

## **Question on Notice**

**No. 55**

**Asked on 13 February 2019**

**MR P WEIR** ASKED THE MINISTER FOR FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES (HON C CRAWFORD)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister outline the department's fire mitigation plan for the Ravensbourne area north east of Toowoomba given the current ongoing dry conditions and large volume of vegetation in close vicinity to residential areas?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

The Queensland community plays a key role in minimising fire ignitions and preparing their properties effectively to reduce the consequences of any fires which may impact them. To support this, QFES runs an extensive education campaign and also provides a simple online template for preparing a bushfire survival plan so households can be effectively prepared.

Each year, QFES conducts 'Operation Cool Burn' where bushfire mitigation activities are coordinated across the state. Operation Cool Burn is a period of heightened mitigation activity, however hazard reduction burns, fireline/break maintenance and community education occur year-round. QFES has matured its relationship with its partners during Operation Cool Burn, recognising that the shared focus is the protection of life and property in the community.

I am advised that QFES works with its partners through a network of Area Fire Management Groups (AFMGs) to prepare bushfire risk mitigation plans during Operation Cool Burn, which generally runs from April until August. The Darling Downs AFMG considers and assesses the bushfire risk in the Ravensbourne area. This group, which includes local stakeholders such as representatives from Council, Rural Fire Brigades (RFBs) and QPWS met on 6 March 2019 to discuss risks, solutions, and plan mitigation operations for Operation Cool Burn 2019.

In preparation for the AFMG meeting on 6 March 2019, the RFBs in the area has completed a local bushfire risk assessment to identify local issues and suggest solutions. This data, along with data on residual risk following Operation Cool Burn 2018, will be compiled and supported by tools such as REDI-Portal mapping and Phoenix-SABRE predictive analytics. This data was discussed with stakeholders at the AFMG meeting to reach consensus on joint mitigation priorities, regardless of the tenure type or land owner. The risks and the associated mitigation activities will be documented in the 2019 Bushfire Risk Mitigation Plan, that is currently being compiled and is expected to be finalised by the end of March 2019.