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MELISSA PEXTON NEW DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Melissa Pexton as Deputy Commissioner, Strategy and Emergency Management.

Melissa replaces Deputy Commissioner Mal Cronstedt AFSM, who has retired after more than 40 years of distinguished service.

She was appointed after a rigorous recruitment process. Melissa has an extensive knowledge of emergency management with significant experience at national, state and local level.

These invaluable assets make her the ideal person to fill such an important position at DFES as Deputy Commissioner, Strategy and Emergency Management.

Melissa has shown outstanding leadership in her role as State Recovery Controller, leading the considerable recovery effort required in the aftermath of Tropical Cyclone Seroja, which left a trail of destruction that affected 16 Local Governments in the Mid-West, Gascoyne and Wheatbelt regions.

She is the Department of Fire and Emergency Services' first female Deputy Commissioner.

Melissa has been State Recovery Controller since April 2021 and was previously Director Risk, Capability and Analysis at DFES.

Melissa was also the Executive Officer of the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) and has held positions of Deputy Chair and Chair of the SEMC Recovery and Community Engagement subcommittee.

She has been appointed for a term of five years and starts immediately.

On behalf of DFES staff and all emergency services volunteers I congratulate Melissa on her well-deserved appointment and wish her all the best in her new role.

DARREN KLEMM AFSM
FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMISSIONER