

Question on Notice

No. 713

Asked on Thursday, 27 May 2021

MR J MCDONALD ASKED THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF AND MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND YOUTH AFFAIRS (HON M SCANLON)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the \$2.231m line item in the Budget 2020-21 Capital Statements for parks and forest fire management—

Will the Minister provide (a) how much land has been backburned with this allocation of monies, (b) how much was planned to be back burned, (c) a list of all parks which were backburned including the area burned, (d) a list of other activities undertaken as part of this fire management allocation?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

The \$2.23 million line item in the Budget 2020-21 Capital Statements for parks and forests management is part of the Queensland Government's \$16 million Enhanced Fire Management Project, to be delivered over four years and to provide improved capability for bushfire management on parks and forests.

The \$2.23 million includes \$1.93 million for the purchase of 26 fire units to build upon the Department of Environment and Science fire management capability and \$300,000 to upgrade firelines at Daisy Hill Conservation Park, Carbrook Wetlands Conservation Park and Venman Bushland National Park.

The parks and forests managed by the Department of Environment and Science represent a combined area of just over 13 million hectares, or approximately 7.5 per cent of Queensland.

The Department of Environment and Science has an organisational target to undertake planned burns of more than 5 per cent or more of Queensland's parks and forests – this equates to 635,000 hectares per year.

Between 1 July 2020 and 31 May 2021, the Department of Environment and Science conducted 272 planned burns over 306,000 hectares of parks and forests and this figure will continue to increase over the coming months in line with favourable weather conditions for planned burning activities across the State at this time of year.