

STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE — PERSONAL PROTECTIVE CLOTHING

1294. Hon COLIN de GRUSSA to the minister representing the Minister for Emergency Services:

I refer to question without notice 726 asked in the Legislative Council on 27 June 2019, and to an ABC News article published online on Friday, 25 October 2019, titled “‘Disastrous’ funding process blamed for 10-year wait on specialised SES equipment”, in which Deputy Commissioner Craig Waters said the department was doing a holistic review across the state in relation to personal protective clothing.

- (1) What is the status of this review, and when does the department expect to complete it?
- (2) What consultation has the department done with State Emergency Service and other emergency service volunteers during this review?
- (3) Can the minister please table the minutes or notes from any meetings or consultation sessions held to date?
- (4) What is the department doing to improve the administrative process for requesting items outside the list of approved emergency services levy expenditure, such as specialist cold weather personal protective clothing?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) The State Emergency Service personal protective clothing working group is in progress and is anticipated to be finalised by March 2020. The SES PPC working group is reviewing specifications for general purpose PPC in both hot and cold weather climates and climate conditions in WA. This is a comprehensive review of the entire state and not localised to the great southern.
- (2)–(3) Formal consultation through the SES PPC working group has just commenced. As a result, there are no formally endorsed minutes. The SES PPC working group includes Department of Fire and Emergency Services staff, SES volunteers from across the state and the SES Volunteers Association of WA. As part of the review, DFES has also liaised with other SES jurisdictions across Australia.
- (4) A local government grants scheme working group comprising representatives from the Western Australian Local Government Association, the Association of Volunteer Bushfire Brigades, the State Emergency Service Volunteer Association and DFES has been established to provide a consultative forum between stakeholders for matters pertaining to the LGGs. The main function of the group is to promote and provide open dialogue with the aim to make the LGGs process more streamlined, democratic, visible, sustainable and fit-for-purpose.