

STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE — STORM PREPAREDNESS

**138. Ms E. EVANGEL to the Minister for Emergency Services:**

As we are entering the storm season, could the minister please update the house on the contribution of the State Emergency Service to ensuring storm preparedness in Western Australia?

**Mr J.M. FRANCIS replied:**

I thank the member for Perth for a question on a very important issue. We all know that storms can be both expensive and dangerous, especially when we get severe storms, some of which we have seen in Perth in the past few years. It is worth noting that since July last year, just under 12 months ago, there have been 96 separate storms across Western Australia, which affected 463 premises. The SES has contributed over 5 000 volunteer hours in cleaning up and helping people to get over the damage caused by those storms. In the past 12 months alone, the SES and volunteers have put in over 16 000 hours, a phenomenal contribution, to help people in need within Western Australia and, in particular, after storms happen.

Last Saturday I had the pleasure of launching Storm Awareness Week. At this time of the year people across Western Australia need to look at their properties. They need to walk around their houses to see whether items can be secured. They need to see whether the awnings that were out over summer can be pulled down because when things float around people's backyards in a storm, they become a missile hazard; they can land in someone else's house and cause serious injury to people. That needs to be addressed. People need to be reminded to go outside to see whether they are prepared for a storm. They should ensure that branches are not hanging over powerlines that will come down when the big winds blow. Lastly, I remind the people of Western Australia to think about their pets during storms over winter. It always amazes me how many dogs get out of their yards during storms and then flee and get run over or lost in the rain. It is one of the things we have to look at when it comes to microchipping. I ask the people of Western Australia to keep in mind the welfare of their pets. My simple message is for people to go out and see what they can do to get their family and house ready for the storms when they come, because to be forewarned is to be forearmed. They should ensure they have done everything they can to secure their house and their family.