

WAROONA–YARLOOP BUSHFIRES — FERGUSON REPORT —
ROYALTIES FOR REGIONS FUNDING

1082. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the minister representing the Minister for Lands:

I refer to the government's recently stated intention in its response to the Ferguson report to allocate \$15 million from royalties for regions funding to treat bushfire risk on state-owned land.

- (1) Where will the personnel be sourced to undertake mitigation activities?
- (2) How will these activities be prioritised as well as supervised and by whom or what agency?
- (3) Is this allocation of \$15 million intended to be recurrent or a one-off payment?
- (4) How much money has been allocated for treatment of bushfire risk on state-owned land in the Perth metropolitan area?
- (5) What time period has been estimated to address the backlog in treating priority hazard reduction on state-owned land?

Hon DONNA FARAGHER replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) It is expected the personnel undertaking the required work will comprise local contractors, local volunteer bush fire brigades and local government authorities.
- (2) For the 2016–17 financial year, \$740 000 of the \$15 million will be used for on-ground bushfire mitigation activities on unallocated crown land and unmanaged reserves within the regional town sites. These activities have already been prioritised by regional staff of the Department of Fire and Emergency Services and necessary contracts will be vetted and overseen by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services.

Broader use of the \$15 million funding, including the arrangements for the more holistic prioritisation of competing bids and the responsibility for oversight of funded on-ground works is to be progressively phased in from 2017–18, in conjunction with the implementation of the state government's response to the various recommendations of the special inquiry into the January 2016 Waroona fire.

- (3) The \$15 million allocation from royalties for regions was intended to seed the establishment of a new mitigation activity fund. Other more sustainable sources of funding to continue the MAF for the medium to longer term are to be considered in conjunction with the state government's response to the various recommendations of the special inquiry into the January 2016 Waroona fire.
- (4) A multitude of state government entities hold land within the Perth metropolitan area that span multiple ministerial portfolios and, as such, consolidated data of such a nature is not readily available.
- (5) The full extent of the bushfire risk on state-owned lands across the state will not become known until the rollout of the new bushfire risk management planning process has been completed.