



**OPERATIONAL CIRCULAR 25/2014**

**File:** 00479

**APRIL 2014**

**SES AIR OBSERVER ASSISTANCE TO MISSING AIRCRAFT SEARCH**

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Western Australian State Emergency Service (SES) volunteer air observers have been assisting the Australian Government since Saturday 22 March with the search in the southern Indian Ocean for missing Malaysian Airlines flight MH 370.

The SES support to the operation has been outstanding and is still ongoing.

The [Joint Agency Coordination Centre](#) is now coordinating the search on behalf of the Australian Government.

There are a number of sensitivities in relation to the operation, which preclude DFES and the SES from engaging in publicity about the SES and DFES role at this point.

However, please be assured that your efforts, skills and contribution have not gone unnoticed and DFES will seek to tell the story of SES support at an appropriate time in the future.

I thank you for your continued discretion in support of what is an Australian Government led international operation.

DFES acknowledges that the operation is complex, and as such creates an unstable resourcing environment, with levels of SES assistance requested changing from day to day.

We are working to develop a long term strategy to support the operation and ensure that the SES air observers participating are given as much notice and stability as possible.

I thank the SES volunteers involved for their continued support and flexibility, as well as their family, friends and employers for continuing to assist in what is a challenging operation.

I know the SES are committed to helping the wider community and would have a similar view to that of the Australian Prime Minister who recently said we would 'do whatever we reasonably can' to assist with this important search for the loved ones of those who are missing.

**LLOYD BAILEY** AFSM  
**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OPERATIONS**

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O.I.C. is to read this circular to all station personnel and discuss. Then sign the appropriate box above to confirm that this has been completed				