Minister for Emergency Services; Corrective Services
Notice Under Section 82 of the Financial Management Act 2006

Pursuant to section 82(1)(a) of the Financial Management Act 2006, I give notice to both houses that I have decided not to provide information to Parliament in response to the additional questions submitted from the Hon Martin Aldridge MLC from the Estimates and Financial Operations Committee.

The information being sought was:

1. I refer to any plans that the department has for assessing risk and other measures for the future location of fire stations and other emergency services and I ask:
   (a) Which locations are identified as the next priority for a Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service station or a Career Fire and Rescue Service Station

I have decided that it is reasonable and appropriate not to provide the information being sought on the basis that the information is subject to Public Interest Immunity. The information being sought would reveal the deliberations or decisions of Cabinet. The information forms the submission that will be used by Cabinet to make decisions.

Cabinet confidentiality is an essential part of the structure of Government and ensures that Cabinet members can freely exchange differing views as a necessary incident of the maintenance of the principle of collective responsibility.

My decision not to provide the information sought is a necessary consequence of upholding the importance of the principle of Cabinet confidentiality. I have considered whether it is possible to provide a redacted copy of the information being sought from which the material subject to Cabinet confidentiality has been removed. I have determined that this is not possible in all the circumstances because the material subject to cabinet confidentiality is so extensive that the information would be devoid of meaning and context.

The reasons set out above are provided in accordance with my obligations under section 82(2) of the Financial Management Act 2006. Notice is also being provided to the Auditor General in accordance with section 82(1)(b) of the Financial Management Act 2006.