

Question on Notice

No. 849

Asked on Thursday, 18 August 2022

MR B HEAD 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 answer to Question on Notice No. 499 of 2022—

Will the Minister provide the total time that these cameras are being accessed (in minutes, hours and days), broken down by camera location, month and year since their installation?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

The Department of Environment and Science, through the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, manages seven remotely operated fire detection cameras across State forests in southern Queensland. The cameras can monitor approximately 600,000 hectares of State forest from Chinchilla to Inglewood.

Access to the cameras is provided to both officers of the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.

The cameras are activated daily and checked on a regular basis by trained staff during the 'Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service Fire risk period', periods of elevated fire dangers, and following dry lightning events. As a result of training and expertise, QPWS observers are able to rapidly calculate the location and determine rate and direction of spread, intensity and fuels.

The cameras are located in remote locations across the Darling Downs with mobile networks used to access and transmit data.

Precise detail on the times and length of time each camera was accessed is not recorded in the form requested.

The cameras are used not only in detection but to validate data from other sources. This additional intelligence is invaluable to fire managers from the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and Queensland Fire and Emergency Services.