

MARGARET RIVER BUSHFIRES — MR BRAD COMMINS

1084. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the minister representing the Minister for Environment:

I refer to the Margaret River bushfires.

- (1) When was Mr Brad Commins reinstated in the Department of Environment and Conservation?
- (2) When did the minister first become aware that Mr Commins had been reinstated?
- (3) When did the minister first become aware that Hon Donna Faragher had raised concerns about the reinstatement of Mr Commins?
- (4) What was the nature of those concerns?
- (5) Who was made aware of those concerns?
- (6) What positions has Mr Commins held for what periods since being reinstated in DEC?
- (7) Has the minister read the DEC-commissioned consultant's report that found the coroner's verdict about responsibility for the Boorabbin fire was wrong?
- (8) Will the minister table that report?
- (9) If no to (8), why not?

Hon HELEN MORTON replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) Please refer to the media statement released by the Director General of the Department of Environment and Conservation on 16 September 2010, which is available on the department's website.
- (2) Advice on this matter was included as part of an initial briefing package that was provided to the minister by the department upon his commencement as Minister for Environment in mid-December 2010.
- (3) On 28 November 2011.
- (4) The minister understands that the minister at the time queried the appointment but it was the decision of the director general.
- (5) The minister was advised that the Director General of the Department of Environment and Conservation was advised by the then minister at the time.
- (6) The minister was advised that Mr Commins was operations manager in DEC's Blackwood District and was appointed to the position of acting district manager for the Blackwood District on 26 February 2011.
- (7) No.
- (8)–(9) Disciplinary investigation reports prepared for employing authorities are confidential reports that contain personal information about employees and ordinarily are not tabled or released publicly.