

EMERGENCY SERVICES ACTS — REVIEW

**90. Hon MARTIN PRITCHARD to the Attorney General representing the Minister for Emergency Services:**

I refer to the review of the emergency services acts and the 277 submissions about which it was asserted that they be provided on the understanding that they be kept confidential.

- (1) What is the basis of this understanding?
- (2) Was there specific reference in calling for submissions that indicated that submissions would be treated in confidence?
- (3) Of the 277 written submissions, how many contained requests within the document that the submission be treated with confidence?

**Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN replied:**

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

The Department of Fire and Emergency Services advises —

- (1) Stakeholders, in particular volunteers, expressed concern with raising some views that may have been different to the views expressed by their respective volunteer associations. As such, stakeholders requested that their submissions be treated in confidence.
- (2) The project team provided verbal assurances at information sessions and workshops that although submissions would be treated in confidence, they would be used to inform the expert panel discussions and workshops.
- (3) In order to assess the number of written submissions that specially requested that their submission be treated in confidence, additional time will be required to review every submission. However, it is important to note the majority of stakeholders submitted comments on the understanding that they would be treated in confidence so all submissions were treated in this manner.