

EMERGENCY SERVICES — FIREFIGHTING — APPLIANCES

4720. Ms M.M. Quirk to the Minister for Emergency Services:

I refer to the structural integrity of the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) fire fighting vehicles with respect to allocated gross vehicle mass (GVM) and ask:

- (a) how many fire fighting appliances were identified as requiring a gross vehicle mass upgrade from 3,200kg to 3,500kg in order to carry the equipment required in an emergency;
- (b) how many of those vehicles have already had the suspension modified to operate with a GVM of 3,500kg;
- (c) how was the requirement for a GVM upgrade to new vehicles determined;
- (d) were the suspension modifications to DFES vehicles compliant to WA Department of Transport and Australian Design Rules safety requirements, and if not, why not;
- (e) were the GVM suspension upgrades to 3,500kg subject to tender process, and if not, why not;
- (f) if money is spent modifying new vehicles to achieve a GVM increase less than 300kg, do these GVM modifications represent good value for money; and
- (g) is a GVM increase of only 120kg enough for a fully loaded, emergency ready vehicle:
 - (i) If no to (g), has this modification been a waste of money?

Mr J.M. Francis replied:

The Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) advises:

- (a) 77 DFES appliances have been identified as requiring a GVM upgrade from 3,200 kg GVM to 3,700 kg GVM and not 3,500 kg GVM.
- (b) 60 DFES appliances have had a GVM upgrade from 3,200 kg to 3,700 kg with the remaining 17 to be upgraded as part of the combined weight remediation and Crew Protection Project works.
- (c) Fully equipped prototype appliances were weighed to determine operational weight requirements.
- (d) Yes.
- (e) No. GVM upgrades to 3,700 kg have been carried out under existing DFES appliance maintenance and appliance build contracts.
- (f) Money is not being spent modifying new appliances to achieve a GVM increase less than 300 kg.
- (g) There have been no GVM increases of only 120 kg.
 - (i) Not applicable.