

STATE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE — BUSHFIRE MANAGEMENT

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

I refer to the record growing season and the bushfire season just a couple of months away.

- (1) Is the minister aware that the State Emergency Management Committee commissioned two studies: the first being a stocktake of funding arrangements for bushfire management in WA, and the second looking at the cost benefit of fuel reduction versus emergency response in the south west of Western Australia?
- (2) Have these studies been completed?
- (3) Have the reports been tabled at a meeting of the State Emergency Management Committee?
- (4) Will the reports be released to the public?
- (5) If yes to (4), when will they be released?
- (6) If no to (4), can the minister advise why they will not be released given their importance to the minimisation of bushfire damage in WA?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN replied:

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

- (1) Yes. Last year the minister requested the SEMC secretariat to undertake a strategic bushfire stocktake of bushfire risk management investment and arrangements across government. The SEMC secretariat, as part of that study, commissioned the University of Western Australia to undertake an economic analysis of various mitigation options.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) Yes, the SEMC noted the reports at its 2 August 2016 meeting.
- (4) Yes. The minister is currently considering the SEMC recommendations concerning the report's public release.
- (5) As the government is currently considering the report of the special inquiry into the January 2016 Waroona fire—the Ferguson report—further consideration will be given to releasing the stocktake once the government has provided its response to the Ferguson report.
- (6) Not applicable.