire risk, while contributing towards strengthening the firefighting workforce.

Initiative	Bushfire Mitigation (BP3, P147)
Investment	\$30 million over four years
Description	The government will spend over \$30 million over the next four years to fund 34 additional firefighting staff along with funding for fire trucks, firefighting fleets, and increased need. Some funds will be directed towards Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage and is anticipated to feed into planning schemes around bushfire mitigation.
Implications	This funding will improve resilience to bushfires as well as improved planning around bushfires. Considering the significance of this investment, it is vital that support mechanisms are provided for volunteer firefighters and increasing community resilience to fires.

2024 - 2025 Budget

Initiative	Ex-Tropical Cyclone Ellie- Conservation and Marine Parks Clean-Up Program (BP2, V2, P695)
Investment	\$4 million over three years
Description	This new funding will aid with several ongoing efforts to repair the stream gauges and coordinate marine clean-ups in the region.
Implications	This funding goes towards the environmental recovery in the region and can improve future resilience for cyclones and other natural hazards.

Initiative	Consolidated Emergency Services Act (BP2 V2 P450)
Investment	\$2.7 million over three years 2024-25 to 2026-27
Description	<p>The Consolidated Emergency Services Act is a drafted compilation of several acts that are being reviewed and updated by Department of Fire and Emergency Services. These acts include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fire Brigades Act 1942 - Bush Fires Act 1954 - Emergency Services Act of 1998 <p>The initial draft bill has been developed with this funding going towards the public consultation.</p>
Implications	This development of the legislation will involve community engagement to improve community safety and provide better support for emergency services workers.