

Question on Notice

No. 1357

Asked on Thursday, 26 October 2023

MRS D FRECKLINGTON ASKED THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF, MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND MINISTER FOR MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS (HON L LINARD)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the Bunya Mountains National Park and on-site Ranger accommodation—

Will the Minister clarify (a) if the on-site accommodation for the Ranger-in-Charge is temporary and if so, when does this arrangement cease, (b) if the former Ranger-in-Charge accommodation at the Bunya Mountains has been sold, (c) if plans were made to build new on-site accommodation for the Bunya Mountains Rangers on National Parks land near to their offices and why these plans did not progress and (d) if no plans are in place for permanent on-site accommodation for the Ranger-in-charge, what strategies are in place for times of emergency if the Rangers are unable to access the National Park i.e. bushfire or severe storms?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

- (a) On-site accommodation for the Bunya Mountains National Park Ranger-in-Charge is temporary with the arrangement to end on 31 December 2023. The existing accommodation is used as barracks for overnight stays by Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service staff as required.
- (b) The former Ranger-in-Charge residence is owned and managed by the Department of Energy and Public Works.
- (c) The Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service advises plans for staff housing were developed in the late 1990s. It is understood that at that time, accommodation was not progressed as ranger accommodation in far western Queensland was prioritised given the more remote locations. No further plans for staff housing were proposed as it is common for rangers to live off park where this is feasible, noting this allows access to services for rangers and their families.
- (d) Rangers from Kingaroy and Toowoomba bases assist management operations at Bunya Mountains National Park on a regular basis. The Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service has well established practices for emergency type events, including wildfires or storm damage with resources deployed to respond and action as necessary. The department also utilises a range of satellite-based sources to support wildfire hotspot detection and response.

However, as is always the case, people should call triple zero for assistance should there be an immediate threat to life and/or property. Rangers will continue to assist in these matters to their level of expertise, including responding to incidents as soon as practicable.