

EMERGENCY SERVICES FACILITIES — SOUTH WEST

**389. Mr G.M. CASTRILLI to the Minister for Emergency Services:**

I understand that two new emergency services facilities were recently launched in the south west. Can the minister please inform the house about some of the details and how they will improve service delivery?

**Ms M.M. Quirk:** Are you sure he knows, member?

**Mr G.M. CASTRILLI:** I presume he will.

**Mr J.M. FRANCIS replied:**

I thank the member for Bunbury for his continued interest in emergency services facilities down in his part of the world in Bunbury and in the south west.

As we know, the south west has seen more than its fair share of emergencies, including bushfires in December 2003, January 2009 and February 2013, and floods in 2012. The south west has obviously seen its fair share of action. What we learned out of some of those bushfires was that there was no suitable incident control centre. I understand that during the 2009 and 2013 fires, the Department of Fire and Emergency Services used the incident control centre located out of the Department of Parks and Wildlife facilities—then Department of Environment and Conservation facilities—at Kirup. As a result, the government has taken a strong decision—the right decision—to invest more into some of the facilities in the south west. We have spent almost \$400 000 on new facilities in Bridgetown for the Bush Fire Service, and in Nannup for the State Emergency Service. There has also been \$300 000 for a Bush Fire Service headquarters in Bridgetown, and almost \$100 000 in upgrades to the SES headquarters in Nannup. We are getting on with the job and delivering the services and facilities to help our volunteers do the best they possibly can. I should also note that the number of people wanting to become SES volunteers out at Nannup has increased by 50 per cent, which is against the trend across regional Western Australia and it is very, very encouraging. I also thank Hon Robyn McSweeney for presiding over the opening of those two facilities last weekend. It is great to have people get out there and support volunteers and what they are doing, and for the government to provide these facilities for the local community, particularly in the south west, which, as I have said, has seen more than its fair share of action.