

**Question on Notice
No. 1058
Asked on 2 September 2004**

QUESTION:

MR WELLS asked the Minister for Environment, Local Government, Planning and Women (Ms Boyle)—

Will she detail management arrangements regarding Freshwater National Park?

ANSWER:

Freshwater National Park, dedicated in 1973, is a small reserve of 94 hectares located adjacent to the Bruce Highway and Deception Bay Road turn off, north of Brisbane.

Freshwater National Park protects part of an endangered regional ecosystem of eucalypt open forest on remnant Tertiary surfaces. This ecosystem has been extensively cleared for horticulture and plantation forestry, and now has less than 30% of its pre-clearing extent remaining. It has a low level of protection in reserves.

The Park is used for passive nature-based recreation such as bird watching, nature study and walking for pleasure. There are no plans to develop the site for more formal or intensive recreational use.

Current management focus is directed at protected the area's high conservation values. A Statement of Fire Management Intent has been developed to guide fire management. The Park has perimeter firebreaks or roads, and a central firebreak was created in 2003 to aid in fire control. Unfortunately the Park is burned regularly by arsonists, a problem common to many small peri-urban reserves.

Illegal rubbish dumping and unauthorised vehicle access are also issues of concern for the area. The Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service has installed gates at access points to limit vehicle access and rubbish dumping, and plans to fence boundaries. Rangers have cleaned up rubbish and removed abandoned cars, but have had no success so far in identifying the culprits.