



Media Release

Victoria State Emergency Service

Mallacoota heroes flying to Melbourne for AFL State of Origin game



A crew of 10 VICSES volunteers from Mallacoota will be part of the emergency service contingent at tonight's AFL Bushfire Appeal double-header at Marvel stadium, flying in from the state's Far East.

The ten orange-clad SES volunteers are among those that bravely supported the isolated community during the recent fire crisis across December and January.

They will be joined by hundreds of other emergency services personnel at Marvel Stadium (Docklands) for a double-header, kicking off at 5:40pm with the AFLW, followed by the State of Origin game at 7:50pm.

All proceeds from the AFL Bushfire Appeal State of Origin tonight (28 February) will go towards rebuilding grassroots footy clubs around Australia affected by the fires. The AFL has even commissioned a Sherrin in 'VICSES orange' with the names of those clubs, to remind players what the night is all about.

VICSES is grateful that the Mallacoota crew are taking up the opportunity to come to the game and allow the large crowd to say "thank you" for their brilliant efforts during a trying time across Victoria in recent months.

Media and the public are encouraged to look out for the Mallacoota volunteers as part of the emergency services 'Guard of Honour' prior to the State of Origin first bounce led by Volunteer



Controller Leo Op Den Brouw. The children of VICSES volunteers will get on the ground too, taking part in Auskick game at half time.

Specialised VICSES operations vehicles will also be on display on the concourse outside Gate 5 for fans to check out, and say “G’day” to volunteers. Dozens of members will also be in uniform while watching the match with their friends and family.

The atmosphere at the game is expected to be very positive, with all significant blazes declared ‘contained’ on Thursday, 27 February 2020.

Volunteers from over 100 different VICSES units were involved in support deployments in fire-affected areas across the state in recent months.