

SOUTHERN DISTRICTS VOLUNTEER BUSH FIRE BRIGADE — FIREFIGHTING EQUIPMENT

1422. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the Attorney General representing the Minister for Emergency Services:

I refer to the City of Mandurah's Southern Districts Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade firefighting equipment.

- (1) Does the Minister for Emergency Services consider the Southern Districts Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade's one four-wheel drive 500-litre capacity firefighting vehicle is sufficient to protect the people of the southern Mandurah area from a bushfire?
- (2) Can the minister confirm that the Southern Districts Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade was to take delivery of a 3 000-litre tanker and that delivery has now been delayed until after the 2015–16 summer and that in lieu of the new tanker, they have been advised they will receive another four-wheel drive 500-litre vehicle?
- (3) Given that four-wheel drive 500-litre vehicles are used as ancillary firefighting vehicles, and so are not an option for fighting a large bushfire, how does the minister think the Southern Districts Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade can defend southern Mandurah from bushfires with only two ancillary firefighting vehicles?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN replied:

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

- (1) The Southern Districts Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade's operations are serviced by two permanent four-wheel drive firefighting appliances, one of which has been withdrawn from service due to its condition. As an interim, the bush fire brigade was provided with a 2 000-litre four-wheel drive appliance on 9 November 2015.
- (2) The new replacement 3 000-litre appliance is being provided two years earlier than originally scheduled and, on delivery, will provide the volunteers with a fit-for-purpose, state-of-the-art appliance inclusive of a deluge system, burnover blankets, radiant heat shields, in-cabin breathing devices, critical component lagging and heat-resistant panels.
- (3) The Southern Districts Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade is currently operating with one 2 000-litre and one 500-litre capacity four-wheel drive appliance. Support from nearby resources is also available to assist in the defence of southern Mandurah.