

**Question on Notice
No. 787
Asked on Wednesday 30 October 2013**

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise of any controlled burns that have occurred or are planned in the Warrego Electorate in preparation for the bushfire season?

ANSWER:

In Queensland, the responsibility for hazard mitigation rests with the owner of the hazard. This includes private, commercial and government property owners or occupiers.

A Permit to Light Fire system exists in Queensland to assist land owners/occupiers who wish to use fire in a controlled way to reduce the risk of uncontrolled fire on their property. The Permit to Light Fire system is implemented by a network of Fire Wardens across over 2,300 Fire Warden Districts and is designed to regulate the safe use of fire. Local Fire Wardens provide ongoing advice regarding mitigation strategies, burn plans and the safe use of fire.

Permits to Light Fire are issued and managed locally by Fire Wardens and not collated by the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES). Hazard mitigation on land managed under the Nature Conservation and Forestry Acts is the responsibility of the agencies managing the land, who do not require a permit from QFES to carry out controlled burns.

In preparation for the 2013 bushfire season, QFES launched 'Operation Cool Burn' in May 2013 with a proactive focus for Rural Fire Service Queensland (RFSQ) staff and volunteers on assisting landowners and occupiers with hazard mitigation for the fire season.

I am advised that during this mitigation period, RFSQ staff and volunteers have been assisting land owners and occupiers in the Warrego Electorate carry out controlled burns on their properties, and undertaking community education activities across the region.

Hazard reduction burn programs were conducted as joint activities between Maranoa Regional Council and the local rural fire brigades in risk areas around the townships of Yuleba in October and early November, and Amby in July and August.

Another significant program carried out between April and the end of July 2013 and conducted jointly by QRail, Road Tec and RFSQ, targeted risk areas along the Warrego Highway between Roma and Charleville.

RFSQ staff from the Roma Area have also conducted meetings with rural fire brigades in the Warrego Electorate emphasising the importance of mitigation activities. Fire Management Group meetings have also been held with all State Government agencies, local government and energy companies regarding fire mitigation activities.

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