

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
Question On Notice

Wednesday, 26 October 2022

1075. Hon Dr Brad Pettitt to the Minister for Emergency Services representing the Minister for Environment

Will the Minister table the following information regarding wildfires in each of the three South-West forest regions respectively and overall for each financial year period since 1 July 2017:

- (a) the cause of each wildfire;
- (b) the percentage of wildfires within each region that were accounted for by each cause identified at (a), annually; and
- (c) a comparison between the percentages provided at (b), and the corresponding 10-year average at that time?

Answer

(a) & (b) Please see tabled paper no #

(c) Please see tabled paper no #



	Number					Percentage				
	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
SWAN										
Deliberately/illegally lit	109	113	104	89	62	75.70	69.75	66.67	72.36	62.00
Escapes - DBCA burns	1	0	0	1	0	0.69	0.00	0.00	0.81	0.00
Escapes - non DBCA burning	1	2	4	1	0	0.69	1.24	2.56	0.81	0.00
Accidental - other industries	0	3	1	3	3	0.00	1.85	0.64	2.44	3.00
Accidental - recreationists	12	22	19	17	14	8.33	13.58	12.18	13.82	14.00
Lightning	9	11	15	2	13	6.25	6.79	9.62	1.63	13.00
Unknown	6	6	2	6	7	4.17	3.70	1.28	4.88	7.00
Other causes	6	5	11	4	1	4.17	3.09	7.05	3.25	1.00
Total: Swan	144	162	156	123	100	100	100	100	100	100

	Number					Percentage				
	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
SOUTH WEST										
Deliberately/illegally lit	62	68	72	28	48	50.00	57.14	62.61	35.90	46.60
Escapes - DBCA burns	0	4	3	0	0	0.00	3.36	2.61	0.00	0.00
Escapes - non DBCA burning	6	1	1	3	3	4.84	0.84	0.87	3.85	2.92
Accidental - other industries	5	3	1	1	2	4.03	2.52	0.87	1.28	1.94
Accidental - recreationists	24	12	8	8	4	19.35	10.09	6.96	10.25	3.88
Lightning	8	3	8	10	21	6.45	2.52	6.96	12.82	20.39
Unknown	4	3	9	9	4	3.23	2.52	7.82	11.54	3.88
Other causes	15	25	13	19	21	12.10	21.01	11.30	24.36	20.39
Total: South West	124	119	115	78	103	100	100	100	100	100

	Number					Percentage				
	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
WARREN										
Deliberately/illegally lit	5	5	7	6	8	20.00	17.24	23.33	19.35	22.86
Escapes - DBCA burns	2	1	1	1	1	8.00	3.45	3.33	3.23	2.86
Escapes - non DBCA burning	9	4	4	1	4	36.00	13.79	13.33	3.23	11.43
Accidental - other industries	1	0	0	0	0	4.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Accidental - recreationists	1	9	1	2	3	4.00	31.03	3.33	6.45	8.57
Lightning	4	3	10	15	15	16.00	10.35	33.34	48.39	42.85
Unknown	2	1	2	0	1	8.00	3.45	6.67	0.00	2.86
Other causes	1	6	5	6	3	4.00	20.69	16.67	19.35	8.57
	25	29	30	31	35	100	100	100	100	100

	Percentage					Comparison to 10 Year Average (Statewide %)				
	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
FOREST REGIONS TOTAL										
Deliberately/illegally lit	60.07	60.00	60.80	53.02	49.58	18.37	20.41	21.01	14.40	11.13
Escapes - DBCA burns	1.02	1.61	1.33	0.86	0.42	-0.11	0.47	0.23	-0.16	-0.47
Escapes - non DBCA burning	5.46	2.26	2.99	2.15	2.94	0.28	-2.83	-1.84	-2.50	-1.53
Accidental - other industries	2.05	1.94	0.66	1.72	2.10	-3.45	-3.34	-4.35	-3.23	-2.66
Accidental - recreationists	12.63	13.87	9.30	11.64	8.83	4.44	5.26	0.60	2.87	-0.05
Lightning	7.17	5.48	10.96	11.64	20.59	-15.92	-19.46	-14.19	-14.52	-5.31
Unknown	4.09	3.23	4.32	6.47	5.04	-6.11	-6.99	-6.24	-4.09	-5.79
Other causes	7.51	11.61	9.64	12.50	10.50	2.50	6.48	4.78	7.23	4.68
Total: Forest Regions	100	100	100	100	100					

- Data is only for bushfires where ignition occurred on DBCA-managed lands only (excludes '*Escapes – non DBCA burning*') and may differ from data provided in Department Annual Reports which included fires attended by DBCA that occurred off DBCA-managed lands.
- *Escapes – non DBCA burning* – recorded where bushfires spread onto DBCA-managed lands.
- Data has had minor edits applied to resolve percentage rounding errors.