

PRESCRIBED BURNING — COMMENTS BY MEMBER FOR RIVERTON

400. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the Minister for Environment:

I refer the minister to the media statement entitled “Local MLA Calls For Action on WA Bushfire Threat” released by the member for Riverton, of which I have a copy.

- (1) Does the minister share the concerns expressed in the media statement?
- (2) Did the member for Riverton discuss the issue with her before releasing the media statement?

Hon DONNA FARAGHER replied:

I thank the member for the question.

- (1)-(2) I have discussed the issue of prescribed burning with Mike Nahan, member for Riverton. He also raised this issue during a speech in response to the Victorian bushfires in the other place in March, which was in line with this press statement. Obviously he shares the concern of each and every one of us in this place about the threat of bushfire. It is particularly the case in Western Australia.

I have spoken to the member for Riverton about the concerns he has raised about prescribed burning. I have advised him of my very strong support for prescribed burning and the work that the department does. I am working with the department to see what further action can be taken to ensure that we meet the targets that have been set. Those targets can obviously be impacted upon by weather conditions and the like, but the department is examining how things may be improved. Also, the Premier, in response to the Victorian bushfires, said that Peter Conran would be in charge of looking at a whole-of-government response to ascertain where improvements can be made across government. I have discussed that with the member for Riverton. He supports prescribed burning, as do I.