

**STATE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE —
“EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS REPORT 2015”**

Statement by Minister for Emergency Services

MR J.M. FRANCIS (Jandakot — Minister for Emergency Services) [9.12 am]: I am very pleased to present to the house the “Emergency Preparedness Report 2015” from the State Emergency Management Committee. SEMC, the state’s peak emergency management body, has, at the request of the government, prepared its fourth report on Western Australia’s preparedness for emergencies. Western Australia remains the only state to compile such a report. The emergency management environment is broad and involves the collective efforts of traditional emergency service organisations and also a range of other public, private and voluntary bodies. Many of these organisations were consulted, with involvement this year the highest it has been since the report’s inception. Hazard management agencies, combat and support agencies and local governments were all included in the consultation process.

The report provides an important indication of the current level of preparedness across a range of emergency management capabilities and identifies areas that require further improvement. Some key findings include: Western Australia has a well-trained, well-equipped and capable emergency management workforce able to manage significant incidents; interagency cooperation is occurring across the emergency management spectrum; and all agencies appear to have a genuine intent to improve the state’s preparedness for emergencies with appropriate mechanisms in place to deal with them. A number of challenges, such as the remoteness of some communities and telecommunication black spots, were also identified in the report. These are being addressed by the appropriate agencies to ensure that, when called upon, the emergency management plans in place are effective.

The emergency management environment in Western Australia is complex, with long distances and a diverse natural environment that includes dense forests, deserts and cyclone-prone tropical coasts, all of which are susceptible to multiple hazards. As a result, challenges will always exist. However, it is pleasing to note that our state’s combat and hazard management agencies are prepared and in a state of readiness, and have personnel and equipment maintained and deployed where appropriate. I absolutely commend to the house the State Emergency Management Committee’s “Emergency Preparedness Report 2015”. I table the report.

[See paper 3600.]