

## **11. Statement by the Minister for Transport and Technical Services regarding recent events at Bellozanne**

### **11.1 Deputy G.W.J. de Faye (The Minister for Transport and Technical Services):**

At 8.54 a.m. this morning the emergency services were notified by the Transport and Technical Services Department that a welding set, which consists of acetylene and oxygen canisters, was alight at the Bellozanne plant. All 3 emergency services deployed to the scene and a 200 metre exclusion zone was instigated. Staff were evacuated from the site which remained closed but I am sure Members will be comforted to know that I have not been advised of any injuries. The burning cylinder has been monitored throughout the day and the situation is now under control, such that the exclusion zone is now 100 metres and the previously displaced residents have been able to return to their homes, although I continue to ask the public to avoid Bellozanne Valley for the immediate future. The T.T.S. dumping facilities are currently closed and waste cannot be taken to the site but Parish rubbish collection vehicles were diverted to La Collette. So, I would like to thank the members of the public for their co-operation, particularly those who were obliged to leave their homes. In particular I would like to thank the Honorary Police, as well as pay tribute to the prompt actions of the emergency services which I am sure Members would wish to support. Thank you, Sir. **[Approbation]**