

EMERGENCY SERVICES LEVY — REFERRAL AND GRANTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**1006. Hon COLIN de GRUSSA to the minister representing the Minister for Emergency Services:**

I refer to the ABC news story on Sunday, 15 September, which stated that the minister would be forming an independent committee to oversee spending of the emergency services levy.

- (1) Why is it necessary for an independent committee to oversee this spending?
- (2) Can the minister please table the terms of reference for the committee and advise the date of formation and the membership of the committee?
- (3) What will be the total cost of the committee and where will the funding come from?

**Hon ALANNA CLOHESY replied:**

On behalf of the Minister for Environment, I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. The Minister for Emergency Services has provided the following answer.

- (1) An independent ESL referral and grants advisory committee will be established and resourced under ministerial direction and will assess appeals that may arise from the local government grants committees, be an independent source of ESL and grants-related advice to the minister, and monitor the collection and expenditure patterns of the ESL. This is in line with the recommendations of the Economic Regulation Authority's review of the ESL.
- (2)–(3) The committee is in its final stages of establishment and will be in place for the next budget process. Information on the date of formation, membership and total cost cannot be provided at this time. The funding source is yet to be established.