



MEDIA RELEASE

Fiskville inquiry to hear from experts

A range of experts will present evidence on 6 and 9 November at public hearings on the Fiskville inquiry.

On Friday 6 November, the Environment, Natural Resources and Regional Development Committee will question expert witnesses about the occupational hazards of firefighting activities and exposure to hazardous materials and how such exposure can be minimised.

Witnesses will include the Principal Scientist of the National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme, the Director of the Scientific Unit of Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, and the former Commander of HAZMAT for the Metropolitan Fire Brigade.

The hearing will be from 9.30 am to 3.30 pm in the Legislative Council Committee Room at Parliament House.

On Monday 9 November, a range of witnesses will be questioned about the Country Fire Authority, industrial health studies and toxicology. The Committee will also hear evidence about matters relating to governance and organisational culture.

Witnesses will include representatives from the Monash Centre for Occupational and Environmental Health, the National Research Centre for Environmental Toxicology, as well as the co-author of *Public Sector Governance in Australia* who is currently Dean of the Law School at Monash University.

The hearing will be from 10.30 am to 3.45 pm in the Federation Room at Parliament House.

Committee Chair Bronwyn Halfpenny said the next hearings will continue to build the body of expert evidence needed to make meaningful recommendations.

“The eminent specialists appearing at these hearings will assist the Committee gain a deeper appreciation of the hazards and risks that would have been faced by firefighters and the community during training at the Fiskville facility,” Ms Halfpenny said.

“We will also be exploring the culture of decision making at the Country Fire Authority as we prepare to call the CFA at a future hearing.”

Further hearings will be held on 19, 20 and 23 November.

The schedule of witnesses for the 6 and 9 November hearings is available from the Committee’s website: www.parliament.vic.gov.au/enrrdc

FOR MEDIA

For media comment: contact the Committee Chair, Bronwyn Halfpenny on 9465 7533

For general media queries, including details of hearing arrangements for the media, contact:
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