

DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES — BUSHFIRE MANAGEMENT

1347. Hon RICK MAZZA to the Attorney General representing the Minister for Emergency Services:

I refer to the bushfire section within the Department of Fire and Emergency Services.

- (1) How many staff, including senior management, are in or a part of the management section?
- (2) What are the current costs and overheads associated with the running of that section, including all overheads, equipment and ancillary costs?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN replied:

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

- (1) The Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner is the hazard management agency for a range of hazards, inclusive of fire, whether it is an urban or a rural fire, and a significant portion of management is directed towards bushfire response, management, mitigation, prevention and education, together with the Department of Parks and Wildlife. As such, it is not possible to separately identify the number of individuals specifically involved with bushfire management. The Office of Bushfire Risk Management is an independent office within the Department of Fire and Emergency Services that oversees prescribed burning and bushfire-related risk in Western Australia. This office has eight staff members.
- (2) The Department of Fire and Emergency Services is structured and operates as a multi-hazard organisation consisting of operational members of staff, career and volunteer emergency service brigades, groups and units that are involved in both bushfire-related and non-bushfire-related emergency response activities. In support of these career and volunteer services, the Department of Fire and Emergency Services incurs considerable costs in providing operational management, coordination and planning, aviation services, statewide 000 call taking, incident turnout and incident support, records and communications, training and doctrine services, information communication and technology services, fleet and equipment services, media and corporate communication services, safety and welfare services, community engagement services and various other corporate administration and governance services. DFES does not undertake activity-based costing to be able to specifically identify the amount spent on bushfire-related functions; nor are the costs notionally allocated across the various response services. However, in relation to the Office of Bushfire Risk Management, the current budget allocation for direct costs for the 2016–17 financial year is \$1.2 million.