

BALINGUP BUSHFIRES — POWER POLE FAILURE

115. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the minister representing the Minister for Environment:

I refer to the power pole failure and bushfire at Balingup on 14 February 2009.

- (1) What live or incomplete planned burns were being undertaken by the Department of Environment and Conservation on 14 February 2009 in the Balingup area?
- (2) As a result of the power pole fire did the Department of Environment and Conservation ignite any fires on either 14 or 15 February 2009 to create a buffer zone as part of the mopping-up exercise?
- (3) If yes, what were the locations of these fires?
- (4) Was any property or livestock damaged or destroyed by either the planned or buffer zone burns?

Hon HELEN MORTON replied:

I would also like to wish the member happy birthday, and I am sure if the Minister for Environment knew, he would also.

- (1) Nil.
- (2) There was no need to create a buffer zone as the fire ran into and was contained by a fuel-reduced area from a Department of Environment and Conservation prescribed burn undertaken in spring 2008. Small areas between fire lines constructed by machinery and the fire edge were burnt out, as is standard practice for bushfire containment.
- (3) The various locations around the fire edge.
- (4) No.