



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE NO. 4

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2009-2010

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 4

Emergency Services – supplementary hearing

Wednesday 18 November 2009

Answers to be lodged by: Monday 14 December 2009

Budget Estimates Secretariat
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Questions relating to the portfolio of Emergency Services

18 NOVEMBER 2009, 1.00 pm – 3.00 pm

Questions from Mrs Pavey

NSW Fire Brigade

1. Of the 26 fires that occurred as at September 2009 as a result of problems with ceiling insulation and down lights, how many more have occurred since then, and has anyone being injured or lost their house to the fire?
2. How many staff cars does the NSW Fire Brigade currently own?
3. How much of the budget was spent on staff cars? (including purchase, maintenance, repair etc)
4. When will the report on the NSW Fire Brigade ICAC investigation into corruption and travelling rorts be finished and made public?
5. How many people are being investigated who are currently seeking to obtain retirement packages?
6. Currently, how many brigade officers have a complaint lodged to the Professional Standards and Conduct Officer?
7. How many complaints are currently being investigated by the Internal Audit Bureau?
8. How many complaints have been lodged with the IAB over the past 5 years and how many of them have resulted in disciplinary action being enforced?
9. How many allegations that have been investigated have be found to be breaches of the NSWFB Harassment Prevention Policy?
10. How much is it costing the NSWFB to sub in officers at brigades where other officers are absent due to being unfit for work etc?
11. Given reports in the Sunday Telegraph that there are approximately 1.3 million houses in NSW that are in high risk bush fire areas, why will you not release the location of these houses to the public so that they can adequately prepare especially given that Victoria has?
12. Given also that 73 per cent of addresses in the Blue Mountains are located within 130 metres of bushland, does the RFS provide additional funding to the local brigades?

RFS

13. Have there been any injuries from RFS volunteers or paid workers falling from the CAT 1 trucks steps?
14. How many RFS volunteers or paid workers have claimed Work Cover for an issue involving falling from the CAT 1 truck steps onto the ground?

15. How long ago did you start working on the new utility shirts project?
16. How much will the entire roll out of the new utility shirts cost (including testing and research ect)?
17. Were the volunteers consulted? Why were they not consulted? (VFFA said they were not and were furious about it given their members reaction).
18. Where are the T-shirts produced?
19. When will all brigades be issues with them?
20. Are RFS volunteers even disciplined for speaking to the media?
21. If so, how many have had this disciplined enforced over the past 5 years?
22. Has anyone ever been de registered as a member of the RFS after disciplinary action has been taken?
23. At the Brooms head RFS meeting in the wake of the fires, why didn't a head office RFS member attend?
24. Prior to the Brooms head fire, were all of the fire trails clear?
25. Prior to the Brooms head fire, when was the last time hazard reduction burns had taken place?
26. Do the RFS have regulations ruling the farming of pine trees in NSW?
27. Does the RFS have any role in managing pine tree plantations?
28. When was the last time the Hawkesbury Bushfire Management Committee carried out hazard reduction in the Mountain Lagoon community, including of the surrounding National Parks land?
29. Is the RFS aware of the concerns of the Mountain Lagoon community in regards to the lack of an alternative access/exit road to and from the area, which could be dangerous in a bushfire?