

26 FEBRUARY

EXTRACT FROM BRENTON BEST RE VICTORIAN FIRES

I have had stories related to me that people who were indoors on that evening had no knowledge whatsoever of the fire front coming towards their home. They found out that the fire was literally on their doorsteps within seconds and I realised how easy it would have been to be in that predicament. Any of us could have been indoors on that evening watching TV or whatever to discover all of a sudden a wall of flame coming towards our homes. I became aware of the fires initially that way and the next contact that I had on the matter was early on Sunday morning when Heather **Butler** phoned me and said that, given her involvement with the east coast fires, she would see what she could do to assist and asked if I would join other parliamentary officers in assisting as a collection place for helping fire victims. I congratulate Mrs **Butler**, too, on her initiative and care. You look at these things and sometimes you sit there trying to work out what you can do, and then there are others who obviously put words into action.