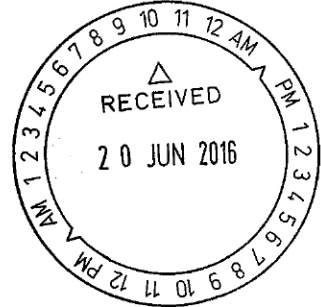




**The Hon Joe Francis MLA
Minister for Emergency Services; Fisheries;
Corrective Services; Veterans**

Min Ref: 51-10738



Hon Simon O'Brien, MLC
Chairman
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs
Parliament House
GPO Box A11
PERTH WA 6837

Dear Chairman

Thank you for your correspondence dated 10 May 2016 regarding Petition No 108 – Operation of DFES, and providing me with the opportunity to respond to the initial inquiry into the petition.

It is my understanding that the Royalties for Regions funding allocated to reducing fuel loads and fuel load management programs, was allocated to the Department of Parks and Wildlife and Forest Products Commission. I have been advised that the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) has no involvement in how these funds are spent.

Furthermore, DFES did not initiate the Government's Special Inquiry into the Waroona Bushfires and therefore cannot provide a copy of the report. As the Inquiry was initiated by the Premier, I encourage the committee to request a copy from the Department of the Premier and Cabinet.

Thank you for bringing the Petition to my attention.

Yours sincerely

**HON JOE FRANCIS MLA
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES;
CORRECTIVE SERVICES; SMALL BUSINESS; VETERANS**

16 JUN 2016