

RURAL FIRE SERVICE — ESTABLISHMENT — LOCAL GOVERNMENT

1071. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the Attorney General representing the Minister for Emergency Services:

I refer to the government's recent commitment to establish a rural fire service either as a separate department or a sub-department of the Department of Fire and Emergency Services.

- (1) In reaching that conclusion, what is the nature of the role of local government, if any, under the new rural fire service arrangements?
- (2) Have discussions about the issue taken place with the Western Australian Local Government Association?
- (3) If yes to (2), on what date/s and between which individuals?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN replied:

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

- (1)–(3) On behalf of the Minister for Emergency Services, I advise that consultation will commence shortly with key stakeholders, including the Western Australian Local Government Association, to discuss current and future bushfire management issues, including the proposed rural fire service.