

YARLOOP BUSHFIRES — ALCOA WORKER TRANSPORT

**31. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the Minister for Commerce:**

I refer to yesterday's advice from the Minister for Mines and Petroleum that investigation of reports that Alcoa workers were driven by bus from Pinjarra and Bunbury to Wagerup through the firegrounds of the Yarloop bushfires in January appears to lie outside the jurisdiction of the Mines Safety and Inspection Act 1994.

- (1) Can the minister advise whether WorkSafe will conduct an inquiry into the circumstances surrounding these reports in the absence of action by the Minister for Mines and Petroleum?
- (2) If yes to (1), when will we know the outcome of the inquiry?
- (3) If no to (1), why not?

**Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN replied:**

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

- (1) WorkSafe is aware of the event, due to media reports on 15 January 2016 in relation to the matter that indicated that travel was only undertaken after permission was granted by the authorities and that buses taking workers in and out were escorted by Department of Fire and Emergency Services personnel. No complaint has been made to WorkSafe, therefore, no investigation has been conducted. However, WorkSafe will make contact with the Department of Fire and Emergency Services and the Department of Mines and Petroleum to determine whether an investigation is necessary.
- (2)–(3) Not applicable.