

**Question on Notice
No. 541
Asked on 19 April 2006**

MS LEE LONG asked the Minister for Emergency Services (MR PURCELL) -

QUESTION:

With reference to the excessive amounts of trees and debris, which have fallen as a consequence of Cyclone Larry, which will result in increased fuel and fire risk later in the year- Will there be any additional funding made available for rural fire brigades in the cyclone affected area, to enable additional work to be done in protecting their areas, in advance of the fire season?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Fire and Rescue Service Rural Operations is aware of the potential fire problem in the Innisfail Tablelands area following the devastation of Tropical Cyclone Larry.

The Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service as lead agency is organising a meeting in late May 2006, between key land management agencies including the Department of Emergency Services, Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Water; Department of Primary Industries and Forestry; local government councils; cane growers and Agforce.

The purpose of this meeting is to evaluate the situation and develop land management strategies including bush fire mitigation. A whole-of-government approach will be applied in relation to additional funding which may be required. Important considerations include the sensitivity of rainforest vegetation to fire and the potential fuel hazard left after the cyclone.

Included in the evaluation will be any additional funds required by rural brigades as part of the management process.