

### 3. Capital Grants

#### 3.1. General Overview

Capital grants relate to significant capital works initiatives costing more than \$5,000 per item, including the acquisition/construction of facilities (excluding land, site works, car parks, fences and landscaping – refer Appendix III), appliances, vehicles and major items of equipment. Local Governments should consult with their BFBs and/or SES Unit when assessing their capital grant requirements.

Note: Does not include other agency requirements such as the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DCBA) - Parks and Wildlife Services.

#### Statewide Resource Replacement Program

DFES has developed a State-wide Resource Replacement Program for LGGS funded emergency services in WA. In consultation with Local Governments, the program allows for the standardisation of assets, reviews of asset suitability and provides equipment commensurate with the risk faced by the local communities.

The State-wide Resource Replacement Program, which incorporates existing planning for BFBs and SES Units, is continuously reviewed and updated. It includes a risk assessment of the Local Government's district and identifies the location of the BFBs, volunteers and assets required to match those needs. In the case of SES Units, the process is based upon an assessment of the risk, the area of operation, the workload and operational capability of the unit(s).

DFES will continue to apply the established replacement programs for fleet assets i.e. appliances, vehicles, boats and trailers. Scheduled replacements will be offered in the year due with Local Governments either endorsing the offer or, requesting alternate types based on revised capability requirements. Alternates will require justification by way of risk assessment as described above.

Annual offers to Local Governments include a 'four out-year' indicative program. These programs do not require endorsement but will be a matter for discussion between DFES and Local Governments. It is encouraged that the respective Brigade/Unit leaders are included in these discussions to ensure the nominated replacement type meets the future capability requirements.

In 2014, DFES commenced the "Operational Fleet" project which aimed to bring the emergency service fleet in WA, to a 'best of class' standard. Because of the Operational Fleet project's timelines which includes 'first of type' acceptance and user validation testing, delivery of fleet projects offered in the 2021/22 appliance/vehicle replacement program and in part, the four out-years, may be delayed, with the type and model of vehicles delivered determined by the outcomes of the validation phase.

In instances where the Operational Fleet project timing directly impacts on the delivery of the replacement program as offered for 2021/22, there may be a short term need to extend the life of the appliances/vehicles past these replacement terms. Accordingly, if an appliance/vehicle falls into a state of disrepair due to excessive wear and tear ahead of its actual replacement, DFES may invoke **Section 4.3 Dealing with Significant Unforeseen Financial Circumstances**, to repair the appliance/vehicle to fit-for-purpose operational standards or, make alternative arrangements to maintain the operating capability of the Brigade/Unit.

The replacement schedules on which the DFES replacement programs have been developed are based on optimal life cycle terms as listed below. These terms are subject to change based on the outcomes delivered from the Operational Fleet project.

Local Government Grants Scheme  
Manual for Capital and Operating Grants

**BFB appliances**

Light Tanker	New - 10 years
Tanker (1.4, 2.4, 3.4, 4.4)	New - 16 years
Fast Fill Trailer	New - 20 Years
12.2 Bulk Water Carrier (BWC)	New - 20 years
Incident Control Vehicle (ICV)	New - 20 years
ICV Technology Upgrade	Refurbish - 7 years

**SES vehicles**

General Rescue Utility	New - 10 years
Flood Rescue Boat and Trailer – Light and Heavy	New - 20 years
12 Person Bus (Personnel Carrier)	New - 20 years
Trailer	New - 20 years
General Rescue, Road Crash Rescue Truck	New - 20 years
All Terrain Utility (ATU) and Trailer	New - 16 years
ICV	New - 20 years
ICV Technology Upgrade	Refurbish - 7 years
Lighting Trailers	New - 20 years

**Facilities**

DFES (through its Asset Planning and Resource Allocation branch) completed a project to confirm the current housing arrangements and future requirements for LGGS funded appliances/vehicles for BFBs and SES Units. As an outcome of this project, DFES continues to support the prioritisation of LGGS funding for new facilities for those fleet assets that are currently housed on private property, especially those appliances not in a secure, undercover facility.

LGGS funded BFB and SES facilities/garages or collocated buildings are to comply with accepted State Government replacement policies for public buildings based upon a minimum period of 25 years for metal/fibro facilities and 50 years for brick facilities. Buildings and facilities designated as essential facilities (e.g. a L3 Incident Control Centre [ICC]) shall comply with Building Code of Australia Importance Level 4 (IL4) design standards.

LGGS facility guidelines and footprints have been developed to assist local governments when requesting new or replacement facilities. The revised footprints represent the operational service requirements of the facility based on brigade or unit profile. Facility requests that exceed these guidelines (>10%) will require justification.

**3.2. Strategic Reviews**

The allocation of strategic regional type appliances, vehicles and equipment (e.g. BWCs, ICVs, and Flood Rescue Boats) is determined based from periodic Strategic Reviews. Recommendations from major incident reviews will also help determine the number, type and location of additional strategic assets that may need to be added to the prescribed LGGS fleet list and for inclusion in future replacement programs.

**3.3. Scope of Capital Grants**

**3.3.1. Eligible Capital Assets**

Capital assets will be considered for funding by the Capital Grants Committees, and include:

- Prescribed fleet assets including light tankers, general rescue utilities, personnel carriers (buses), light trucks, 1.4, 2.4, 3.4 and 4.4 urban and broadacre tankers, trailers (\$5,000 and above) and flood boats
- New buildings and alterations to existing buildings (alternative garaging may be an acceptable option in lieu of providing a dedicated facility)