

Question on Notice

No. 1054

Asked on Tuesday, 4 September 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:

Will the Minister give assurances and outline what precautionary and proactive fire mitigation actions are being taken in Queensland's National Parks to reduce fuel loads and create firebreaks to ensure the protection of neighbouring landholders, flora and fauna?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for the question.

Fire management is a high priority for Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) and wildfire safety is a primary consideration where urban and rural communities adjoin parks and forests. QPWS is committed to cooperative fire planning with the broader community through the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services led 'Area Fire Management Groups'. Joint planned burning operations are also delivered with neighbours, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services and Rural Fire Service volunteers.

QPWS has comprehensive systems and procedures in place to manage fire on these protected areas and forests. During recent years, QPWS has completed fire zoning for protection, wildfire mitigation and land management over the state's protected area estate and has reviewed its highest priority fire strategies. This work is ongoing to ensure that the most up to date information is available to guide fire management.

As I advised in response to your previous Question on Notice, 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.