

BURRUP PENINSULA, PROTECTION OF INVESTMENTS

818. Mr M.P. MURRAY to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services:

Will the minister outline to the House government initiatives to protect the significant investments that the Government and industry have made in the Burrup Peninsula?

Mrs M.H. ROBERTS replied:

As you would be aware, Mr Speaker, the Burrup Peninsula is one of Australia's fastest growing economic regions. The State Government had committed more than \$137 million towards industry infrastructure to boost the development of the area. With potential resource projects valued at up to \$5 billion, it is essential that emergency services be ready to handle any kind of threat. Today I announced the establishment of a steering committee to review the level of emergency response in the region, which could be vulnerable to terrorist threat. The steering committee will review current emergency services on the peninsula and develop an implementation plan based on the future requirements of the area. The State Government is committed to ensuring that all Western Australians have access to a high level of emergency services regardless of where they live. Our Government's proactive approach to the management of this region is in direct contrast to that of the Commonwealth Government. As you will be aware, Mr Speaker, the Commonwealth is still planning on removing specialist fire services from Karratha airport. I will chair the nine member committee, which will include you, Mr Speaker, as the local member, and representatives from the Fire and Emergency Services Authority, local government, business and industry groups.