

Mr Joe Francis; Dr Graham Jacobs; Mr David Templeman; Mr Chris Tallentire; Mrs Liza Harvey; Ms Margaret Quirk; Mr Mark McGowan

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**Division 70: Environment and Conservation, \$184 768 000 —**

Consideration resumed.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I call the member for Jandakot.

**Mr J.M. FRANCIS:** I have a further question on the line item that the member for Girrawheen asked about. I refer the minister to the comments he was making about the fleet of heavy-duty fire trucks. I think the member for Girrawheen expressed the view that she was not interested. I am certainly interested. Could the minister enlighten us on what the money allocated to maintain the fleet of fire trucks et cetera will be spent on?

[8.50 pm]

**Dr G.G. JACOBS:** There is an allocation of \$2.495 million for firefighting fleet replacement under “New Works” on page 894. Although there was not much interest in the answer given earlier, I found it very interesting that there are around 100 heavy-duty fire trucks, as well as a range of bulldozers and front-end loaders, strategically located throughout, actively engaged in fire management and fire mitigation. Most of those vehicles are in the department’s three south west forest regions, where the highest risk of fire is the result of the high rates of forest foliage. The department also has a fleet of nine aircraft, used for surveillance over the south west forest region during the bushfire season. These aircraft are also used for supervising aerial suppression operations during bushfires. The member might have seen that happening during the recent fires—I saw it out of the window of my office when we had the unfortunate Kings Park fire, when both helicopters and aeroplanes were used. The equipment is part of DEC’s response preparedness to prevent the catastrophic effects of bushfires, which are always a threat to Western Australia. DEC has a rolling replacement program for its trucks, bulldozers and aircraft, and a total of \$8.87 million has been allocated for this program over the next four years.

**Mr J.M. FRANCIS:** I will return to my actual question.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Has the member got a further question?

**Mr J.M. FRANCIS:** No, I want an answer to the question I originally asked. Minister, I refer to page 888—lucky number—of the *Budget Statements*. My question relates to the increase in the landfill levy that has been identified on that page.

**Dr G.G. JACOBS:** Not the member, too!

**Mr J.M. FRANCIS:** Yes, minister.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** That was code for “Don’t ask me any more questions”!

**Mr J.M. FRANCIS:** I am entitled to ask a question, regardless of my political affiliation! My concern is that the landfill levy may encourage illegal dumping. What action is the government proposing to address this issue?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** Nothing, is the answer!

**Dr G.G. JACOBS:** No—hang on! I answered this question previously, and we talked about the Litter Act 1979, strengthening the legislation, and about serious legislative and regulative teeth to dissuade illegal dumping; that will be a very important part of the program. The member for Rockingham raised some issues about how that is presently operating, and we will provide some information about that. I will ask the director general whether he wants to say anything further about the illegal dumping issue, but I think we have pretty much covered it.

**Mr J.M. FRANCIS:** I apologise, Mr Chairman; I was probably chairing another committee in the other house when the matter was discussed. I am happy to refer back to the *Hansard*.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** Read the *Hansard*; it is very colourful—cats were mentioned!

**Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE:** The first dot point on page 889 of the *Budget Statements* rightly states that large numbers of project proposals continue to be submitted for environmental impact assessment and there is a continuing strong community focus on the best environmental outcomes, that the department is participating in a review of government processes relating to assessment, that there is a plan to implement a streamlining of internal assessment and monitoring, that the government will use available resources to achieve outcomes, and that that work will be done on a priority basis. Then, though, if we turn to page 893, under the heading “Environmental Impact Assessment and Policies for the Environmental Protection Authority” we see that despite this growing workload, despite this streamlining that has to be implemented and despite the review that has to be participated in, there is a substantial reduction in staff, from 131 to 115. How is it possible to do much, much more work with fewer staff?

**Dr G.G. JACOBS:** I will pass this over to the director general shortly, but environmental impact assessment policies for the Environmental Protection Authority are only one of the authority’s functions; there are also all those other functions that we can see in environmental management. I refer the member to page 893 of the

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*Budget Statements*, under heading 6, “Employees (Full Time Equivalents)”, it states that in 2007-08 there were 105; then in the next year it was 131, but the actual was 113. Although 131 FTEs had been budgeted for 2008-09, what we really had on the ground was 113, and 115 is two more than that. I recognise what the member is asking—there is a lot of difference between the 131 budgeted for in 2008 and the 115 budgeted for in 2009-10. I will pass the question to the director general.

**Mr K.J. McNamara:** As the minister said, the correct comparison is between the 113 and the 115. Obviously we are facing restraint with the three per cent efficiency dividend, but I can advise that the services to the EPA in the environmental impact assessment area was an area that was preferentially treated in that respect. That area was subject to only a one per cent administrative saving, so we treated it preferentially, in recognition of its importance. As the member alluded to in his question, and as is publicly well known, the Chairman of the EPA has chaired, over the past 15 months or so, a very comprehensive process to reform the environmental impact assessment process and to achieve much better results within the existing resources through streamlining, through setting the proper timelines and through the elevation of issues to senior decision makers rapidly when necessary.

**Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE:** I have a further question. Perhaps then, minister, we need a breakdown of staff numbers in the environmental impact assessment area and in the policy area. In relation to the staff in the policy area—those people preparing policies for the Environmental Protection Authority—what staff number changes will occur there, and what impact will that have on the production of environmental protection policies?

**Dr G.G. JACOBS:** I will ask the director general to make a few comments, but the member may not be aware that there are 1 950 FTEs in DEC—it is a large agency. That number fluctuates, of course, in line with some seasonal requirements. There are increases in summer, when field staff are employed, and fixed-term contracts are used to assist in bushfire suppression—I have talked about that. DEC’s workforce provides services in the community that are grouped into two main areas: parks and conservation, and environmental services—50 per cent of the department’s workforce is based in regional and remote locations across the state. I will pass to Mr Atkins to give the specific breakdown of FTEs.

**Mr R.P. Atkins:** In that policy area, a number of two-year term funded projects will come to an end at the end of this financial year, both in the impact assessment area and also in some of the policy areas. One example is the Swan Bioplan, which had funding provided by the government and expires at the end of this financial year. Note 2 on page 891 of the *Budget Statements* gives some explanation about that. Some of it is the termination or completion of programs, and some of it is adjustment. The EIA review is looking at the efficiency of business procedures in the environmental impact area, as the member is probably aware, to look at better ways of doing business rather than just throwing out all the staff.

[9.00 pm]

**Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE:** I gather from that response that there is to be a significant reduction in the number of people working on policies that are used by the Environmental Protection Authority. Given that reduction, how will the Department of Environment and Conservation and, indeed, the government be able to fulfil their statutory responsibility to review a number of environmental protection policies that are overdue?

**Dr G.G. JACOBS:** I think that Mr Atkins spoke essentially about doing things better, but I refer to him again for a further response.

**Mr R.P. Atkins:** The core group that looks after environmental protection policies is preserved and continues. The specific term projects that I was talking about are outside that. There is currently a review of the Kwinana EPP, and a state environment policy on air quality is being developed. Those are two examples. They are the key projects at the moment.

**Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE:** There are more environmental protection policies overdue for review than those that have just been mentioned. It has not been made clear just how many staff we are talking about. Can I please have the number of staff who will be doing environmental protection policy work? Other policies, such as the Swan and Canning Rivers policy, the Peel Inlet-Harvey Estuary policy—although that might be okay because I think it is due for review soon—and the western swamp tortoise policy, are due for review. How will those policies be dealt with if there is a reduction in staff? How many staff are there to do that task?

**Dr G.G. JACOBS:** I will again refer that to Mr Atkins if he cares to respond; if not, we can provide the information at another time.

**Mr R.P. Atkins:** I reiterate that the staff adjustments that I was referring to are not in the area of environmental protection policies; they are in other areas, such as the Swan Bioplan. We would need to take on notice the question of the planned review program for the policies that the member referred to.

**Dr G.G. JACOBS:** The director general can also make a comment.

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**Mr K.J. McNamara:** In elaborating on the answer to that question, the development and review of existing policies, such as the western swamp tortoise policy, is far from reliant on only those staff in the policy group of the strategic policy division of the department. Clearly, a review of the western swamp tortoise policy, for example, would involve people from the department's science division and the Swan region. It is not correct to equate the policy capacity of the department in those areas simply to the number of people in that central policy group.

**Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE:** I move back to the issue of environmental impact assessment in general. Given the government's policy on allowing uranium mining to proceed, what additional staffing resources has the agency been given to make a full assessment of the uranium mines that are proposed?

**Dr G.G. JACOBS:** I reiterate that, in the environmental impact assessment section, there were 113 FTEs in 2008 and there are 115 in the budgeted target for 2009-10. The Environmental Protection Authority is preparing for future assessment of the uranium mine proposals by investigating environmental regulation assessment experience elsewhere—notably in South Australia. To accommodate the mining, transport and export of uranium, the state government and agencies will need to develop additional regulatory arrangements. That would involve not only the Department of Environment and Conservation, but also the Department of State Development, the Department of Mines and Petroleum, the Department of Health and the Radiological Council. As the director general has previously said, it is not necessarily all dependent on the FTE numbers; and, even if it were, we could say that the number has not decreased and has, in fact, slightly increased. The agencies that I spoke of are working together to address these requirements and the necessary administrative arrangements.

**Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE:** Is it not false to say that the staff numbers increased when the problem within the agency of not being able to deal with its workload arose because it did not have enough staff? Therefore, it is right to say that 131 was the correct staffing level and the reduction to 115 staff means that the agency is not capable of delivering the proper environmental assessment of projects such as uranium mines?

**Dr G.G. JACOBS:** I think I have answered the question. I am not sure whether the director general has a comment.

**Mr K.J. McNamara:** I just reiterate my confidence that the department does have the resources in its environmental impact assessment area, its environmental regulation division and other relevant specialist areas to more than adequately carry out those assessments. We are participating in whole-of-government reforms around approvals processes. There is a lot of emphasis on time lines, reporting, meeting targets and so on. The performance of the department and the EPA in those areas has been published in annual reports and is available in other statistics. It is trending very well without a sacrifice of quality.

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** I refer to the tourism road improvement program listed under "New Works" on page 894. Given that I lost a lot of the internal fixtures on my motor vehicle during my last trip to Kalbarri, I am specifically interested in which roads will be included in this program. Perhaps the roads into the Kalbarri gorges area could be subject to some improvements over the next few years.

[Mrs L.M. Harvey took the chair.]

**Dr G.G. JACOBS:** I thank the member for Scarborough for the question. I am sorry that that happened to her vehicle. I will make some general remarks and then I might pass the question over to the director general for some details about specific roads. The Department of Environment and Conservation is responsible for managing and maintaining 39 000 kilometres of strategic roads and tracks that are open to, and can be used by, the public. Obviously, this makes DEC responsible for a very extensive road network. You were not the only visitor, Madam Chair, because there are 13 million visits to these regions each year and so it is really important to provide access to iconic attractions. The allocation for road maintenance, primarily in national parks throughout the state, is \$3.05 million in 2009-10. This allocation is made up of just over \$2 million from DEC and \$1 million from Main Roads Western Australia. There is an additional \$5.3 million in the budget for DEC's park improvement program. These funds will ensure that quality facilities are provided for tourists. That will ensure that on your next visit, Madam Chair, you do not have a repeat of what occurred on your last visit.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I will be grateful for that.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** I will be very quick because I am conscious of the time. I ask committee members whether they would consider concluding this division at 9.35 pm, which would leave us 25 minutes to consider the Swan River Trust and the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, or even at 9.30 pm. Would that be all right?

**Dr G.G. JACOBS:** As well as that, can I take a comfort break some time soon, Madam Chair?

**Ms M.M. QUIRK:** No; forget it! If the minister answers some questions, we will let him go!

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**Dr G.G. JACOBS:** We could have a five-minute break.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Generally speaking, if the minister has been answering questions for a period exceeding two hours —

**Ms M.M. QUIRK:** But he has not been answering them, Madam Chair!

**The CHAIRMAN:** That is the opinion of the member for Girrawheen. It is customary to allow the minister a short comfort break, if the committee agrees to it.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** I do not see anything in the standing orders!

