

FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES — NEW APPLIANCE — CANOVER VOLUNTEER BUSHFIRE
BRIGADE

3050. Ms M.M. Quirk to the Minister for Emergency Services:

I refer to the new appliance allocated to Canover Volunteer Bushfire brigade and ask:

- (a) on what basis and by whom were decisions made about the suitability of the tyres for the vehicle and the types of terrain and the work which it would need to undertake;
- (b) on what basis and by whom were decisions made about the suitability of the a petrol engine for the vehicle and the types of terrain and work it would need to undertake; and
- (c) was any consideration given to the size of the new appliance and whether it would fit inside existing storage facilities?

Mr J.M. Francis replied:

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

- (a) The type of tyres fitted to fire appliances provided to local governments by DFES under the Local Government Grant Scheme are those tyres specified by the manufacturer of the cab chassis based on the terrain (on-road 4x2 or off-road 4x4) in which the vehicle is designed to operate.
- (b) The petrol engine/pump set is standard DFES equipment provided as a subsidiary engine as a means of emergency backup to support the appliance's primary pump in the event that the appliance's engine or drive line fails. The selection of the petrol motor was based on standardisation and alignment to the results of the Light Tanker (LT) Project Action Team (PAT) from 2001.

The PAT in place at the time to redesign the LT evaluated a number of pump-sets as part of the process and determined the petrol driven models provided best performance at reduced noise levels and with less weight. A pump-set of similar performance to that of the LT was determined as being suitable for the purpose of providing crew/vehicle protection to appliances operating live drive main pumps in the event of a failure of the main pump or loss of cab chassis engine power.

- (c) The Shire of Dandaragan represented by the Chief Executive Office, Community Emergency Services Manager and Chief Bush Fire Control Officer in conjunction with the DFES regional office represented by the Regional Director, District Manager South and Area Manager Midlands undertook a resource to risk assessment in May 2011, and determined the appliance required in accordance with that assessment. This was subsequently approved for funding and ultimately delivered to the Canover Bush Fire Brigade.

The storage facility for the appliance is owned and managed by the Shire. It was built utilising a Lotterywest grant specifically for housing the Brigade and a 2.4Rural appliance based on the standard DFES facility footprint. Advice from the Shire is that the facility was completed and can house the appliance. The Shire further advised that while the facility was built to a lesser size than the DFES template, the Shire is funding some extension work to increase the size of the facility.