

Question on Notice

No. 1571

Asked on Tuesday, 15 October 2019

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 advise who made the call to re-open the Mount French National Park, despite the high fire danger, heavy fuel loads and single-lane road providing the sole access and egress?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for the question.

Mount French is currently closed due to high fire danger. In addition, fire restrictions were put in place across all Queensland national parks and forests on Saturday 9 November 2019, meaning open fires are prohibited in any park.

Visitor and community safety is the most important consideration in determining whether parks should be closed, and these decisions are made collaboratively by highly experienced senior operational officers with local knowledge following an evaluation of conditions at a particular location.

Reasons for closures can include a variety of factors and scenarios including but not limited to significant weather events, and in some cases as a fire precaution when the Fire Danger Rating and/or the Keech-Byram Drought Index reaches a certain threshold.

Mount French and a number of other parks and forests have been closed and re-opened several times over recent months as a safety precaution.

Queensland Park and Wildlife Service staff do outstanding work caring for protected areas in Queensland, especially during periods of high fire danger. They should be commended for their dedication and commitment.