

UFU 2018 – 2019 A.C.T. Budget Submission

8 FEBRUARY 2018

Summary of what is sought...

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Item	Cost	Commentary
<i>Recruit additional firefighters and run additional recruit colleges to address current staff shortages and replace staff likely to leave the service</i>	\$800,000 for 2 recruit colleges	UFU estimates that as at January 31 2018, available firefighters were 39.5 EFT below funded establishment
<i>Expand the fleet with an additional pumper-aerial appliance to complement our existing appliances</i>	Approx \$1.4m	"Combined Aerial Pumper Appliance" (CAPA) used by South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service (SAMFS) is indicative
<i>Recruit and train additional firefighters to crew the new aerial pumper</i>	Approx \$3.1m recurrent plus Approx \$0.5M training	The appliance is crewed with 4 firefighters per shift, plus relief factor of 0.5. Total 24 firefighters.
<i>New City Fire Station</i>	\$19 m	Aranda budget was \$18m, \$4m saved on cutting corners
<i>Complete replacement of firefighter structural firefighting personal protective</i>	Approx \$1.4m	Uniforms have been in commission since 2011 (titan) and 2007 (nomex)

Canberra has grown: Firefighter numbers have not

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ACT Population:

- 335,170 in 2006
- 410,301 in 2017

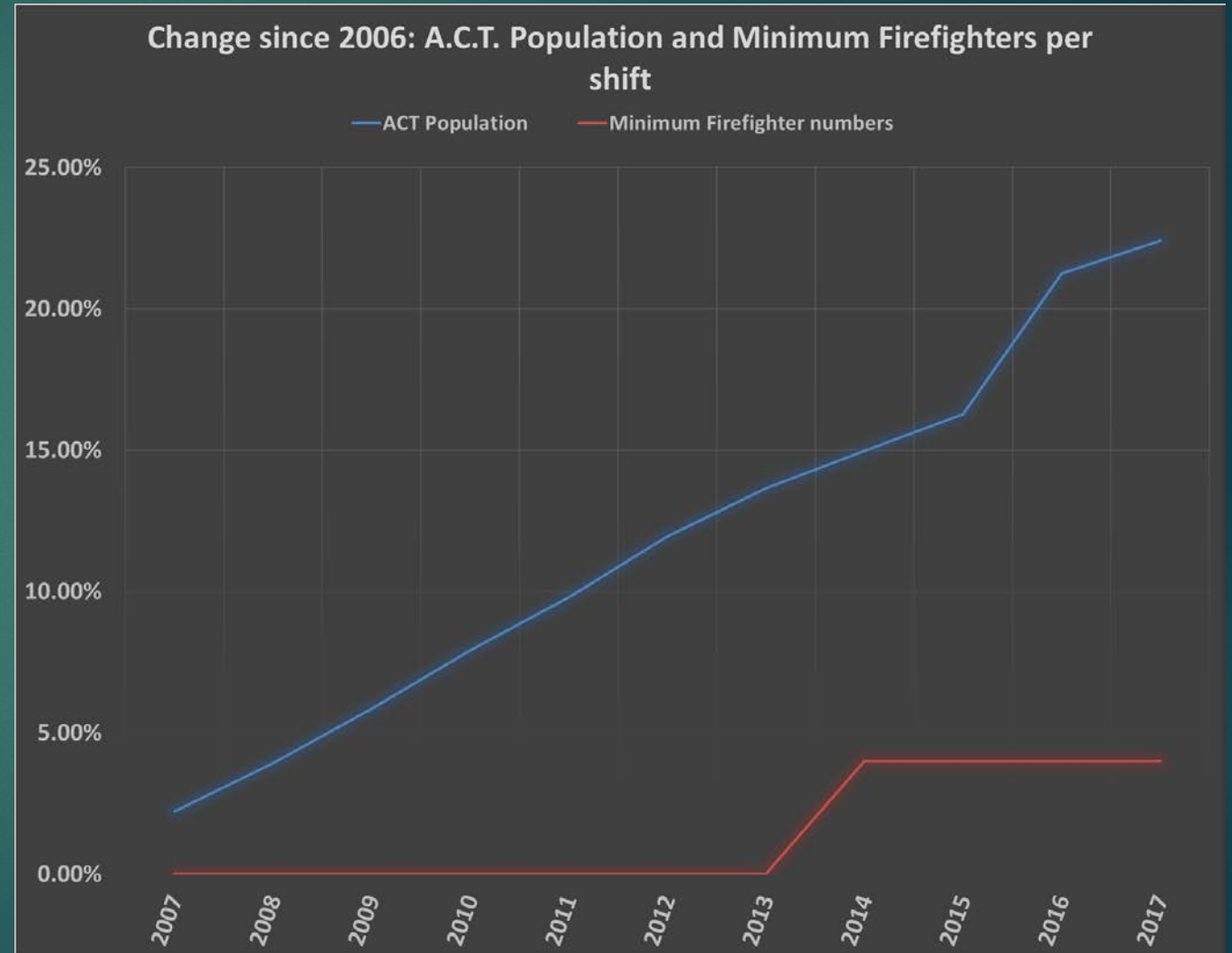
22.4% increase in 11 years.

