

BUSHFIRE — WALLCLIFFE ROAD, PREVELLY

697. Hon BARRY HOUSE to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for the Environment:

I refer to the answer to question without notice 106, given on 28 February 2008.

- (1) What approaches have been made by the Department of Environment and Conservation to local stakeholders following the fire in the vicinity of Wallcliffe Road near Prevelly in February this year?
- (2) What action has been taken in response to these discussions?
- (3)
 - (a) What progress has been made on the development of a secondary access road following the established strategic firebreak between Baudin Drive and Rainbow Cave Road;
 - (b) will this be constructed by February 2009; and
 - (c) if not, when will it be constructed?

Hon SALLY TALBOT replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question, to which the minister has provided the following response.

- (1) Since the fire on 22 February 2008, the Department of Environment and Conservation has assisted the Shire of Augusta-Margaret River with technical advice on erosion control and fire line rehabilitation in the area impacted by the fire.
- (2) Erosion control and rehabilitation works have been undertaken by the shire.
- (3)
 - (a) The department intends to examine the issue of a secondary access road with the shire on 16 July 2008 and with other stakeholders following this meeting. The department is also working through a similar secondary access issue for the proposed expansion of Gracetown. The outcomes of this planning process may provide a model applicable to Prevelly and other similar communities along the Leeuwin-Naturaliste Ridge.
 - (b) It is unlikely that a second access road will be constructed by February 2009.
 - (c) While there has been general discussion with stakeholders over recent years about road access, the date for construction cannot be provided as the necessity of a secondary road in this particular location is yet to be confirmed.