

**Question on Notice  
No. 619  
Asked on 15 June 2004**

QUESTION:

MR WELLINGTON asked the Minister for Environment (Mr Mickel)—

With reference to land that he is responsible for—

- (1) What areas of Queensland were planned to have hazard reduction controlled burns occur last year and have not yet been burnt?
- (2) In what additional areas of Queensland does he plan to have controlled hazard reduction burns?
- (3) When does he plan to have these controlled burns?

ANSWER:

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) manages more than 11 million hectares of protected estate. In this year's State Budget, an extra \$2 million dollars has been set aside for fire management and pest and weed control.

Planned burns are vitally important and the QPWS will continue to carry them out as part of our good neighbour policy to protect lives and property from the risk of wildfire.

My department advises to date the QPWS has completed planned burns on around 525,000 hectares for the 2003-04 program. Planned burns for the two previous financial years (2001-02 & 2002-03) totalled over 1.2 million hectares.

The extent of planned burning undertaken by the QPWS in any given year varies significantly due to factors such as prevailing weather conditions, property risk assessments, the rate of accumulation of flammable material, recent fire history and the fire regime required to maintain biodiversity.

The majority of planned burns unable to be carried out in the 2003 fire year have been rescheduled for the winter months to take advantage of favourable conditions as they arise. For the 2004 fire year, the QPWS has approved a planned burn program of nearly 800,000 hectares of the QPWS estate.

In implementing its planned burn program, the QPWS targets weather conditions that are optimal to the objective of the burn and that minimise impact on the surrounding communities.

The QPWS also has planned burns that specifically target hazard reduction on the urban interface. These generally occur in the more densely populated areas of southeast Queensland and the coastal strip north to the Cairns area.

The QPWS approves more planned burns than it generally achieves in order to capitalise on optimal burning conditions should they arise.