

PERTH ARENA — FIRE SAFETY SYSTEMS

**843. Ms M.M. Quirk to the Minister for Emergency Services:**

I refer to fire safety systems at the new Perth Arena and the issuing of the occupancy certificate and I ask:

- (a) who is the authorised person under section 33 and 33B of the *Fire Brigades Act 1942*;
- (b) if, in his opinion, there exists a danger to life, why has he not closed the Perth Arena in accordance with section 33B of the Act;
- (c) has the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) reported this matter to the Commissioner of Public Health in accordance with section 48 of the *Fire Brigades Act 1942*;
- (d) what training have the Fire Wardens at the Arena been given to undertake their task and who has approved their qualifications and competencies required for this task;
- (e) what full scale evaluation exercises has the Perth Arena undertaken to validate their Evacuation Plan and which authorities have they exercised this plan with;
- (f) has the Perth Arena exercised their Evacuation Plan with the relevant authorities and if not, how do they know it will work during an emergency incident and who certified the Plan; and
- (g) if DFES is only concerning itself with its operational requirements of any building application for approval in accordance with the *Building Act 2011*, how does it comply with its statutory duty, as outlined in section 25 and 25A of the *Fire Brigades Act 1942*, which states in part to take all necessary steps to protect life from fire?

**Mr J.M. Francis replied:**

There is no section 33B of the Fire Brigades Act 1942 (the Act). It is assumed that parts (a) and (b) of the question relate to section 33 and 33A of the Act. The response has been prepared based on that assumption.

- (a) The powers assigned to the Director under sections 33(1) of the Act may be exercised by an Area Officer/Station Officer or higher ranked Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) officers as authorised by the Authority (DFES).
- (b)–(f) DFES have not undertaken legislative actions available under section 33A of the Act in relation to the Perth Arena as they have not been considered as warranted or necessary. Risk management and contingency plans are in place and a preparedness exercise was undertaken in March 2012 involving DFES operational crews to test the venues emergency preparedness and response arrangements. Work is continuing to facilitate the fire alarm connection and these works are expected to be completed by no later than 4 September 2013.
- (g) DFES reviews the fire safety provisions of building projects to ensure compliance with Building Codes/Standards and to ensure fire safety systems are compatible with DFES operational requirements.