

CORONAVIRUS — ECONOMIC RECOVERY — FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

**912. Mr Y. MUBARAKAI to the Minister for Emergency Services:**

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's efforts in keeping Western Australia safe and strong by providing significant investment in the resources and infrastructure needed to support our emergency services personnel. Can the minister outline to the house how this government's investment in new appliances, new infrastructure and new resources has not only helped to improve community safety, but also supported local businesses and created more local jobs as our economy recovers from the impacts of COVID-19?

*Point of Order*

**Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP:** I refer to standing order 77 on the rules on questions. There appeared to be quite a lot of hypotheticals and statements there by the member for Jandakot as part of that question.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Do members want to end question time now?

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** What did I say before? When there is a point of order, there is silence. If there is another outburst like that, that will be the end of question time. That is not a point of order.

**Mr Y. MUBARAKAI:** Mr Speaker, can I ask that question again?

**The SPEAKER:** No!

*Questions without Notice Resumed*

**Mr F.M. LOGAN replied:**

I thank the member for Jandakot for the terrific question that he has put to this house, and I thank him for his ongoing support for the local Jandakot Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade and the construction of the career fire station underway in Cockburn. That is one of the investments to which the member referred in his question. It is a good question because it allows us to summarise exactly what has occurred over the past three and a half years in rebuilding fire and emergency services. We have taken it from what was originally a response organisation that primarily dealt with fire, to a holistic emergency services organisation, similar to others around Australia and the world, that deals with any of the 26 hazards that are listed as threats to the community and the people of Western Australia. A great holistic organisation has been created over the past four years. Of course, to support that holistic organisation, investment is needed to allow volunteers and career firefighters to do their jobs and also to ensure their protection.

Some time ago, I laid out to the house the record investment the government has put into Marine Rescue Western Australia. Mr Speaker, as you would remember, Albany has been a beneficiary of this. Before 2017, for reasons known only to the government of the day—they were certainly not known by the then opposition—marine rescue work was not funded from the emergency services levy. It did not receive a zack. Marine rescue groups had to visit the local shopping centres with their hats out and run barbeques and conduct fundraisers. Mr Speaker, you would be aware of that occurring in Albany. The government fixed that and made sure that marine rescue, which does a great job on behalf of the people of Western Australia who go into the water, is funded from the ESL. The government made available \$19.5 million over four years. That has allowed many of the marine rescue organisations across Western Australia to have new boats and new facilities, and encouraged new investment in the boatbuilders of Western Australia in Bibra Lake, Henderson and Dongara, all of which have benefited from the \$19.5 million the government made available.

The government has provided \$8 million to completely rebuild the regional volunteer fire and rescue stations at Halls Creek, Northampton, Margaret River and Gingin. As I indicated, the Cockburn Fire Station is well under construction and should be completed by Christmas. Kensington Fire Station is well underway and it too should be completed and opened by the Treasurer before Christmas. The government has invested \$125 million in new locally made fire appliances; our fire trucks are built here in Western Australia. The \$47 million tender for the 1.4 Tanker is out now. That will be built in Collie. There is also an investment by Frontline Fire & Rescue Equipment, which is constructing a new manufacturing facility in Collie. That is well underway. That will create 17 full-time jobs in Collie in the manufacturing of the 4.4 heavy bushfire appliance and the fast attack light vehicle, which will guarantee a significant number of jobs in Collie over many years. The department invested \$13.4 million in the Koolinup Emergency Services Centre in Collie, which is the level 3 incident control facility. It is also where the high season fire fleet will be based, maintained and overhauled, and where those appliances will be applied from.

Additionally, the \$33.16 million Bushfire Centre of Excellence is being built in Nambeelup by a local contractor using local materials. The member for Murray–Wellington is well aware of that; she is grinning from ear to ear. It is the first of its kind in Australia and will lead the way in learning about bushfire mitigation and fire and science, and in providing higher level training for firefighters. The government has allocated \$2.5 million in this year's budget for the department to begin the replacement of the fire and emergency services academy. It is long overdue. That will be a significant investment into the future for the training of all firefighters, both career firefighters and other emergency services workers. It is a massive investment in training our emergency services workers in Western Australia. It could only come under a McGowan Labor government. We have completely overhauled emergency services in Western Australia and we have given them the tools to do the job.