

PRESCRIBED BURNS BETWEEN 1999 AND 2009

1262. Hon Nigel Hallett to the Minister for Environment

Further to question No. 729 and in regards to, '1994 Fireview Panel Recommendations', could the Minister please advise, -

- (1) Has the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) accepted Conservation and Land Managements (CALM) 'strategic approach', to the prescribed burning program to enable 200 000 ha per year of South West forests to be burnt?
- (2) If yes to (1), what efforts has the DEC made to make up the short fall in burning of the 250 000 ha indicated in question on notice No. 692?
- (3) Why was the fire review committees recommend \$3 million per annum fire management budget increase not accepted?
- (4) As the DEC city-based staff do not participate in prescribed burning, does this limit their opportunities to be promoted to higher positions in regional areas?
- (5) Who made the decision that grazing was not compatible with fuel reduction in South West forests?
- (6) Over what period is burn planning undertaken?
- (7) With regard to expenditure on prescribed burning, -
 - (a) what is the DEC's 2009-10 fire management budget;
 - (b) what is the cost of burn planning and administration in percentage terms of this expenditure;
 - (c) what proportion of the 2009-10 fire management budget is allocated to prescribed burning in south west forests; and
 - (d) what is the estimated area of south west forests to be burnt in 2009-10?
- (8) The answer to (7) of question No. 729 suggests that the DEC has no direct involvement with any fire matters that occur on the border of Crown Land or with the fire officers in brigades in these areas, is this so?
- (9) What consideration has been given to developing inter-agency agreements between the DEC, FESA and Bush Fire brigades to expand prescribed burning programs and to assist brigades in burning techniques?

Hon DONNA FARAGHER replied:

Please refer to Legislative Council question on notice 1213