



## Margaret Quirk MLA

Shadow Minister for Emergency Services; Bushfire Preparedness;  
Citizenship and Multicultural Interests; Seniors, Ageing and  
Volunteering; Heritage

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### **WA Labor urges Barnett Government not to stand on hose for firefighter laws**

The Barnett Government must deliver on its commitment to pass laws guaranteeing workers' compensation for firefighters who contract cancer as a result of their employment, Shadow Minister for Emergency Services Margaret Quirk said today.

Ms Quirk moved a motion in Parliament yesterday urging the Government 'to introduce without further delay' workers' compensation laws that contain a rebuttable presumption that scheduled cancers diagnosed in firefighters were contracted as a result of their employment'.

"WA Labor introduced a Private Members Bill (*Workers' Compensation and Injury Management (Fair Protection for Firefighters) Amendment Bill 2012*) to this effect in February last year, however the Bill was inexplicably opposed by the Barnett Government," Ms Quirk said.

"In the lead up to the State election, the Barnett Government had a change of heart and promised to pass such laws.

"In Parliament yesterday the Barnett Government gave an undertaking to expedite the enactment of these laws.

"Given this commitment there is little reason why the Bill could not be passed by the winter recess at the end of June.

"There is very little on the legislative program that is more pressing and there can be little excuse for not getting on with it."

Ms Quirk said WA Labor was prepared to work with the Government to give the Bill priority status so that there were no further delays.

"This is a case where these laws should receive bipartisan support," she said

"The passage of this legislation should not be deferred any further."

**Media contact: Margaret Quirk 0409 038 162**

**MARGARET QUIRK MLA  
SHADOW MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES; BUSHFIRE PREPAREDNESS;  
CITIZENSHIP AND MULTICULTURAL INTERESTS; SENIORS, AGEING AND  
VOLUNTEERING; HERITAGE**