

BUSHFIRE READINESS

**1182. Hon SOPHIA MOERMOND to the Minister for Emergency Services:**

I refer to a recent article in the *Bunbury Herald* that suggests only 26 per cent of Western Australians would know what to do if a bushfire threatened their home. The Department of Fire and Emergency Services states it will be an unusually brutal bushfire season that is predicted to be earlier than normal.

- (1) Is the government providing additional information to the community this bushfire season?
- (2) If additional information is being provided, how is it being provided?
- (3) If additional information is not being provided, why not?
- (4) Is the minister aware that houses built from hemp are fire-resistant?

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:**

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. We are back on track; hemp was mentioned!

- (1)–(2) The Department of Fire and Emergency Services has developed several communication and educational programs to provide important information to the community prior to the southern high-threat bushfire season. These initiatives include Emergency WA, the DFES website, various social media platforms, and traditional and digital media channels such as TV, radio, online videos, out-of-home ads, print, and search engine marketing to ensure broad reach and accessibility.

The My Bushfire Plan application, which is used by over 24 000 Western Australians, also aids in preparedness activities, along with our network of community preparedness advisers and bushfire-ready facilitators. We also assist government agencies and non-government service providers to raise awareness with higher-risk groups in our community.

- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) Yes, but it is dependent on the type of hemp building products used.