

FIREFIGHTING RESOURCES — SOUTH WEST REGION

**654. Mr M.P. MURRAY to the Minister for Emergency Services:**

I refer to the minister's statement in this place four weeks ago today about a vital firefighting vehicle for the Preston Beach fire brigade, which was in Perth and which was to be delivered in a couple of weeks. Indeed, the minister said —

That appliance is in Perth; it will be delivered to Preston Beach as soon as possible. I may well drive it down tomorrow ...

Is the minister aware that this vehicle has not yet arrived?

**The SPEAKER:** Order, members! I give the call to the Minister for Emergency Services.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, members! Minister for Emergency Services, everybody is anxious to answer the question on your behalf. The question has been asked of the minister. I do not think the member for Collie–Preston needs any assistance either having already asked the question

**Mr T.R. BUSWELL replied:**

No. I am not aware of that, but I will look into it. All the advice I had at that time was that a second vehicle would be provided to the volunteer bush fire brigade at Preston Beach. It was not the vehicle the brigade had anticipated to receive; indeed, according to advice I have received, that will be in 2013. However, a second vehicle was to be provided to assist the brigade during this bushfire season. The advice I had at the time was that the second vehicle was practically ready to go down there. I did not offer to give the member for Girrawheen a lift, but I did offer to take her down because the advice I had at the time was that it would be available to be taken down. I will find out where that is at and I will let the fire brigade and the member for Collie–Preston know of its whereabouts. I can assure the member that the advice I had was that the substitute, or temporary, vehicle was ready to go down there. The fire brigade will still receive the vehicle that it had been promised. I cannot remember the size of the particular vehicle—whether it was a type 34, 24 or 44. I think it was a 34, which is a 3 000-litre, four-wheel-drive vehicle. Clearly we had given some undertakings to the capes region on the back of the Margaret River fire that there would be an enhanced service response. Only so many appliances can be physically made in a period of time, and the decision was taken to make sure that those appliances were provided to the capes region in a timely way to enable —

**Ms M.M. Quirk:** Moving deckchairs!

**Mr T.R. BUSWELL:** I do not think it is moving deckchairs at all, member for Girrawheen. It is actually providing firefighting appliances to places of high risk and making sure that everybody is covered. It is about making sure that we continue with the reforms that have flowed from Mr Keelty's two reports into fires in Western Australia to do all that we can to protect Western Australian communities, the people who live in them and the properties that make them up—and we will keep doing that.

So, I do not have an answer for the member for Collie–Preston at the moment but I will most definitely get one because that was most certainly the advice that was given to me.