

ESPERANCE BUSHFIRES — WATER BOMBERS

942. Mr M. McGOWAN to the Minister for Emergency Services:

I have a supplementary question. I refer to the desperate call by the member for Eyre on the afternoon of Tuesday, 17 November, requesting the presence of water bombers to attempt to save lives in that fire. Did the minister take any action whatsoever post that phone call from the member for Eyre; and, if so, what was it?

Mr J.M. FRANCIS replied:

As I said, I have told every member in this place time and again how levels are escalated and I have told them time and again when they ring me during a fire and request resources that it does not work like that. We are a responsible government. If we were not —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Girrawheen, for the third time.

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: If we were not in government and if the Labor Party was in government, we can imagine what would happen. Bushfires in Labor seats would be put out and bushfires in Liberal seats would be left to burn. Members with the loudest voice and the best phone numbers would be the ones who had best service for their electorate. We do not politicise emergency services. We do not prioritise assets depending on whether or not a member has the minister's phone number. It does not work like that.

The SPEAKER: That concludes question time.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Thank you. I call the Premier to order for the first time. I would like to call everybody else to order for the first time, but I cannot write that quickly. Please settle down.