NUCLEAR ACCIDENTS, RESPONSE MEASURES

560.   Hon JIM SCOTT to the minister representing the Minister for Police and Emergency Services:

(1)   What emergency response measures are in place to deal with accidents involving ships with nuclear reactors and/or nuclear weapons in Gage Roads, Garden Island and Albany?

(2)   Are emergency plans available to the public; and, if so, how and where can the public access them?

(3)   What training has been provided to fire and emergency service personnel and police and medical services to deal with nuclear incidents?

(4)   How many personnel are trained to deal with these types of emergencies?

(5)   Does the state emergency management plan include measures to deal with an explosion on a nuclear-powered warship?

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 -

(1)   The Western Australia Police Service advises that nuclear-powered warships visit only Gage Roads and Garden Island. The Western Australia Police Service is the hazard management agency for all visits by nuclear-powered warships. Emergency response measures are outlined in "Westplan-NPW", which is the state plan dealing with visits by nuclear-powered warships to Western Australia.

(2)   The plan may be obtained by writing to the Police Emergency Operations Unit, 24 Wellington Street, East Perth, 6004. A copy of the plan will be provided to the member as soon as possible.

(3)   The Police Emergency Operations Unit trains police personnel in chemical, radiological and biological issues. Multi-agency exercises are conducted to test the plans and training given.

(4)   Over 400 police officers have current chemical, radiological and biological training.

(5)   If an explosion causes a nuclear reactor breach, "Westplan-NPW" is activated. If the explosion does not cause a radiation leak, the ship's personnel would provide the response.