

BUSHFIRE RISK MITIGATION STRATEGIES

Statement by Minister for Emergency Services

MR J.M. FRANCIS (Jandakot — Minister for Emergency Services) [12.15 pm]: On 11 August, the government announced that a three-year \$904 000 funding arrangement is now in place to help reduce the bushfire risk in Western Australia. As part of the National Bushfire Mitigation Program, the state government is in partnership with the commonwealth to better equip communities to prevent and withstand bushfires. Applications are now open for individual “Are You Ready?” grants of up to \$50 000 to help local communities reduce the threat of bushfire. These bushfire grants will be invaluable in helping organisations undertake bushfire mitigation work, such as installing firebreaks, undertaking prescribed burning, and promoting bushfire safety in the community. Building strong, resilient communities will minimise the destruction and devastation that bushfires cause, and reduce the financial cost of recovery. The Department of Fire and Emergency Services is coordinating the grants process, with up to \$605 000 allocated for this round. The grants are open to eligible local governments, fire brigades and emergency services organisations. Applications close at 4.00 pm on Monday, 26 October. To apply for a grant or to find more information, visit the DFES website.

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 of a considered response and strategy, and the government remains committed to properly analyse and better mitigate bushfire risk. Bushfires are an unavoidable part of the Western Australia summer and it is essential that everyone plays their part in reducing their bushfire risk. The \$15 million National Bushfire Mitigation Program delivers on a federal coalition government election commitment to cement a commonwealth partnership with all states and territories to build on their existing bushfire management practices and to implement strategies to reduce the threat of bushfires.