

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 1392**  
**Asked on Tuesday, 6 October 2009**

**MR BLEIJIE** ASKED THE MINISTER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABILITY (MS JONES)—

How often is maintenance undertaken in Mooloolah National Park and Kathleen Macarthur Conservation Park to prevent bush fires and what is the maintenance schedule for each park, including what steps are undertaken to reduce the rapid spread of bush fire?

**ANSWER:**

The fire access tracks in Mooloolah River National Park and Currimundi Lake (Kathleen McArthur) Conservation Park are maintained by slashing twice a year. This maintenance is usually carried out by the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) in winter prior to the fire season and again after the summer growing period. The state of these access tracks is monitored and remedial works carried out as required.

Fire management strategies have been prepared based on each parks' unique circumstances. These strategies consider conservation values and fire risks on the park and adjoining land, particularly where residential property is potentially threatened. The fire strategy zones the parks into areas of protection; wildfire mitigation; and conservation and directs the planned burning in each of these zones.

These zones specify a burning regime to achieve the best outcome for protecting both private property as well as the natural values of that zone.

The southern side of Mooloolah River National Park burnt in mid September 2009 as a result of an illegal fire. This section of the national park is suitably buffered with major roads surrounding it on three sides and the Mooloolah River on the eastern (fourth) side. Firelines in this part of the park were maintained by slashing in both April and again in August this year.

Currimundi Lake (Kathleen McArthur) Conservation Park does have residences immediately adjacent to its northern and western boundaries. The slashing of fire access tracks is undertaken by the Sunshine Coast Regional Council with direction from QPWS to manage the threat of wildfire. In addition to this, a planned burn was undertaken in June this year on approximately half of the park to reduce fuel loads.

Across the State, the QPWS has comprehensive systems and on-ground capacity in place to manage fire on its estate. It has undertaken extensive preparedness work in readiness for the current fire season.

During the 2009/10 financial year, a total of \$5.5M will be invested on fire management activities. This figure includes planned burning, wildfire

response, fireline and equipment maintenance, fire training and the continuous upgrading of QPWS' fire management capability. In the last three years, over 800 planned burns have been carried out across an area totalling almost 1.4 million hectares of land.

The QPWS also maintains a high level of readiness to respond to wildfire outbreaks on or adjacent to its estate.

One of the best ways to manage our parks is to have a strong QPWS workforce. When the Liberal National Party was in government there were only 350 rangers. Today, because of the investment of Labor Governments we now have more than 800 rangers. If the LNP had been elected at the last election, 70 rangers would have been reduced through your efficiency dividend. This would have been a great risk on our management plan.