Minimum firefighters per shift:

- 50 in 2006.
- 52 in 2014
- 52 in 2017.

(Introduction of the Platform on Demand (POD) trucks, and additional Commander.)

Last new firestation (Gungahlin) was 1997



Fire and Rescue Establishment

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4 firefighters per pumper crew;

4 Platoons on 10 / 14 roster (2x10 hour day shifts followed by 2x14 hour night shifts)

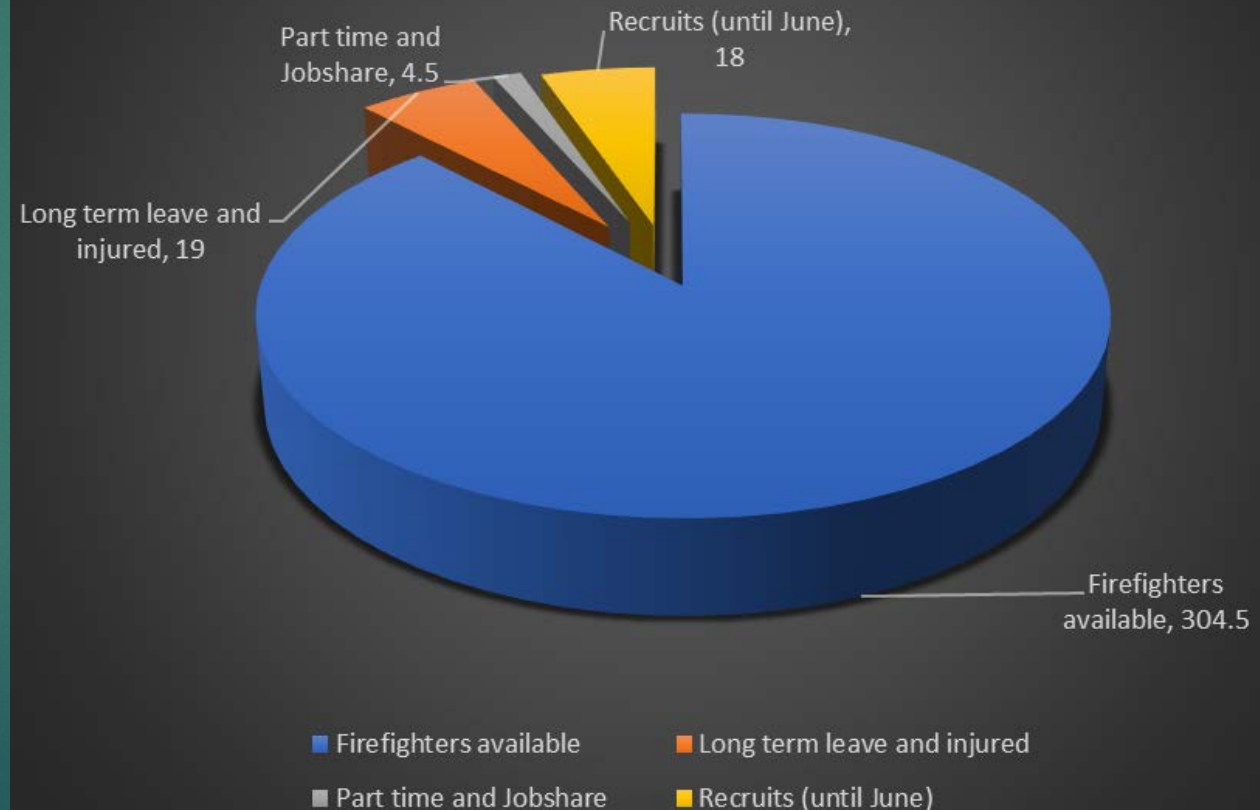
16 firefighters per appliance per "set"

