

BOORABBIN NATIONAL PARK FIRE — CORONIAL INQUEST COSTS

1058. Hon ED DERMER to the parliamentary secretary representing the Attorney General:

Is the Attorney General able to provide an estimated cost to the state of the coronial inquest into the fire at Boorabbin National Park in December 2007, in particular —

- (a) the cost of representation of the Department of Environment and Conservation, the Fire and Emergency Services Authority and police by the State Solicitor's Office for the duration of the hearing; and
- (b) the cost incurred by the Coroner's Court, including the cost of counsel assisting?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (a) The State Solicitor's Office representation of several state government agencies at the coronial inquest was part of the office's broader role in delivering legal services to the government.
- (b) The costs incurred by the Coroner's Court, above normal operating expenditure, for the inquest into the fire at Boorabbin National Park are: transcript, \$8 000; travel and accommodation for witnesses, \$14 500; hire and purchase of information technology equipment, \$1 000; preparation of documents, \$15 000; and counsel assisting the coroner, \$16 000—a total of \$54 500.