

EMERGENCY SERVICES LEVY — COLLECTION

2295. Ms M.M. Quirk to the Minister for Emergency Services:

- (1) Will the Minister advise the total amount collected for the emergency services levy in each of the following local government authorities for the years 2012–2013 and 2013–2014
 - (a) City of Wanneroo
 - (b) City of Stirling
 - (c) City of Perth
 - (d) City of Joondalup
 - (e) City of Gosnells
 - (f) City of Armadale
 - (g) City of Rockingham
 - (h) City of Mandurah
 - (i) City of Bayswater
 - (j) City of Belmont
 - (k) City of Canning
 - (l) City of Cockburn
 - (m) City of Melville
 - (n) City of Fremantle
- (2) For those same authorities (1)(a-n) will the Minister please advise how much was expended in each for the same years

Mr J.M. Francis replied:

The Department of Fire and Emergency Services advises:

- (1) For the interest of the Member I have also included the average residential Gross Rental Values increases in these Local Government authorities over the same periods.

[See tabled paper no 1729.]

Emergency Services Levy (ESL) collections shown for 2013/14 include the initial ESL billing of ESL in conjunction with Council Rates Notices, but do not include any ESL billing adjustments or ESL penalty interest ('Option A' only) that Councils are required to report to DFES by 31 July 2014.

- (2) The Emergency Services Levy funding arrangement is based on the principal that all property owners make a fair and equitable contribution for the available services. Resource allocation decisions are based on operational need and supported by a resource-to-risk analysis. Fire and emergency services are ultimately available state wide and not restricted to metropolitan or regional boundaries.

While DFES administers a grants scheme which provides ESL funded grants to Local Governments for their Bush Fire Brigades and State Emergency Service Units. This scheme represents a small proportion of the total costs funded by the ESL. In addition, the following ESL funded fire and emergency services are also provided across the metropolitan area and regional WA:

The network of 28 Career Fire and Rescue Service stations throughout the metropolitan and country regions;

The network of 88 Volunteer Fire and Rescue Brigades and 25 Volunteer Fire Service and Volunteer Emergency Service Brigades across the State;

Metropolitan and regional aerial fire suppression capability;

DFES's emergency services management and support staff;

Funding support for state wide Emergency Services Cadet Corps;

DFES's counselling services and peer support for both volunteers and career officers;

DFES's technical, mechanical, communications, administrative and ICT related support activities (including the '000' emergency call centre) in support of core operations;

DFES's emergency management planning activities;

DFES's community safety and building inspection programs; and

DFES's fire investigation services.

Accordingly, DFES does not and cannot match total expenditure with collections by geographic location.