

NORTHAM FIRE STATION, STAFFING

**886. Hon MURRAY CRIDDLE to the minister representing the Minister for Police and Emergency Services:**

Can the minister confirm -

- (a) that as from 5 May 2003 Northam Fire Station will be staffed by one permanent firefighter;
- (b) that by the end of 2003 there will be no permanent firefighters at Northam Fire Station;
- (c) that in February 2000 a commitment was given that Northam Fire Station would have two permanent firefighters attached to the station, plus two firefighters to work from the district office - this was an agreement reached with the Town of Northam, Northam volunteer firefighters and the community; and
- (d) that the removal of permanent staff from Northam Fire Station subsequent to the February 2000 commitment is the direct result of an agreement between the union and fire service management - union notice dated 22 April 2003?

**Hon NICK GRIFFITHS replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of this question. The Minister for Police and Emergency Services has provided the following response -

The Fire and Emergency Services Authority advises -

- (a) Yes - one permanent firefighter at Northam Fire Station plus one at the Northam regional office.
- (b) FESA's long term view is that Northam should be serviced by a viable volunteer fire service. The timing and transition to this arrangement is still to be determined.
- (c) Yes.
- (d) No. The reassessment of Northam's staffing first occurred in late 2002 when difficulties were experienced in attracting and retaining permanent staff for Northam Fire Station.