[9.10 pm]

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** Madam Chair, I suggest that if we finish this division at 9.30 pm, vote on it and have a five-minute break, it should give us 25 minutes for the other two divisions.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I thank the member for Mandurah for that.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** I will be very quick and I ask that the minister give very succinct answers to the questions. I refer to page 889, which mentions changes to the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007. What other legislative program is proposed by the government that will affect this agency, specifically relating to the status of the federal Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act?

**Dr G.G. JACOBS:** If it is okay with the member, I will defer to the director general for an answer in that detail and about those acts to which the member referred.

**Mr K.J. McNamara:** There is a specific commitment in the government's election policy to review its environmental legislation. The immediate priority has been placed on the approvals processes across government. A ministerial task force chaired by the Premier and a directors-general task force, with the Chairman of the Environmental Protection Authority also on it, are working on that issue. In response to the review of the environmental impact assessment, which the Chairman of the EPA has chaired over the past year or so, the report was released at the end of March. The minister has now referred that report to a stakeholder advisory group chaired by Dr Bernard Bowen, which will look at the appropriate changes to the Environmental Protection Act and other legislation in the portfolio.

In answer to the specific question about a biodiversity conservation act, the government's election commitment recognises the importance of modern legislation for biodiversity, but consideration has not yet been given to the progress of the biodiversity legislation, as the first priority has been around some of the approvals reform area.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** I have a further question relating to the same dot point. Can the minister confirm that the government will introduce a container deposit scheme in Western Australia?

**Dr G.G. JACOBS:** No, I cannot confirm that. I am not the Minister for Environment and I do not have a cabinet submission on that. I do not believe there was an election commitment on that; therefore, I cannot at this stage give the member an answer in that regard. Perhaps the director general could give us some background information on that issue.

**Mr K.J. McNamara:** As the member is aware, Western Australia co-chaired an examination of such a scheme under the auspices of the Environment Protection and Heritage Council, and Mr Atkins indeed was the co-chair of that with a Queensland colleague. At last Friday's meeting of the Environment Protection and Heritage Council, which I attended, the council agreed to move to the next stage of that process, which is to further examine what is called consumer-choice modelling for the container deposit scheme and an advance deposit fee. Once that consumer-choice modelling has been done, it will come back to the council, which will then decide whether to move to a benefit-cost analysis. As the member is also aware, any national measure would be subject to review by the Office of Best Practice Regulation at the commonwealth level. Those steps are necessary to move towards an informed decision on whether there will be a national approach to container deposits.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** I have a further question, and again I am happy to have a brief answer. Can the minister confirm that the government will finalise the state trail bike strategy; and, if so, when can we expect that to be released?

**Dr G.G. JACOBS:** I have no knowledge of that. I will defer to Mr Jim Sharp.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Member for Mandurah, is that in the budget documents anywhere?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** It is in the policy section of the Department of Environment and Conservation.

**Dr G.G. JACOBS:** Madam Chair, can we be referred to the specific section in the budget?

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**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** It is the third dot point on page 889, which refers to the management of terrestrial and marine parks and managing the growing recreational and tourist needs of the community. Trail bike riding, of course, is a recreational pursuit, and that is the item to which I am referring.

**The CHAIRMAN:** That is drawing a long bow.

**Dr G.G. JACOBS:** Madam Chair, I just draw the member's attention to the fact that the Department of Environment and Conservation is not the lead agency in the whole issue of trail bike riding. I therefore do not know whether that question is appropriate. I certainly cannot answer it.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** I am happy for the minister to provide supplementary information. If the department does have direct influence over the strategy and has the lead carriage of it, I would like to have that response.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Will the minister accept the question and provide an answer by way of supplementary information?

**Dr G.G. JACOBS:** Madam Chair, my belief is no, but I will ask Mr Sharp to comment on it now, if he can.

**Mr J.R. Sharp:** The Department of Environment and Conservation is not the lead agency.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** Do we know which one is?

