

**STATE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE —
BUSHFIRE RISK MANAGEMENT REVIEW**

Statement by Minister for Emergency Services

MR J.M. FRANCIS (Jandakot — Minister for Emergency Services) [2.27 pm]: The management of bushfire risk is a high-profile issue that has generated substantial public and policy attention. Over the last several years, a range of reviews and initiatives have heightened and maintained community and political interest in the subject. Since the initial Keelty-led inquiry into the Perth hills bushfires, much has been done to address the management of bushfire risk. However, the process is evolving and is not yet complete. With this in mind, in January 2015, I requested the State Emergency Management Committee to undertake a strategic bushfire stocktake, with completion by August 2015.

As our busiest bushfire season in decades draws to a close, it is timely to review bushfire investment and activity across government. Much of the information on which to base this stocktake already exists but needs to be pooled and integrated. A review—essentially a stocktake of activities and investments—will build a cohesive picture of the current bushfire investment and will identify where government funding and support can be best directed to provide maximum benefit to the community. The intent of the review is to catalogue in a structured way the activities undertaken and the resources allocated to manage bushfire risk, to demonstrate willingness to continuously examine better ways of doing things, and to suggest a more comprehensive, integrated approach to management of the risks. It is vital that we undertake this task without delay. Therefore, in February, I endorsed the terms of reference, which will include identifying the full range of government activities and expenditure directed towards bushfire risk management throughout Western Australia and identifying funding and policy options concerning the prioritisation and allocation of bushfire risk management investment.

Considerable effort and resources have been invested in reviewing and improving the state's bushfire risk mitigation and response procedures since the release of the Keelty report four years ago. These improvements are part, but not all, of a proper response and strategy, and the government's commitment to continue to properly analyse and better mitigate bushfire risk remains. The bushfire stocktake will ensure that the strategies that all government agencies are undertaking to reduce the risk are part of a coordinated whole-of-government strategy to ensure community safety throughout Western Australia.