

EMERGENCY SERVICES — INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADE

601. Mr D.T. PUNCH to the Minister for Emergency Services:

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's \$5.5 billion WA recovery plan that includes a significant investment in maintaining state government assets.

- (1) Can the minister update the house on this government's investment to upgrade fire stations and new emergency services infrastructure across Western Australia?
- (2) Can the minister outline to the house how this investment will support local jobs and local businesses?

Mr F.M. LOGAN replied:

Thank you very much indeed, member for Bunbury, and I thank you for your superb support for emergency service workers in the south west, particularly in Bunbury.

- (1)–(2) As we all know, there is a significant investment by the government, \$5.5 billion, in the WA recovery plan. That includes \$15 million to upgrade emergency services facility. Thirteen million dollars will be spent on maintenance, and upgrades and additions, to facilities, and some new facilities will be built too; and \$2 million will be provided to bush fire brigades to provide them with 100 static water tanks across the state. That will increase the response capability for volunteers in protecting their communities.

I am so pleased that this money could actually be found for emergency services and it will be spread across regional Western Australia. The projects that we have already announced are specifically in the areas of Western Australia. For example, \$13 million will be to improve facilities on priority stations for bush fire service brigades, volunteer fire and rescue service brigades, State Emergency Service units and volunteer fire and emergency service units across the state. The types of projects that have been envisaged as part of this upgrade are projects between \$17 000 and up to \$3 million. They are targeted at regional WA. They are the right sized projects for small building companies and small businesses in regional Western Australia. This investment means that there will be work for builders, carpenters, electricians, plumbers, tilers, concreters, welders, painters, bricklayers, cabinet-makers and plasterers.

I will give an idea about where this investment will be made. For example, in the volunteer fire and rescue services, it will be in the areas of Brookton, Wagin, Kellerberrin, Tammin, Eucla, Dongara and Waroona. For the bush fire brigades, it will be in the areas of Torbay, Baandee, Mt Caroline, Kellerberrin north, Nungarin and Julimar. Some of these facilities are being built in areas where there has never been a bush fire brigade facility whatsoever. The pumps were usually stored in one of the facilities on somebody's farm. There has never been a centre for the bush fire brigade to do their training, and store vehicles. This is a terrific result for places like Baandee and Mt Caroline, which have never had a bush fire brigade facility.

I said that the investments are modest—between \$17 000 and \$3 million. Three million dollars will be invested in a new facility for the SES in Albany, which is the Speaker's electorate. Mr Speaker knows where the SES facility is; it is by the football ovals. It is a funny little old place that is certainly way, way past its use-by date. I am very pleased that this money could be found in order to upgrade that facility. In fact, it will be a very good facility. It will be a joint facility and it will be a major addition to emergency services in Albany.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, minister.