

EMERGENCY SERVICES LEVY — EXPENDITURE LOCATIONS

3026. Ms M.M. Quirk to the Minister for Emergency Services:

I refer to your response to Question on Notice No. 2750 asked on 13 August 2014 in which you asserted “the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) does not and cannot match total ESL expenditure with geographical locations”, and I ask:

- (a) how is it that such information was able to be furnished in tabled paper 4175 on 2 November 2011;
- (b) do you maintain that DFES systems and financial records have fewer capabilities to extract this information than in 2011;
- (c) if yes to (b), why is that the case; and
- (d) if no to (b), then have you advised the Auditor General pursuant to section 82 of the *Financial Management Act 2006* of your decision not to supply the information requested and on whether you laid before each house your reasons for the decision?

Mr J.M. Francis replied:

The Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) advises:

- (a) The information provided within tabled paper 4175 was not a match of ESL expenditure with geographical locations. The table outlined expenditure programs (Local Government Grant Scheme, payments for Community Emergency Services Managers and ESL Administration Fee payments) that can be attributed to a specific Local Government. These payments represent a small portion of the total costs funded by the ESL.

Further, in Tabled Paper 4175 it was specifically noted that ‘*total expenditure by each local government authority (LG) cannot be provided as FESA’s budget is not allocated by LG level*’.

- (b) No
- (c) Not applicable
- (d) Section 82 of the *Financial Management Act 2006* is not applicable as there is no information that is not being provided to Parliament. As previously outlined in tabled paper 4175, LA QON 2295 and LA QON 2750, DFES’ total expenditure of ESL is not allocated purely by geographical location. As such DFES cannot provide information which equates ESL expenditure with the amount raised within a geographic area.