

**WATER SUPPLY — BUSHFIRE-PRONE AREAS**

*Statement by Minister for Water*

**MS M.J. DAVIES (Central Wheatbelt — Minister for Water)** [1.10 pm]: I rise to encourage all members of the house to remind residents in bushfire-prone areas that an independent water supply is crucial if residents choose to stay and defend their home during a bushfire. It is critical for people in these areas to understand that scheme water supplies cannot be guaranteed during a bushfire. The Water Corporation has made preparations for the bushfire season. However, if fire damages water supply infrastructure, or there is a power failure to the infrastructure, this will, or may, result in a total loss of water. Even if this is not the case, it is likely there would be a reduction in water pressure due to the high demand, and water supply tanks could also become empty. Residents who choose to stay and defend their home should ensure that they have an independent water supply and pumping capability. People with groundwater bores and access to surface water in at-risk bushfire areas are also reminded that they can take and store water to support their bushfire plans. In the case of licensed water users, this water does not count as part of their annual water entitlement. Rural landholders also need to be aware that private bores and dams can also be called upon by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services and the Department of Parks and Wildlife during bushfire emergencies. I encourage landholders to ensure that whoever is fighting the fire has access to draw points when needed. DFES and local councils have information available to assist with bushfire preparations. I ask members to encourage people who live in bushfire-prone areas to contact them if they need further advice. Further information can be found at [areyouready.wa.gov.au](http://areyouready.wa.gov.au) and [dfes.wa.gov.au](http://dfes.wa.gov.au).