

Question on Notice

No. 1003

Asked on Thursday, 23 August 2018

MR L MILLAR ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF, MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND MINISTER FOR THE ARTS (HON L ENOCH)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the early start to the Queensland bushfire season—

Will the Minister advise what preparations have been made to reduce fuel loads and create firebreaks to protect neighbouring landholders in the Queensland National Parks in the electorate of Gregory?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for the question.

The Department of Environment and Science's Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) has comprehensive systems and procedures in place to manage fire on these protected areas and forests.

QPWS has legislative responsibilities under both the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* and the *Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990*, to manage fire and to take all reasonable and practical steps to control fire, on lands under its control, and to prevent the escape of fire to other lands, just like all other landholders.

QPWS uses the planned application of fire to reduce fuel loads in strategic areas in order to decrease risk to life, property and assets; maintain biodiversity in fire adapted ecosystems to ensure healthy forests and habitat for species; and maintain cultural landscapes important to Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander people.

QPWS undertakes joint planned burning operations with neighbours, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services and Rural Fire Service volunteers. Since 30 June 2017, 14 planned burns covering an area over 34,000 hectares have been completed on national parks in the electorate of Gregory.

QPWS also allocates resources each year towards the establishment and maintenance of firelines to reduce the risks to life and property to the community which adjoins the QPWS estate.