

VOLUNTEER MARINE RESCUE WA

1379. Hon MARTIN PRITCHARD to the Attorney General representing the Minister for Emergency Services:

I refer to the funding of the Volunteer Marine Rescue WA units located throughout the state, which is now sourced from the emergency services levy.

- (1) Can the minister confirm that this funding is restricted to operational expenses?
- (2) What will be the source of funds for future fleet upgrades, including nine vessels that have been identified as requiring replacement?
- (3) When will radio over internet be introduced to enable greater flexibility and coverage in smaller units?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN replied:

On behalf of the Minister for Emergency Services, I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) No, funding also includes grant payments for capital items.
- (2) Existing grant payments for capital expenditure are made from the Department of Fire and Emergency Services' emergency services levy funding source. Future fleet upgrades and replacements, if approved by government, will be funded through an appropriate funding source, as identified by government. Vessel replacements are continuing with a new vessel for Fremantle to be commissioned shortly.
- (3) A statewide solution is being considered. However, radio over internet technology is already being used at the Fremantle, Mandurah and Geraldton Volunteer Marine Rescue groups.