

QUESTION ON NOTICE

NO. 1037

Asked on 2 September 2004

MR FOLEY asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Mr Lucas) -

QUESTION:

With reference to a Fire Warden in my electorate who has complained to me about the dangerous build up of tree branches and other fire fuel on the road verge and he has advised me that previously the Department of Main Roads supplied flag men to assist in the burn off.

Will he outline what plans he has to fix the problem of fire fuel build up on the road verge?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Maryborough for the question.

Department of Main Roads' officers work closely with Rural Fire Wardens in the Maryborough and Bundaberg areas.

If a section of the road reserve on a state-controlled road needs burning off due to a high fuel load such as grass and dead branches, the local fire warden would approach the department seeking approval to burn. This request to burn off could be accompanied by a request for the department to provide traffic control if it is a busy road or if conditions require traffic control.

Advice to Main Roads from the Rural Fires District Inspector based in Maryborough indicates that now is not the correct time to burn off the road reserve. This activity should only occur when the adjoining paddocks are green with new grass growth.

In conclusion, the Department of Main Roads is prepared to make traffic control personnel available when appropriately requested by the local Fire Warden.