

FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES — LARGE AIR TANKER

**259. Hon RICK MAZZA to the minister representing the Minister for Emergency Services:**

I refer to the response to my question without notice 145, asked on 10 March 2020, regarding the Boeing 737 large air tanker that was sent to Western Australia from New South Wales in December 2019 to bolster the state's fire response capabilities.

- (1) When does the minister anticipate that the cost of the large air tanker deployment will be known?
- (2) Will the minister make this information available to the public?
- (3) Will the Department of Fire and Emergency Services be assessing the effectiveness of the seven drops made in WA?
- (4) Will its report be made public; and, if not, why not?
- (5) What is the government's policy on future use of the large air tanker, and what cost-sharing arrangements are in place for this use?

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:**

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. The following answer has been provided to me by the Minister for Emergency Services.

- (1) The resource was subject to a bilateral arrangement between New South Wales and Western Australia. Costs are yet to be finalised.
- (2) No.
- (3) Yes. The Department of Fire and Emergency Services will undertake an evaluation of the New South Wales LAT effectiveness. This will be included in the annual review that is conducted of DFES aerial operations at the conclusion of each bushfire season.
- (4) Not applicable.
- (5) The National Aerial Firefighting Centre manages the national strategy and allocation of aerial firefighting assets, which includes large air tankers to all states and territories. The NAFC also manages the cost-sharing arrangements with all states and territories.