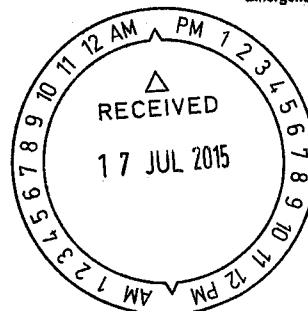




Our Ref: MSL/125/15
Your Ref: EWH16



Mr Mark Warner
Committee Clerk
Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations
Parliament House
PERTH WA 6000

Dear Mr Warner

TRANSCRIPT OF EVIDENCE – 2015/16 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARINGS

I refer to your letter dated 29 June 2015, enclosing a copy of the transcript of evidence provided to the Committee at the Department of Fire and Emergency Services public hearing held on Thursday, 25 June 2015.

As requested I have checked the transcript and have identified three occasions on which I provided incorrect factual information during the hearing.

I would like the Committee to consider the following amendments:

1. On Page 4, the information I provided in relation to what sort of discipline I can apply to a volunteer is incorrect.

I stated that:

Mr Gregson: *The issue is it is different; it depends on the volunteer. I can take action against certain volunteers for breaches of code of conduct et cetera. I can formally charge other volunteers under the Fire Brigade Regulations for breaches of discipline. It depends on the nature of the volunteer. I have no formal authority over others from a disciplinary perspective but can apply other censure or sanctions if I think it is necessary.*

It should read:

The issue is it is different; it depends on the volunteer. I can take action only against Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service volunteers for breaches of conduct whilst on duty. I have no formal authority over others (Volunteer Marine Rescue Services, State Emergency Service, Volunteer Emergency Service and Volunteer Fire Service) from a disciplinary perspective; however, can apply other censure or sanctions if I think it is necessary.

2. On Page 4, the information I provided in relation to the penalty for volunteers is incorrect.

I stated that:

Mr Gregson: Yes, I can probably have a look at that. If it is any comfort to you, the maximum penalty currently under the act is \$20, so we do not usually impose much of a penalty.

It should read:

The \$20 fine is not related to volunteers but is one of a number of sanctions available under the Fire Brigades Regulations 1943 for employees employed under the WA Fire Service Enterprise Bargaining Agreement. The only sanctions available to me for volunteers is solely for Fire and Rescue Service volunteers under the Fire Brigades Regulations 1943. The sanctions available are: no action; reprimand; suspension or cancellation of membership.

3. On Page 15, the information I provided in relation to the number of Metropolitan Volunteer Sea Rescue Groups that come under the Department of Fire and Emergency Services banner is incorrect.

I stated that:

Mr Gregson: Well, it is a long story, but the gist of it is: when the volunteer marine rescue service units came under the Department of Fire and Emergency Services, there were three units that did not want to do that. Those three units amalgamated into what became known as the metropolitan volunteer sea rescue groups, or something of that nature. There was a funding allocation given to them. Since that time, two of those units have come under the Department of Fire and Emergency Services banner, leaving just Whitfords. Whitfords gets a proportional share of the budgetary allocation that used to go to the three units, so it is not being cut, in a sense.

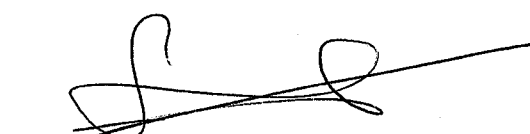
It should read:

... There was a funding allocation given to them. Since that time, one of those units has come under the Department of Fire and Emergency Services banner, leaving just Whitfords and Cockburn. Whitfords gets a proportional share of the budgetary allocation that used to go to the three units, so it is not being cut, in a sense.

Notwithstanding the questions were answered to the best of my ability at the time and were true to the best of my knowledge and belief. I would now like to take this opportunity to correct the errors of fact and apologise to the Committee for providing incorrect information. I hope that the above has clarified the above matters.

If you require any further information in regards to the above please contact my office on 9395 9501 to discuss further.

Yours sincerely



WAYNE GREGSON APM
COMMISSIONER

10 July 2015