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ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF OUTSTANDING INCIDENT RESPONSE

During the past two weeks fire and emergency services personnel have rallied together with local communities and support agencies to respond to a number of major incidents across the State.

Over the duration of the Wooroloo incident, the significant efforts of fire emergency services personnel resulted in no lives being lost, and over 200 properties being saved. The unrelenting efforts of all involved, to protect the lives and homes of Perth hills communities has been remarkable, particularly as fire and emergency services personnel worked in the face of challenging weather conditions and harsh terrain.

The Tropical Low situated over the Western Pilbara has brought heavy rainfall and flooding to areas across northern WA, with the Shire of Carnarvon significantly impacted. DFES staff and volunteers undertook extensive preparatory measures in collaboration with the shire and the community to mitigate the impacts of flooding.

The RAC rescue helicopter was dispatched to Carnarvon to undertake extraction and search and rescue operations for people stranded by the flooding. At least 35 people were airlifted to safer areas and were accommodated by the Department of Communities.

The tremendous amount of work you have undertaken, and continue to take on, is nothing short of exceptional. It is by no means an easy task and your efforts undeniably demonstrate the best and most capable people are on the job.

DFES values the important contribution of knowledge, expertise and experience made by all volunteers, career personnel and staff responding to these incidents.

This is also a time to reflect on and to extend our gratitude to the families and employers of our volunteers, who continually make sacrifices by giving up family time and accepting additional work responsibilities when our volunteers are called away to incidents.

Like me, I know your thoughts are with the communities that have been so affected by the Wooroloo fire. Their recovery will need assistance and support from DFES which we are providing now and will continue to provide for as long as it is required.

I would like to personally thank each and every one of you for the work you do year-round in responding to emergencies. Our combined efforts over the last two weeks in trying and challenging environments has been remarkable.

We are stronger when we work together.

**DARREN KLEMM AFSM
COMMISSIONER**