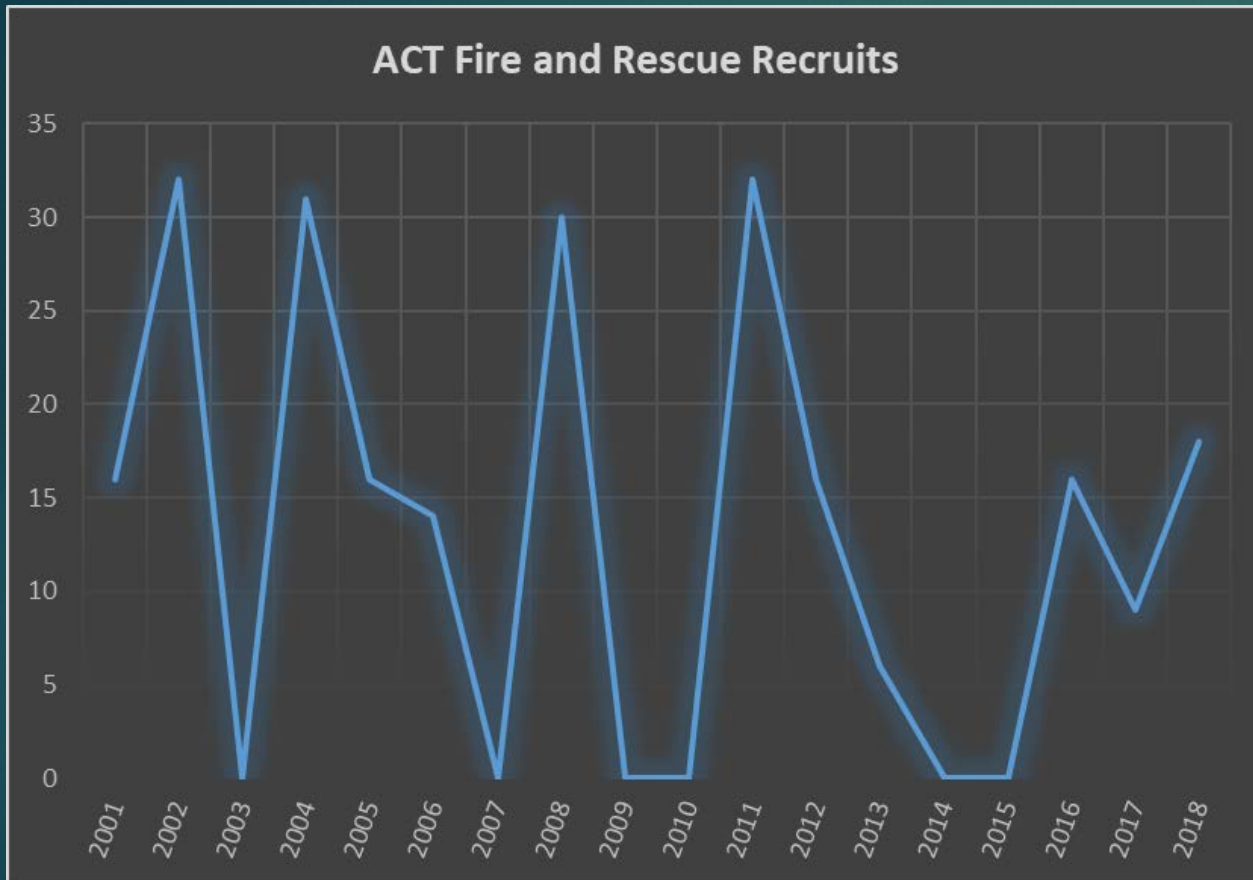
Relief Factor of 0.5 means 24 firefighters (16+8) per pumper.