**Mr J.R. Sharp:** The Department of Local Government administers the legislation for off-road vehicles.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** I will move on. The final question I have is in relation to page 892, which includes the area of efficiency indicators. I also refer to notes 1, 2 and 3 at the bottom of the page. I refer specifically to the air monitoring program. Is it true that this budget shows a decrease in funding and activity in the department for the air monitoring program?

**Dr G.G. JACOBS:** By way of brief introduction, my answer to the member is that I certainly hope not, given my experience in representing Esperance and the occurrence of and the concerns about air pollution there.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** I will refer then to the decrease in the number of site assessments highlighted in note 3, and the deferral of the decommissioning of the Brookdale liquid waste treatment facility and the rehabilitation of contaminated sites referred to in note 1. I am concerned that the budget papers appear to show a deferment of those programs, particularly air monitoring.

**Dr G.G. JACOBS:** I will defer to Mr Atkins.

[9.20 pm]

**Mr R.P. Atkins:** I am not quite sure of the order of the questions, but it might help the member if I comment on each of the three notes. The funding for the Brookdale liquid waste treatment facility has been deferred because those funds are for the actual site rehabilitation. That has been deferred because the site investigation plan is still to be completed. There have been quite extensive investigations on site to determine the nature and extent of contamination of the Brookdale site. The next step in that is for a remediation plan to be prepared, which will then have to be assessed by the EPA. Because of the time it has taken to do that work and some supplementary monitoring that had to be undertaken after the EPA required a peer review of the investigation plan, it pushed the time line out a bit, and we expect that to be through the EPA process in the 2009-10 financial year. That was evident to us early in this financial year, and that is why the funds were deferred. The number of air quality monitoring stations is in fact being increased, not decreased. There have been some adjustments to staffing within the air quality area, because we purchased new scientific equipment that needs less personal attention to extend the air quality monitoring network.

The economic downturn has meant that fewer site referral plans are coming to the department for contaminated sites. As the member is aware, the thing that triggers contaminated site investigations is either an identified to human health or the environment, or a landowner wishing to sell the land or redevelop it. It is the redevelopment of contaminated land that generates most of the site investigation claims that are assessed by the department, and there has been a downturn in those. Therefore, we expect the focus in the next financial year to be on site plans for areas where there is an environmental health trigger.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** My final question for this division is: can the minister confirm that the department, and this relates to the assets page or the funded page —

**Dr G.G. JACOBS:** Which page is that, member?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** I refer to the third dot point on page 889 of the *Budget Statements*, and specifically the engagement of volunteers in park management. Can the minister confirm that the Peel Waterways Centre in Mandurah will close in September due to lack of funding from the department?

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**Dr G.G. JACOBS:** That question, obviously, has detail specific to the member's area. I am advised by the director general that we do not have that information.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** Can the answer be provided as supplementary information?

**Dr G.G. JACOBS:** Is that by way of supplementary information or will the member put that question on notice?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** I am keen to receive it as supplementary information.

**Dr G.G. JACOBS:** May I have clarification of the question. It is not to do with the Peel regional park and the —

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** No, it is to do with the Peel Waterways Centre in Sholl Street, Mandurah.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Will the minister accept that as a supplementary information request or a question on notice?

**Dr G.G. JACOBS:** I accept it as a supplementary information request.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Could the member for Mandurah clarify his supplementary information request?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** I would like to confirm whether the Peel Waterways Centre in Sholl Street, Mandurah, will close due to the cessation of funding from the department.

[*Supplementary Information No A33.*]

**Ms M.M. QUIRK:** I refer to the firefighting fleet replacement line item under "New Works" on page 894 of the *Budget Statements*. The minister has told the estimates committee tonight about the additional firefighting fleet replacement equipment, which is excellent. Will additional full-time equivalent employees effectively also come with the expansion of the fleet?

**Dr G.G. JACOBS:** My advice is that this is a fleet replacement program, which is to do with fleet replacement.

**Ms M.M. QUIRK:** Are there any additional FTEs for firefighting?

**Dr G.G. JACOBS:** My advice is that, no, these will remain constant. This is a replacement firefighting fleet, so presumably we will replace one unit with another unit and with the existing staff.

**Ms M.M. QUIRK:** I have two more very quick questions. Have any of the recommendations of the GHD reports, which we referred to earlier, been implemented in the department?

