

KIARA FIRE STATION

180. Mr I.M. BRITZA to the Minister for Emergency Services:

Last week I was delighted to accompany the minister to the opening of the new Kiara Fire Station. Could the minister please inform the house of how this station will serve its local community, which it thoroughly deserves?

Mr J.M. FRANCIS replied:

I thank the member for Morley for that question and for his continued and longstanding support of this wonderful project, the \$5.3 million state-of-the-art Kiara Fire Station that will, in fact, service a very large part of the member's electorate also. I note that he has been a longstanding supporter of this project; it is a pity that the member in whose electorate it is actually situated has not been such a longstanding supporter, although on the opening day he had no problem getting his face in the photos with as many firefighters as possible! He was suddenly a new convert to the fire station.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members! Minister, answer through the Chair, please.

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: Absolutely, Mr Speaker. I am just pointing out that it is wonderful that the member for Bassendean is suddenly a convert to the new fire station in Kiara, now that it has actually been opened.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members! Member for Bassendean!

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: The new Kiara Fire Station is a wonderful, \$5.3 million state-of-the-art facility. The new fire stations that we are rolling out have come a long way since the old fire stations were originally designed. This is a massive fire station with two large double bays; it has —

Ms M.M. Quirk interjected.

Suspension of Member

The SPEAKER: Member for Girrawheen, I call you to order now for the fourth time. Can you please leave the chamber until the end of the day's sitting.

[The member for Girrawheen left the chamber.]

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: It has modern decontamination showers so that when firefighters return from fighting a fire during which they may have been exposed to a hazardous substance, they can have showers with proper decontamination facilities.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Warnbro!

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: There are facilities to service the breathing apparatus the firefighters use, and there are offices, training rooms, study rooms, a state-of-the-art gymnasium, a large kitchen and wonderful double-room accommodation, because a modern fire station is essentially a home away from home for firefighters. It will provide invaluable resources and minimise response times even further in the north east metropolitan area, and provide enhanced response capabilities to outer metropolitan areas such as Parkerville and, in my own electorate, Banjup. It is a 24-hour fire station, as modern fire stations are, and the great thing is that it was warmly welcomed by the firefighters who are going to work there and essentially live there as a home away from home.

It was also touching to see that one of the gifts that was given to the new fire station was —

Ms R. Saffioti: A puppy?

Mr P. Papalia: A prisoner!

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: I do not know, I actually thought —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: All right, minister; go on.

Mr J.M. FRANCIS: It is a wonderful painting of the old fire station, so that the firefighters who have transferred to the new fire station can continue the legacy of the wonderful service that firefighters have provided to that area for generations—more than a century.

This government is getting on with the job of rolling out new fire stations, upgrading old fire stations and trying to provide the best possible service, so that the people of Western Australia get the best possible value for money. Taxpayers pay an emergency services levy and taxes to provide funds for the Department of Fire and Emergency Services so that it can provide brilliant resources for the people of Western Australia and for the firefighters who put their lives on the line every single time we call 000 and they respond to fires. It is a brilliant facility and it is warmly welcomed by voters in not only the member for Morley's electorate, but also the member for Bassendean's electorate.