

KINGS PARK BUSHFIRE, JANUARY 2009 — INVESTIGATION

1389. Hon Nigel Hallett to the Minister for Environment

With reference to the Kings Park Bushfire of January 2009, I ask —

- (1) Has there been an investigation into the preconditions leading up to the fire, the fire response, fire suppression tactics, outcomes and costs?
- (2) If there was an investigation, —
 - (a) who participated, other than staff of Kings Park and Botanic Garden;
 - (b) did the findings of this investigation lead to any changes in bushfire mitigation and suppression strategies at Kings Park; and
 - (c) if yes to (2)(b), what are they?
- (3) Will the report of the investigation into the fire, control and cost be made public?
- (4) If no investigation has been made, —
 - (a) will the Minister be insisting on one;
 - (b) what will be its terms of reference; and
 - (c) who will conduct the investigation?

Hon DONNA FARAGHER replied:

- (1) A Post Incident Analysis was conducted by the Fire and Emergency Services Authority WA during February 2009 on all aspects of prevention, preparedness, response, recovery and outcomes.
- (2)
 - (a) Fire and Emergency Services Authority.
 - (b) Yes
 - (c) A Fire and Emergency Services Authority / Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority working group was formed to review the existing inter-agency Operational Response Protocol and prepare a Memorandum of Understanding between the two organisations for fire management planning and response in the future. The Memorandum of Understanding was signed on 30 October 2009 and includes a joint annual review of fire mitigation strategies and suppression techniques, assistance with fire training and exercises for Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority staff, and improved communications procedures and equipment for its fire response vehicles.
- (3) This is a decision for the Fire and Emergency Services Authority.
- (4) Not applicable.