

VOLUNTEER FIRE AND RESCUE STATIONS — FACILITIES

3843. Ms M.M. Quirk to the Minister for Emergency Services:

Given the closure of the Bassendean and Guildford Volunteer Fire and Rescue stations, can the Minister please outline how the Metropolitan VFRS is now being accommodated at Forrestfield, what facilities are available for fire and rescue volunteers and if there are any plans on foot to upgrade current facilities, and if so, when?

**Mr J.M. Francis replied:**

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

The Metropolitan Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service (MVFRS) are now accommodated at the newly acquired premises, 539 Dundas Road, Forrestfield in the office and workshop area of this facility for the administration of the brigade and storage of appliances and equipment.

The MVFRS has access to the adjoining Western Australian Fire and Emergency Services Academy (WAFESA) through the normal booking system and utilises the drill yard, briefing room and breathing apparatus building to conduct all training. The MVFRS has access to the operational appliances housed at the WAFESA for training and operational deployment. Due to the growth in MVFRS numbers the monthly meetings are held in the main building.

The premises at 539 Dundas Road, Forrestfield are planned for re-development. However, before any re-development occurs, Master Planning for 539 Dundas Road site and the existing WAFESA site need to be carried out. (Master Planning is a process that involves the provision of visual and spatial concept descriptions of development proposals as well as highlighting constraints, costings, skill requirements and programming. Architects involved in this project will engage all stakeholders as part of the Master Planning process.)

Quotes from architects are currently being sought with the winning contractor scheduled to be advised no later than 20 April 2015. Master Planning must be completed by 30 June 2015.

Recommendations arising from the Master Planning process will form the basis of redevelopment proposals and be included in DFES' 10 Year Asset Investment Plan. A Business Case for future Department of Treasury funding will form part of this process.

It is proposed that a Volunteer House complex will be constructed at 539 Dundas Road, Forrestfield which will house and cater for all components of the State Wide Operational Response Division (SWORD) of which the MVFRS is part. It is envisaged that this building will house the administration offices for SWORD as well as volunteer associations.

Due to the planned redevelopment of this property, there are no plans to conduct major upgrades to the facility. However, there will be minor improvements as required and any health and safety issues identified will be rectified. The only planned internal improvement is to construct an air-conditioned meeting room which will also be utilised as a training room.