



Simon Corbell MLA

ATTORNEY GENERAL
MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND WATER
MINISTER FOR POLICE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES
MINISTER FOR ENERGY
MEMBER FOR MOLONGLO

MEDIA RELEASE

ACT FIRE BRIGADE SPECIALISTS TO ASSIST IN JAPAN

Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Simon Corbell, today announced four specialist ACT Fire Brigade urban search and rescue (USAR) firefighters will be deployed to Japan to help in the rescue effort following yesterday's earthquake and tsunami.

"These four highly qualified ACT specialist firefighters will form a large Australian contingent following a formal request for assistance from Japanese authorities," Mr Corbell said.

"It is unknown at this stage as to what area's they will be deployed to, but they will leave Sydney later tonight to work on the ground for a period of at least 10 days.

"They are trained to work in areas of major structural damage and underground tunnelling through collapsed buildings.

"The urban search and rescue firefighters will use their knowledge, skill and experience to do a thorough and systematic search of the area in an attempt to find survivors and victims of the tragedy that has unfolded.

"Working in a confined space takes extreme skill and this contingent will provide great assistance to the other emergency services on scene.

"As the destruction of yesterday's events become clearer, I offer my condolences to the family and friends of those killed in this crisis in Japan. My thoughts and those of all Canberrans I am sure are with those affected."

The ACT deployment to Japan follows two recent deployments of ACT Emergency Services Agency personnel in New Zealand after the earthquake tragedy in Christchurch.

"The latest ACT taskforce in New Zealand are due to return next week," Mr Corbell said.

"All Canberrans should be proud of the work these professionals do in times of crisis. We wish them all well and for a safe return."

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