

KINGS PARK FIRE, JANUARY 2009 — REVIEW

1263. Hon Nigel Hallett to the Minister for Energy representing the Minister for Emergency Services

- (1) What action has the Fire and Emergency Services Authority (FESA), taken on the recommendations of the 1994 Fire Review Panel for the Conservation and Land Management (CALM), involving Local Government?
- (2) What was the final cost of extinguishing the Kings Park fire in January, 2009?
- (3) What was the number of units and personnel involved in the Kings Park fire?
- (4) Which Agency or body was responsible to ensure the fuel load was lowered in Kings Park?

Hon PETER COLLIER replied:

- (1) FESA was not established until 1 January 1999 and as such cannot comment on what occurred with the report. However FESA can advise the following:
  - In 2003 FESA developed the Rural Urban Bush Fire Threat Analysis (RUBTA) which is an analysis tool to assist in determining the threat a bush fire may pose. This was designed to be applicable in situations where bush land and communities interface and could be applied to small localised areas, a brigade response area or an entire local government authority area.
  - The RUBTA was designed specifically for areas containing residential or urban development to complement the then Department of Conservation and Land Management's 'Wildfire Threat Analysis' which was designed to be applied in isolated areas outside of built-up areas.
  - To achieve a tool that could be used on a state-wide basis FESA, in conjunction with the Department of Environment and Conservation, is developing a universal assessment tool to identify bushfire threat. The Bush Fire Threat Analysis (BFTA) is a computer based Geographic Information System (GIS) model which can provide a comparative assessment of the bushfire risk across areas.
  - As the BFTA is progressed the maps produced are shared by FESA with local governments and volunteers to assist with local bushfire mitigation and preparedness activities. The BFTA is also being utilised by FESA in working with the University of WA and Landgate to develop a Bushfire Simulator.
  - The Bushfire Simulator calculates rates of fire spread in all vegetation types in South West WA and can predict potential fire behaviour in extreme conditions. The BFTA information is a core component for the Bushfire Simulator which will be trialled by FESA this fire season with a focus on aiding fire incident managers and planners in identifying potential high impact scenarios, particularly in the rural urban interface, and leading to better decision making in fire management.
- (2) FESA is currently resourced to provide a 24/7 emergency response capability within the metropolitan area and those costs are considered part of day-to-day operations. However, the additional costs incurred in extinguishing the Kings Park fire equates to \$110,097.
- (3) Resources involved included more than 200 Fire and Rescue Service career and volunteer firefighters and bushfire volunteers, 57 appliances, the Fire King Helicopter, four Helitacs, two fixed-wing aircraft and the FESA air intelligence helicopter.
- (4) Botanical Gardens and Parks Authority is responsible for the fuel load management..