

WEST PERTH FIRE STATION — CONSTRUCTION

**286. Mr S.K. L'ESTRANGE to the Minister for Emergency Services:**

Can the minister please inform the house of the details of the new fire station to be built in West Perth and how this will benefit our inner-city communities?

**Ms M.M. Quirk** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Girrawheen, I call you to order for the first time.

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

I will start by acknowledging Jade Lewis. Today is Second Chance Day. She does wonderful work helping women in the prisons in Western Australia rebuild their very troubled lives. I place on the record my appreciation for the work Jade Lewis does with her organisation.

I thank the member for the question. I also acknowledge the member for Perth, who is not in the chamber today. She recently raised in a grievance to me in this place the issue of a new fire station in her electorate. Last week we announced that we will build a new \$20.3 million fire station in West Perth over the next three years. This is a really important issue. With the rate of population growth in Western Australia and the rate of building growth in the Perth CBD, we expect the population of the Perth CBD to double to over 45 000 people in the next 12 years. In fact, about 1 000 new residential complexes are being built in the CBD every 12 months. When we take into account the massive projected population growth and where we are at the moment and the fact that we are developing Elizabeth Quay and the Northbridge Link, as well as all the wonderful things that this government is doing to bring more people into the CBD—obviously it takes a little longer to drive through the CBD than it does to drive through residential areas—it is only appropriate that we make sure that these people are serviced with the right amount of emergency services resources. That is why we are getting on with the job and building a new fire station in West Perth.

**Mr W.J. Johnston:** Where?

**Mr J.M. FRANCIS:** We are finalising the land location as we speak.

Several members interjected.

**Mr J.M. FRANCIS:** It is a good question.

**Mr W.J. Johnston** interjected.

**Mr J.M. FRANCIS:** Here is a little tip, member for Cannington: before people build a house, they have to find the land.

**Mr W.J. Johnston** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Cannington, I call you to order for the first time.

**Mr J.M. FRANCIS:** We have to buy the land before we build the fire station; that is part of the project. We have also announced that the City of Albany will receive a new fire station.

**Mr W.J. Johnston** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Cannington, I know where you will be going if you do not stop shouting out. I call you to order for the second time.

**Mr J.M. FRANCIS:** There is \$9.1 million to build a new fire station in Albany. I am sure that the member for Albany welcomes this announcement. The fire station down there is some 75 years old. It has outgrown its use-by and fit-for-purpose date. I am sure that the people of Albany will also welcome a new fire station being built in the next few years.

This government will spend an unprecedented \$54 million on new emergency services infrastructure, both in Perth and regional Western Australia, in the next three years. It is worth noting that in the last three years of the previous government, it did not even spend \$20 million on infrastructure. We are getting on with the job. We are providing the people of Western Australia with the emergency services resources that they require and demand.

**Mr F.M. Logan** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Cockburn, I call you to order for the first and second times.

**Mr J.M. FRANCIS:** We are training firefighters. We are training volunteer fire and rescue firefighters. We are bringing them all up to a higher standard so they can provide a better service to the people of Western Australia. We are getting on with the job of building new fire stations, unlike what the Labor Party did when it was in government.

