

Media Release – The Hon Shelley Payne MLC

Esperance businesses commended for supporting emergency services volunteer

Monday, 23 October 2023

- Nearly 60 WA businesses honoured at Volunteer Employer Recognition Awards
- Selfless approach plays key role in keeping Western Australian communities safe
- Cook Government thanks volunteers for their key role in boosting community safety
- Esperance businesses honoured

Western Australian businesses have been celebrated for their unwavering support of emergency services volunteers over the past year at the 2023 Volunteer Employer Recognition Awards (VERA).

Now in its 15th year, VERA recognises the critical role employers play in supporting employees so they can fulfil their duties as first responders.

VERA also acknowledges the self-employed volunteers who often close their doors or turn down jobs at a moment's notice to attend incidents.

Today, 57 businesses across Western Australia were announced as VERA recipients, joining a distinguished group of nearly 1000 businesses which have been recognised since the awards began in 2009.

The diverse group of recipients – ranging from small restaurants to large resource companies – includes 14 self-employed volunteers. Southern Ports Esperance and Close Contracting in Esperance were both honoured. Esperance Smash Repairs was previously honoured at last year's event.

With the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) on high alert for another busy summer, WA businesses will again be a pillar of support to keep the State safe.

Comments attributed to Agricultural Region MLC Shelley Payne

"Emergency Service Volunteers play such an important role in our community, particularly in regional areas", she said.

"The role employers play in facilitating volunteers to attend important training, and to provide support in emergencies helps to keep us all safe."

"I'd like to express my gratitude to all the businesses who play a key role in keeping our community safe during times of emergency."

Comments attributed to Emergency Services Minister Stephen Dawson:

"On behalf of the Cook Government and all Western Australians, I would like to thank and commend these businesses that so generously give their workers time off to attend to an incident or lend a hand in the recovery program.

"It is through the commitment of our volunteers and their employers that DFES can provide a 24/7 service to more than 2.7 million people across the largest jurisdiction in the world.

"These businesses played a key role in allowing volunteers to attend major incidents over the past year when communities were at their most vulnerable, including January's Kimberley floods and the Donnybrook bushfires.

"They also provide ongoing support by permitting volunteers to take time off to attend incidents, training and taking part in community programs.

"We are also deeply indebted to those selfless self-employed volunteers who often sacrifice their own profits by closing their doors to respond to emergencies."

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Attachment 1: Full List of 2023 VERA Recipients

2023 VERA recipients

AFGRI Equipment, Lake Grace
AMH Group Earthworks
Anarchy Wood Concepts
Apple, Booragoon Retail Store
Belridge Secondary College
Blue Tongue Skills
Broome Senior High School
CBH Group, Lake Grace
City of Swan
Clean Cloth Cotton Traders
Close Contracting
CPC Engineering, Karratha Division
CRISP Wireless
Curtin University, Medical School and Health Innovation Research Institute
David Jones, Claremont Quarter
Department of Justice, Casuarina Prison
Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, Audit Branch
Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, Aboriginal Heritage Conservation
Desert Speed Lab
DM Spencer and LA Lucas
Dunning's Fuel Distributors
Educated by Nature
Exmouth Freight and Logistics
Finmec
Fletcher International Export
Fortescue Metals Group
Gnowangerup District High School
Hula Bar
Karratha Senior High School
KI Training and Assessing
Kimberley Hotel
Komatsu Australia
Mouritz Airconditioning and Solar
Nannup Hotel
Prestige Renovations and Granny Flats
PrintDATA
Rio Tinto, HME Engineering
Rockingham Volkswagen, Service Department
Roger Northey
Ross's Gardens
Shire of Manjimup
Shire of Pingelly
Shire of Wyndham-East Kimberley
South West Water Tanks and Water Cartage
Southern Ports, Esperance
SPACE Hydraulics
Sparrow Early Learning Childcare Centre, Ellenbrook
SRG Global Infrastructure
Steel Trading Solutions
Sugar Chef Patisserie
Tom Price Senior High School
WA Country Health Service, Pilbara Regional Office
Wagin Mechanical Repairs
We're All About Grout
Westgold Resources Limited
Yara Pilbara
Zetta