To get 52 per shift, conduct training, fire prevention, provide logistics, prevent fatigue and prevent excessive overtime, we need at least 344 firefighters.

Of 344 firefighters employed, only approx. 304 are available for duty.

Firefighter workforce Feb 2018 (EFT)





Sporadic recruitment repeats itself

Recruitment over time has been inconsistent.

As firefighters age, they accrue leave, and suffer injuries and illness.

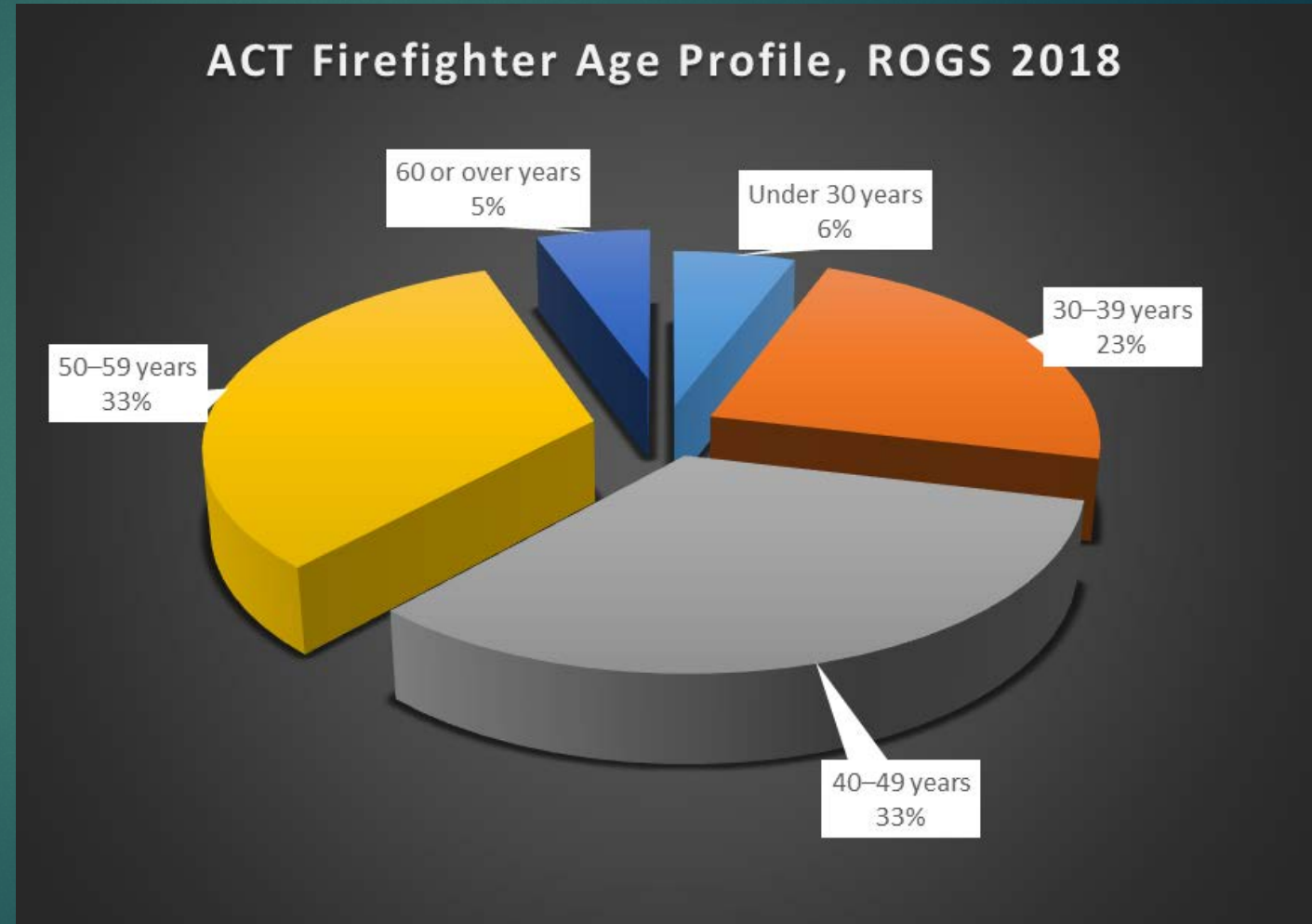
Firefighter availability declines over time.

