

Question on Notice

No. 728

Asked on Tuesday, 13 June 2023

MR S BENNETT ASKED THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF, MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND MINISTER FOR MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS (HON L LINARD)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister consider consolidating the reporting of fires, both planned and wildfire, in Queensland National Parks with the fire reporting by Queensland Fire and Emergency Services into one site that is accessible by volunteer responders and the general public?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

The Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Queensland Fire and Emergency Services work cooperatively and collaboratively throughout the year across the full spectrum of fire management activities.

Both agencies acknowledge the importance of keeping the community informed of planned burning and bushfire response activities and ensuring consistent advice is provided in public messaging.

To ensure this, information concerning planned burns and bushfires on estate, managed by the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, is made publicly available through the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services' website on the current bushfires and warnings webpage; Hazard Reduction Burn Notifications webpage; and the permit to burn map webpage. All webpages are accessible to volunteer responders and the general public.

I am also advised that planned burns on Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service estate are displayed on the Mobile Situational Overview Web Map platform used by Rural Fire Service volunteers.

The public can also remain informed of activities happening in parks and forests via Park Alerts on the Department of Environment and Science's website, park alerts RSS feeds and via Twitter. Location specific advice is provided to communities in advance of hazard reduction burns through a Community Announcement regarding Smoke Advice circulated to local media outlets. Further communication opportunities for burns likely to generate community interest are considered on a case-by-case basis.

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service Rangers have been working hard to prepare for the coming bushfire season. The department considers the activities that form its fire management program to be the most important part of its role in mitigating bushfire risk to the community and our park neighbours. This program includes planned burning, maintenance of over 35,000 kilometres of roads and firelines, and mechanical and chemical treatment of vegetation in high-risk areas.

I am pleased to be able to share with the Member that the department has exceeded its planned burn target for the 2022-23 financial year, having undertaken burns over an area of 665,869 hectares as of 30 June 2023 (noting burn data for June activities is being collated and final hectares may vary).