

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND WILDLIFE — FUEL REDUCTION PROGRAM

**662. Hon NIGEL HALLETT to the Attorney General representing the Minister for Emergency Services:**

- (1) Given that the fuel reduction targets have not been met for a number of years, how does the government plan to redirect resources and meet these targets for the 2016–17 fire season?
- (2) What action will be taken to secure the urban interface of south west towns and communities before the 2016–17 fire season?

**Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN replied:**

On behalf of the Minister for Emergency Services, I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) Fuel reduction targets are the statutory responsibility of the Department of Parks and Wildlife.
- (2) The Department of Fire and Emergency Services has received 12 months' funding of \$2.993 million to continue the bushfire risk management planning initiative in 16 high-risk local governments. A further 22 local governments have voluntarily joined the initiative. Six regional bushfire risk management officers will be located in DFES regional offices at Northam, Bunbury, Narrogin, Manjimup, Albany and Geraldton. The BRMOs will support participating local governments to develop bushfire risk management plans. This process involves identification of assets and subsequent risk assessments to determine the risk rating–treatment priority. Mitigation strategies will be applied following the completion of this evaluation process. DFES has been involved in bushfire risk reduction activities in the south west for a considerable period and will continue to work with landowners, including government agencies and managers, to reduce overall fuel hazard in south west town sites.