

Question on Notice
No. 575
Asked on Wednesday 21 August 2013

MR STEVENS asked the Minister for Police and Community Safety (MR DEMPSEY) -

QUESTION:

Will the Minister outline the initiatives the government has implemented to reinforce the importance of taking preventative measures ahead of the upcoming fire season?

ANSWER:

As you may be aware, Queensland is now in its annual fire season – the time of year when weather and vegetation conditions produce the greatest risk of bushfire.

Across Queensland there are land owners/occupiers, whether they are private individuals, commercial entities or government agencies, who are responsible for taking measures to reduce the risk of bushfire occurring on their land.

The Queensland Fire and Rescue Service (QFRS) has significant interest in assisting land owners/occupiers in reducing the risk of bushfire. QFRS has undertaken intensive activity over the last several months under Operation Cool Burn to ensure a substantial reduction in areas at risk of bushfire and to assist communities to be well prepared for the 2013 fire season.

Preparation for the fire season has been a unified approach, with QFRS working with partners from state and local government agencies, related industry associations and individual land owners/occupiers. All parties hold a common interest to ensure mitigation measures occur to reduce the risk of bushfire prior to the bushfire season.

QFRS staff and volunteers have been focused on activities such as identifying bushfire prone locations, prioritising areas for mitigation activities and engaging with land owners/occupiers, to assisting them to reduce the fire risk through activities such as controlled burns. The “Permit to Light Fire” system also provides guidance and establishes conditions for lighting fires.

Bushfire Safety Officers and Volunteer Community Educators have been actively promoting bushfire preparedness and the ‘Prepare. Act. Survive’ campaign in communities across Queensland.

The emphasis of the campaign is to educate the public and highlight the importance of individuals in the community preparing themselves and their property, ensuring that they take positive action as survival and safety depends on the decisions individuals make.

I encourage landowners and occupiers to contact their local QFRS station, Rural Fire Brigade or firewarden for information on bushfire preparedness, hazard mitigation or to apply for a permit to light fire.