

Question on Notice
No. 1913
Asked on 28 November 2019

MR L MILLAR ASKED THE MINISTER FOR FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES (HON C CRAWFORD)—

QUESTION:

With reference to Operation Cool Burn—

Will the Minister provide for 2016 to 2019 (reported separately by year) (a) overall completed and planned activities, (b) completed and planned hazard reduction burns, (c) completed and planned fire breaks and (d) completed and planned community education?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

Operation Cool Burn is an important program of heightened activity to mitigate the risk of bushfires in targeted areas between April and August each year. A great number of other mitigation activities, including hazard reduction burns, firebreak or fire trail maintenance and community education activities, are conducted throughout the year by a broad range of landholders and organisations when weather conditions and resources allow.

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES)' role is to provide professional advice and encourage landholders to undertake hazard reduction and planned fire breaks. The primary responsibility for hazard reduction burns is with the landholder, who may decide weather conditions are unfavourable or dangerous, or that they need to preserve fodder for livestock.

I am advised by QFES that the number of hazard reduction burns and other mitigation activities fluctuates from year-to-year because of variable weather conditions. For example, dry conditions experienced in 2018 and 2019 have severely reduced opportunities for hazard reduction burning and in 2018 Operation Cool Burn ended early due to the very active early bushfire season. In other years the weather conditions can be too wet to conduct planned burns.

I am advised by QFES as follows:

- a) Overall completed and planned activities: 2016 - 547 planned and 341 were completed; 2017 – 468 planned and 306 were completed; 2018 – 368 planned and 153 were completed; 2019 – 329 planned and 240 were completed.
- b) Completed and planned hazard reduction burns: 2016 - 242 planned and 122 were completed; 2017 – 225 planned and 131 were completed; 2018 – 177 planned and 69 were completed; 2019 – 168 planned and 117 were completed.

- c) Completed and planned firebreaks and fire trail maintenance: 2016 – 79 planned and 67 were completed; 2017 – 75 planned and 50 were completed; 2018 – 58 planned and 34 were completed; 2019 - 62 planned and 40 were completed.
- d) Completed and planned community education: 2016 – 226 planned and 152 were completed; 2017 – 168 planned and 125 were completed; 2018 – 133 planned and 50 were completed; 2019 – 99 planned and 83 were completed.