**Dr G.G. JACOBS:** I refer that question to the director general who is happy to make a comment.

**Mr K.J. McNamara:** Like other agencies throughout Australia that have dealt with major bushfires, we adopt what is called a "lessons learnt" approach. We acted on the lessons that we learnt from the fire starting from the week of that fire. I went there that week and I had an initial review internally on my desk by the Friday of that week. Therefore, we have been adopting every lesson from that fire that we possibly can. At an interagency level we have certainly adopted and put in place over the past summer improved procedures for road closures, for example. Although the reports, as was said earlier, were critical for the police and coronial processes, we have taken advantage of learning from those from day one.

**Ms M.M. QUIRK:** I have one last question, which everyone will be very pleased about! I ask about the Spooner decision on a prosecution for arson. This comes under the fourth dot point on page 889 of the *Budget Statements*. There was some doubt about whether someone could be charged with arson when the property damage was in a national park. I ask whether amendments to the Bush Fires Act are warranted to remedy this loophole.

**Dr G.G. JACOBS:** Madam Chair —

**Ms M.M. QUIRK:** The director general looks as though he is keen to answer the question, and I am sure we are all keen to move on to the toilet break, minister.

**Dr G.G. JACOBS:** I am not sure whether the member is asking the question of the right portfolio —

**Ms M.M. QUIRK:** It deals with national parks. The director general has given evidence that the department has responsibility for national parks.

**Dr G.G. JACOBS:** The question the member is asking is about legislation for arsonists, and I do not believe that is necessarily —

**Ms M.M. QUIRK:** I think the director general is prepared to say yes or no and then we can move on.

**Dr G.G. JACOBS:** I think the director general said, no, he is not prepared to answer the question, and I am answering it.

**Ms M.M. QUIRK:** Gee, I did not see his lips move!

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**The CHAIRMAN:** Questions need to be directed to the minister.

**Ms M.M. QUIRK:** Can the minister get advice about whether, from a Department of Environment and Conservation perspective, the Bush Fires Act needs to be amended to close this loophole that arsonists in national parks potentially could be getting off scot-free?

**Dr G.G. JACOBS:** If the member would like to put that question on notice, I will make every endeavour to answer that question for her.

**Ms M.M. QUIRK:** Therefore, from this we can infer that there is no current attitude of government, is that right?

**Dr G.G. JACOBS:** Madam Chair, I have offered that if the member would like to put that question on notice, I can ascertain and ensure that what she is asking comes to the right portfolio and is answered in the correct way.

**Ms M.M. QUIRK:** I have a further question: yes or no, minister?

**Dr G.G. JACOBS:** I will provide the member with the information if she puts the question on notice.

**Ms M.M. QUIRK:** Can the minister provide the answer by way of supplementary information?

**The CHAIRMAN:** The minister has answered the question. He has indicated that he is prepared —

**Ms M.M. QUIRK:** I am asking whether he could provide the answer by way of supplementary information.

**The CHAIRMAN:** His answer, as I heard it, was that he has requested that the member put that question on notice.

**Ms M.M. QUIRK:** I have already asked the question four times. I do not know why I need to ask it again. I would like to ask for the answer by way of supplementary information.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Will the minister accept this question as a request for supplementary information?

**Dr G.G. JACOBS:** Madam Chair, I need to ascertain where this answer should come from. Does it come under the Fire and Emergency Services Authority's responsibility? The member has asked a question of me representing the Department of Environment and Conservation and because of that, and finding out the nature of where that question should be addressed and what the answer will be, I am happy for her to put it on notice.

**Ms M.M. QUIRK:** I will put it on notice because I do not want to waste my colleagues' time.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I am conscious of the time and the earlier recommendation that this committee be suspended at 9.30 pm. The question is that the appropriation be recommended for division 70. All those in favour say aye, and all to the contrary no. I believe the ayes have it.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** Divide.

**The CHAIRMAN:** A division has been called; we need a show of hands. The question is that the appropriation be recommended for division 70. All those in favour, raise their hands; all to the contrary. The ayes have it.

**The appropriation was recommended.**

*Meeting suspended from 9.29 to 9.35 pm*