

COUNTRY FIRE SERVICE VEHICLES

Question asked on Adrian's behalf in the Upper House - July 26, 2007

The Hon. S.G. WADE: I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Emergency Services a question about the supply of vehicles.

Leave granted.

The Hon. S.G. WADE: The opposition understands that the CFS has granted a vehicle supply contract to a New South Wales company in preference to an established supply relationship with a local supplier. As a result, the local supplier is likely to cancel planned investment and make redundancies. Further, I am informed that the CFS is already six months behind schedule in putting into service vehicles sourced from a different interstate supplier due to a fault rate more than 20 times higher than some local suppliers. Can the minister assure the council that CFS supply contracts are being made in accordance with state government procurement policies and practices and, considering the fire challenges in the eastern states, how will the minister ensure that the CFS will be able to service our vehicles and source spare parts, particularly if a South Australian fire event coincides with interstate fires?

The Hon. CARMEL ZOLLO (Minister for Emergency Services): The CFS capital replacement program for 2007-08 will be \$14.168 million.

In relation to appliances, during 2007-08 it is expected that a total of 41 appliances will be replaced. Seven type 34 pumper appliances—which I am certain honourable members in this chamber will be interested in knowing about—will be delivered to the following stations: Cummins, Dublin, Lyndoch, Mount Barker, Port Wakefield, Two Wells and Wirrulla. Twenty-two type 34 appliances will be delivered to the following stations: Angaston, Booleroo, Burra, Coomandook, Cudlee Creek, Gawler River, Greenock, Gumeracha, Hermitage, Laura, Mil Lel, Mintaro, Oakbank/Balhannah, Orroroo, Parndana, Port Germein, Rapid Bay, Snowtown, Tarpeena, Waikerie, Warooka and Woodside. We also will be delivering 11 quick attack vehicle appliances to the following stations: Auburn, Burra group, Bute, Clare, Freeling, Gumeracha group, Keyneton, Mount Remarkable group, Pinnaroo, Salt Creek and Yankalilla. One urban pumper appliance will be delivered to Burnside.

The CFS has around 900 vehicles and appliances. including: 645 appliances, 100 command vehicles, 76 support vehicles, 29 bulk water carriers and 72 support trailers. In the last budget (the 2006-07 budget), the government approved expansion funding in addition to the previously approved annual capital program, which is allowing the replacement of an additional 42 heavy vehicles at a cost of approximately \$10.5 million over the period 2006-07 to 2008-09.

The honourable member has raised some issues in relation to a number of vehicles. I will undertake to get some advice and bring back a response. I can assure him that, as I have just put on the record, this state is very well served by the resourcing of this government to the CFS.