

YARLOOP BUSHFIRES — ALCOA WORKER TRANSPORT

125. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the Minister for Commerce:

I refer to the minister's advice in question time on 17 February 2016 that WorkSafe would make contact with the Department of Fire and Emergency Services and the Department of Mines and Petroleum to determine whether an investigation was necessary into reports that Alcoa workers were driven by bus from Pinjarra and Bunbury to Wagerup through the firegrounds of the Yarloop bushfires in January.

- (1) Who advised the minister that buses taking workers in and out were escorted by DFES personnel?
- (2) Is the minister now aware that this advice is wrong?
- (3) Has WorkSafe made a decision about whether to conduct an investigation?
- (4) If so, when will it start and how long will it take?
- (5) If no to (4), why not?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN replied:

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

- (1) I was advised by the WorkSafe division of the Department of Commerce. As I indicated during question time on 17 February, WorkSafe based this advice on media reports of the incident as no complaint had been made to WorkSafe.
- (2) The detail of what occurred is still being established and as such I am not in a position to comment at this point in time.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) WorkSafe has commenced an investigation. The duration of the investigation will depend upon the information received and how long it takes for the issues to be examined.
- (5) Not applicable.