

MARGARET RIVER BUSHFIRES — PRESCRIBED BURNS

**1099. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the minister representing the Minister for Environment:**

I refer to the Margaret River bushfires.

- (1) Was there any involvement of, or liaison with, the Fire and Emergency Services Authority in relation to the prescribed burns responsible for the fires at any time between 6 September and the time the fires became uncontrolled last week?
- (2) What communication was there between the Department of Environment and Conservation and the Fire and Emergency Services Authority about the Margaret River situation on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday of last week?
- (3) Where was the first state emergency coordination group meeting held; and who was the incident controller at that time?

**Hon HELEN MORTON replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of the question.

- (1)–(2) Given current staff commitments to the management of bushfires in the south west, DEC is not able to provide details at this time. These matters will be examined in the independent investigation foreshadowed by the Premier.
- (3) The first State Emergency Coordination Group meeting was held at the state coordination centre in Leederville at 13.30 hours on 23 November. DEC's Mr Peter Keppel was the level 3 incident controller at that time.