

WEST PERTH FIRE STATION

**648. Ms E. EVANGEL to the Minister for Emergency Services:**

This morning I joined the minister in inspecting the site for the construction of the new West Perth fire station that the minister announced in this place in May 2014. Now that the site has been secured, can the minister please update the house on this vital piece of infrastructure?

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

Before I start, I acknowledge on behalf of the member for Dawesville the students from Ocean Road Primary School who are in the Speaker's gallery this afternoon. Welcome, kids.

The member for Perth is right, this morning we announced that we have located the site, and we finalised the transaction in the last few weeks for the new West Perth fire station around 27–33 Carr Street over in West Perth, near Northbridge. As we all know, the population of the City of Perth is growing rapidly. In fact, we expect the actual population of Perth to grow to 45 000 residents in the next 10 years, taking into account on top of that developments such as the Perth Stadium, Northbridge Link, Elizabeth Quay and all the increases —

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

**Mr J.M. FRANCIS:** Hang on a second, I will get to that.

These are all the increases in pressure from population for the current Perth Fire Station, which will service the stadium, because it is located between the current fire station and Belmont. It makes perfect sense to plan for a second fire station, an additional fire station, to service the CBD of Perth.

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

**Mr J.M. FRANCIS:** I cannot help it if the member for Cannington never studied geography.

**Mr W.J. Johnston:** You can't use St Georges Terrace to go from East Perth to West Perth. That's what you told us three years ago.

**Mr J.M. FRANCIS:** You are not worth the oxygen!

As we know —

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

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Cannington, you are already on two calls—yes, you are.

**Mr J.M. FRANCIS:** As we know and as I have said, the population is increasing dramatically, as is the development around the CBD. Currently, the fire station, over towards the east end of town, on the southern side of the railway line, is the only fire station that services the CBD, except of course when there are multiple callouts. In fact, interestingly, the Perth Fire Station is the busiest fire station in the state of Western Australia. It gets far more callouts, almost 10 times as many, as every other fire station. As I said this morning, the member for Perth has essentially, with all due respect, been like a dog with a bone. She has been at me for another fire station for some time. We have raised it with the Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner, we have done all the due diligence studies and it is with great pleasure that I can announce that this morning we finalised the location for a second fire station in Perth that will be in Carr Street, which is based on the western side of Perth, but also north of the railway line, so that we have a balance on response times. It has to be kept in mind that in order to save lives and defend property, the key thing is response times. Having two fire stations is a great initiative. Just over \$19 million is being invested by the government and the Department of Fire and Emergency Services to build the latest, greatest state-of-the-art fire station, which is another new fire station. I thank the member for Perth, who is a great member, obviously elected on merit, for her perseverance with this particular matter. I think it is a great project and we should all be very proud.

**The SPEAKER:** Before we continue, member for Cannington, you are very lucky. I am confused; you have not been called at all, but that does not give you licence.