

VOLUNTEER BUSH FIRE BRIGADES

**1145. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the Attorney General representing the Minister for Emergency Services:**

- (1) Is the Minister for Emergency Services aware that the Carburnup and Yalyalup bush fire brigades are listed as missing by the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission and could lose their charity status?
- (2) Is the minister aware of any other volunteer fire brigades that are at risk of losing their not-for-profit status?
- (3) What impact will losing their not-for-profit status have on the brigades' capacity to operate and respond to bushfires?
- (4) Does the Department of Fire and Emergency Services keep a record of the contacts for bush fire brigades in Western Australia; and, if so, will the minister assist the ACNC in finding these brigades and ensuring that their not-for-profit status remains intact?

**Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN replied:**

On behalf of the Minister for Emergency Services, I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. The Department of Fire and Emergency Services advises —

- (1) The Carburnup bush fire brigade was deregistered and merged with the Vasse bush fire brigade at the request of the Shire of Busselton and closed on 31 August 2010. The Yalyalup bush fire brigade was deregistered and merged with the Hithergreen bush fire brigade on 23 June 2005. As neither of these brigades are currently active, they do not need to be registered with the ACNC.
- (2)–(4) Yes. DFES has been actively involved with the ACNC since the introduction of the new taxation reform. DFES implemented a comprehensive communication strategy that included customised charity information packs mailed out to all volunteer entities and associations. For volunteer bush fire brigades, they were distributed to each local government, the Western Australian Local Government Association and the Association of Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades of Western Australia. The packs were also published on DFES's volunteer portal. DFES has maintained a proactive communication and support strategy to assist the Western Australian emergency service volunteering community to be compliant with its legislative obligations. DFES will continue to work collaboratively with the ACNC and the Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council to minimise or streamline the volunteer emergency service entities' reporting requirements.