

WAROONA–YARLOOP BUSHFIRES — FERGUSON REPORT

**425. Mr M. McGOWAN to the Minister for Emergency Services:**

I have a supplementary question. Mr Ferguson has identified that the government has failed to complete 25 of the recommendations of the three past fire inquiries, including failing to provide suitable maps five years after a recommendation to do so was made. Why has the government failed in 25 separate cases?

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

Firstly, as far as covering and checking the recommendations of previous reports, Mr Ferguson also suggested that there be an overarching body, rather than having different departments do their own checklists on their own progress. That is something that we will obviously work on.

**Mrs M.H. Roberts:** Did you check them off yourself?

**Mr J.M. FRANCIS:** I am not going to check off other departments' checklists; I am going to check off my own checklists.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members! Member for Midland, I call you to order for the first time. Minister, a quick answer.

**Mr J.M. FRANCIS:** Certainly that is a recommendation we will take on board and look at resolving. The bottom line is that the people of Western Australia need to be aware, and I can assure the opposition, that my priority will be to ensure that we implement whatever recommendations can be implemented before the next fire season—that we do what physically can be done as soon as possible that will make an actual practical difference to the ability of people to fight fires in Western Australia. That is my priority.