

**Question on Notice
No. 671
Asked on 12 September 2013**

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise if any controlled burns have occurred or are planned for the Toowoomba Range between Mount Mort to Ravenshoe in preparation for the bush fire season?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the Question and understand it related to Ravensbourne and not Ravenshoe.

The Queensland Fire and Rescue Service (QFRS) launched 'Operation Cool Burn' in May 2013 with an emphasis on community education and proactively assisting land owners and occupiers to plan and implement hazard mitigation for the coming bushfire season.

In the area between Mount Mort and Ravensbourne, the majority of bushfire prone locations identified under Operation Cool Burn have had hazard mitigation plans developed and implemented.

Since the launch, Rural Fire Service Queensland (RFSQ) staff and volunteers have been actively assisting with controlled burns to reduce the fire risk across the Toowoomba Range. This includes providing assistance to Queensland Rail along the Range rail corridor; the Department of Transport and Main Roads along the New England Highway and Toowoomba Range; the Toowoomba Regional Council on the Toowoomba escarpment; and the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service in the Range National Parks.

RFSQ staff and volunteers have also been actively assisting private land owners and occupiers to carry out hazard mitigation on their properties in the lead up to fire season as every landholder, whether they be private, commercial or a government agency, is responsible for managing the risk of fire on their own land.

QFRS has also been providing advice through the Permit to Light Fire system, and may also assist in conducting burns if requested by landholders.

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