

PLANNING —BUSHFIRE MANAGEMENT — MT HELENA

**50. Mr D.T. REDMAN to the Minister for Emergency Services:**

I refer to the decision by the minister's cabinet colleague, the Minister for Planning, to reject the advice of the Department of Fire and Emergency Services and issue a rezoning approval for an area deemed an extreme fire risk in Mt Helena.

- (1) Did the Minister for Planning consult the minister before rejecting the prudent advice of his agency, and does he support her decision?
- (2) Does the minister agree with the advice his department provided to the Minister for Planning; and, if not, why not?

**Mr F.M. LOGAN replied:**

Thank you very much, member for Warren–Blackwood, for those questions.

- (1)–(2) No. The minister did not consult me beforehand because I have no role in the decision-making process. The Minister for Planning is the decision-making process, and the Department of Fire and Emergency Services has an advisory role only. It does not have to provide me with any information about it. If it sees fit, it provides information to the Western Australian Planning Commission, which in turn provides advice to the minister. The minister made the decision. However, the minister and I have spoken about this, and the minister has explained to me exactly what she explained to the house about the nature of this development. She explained the history of this development to me. She has explained to me the support of the local shire for this development. I have been through that and looked on Google maps at —

**Mr D.T. Redman:** Do you agree with the advice of your department?

**Mr F.M. LOGAN:** I am just trying to answer the question for you, mate.

I have been on Google maps. I have taken the information from the minister. I have looked at the access and egress for emergency vehicles. Once the 20 or so blocks that will come out of this development are approved by the shire, constraints, restrictions and requests will be put on those homeowners as soon as they build their building. As far as I am concerned, the minister has made the call and she has made probably the right call.