ACT Firefighter Age Profile

As at 30 June 2017,
among ACT Firefighters:

- 38% were over 50
- 71% were over 40

Recruitment in 2018-19
will need to be strong
to keep up with
retirements.

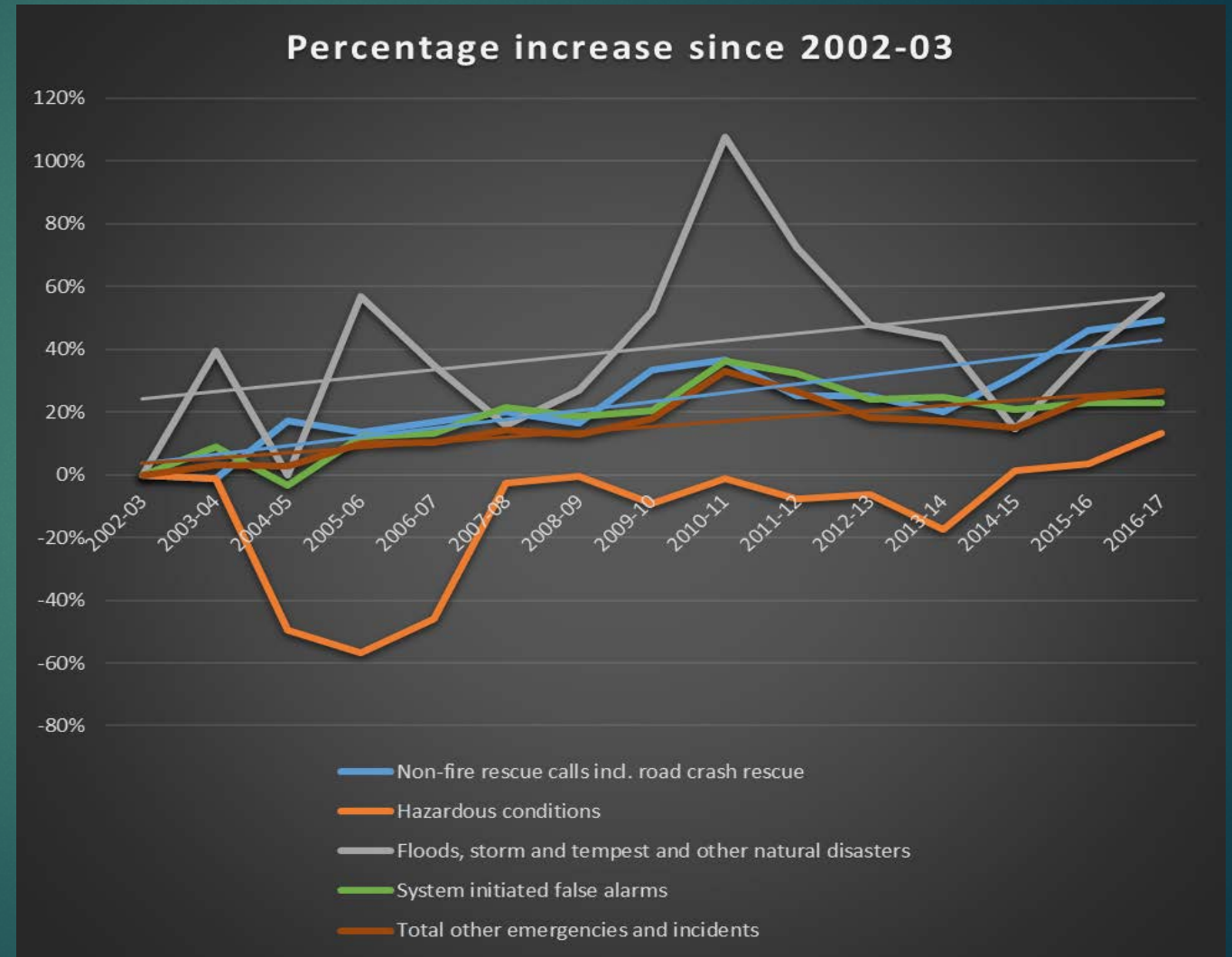


While numbers are down, work is increasing

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Between 2002-03 and 2016-17, increases in these incident types were:

