

YARLOOP BUSHFIRES — ALCOA WORKER TRANSPORT

8. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the minister representing the Minister for Mines and Petroleum:

I refer to reports that Alcoa workers were driven by bus from Pinjarra and Bunbury to Wagerup through the firegrounds of the Yarloop bushfires in January.

- (1) Can the minister provide details of the escort arrangements used on both the inward and outward journeys between Pinjarra and Wagerup and between Bunbury and Wagerup?
- (2) Who authorised these escort arrangements?
- (3) Is the minister intending to conduct an inquiry into the circumstances surrounding these reports?
- (4) If yes to (3), when will we know the outcome of the inquiry?
- (5) If no to (3), why not?

Hon KEN BASTON replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. On behalf of the Minister for Mines and Petroleum —

- (1) The Department of Mines and Petroleum is carrying out preliminary investigations into these matters to establish jurisdiction and the sequence of events that transpired during the emergency. At this stage, it would appear that the issue raised by the honourable member relating to the journeys undertaken to and from the refinery does not fall under the jurisdiction of the Mines Safety and Inspection Act 1994.
- (2) Management of the roads and access during the fire was under the control of emergency services and not the Department of Mines and Petroleum.
- (3)–(5) Refer to the response to (1). An investigation is ongoing.