

Question on Notice
No. 349
Asked on 21 March 2024

MR S KNUTH ASKED THE MINISTER FOR FIRE AND DISASTER RECOVERY AND MINISTER FOR CORRECTIVE SERVICES (HON N BOYD)—

QUESTION:

With reference to reports I have received from members of the Rural Fire Brigade about the lack of available useful maps with fire trails and the difficulties and increased risks this causes to members and volunteers in performing their duties—

Will the Minister (a) confirm if maps are currently supplied through Kedron GIS and the fire trails are on Department of Resources or QPWS land and there is no data sharing between these departments, and (b) if (a) is correct, investigate and find a solution to ensure mapping information can be shared across these departments so rural fire brigade members can have access to up to date fire trail information?

ANSWER:

I am advised by Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES):

- (a) Brigades are able to request maps of their response areas through their responsible Rural Fire Service Area Office. These maps are produced and supplied through the GIS team based at the Kedron Park Complex. QFES regularly responds to feedback for map layers that are useful to our volunteers and staff by seeking to make layers available where data can be authoritatively sourced, regularly updated, and where the introduction of such will not have negative effects on the applications in question. The data used to produce this basemap is published via the QLD Spatial Catalogue, a service which is also managed by Department of Resources and is available to all members of the public. Fire trails are named where names are known.

Brigades are also able to access Mobile Situational Overview (MSO) mapping on both mobile and desktop devices. The default basemap within MSO is a topographic basemap published by Department of Resources, which contains fire trails managed by Department of Resources and QPWS. The brigade members are able to log on to the MSO site using their Office 365 account. If they do not have an Office 365 account, they can complete a form on the MSO website and an account will be created for them.

- (b) Fire trail data from external agencies is accessible to Rural Fire Brigades via QFES mapping platforms, either through paper maps or the MSO.

The Department of Resources and the Department of Environment, Science and Innovation frequently update the Queensland Spatial Catalogue. QFES uses this data for various purposes including incident response, bushfire risk assessment, fuel mapping, urban planning, and other projects.

Through the State Bushfire Committee, QFES promotes interagency data sharing for analytical and planning purposes. In 2022 and early 2023, QFES led a subgroup, the Data Standards and Sharing Group, to harmonise data schemas between agencies, reducing overhead and focusing on quarterly fire history reconciliation.