

BUTLER FIRE STATION

**436. Mr P.T. MILES to the Minister for Emergency Services:**

It was great to attend the opening of Butler Fire Station with the Minister for Emergency Services. Can he provide the house with further details on this vital addition to Perth's booming northern suburbs?

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

I thank the member for Wanneroo for the question. It was great to see him yesterday at the opening of the brand-new fire station in Butler. The fire station is a very clear sign of this government's commitment to building the latest and greatest designed fire stations to provide absolutely suitable accommodation for our firefighters, our career firefighters in particular, in Butler. It is a \$7.5 million investment in the purchase price of the land and the cost of building this fire station. When I say it is the latest and greatest, it has the best of everything, because, at the end of the day, a fire station is essentially a home away from home for firefighters. They sleep there, they live there and, for many of them, the people whom they work with are as close to them as many of their family members. Therefore, it is important that we give them all the facilities to train, to prepare and repair their appliances and breathing apparatus, to accommodate their decontamination shower rooms, locker rooms and kitchen rooms, and to provide accommodation for when they are staying overnight. They are wonderful facilities and this government is committed to improving fire stations across the entire state.

Along with that, Butler Fire Station is part of a \$45.8 million infrastructure upgrade to fire stations. The government is investing in more fire stations because it is the right thing to do to manage the risk to resources when it comes to locating fire stations in the growing suburbs to the north, south and east. Obviously, there has been significant population growth to the north of Perth and when we look at where fire stations have to be located in accordance with the risk and profile, it made perfect sense to put a fire station in Butler. Hopefully, this design will futureproof the fire station for many years to come.

In closing, I take the opportunity to wish the men and women of that fire station all the best in serving their community for many years into the future.