- ▶ Rescue (incl. road crash) 49%
- ▶ Floods storms etc 57%
- ▶ Total non fire emergencies and other incidents: 26%



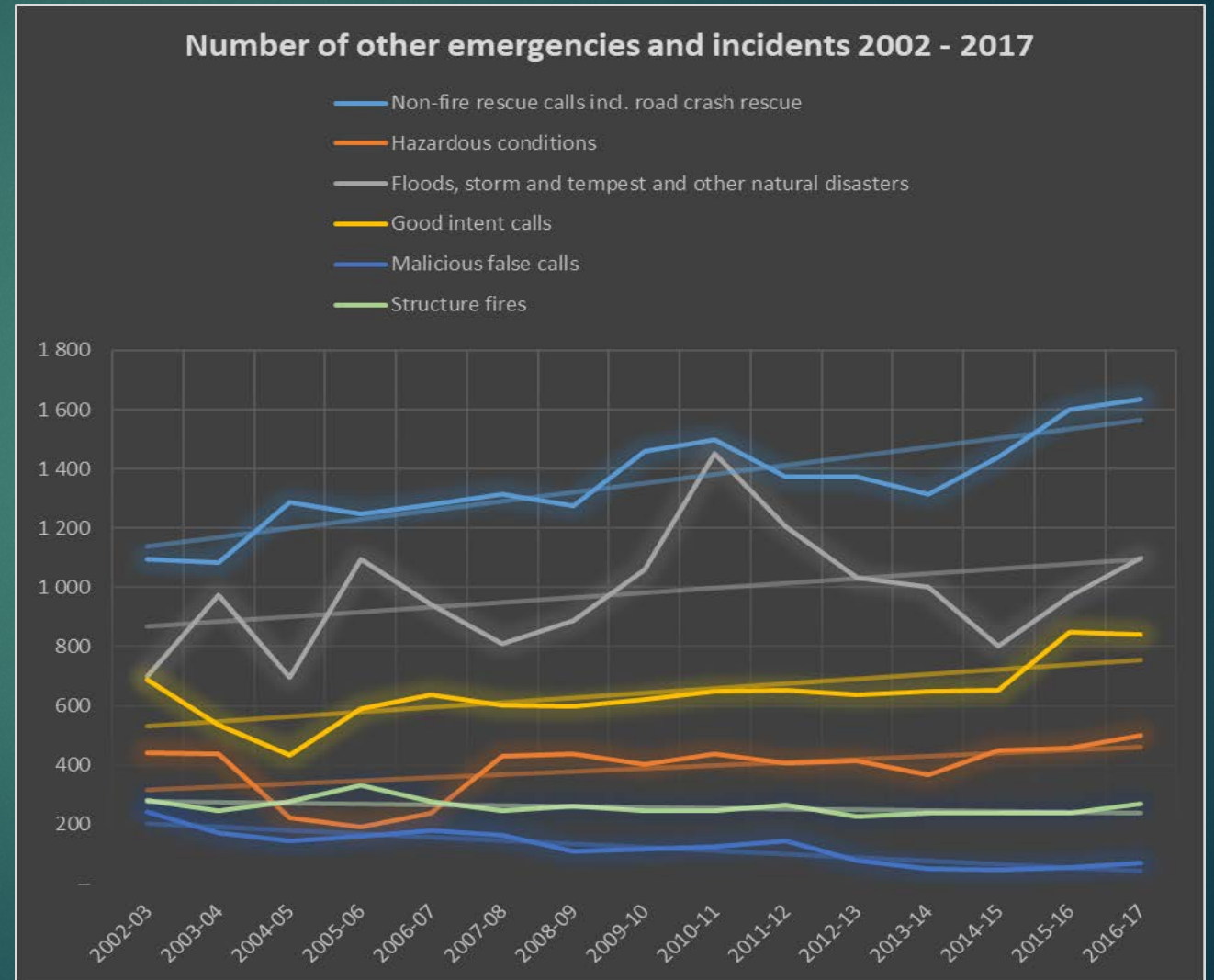
Work related to extreme weather is growing

