

STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE — BELMONT FACILITY

197. Mrs G.J. GODFREY to the Minister for Emergency Services:

Can the minister update the house on the progress of the construction of the State Emergency Service facility for Belmont and Victoria Park in my electorate?

Ms M.M. Quirk interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Girrawheen, I call you to order for the first time. There are plenty of chances to ask questions.

Mr J.M. FRANCIS replied:

I start by acknowledging the participants in the 2013 Department of Corrective Services career development program who are in the gallery today.

I thank the member for Belmont for the question. This is a great facility. I understand that this facility has been completed for some time now, what we call an operational readiness evaluation has been finished and it has been brought online. Some great volunteers work out there. On behalf of the government, I place on the record our appreciation for the advocacy of the member for Belmont during her time with the Belmont city council to get this particular facility up and running. This is a great facility. It has a number of unique assets that it can bring to the table to help the people of Western Australia when they need the help of the SES. In particular, the mounted SES volunteers work from the facility. About 30 people work with 25 horses. What makes these volunteers special is that they bring in their own horses so that they can work as a mounted unit of the SES in very tough terrain and very tough environments. They also have a couple of flood assistance boats that can be used on the Swan River in case of an emergency for a search and rescue and in times of flood, which hopefully is a long way away. I place on the record my appreciation for the work of the mounted SES units. There are a couple of them across the state. This is without doubt the largest one. The facility was built with a donation of land from LandCorp and a contribution of \$1.9 million from the state to give a home to the mounted unit of the SES within the metropolitan area. It is great unit. It is a great facility. Again, I place on the record my appreciation for the work and contribution of these volunteers. It is a significant contribution of their own time and money.