

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN RURAL FIRE SERVICE

152. Hon KEN BASTON to the minister representing the Minister for Emergency Services:

My question relates to a report in *The West Australian* on 10 April in which the minister estimates the costs of a rural fire service at \$400 million.

- (1) Is this costing based on department advice or modelling; and, if so, will the minister table it; and, if not, why not?
- (2) Which local governments and bushfire organisations were consulted in determining this costing?
- (3) How many rural fire service bases were included in this costing?
- (4) Is the minister aware of other models; and, if so, what other forms do they take?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. The following information has been provided to me by the Minister for Emergency Services.

- (1) The costing was not an estimate, but a figure used to demonstrate the unaffordability of a Western Australian rural fire service comparable with eastern states models.
- (2)–(3) Not applicable.
- (4) The minister is considering a range of options to implement the recommendations of the Ferguson report, including the delivery of a rural fire service.