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Rescue and Attendance at extreme weather related emergencies occupy represent a high number of turnouts in 2016-17:

- ▶ Rescue 1637 (up 2.4%)
- ▶ Floods, storms, tempest, other natural disasters: 1098 (up 13.1%)

Structure fires increased by 13.5% from previous year, but were relatively few in number (270)



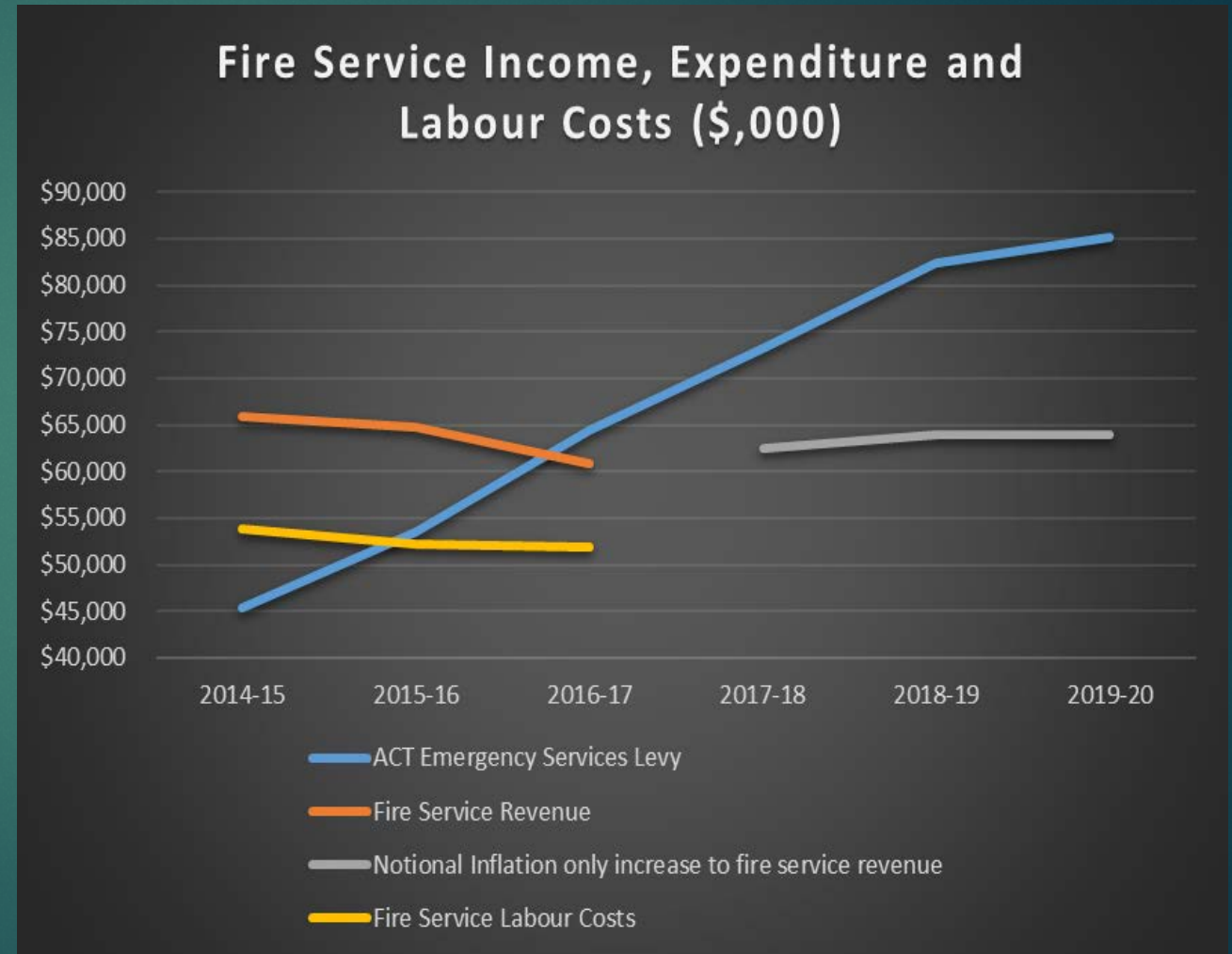
Expenditure does not match income

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Fire Service Revenue down 7.6% since 2014-15, (Labour costs by 3.5%)

Emergency Services Levy is increasing (\$45.4m to \$85.2m, 2014-5 to 2019-20).

