

BUSHFIRES — ESPERANCE — CORONIAL INQUEST

1217. Hon COLIN de GRUSSA to the minister representing the Minister for Emergency Services:

I refer to recommendations 1, 2 and 7 of the inquest into the deaths of four individuals resulting from the 2015 fire near Esperance.

- (1) Has the state government acted on recommendation 1 by creating and filling the additional positions in Esperance of district officer, area officer—rural competencies—and bushfire risk management officer; and, if not, why not?
- (2) Has the government acted on recommendation 2 and commenced planning and allocating funds towards the establishment of a career fire and rescue service station to service the Esperance and Ravensthorpe communities; and, if not, why not?
- (3) Has the government acted on recommendation 7 by enacting a long-term fire mitigation strategy for the south east region, fully supported and funded by DFES and the state government; and, if not, why not?
- (4) What funds were allocated by the state government for fire mitigation activities in the Esperance–Ravensthorpe area for the years 2015–16, 2016–17, 2017–18, 2018–19 and 2019–20?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:

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

Honourable member, it looks as though a word is missing in this answer. I just want to check it with the minister. I will provide an answer to the chamber tomorrow, but I will provide the member with an answer later in the day behind the Chair, if that is okay. I just want to make sure. It looks as though it is an important word, too.