

**RETURNED AND SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA WESTERN AUSTRALIA —  
GASCOYNE SUB-BRANCH — OLD CARNARVON FIRE STATION**

*Statement by Minister for Emergency Services*

**MR F.M. LOGAN (Cockburn — Minister for Emergency Services)** [12.35 pm]: I would like to take this opportunity to inform the house of the official handover of the old Carnarvon Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service fire station last week to the Gascoyne sub-branch of the Returned and Services League of Australia, Western Australia. The old fire station building has been occupied by the Gascoyne RSL sub-branch since 2009, when the Carnarvon Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service moved to a new building. I first learnt of the local sub-branch's desire to permanently call the old fire station home when I travelled to Carnarvon to meet emergency services volunteers a few years ago. Recognising the need for the local Gascoyne RSL sub-branch to have a permanent home, the government, the Department of Fire and Emergency Services and the Shire of Carnarvon worked together to give it back to the local Carnarvon community, making it possible for the Returned and Services League to officially buy the property from the shire for the peppercorn price of \$1. This was the right thing to do. Should the Gascoyne sub-branch ever wish to vacate the site, it will be sold back to the shire for the same amount.

The Returned and Services Leagues are an important part of the cultural and social fabric in regional towns. They provide much-needed assistance and care for serving and ex-serving members of the Australian Defence Force. They commemorate, support and give comradeship to veterans and their families. It was my absolute honour to travel to Carnarvon on 25 October 2020 to officially hand over the old fire station building to the Gascoyne sub-branch during its seventy-fifth anniversary year. The sub-branch now has a permanent base for its headquarters. This will serve the community well, both now and into the future.