

## QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 1444

asked on Tuesday, 30 August 2016

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**MR KNUTH** ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE PROTECTION AND MINISTER FOR NATIONAL PARKS AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF (HON DR S MILES)—

### QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise on any future plans to allow grazing in national parks and state forests to ensure that drought impacted farmers can utilise these fodder resources and contribute to reducing the likelihood of destructive grass fires over the upcoming fire season?

### ANSWER:

Managing hazardous fuel loads through fire management is a critical element of management of national parks and State forests in Queensland, and is the responsibility of the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS).

In 2016/17, QPWS has a target of achieving fuel reduction burns over 5% of the lands it manages (including national parks), which amounts to approximately 630,000 hectares. This target is consistent with the recommendations for hazard reduction burns recommended by the 2009 Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission.

QPWS strives to continuously improve the effectiveness and efficiency of its fire management program and does not rely on grazing as a component for that program's success in national parks. In preparation for fire season, QPWS undertakes pre-emptive wildfire mitigation programs such as maintaining and upgrading firebreaks and conducting planned burns. During fire season, QPWS closely monitors fire danger risk across the land it manages and maintains preparedness levels relevant to the risk.

National parks are set aside for the permanent preservation of nature, and represent the highest form of land protection available in Queensland. There are no future plans to allow grazing on national parks for the purposes of drought relief.

While the Government considers grazing to be largely inconsistent with the management of national parks, it is deemed appropriate on State forests, alongside other uses such as timber production and quarrying. Therefore State forests are, and will continue to be, available for grazing.