



THE HON. DR MIKE KELLY MP Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Support

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RESERVISTS THANKED FOR OUTSTANDING EFFORT DURING VICTORIAN BUSHFIRES

The Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Support, the Hon. Dr Mike Kelly AM MP, today hosted a function to thank Australian Defence Force Reservists for their involvement in the ADF operation in support of the Victorian bushfires, Operation Vic Fire Assist.

“While the employment of Australian Defence Force personnel to assist the Australian community during times of natural disaster is not uncommon, this Operation was unique in that it was a task given primarily to reservists,” Dr Kelly said.

“Members of our Navy, Army and Air Force Reserves worked together with their full time counterparts as part of Joint Task Force 662, and these members showed great skill and flexibility during the Operation.”

Over 100 Reservists were thanked at the function which was held at Maygar Barracks, Melbourne.

More than 1300 Reservists were involved in the two-month Operation, which saw the Australian Defence Force assist Victoria police and emergency services during the bushfire emergency.

Dr Kelly said employer and community support is vital to Australia’s Defence capability.

“Employer support gave Reservists the ability to assist their fellow Australians during this tragic natural disaster,” he said.

“The new Defence White Paper highlights the important role our Reservists play now and the increased role we want them to play in the future.

“We need employers of Reservists to continue offering their support.”

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