- ▶ Emergency Service levy calculated from 2016-17 budget papers using 2016-17 dollars
- ▶ 2014-15 Levy amount drawn from 2014-15 budget paper, and adjusted to 2016-17 dollars using the RBA inflation calculator
- ▶ Structure fires increased by 13.5% from previous year, but were relatively few in number (270)
- ▶ "Fire Service Revenue" drawn from "Report on Government Services 2018, Part D Emergency Management" Productivity Commission 2018
- ▶ The "Inflation only increase to fire service" is projected using 2.5% based on current ACT Government wage offer



City Fire Station

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- ▶ Existing ACTFR Stations are close to capacity: the only stations capable of holding additional crew are Charnwood, Aranda and South Tuggeranong (4 crew plus one additional appliance each). This is compromised by tanker standups on high fire danger days.
- ▶ One of the busiest stations, Ainslie, was built in 1962, and recommissioned in 1993.
- ▶ \$573,000 was allocated in the 2017-18 budget to place additional crew at Ainslie. \$400,000 was allocated for a City Fire Station Feasibility Study.
- ▶ On 2 October 2017, the UFU was informed by ESA representatives that ESA would not proceed with:
 - ▶ a City Fire Station feasibility study; or
 - ▶ A joint ACTFR / ACTAS city station because the building previously under consideration would not accommodate a fire truck.

Ainslie Fire Station

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- ▶ The UFU was not aware, prior to the 2017-18 budget, of any proposal to accommodate additional crew at Ainslie.
- ▶ In December, we were informed that of the \$576,000 allocated in the budget, only \$450,000 remained available.
- ▶ We have serious reservations about whether Ainslie can proceed e.g.
 - ▶ Façade is heritage listed: no changes to front
 - ▶ Land is small: no changes to sides or back
 - ▶ “clean” and “dirty” foot traffic will intermingle, spreading contaminants and carcinogens;
 - ▶ Works will not be done to “User Requirement Brief”
 - ▶ The renovations will require reversing trucks into the engine bay, across a footpath adjacent to a licensed club
 - ▶ makes no provision for a “drill yard” to conduct familiarisation and training using the new appliance
 - ▶ Proposed accommodation of crews in an “accommodation pod” (a shipping container fitted out for accommodation) situated in the engine bay
 - ▶ loss of any gymnasium facility on site
- ▶ UFU concerns raised in December have not been answered

Problems with recent firestation works:

- ▶ Sth. Tuggeranong: 20 pages of works requests unresolved;
- ▶ Aranda: \$4million cost cutting:
 - ▶ No double doors to engine bay: carcinogen risk and energy consumption;
 - ▶ By pass of transition area: carcinogens;
 - ▶ Departures from specification in Commander offices;
 - ▶ Limited room for expansion;
- ▶ Fyshwick:
 - ▶ ATCO workers hut added to front of station as accommodation;
 - ▶ Unsafe temporary accommodation;
 - ▶ No covered walkways: Umbrella offered as solution;
 - ▶ No heating for several weeks in winter;
 - ▶ Air conditioner quote approx. 10 times actual cost

PPC: A potential good news story

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- ▶ Firefighting is the only industry with presumptive legislation;
- ▶ Uniforms are last line of defence against carcinogens;
- ▶ Current Uniforms out of date: commissioned 2007 & 2011
- ▶ Generational replacement offers opportunity for best possible protection
- ▶ Discussions under way about trial:
 - ▶ Previous trial inadequate;
 - ▶ Statement of Requirements under discussion;
 - ▶ Trial methodology close to agreement;
 - ▶ Trial can be conducted at Hume;
 - ▶ Trial could be completed in 4 days from commencement;
- ▶ Potential cost less than \$1.5 million