

BUSHFIRE MANAGEMENT — FESA ROLE

1413. Hon Nigel Hallett to the Minister for Energy representing the Minister for Emergency Services
- (1) Why is the smallest Government body involved in mainly city structural fires, being made the authority over the Department of Environment and Conservation and local government brigades, in the latest *Bushfires Amendment Bill*?
 - (2) How quickly would the Minister expect the new handover provisions to take effect?
 - (3) Is it not dangerous leading into a fire season, to introduce new measures at this time, instead of a gradual implementation?
 - (4) In relation to the *Bushfires Amendment Bill*, were the Association of Volunteer Bushfire Brigades and its members, who are the field experience people —
 - (a) given sufficient time to consider the Bill;
 - (b) provided with all the details of the Bill;
 - (c) concerned about the protection of volunteers; and
 - (d) immediately support the Bill or did they suggest a deferment?
 - (5) What are the names of the FESA Officers residing in the South West Regional of Western Australia, who are accredited to act as Incident Controller for a Level 3 bushfire?

Hon PETER COLLIER replied:

- (1)-(3) The answers to these questions can be found in the Community Development and Justice Standing Committee report Inquiry into Fire and Emergency Services Legislation tabled in Parliament in October, 2006; the Bushfire Amendment Legislation and the Second Reading speech for this legislation.
- (4) Volunteer groups were thoroughly consulted about this legislation and have been given numerous briefings addressing any concerns they have. There is strong support for the legislation amongst volunteers.
- (5) FESA has 27 officers who are accredited to act as Incident Controllers for a Level 3 bushfire; two of these officers are situated in the South West Region. I do not believe it is in the public interest to release the names of these officers.