

WAROONA–YARLOOP BUSHFIRES — PRIVATE CONTRACTORS

115. Hon MARTIN PRITCHARD to the Attorney General representing the Minister for Emergency Services:

I refer to the Waroona–Yarloop fires in January 2016.

- (1) During the fires, was the incident controller, or any other Department of Fire and Emergency Services personnel, including those at the regional operations centre or state operations centre, made aware of the presence of private contractors working on the fire, of their position on the fireground and of the nature of instructions given to that contractor by the Department of Parks and Wildlife?
- (2) If yes to (1), what was the content of advice provided and when and how was that advice conveyed?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN replied:

On behalf of the Minister for Emergency Services, I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. The Department of Fire and Emergency Services advises as follows —

- (1) Yes. The Department of Fire and Emergency Services is aware of numerous private contractors engaged during this incident. Their positions on the fireground and instructions would be specific to their role and the incident strategies and tactics. DFES personnel were made aware of the presence of private contractors engaged as firefighters by the Department of Parks and Wildlife. Further information may be sought from DPaW as to their exact role.
- (2) Contractors are tasked according to the incident action plans. These tasks would be conveyed predominately at the start of the shift and as the situation changed.