

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION — PRESCRIBED BURNS —
FIREFIGHTERS

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

I refer to the revelation that the Department of Environment and Conservation has only achieved 103 000 hectares of its annual prescribed burning target of 200 000 hectares for 2011–12 in the south west.

- (1) How many firefighter staff will be deployed by DEC in the south west this fire season?
- (2) Of those, how many are seasonal workers; how many are DEC employees who only perform firefighter duties on a part-time basis; and how many have been recruited in the past six months on a seasonal basis and on a full-time basis?
- (3) How many firefighter personnel have left the employment of DEC in the past six months?
- (4) What is the estimate of the optimal number of firefighters to adequately protect the south west, and how is this calculated?

Hon HELEN MORTON replied:

I thank the member for some notice of question. Unfortunately, I could not let the member know this earlier or I would have.

- (1)–(4) The answer is not available in the time required and I therefore ask the honourable member to place the question on notice.