

Date : 25/11/2020 11:42:08 AM

From : "DAVIDSON Brent"

To : "CAMBOURN Neil" , "KLAASSEN Ben"

Cc : "GRANT Andrea" , "Media DES"

Subject : 25112020 - MR - Update on Fraser Island fire

Attachment : 25112020 - MR - Update on Fraser Island fire.docx;image001.png;image002.png;image003.png;image004.png;

Hi Neil & Ben

Attached release for your endorsement – has been checked by region.

Hoping to get to the MO ASAP.

Cheers

Brent



Queensland
Government

Brent Davidson

Media Manager

Media Unit | Corporate Communications

Department of Environment and Science

[Chat with me on teams](#) M Personal info

E brent.davidson@des.qld.gov.au

[Visit the Environment Media Centre](#)

[Visit us on Twitter](#)

Released by DES
RTI Act 2009

Media release

Update on Fraser Island bushfire

November 25 2020

Campers and visitors to Fraser Island are being warned that their plans may be disrupted at short notice due to the current bushfire situation.

As a result of the fire, which is burning in the northern half of the island, people may be requested to leave for their own safety if campgrounds and day sites are closed to ensure public safety.

As part of firefighting activity, at this stage, camping areas and roads are temporarily closed:

- Bowal, Awinya, Bowarrady, Woralie, Coongul and Moon Point camping areas
- Beach Camping Zones 6 (Eugarie, Yurru and Guruman) and 7 (Wyuna and Burad)
- Dundubara camping area
- Platypus Bay, Awinya and Woralie Roads
- Moon Point Road West of Lake Garawongera
- Northern Road north of Smith-Poyungan Road (from Cornwells road)
- Poyungan Valley Road (500m off the beach) & Happy Valley Road closed 100m from Happy Valley
- Wungul / Bowarrady walking tracks
- Lake Allom day use area
- Sandy Cape Lighthouse visitor precinct

All permits for closed areas are being transferred to alternative camping areas where possible.

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS), the Butchulla Land and Sea Rangers and Queensland Fire and Emergency Service crews are on the ground working hard to contain the fire, which has burnt as far south as Cathedrals on Fraser and but at this stage is not directly threatening life or property.

An Incident Management Team has been set up to manage the situation and is based at Rainbow Beach.

QPWS is running the IMT which is made up of representatives and experts in their fields from Queensland Fire and Emergency Service, the Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation.

This team steers how the fire is tactically managed, feeds combined resources where they are needed, brings together the latest technology to monitor the fire and get real-time situation updates and facilitates the sharing of information across state agencies, local government and other important stakeholders.

To request a refund log into your account at www.qld.gov.au/camping

Information on the situation is being provided online at the Park Alerts website: www.parks.qld.gov.au/park-alerts/ or on Twitter at @QldParkAlerts.

ENDS

Media contact: DES Media Unit on (07) 3339 5831 or media@des.qld.gov.au

Released by DES
RTI Act 2009

Date : 25/11/2020 9:56:16 AM

From : "GRANT Andrea"

To : "DARGUSCH Marc" , "CUBIS Mick" , "CAMBOURN Neil"

Cc : "DAVIDSON Brent" , "SENGERS Nathalie" , "STRYBOS Stacey"

Subject : Comms/media plan for K'Gari fire

Attachment : image001.png;image003.png;

Hi Marc

As discussed, the media and communications team can definitely help with getting our important messaging out on this fire. Like I said if we are not leading the communications others will fill the gaps and we lose control of the messaging. After a quick brainstorm here we have come up with these communications ideas and just need content/information to achieve them:

- Direct mail to everyone who has a camping permits on the island
- Direct mail to tourist operators who use the island
- Direct mail to Fraser Coast Council
- Social media posts (these would include how people should prepare on the island, what camping spots are closed, whether people should delay going to the island etc)
- Social media that shows the face of rangers/land and sea rangers who are fighting the fire (this would be done in conjunction with BAC)
- Media release (and social media) on how people should put out camp fires correctly (this could be an ongoing post we use throughout the year as an educational piece)
- Ongoing daily media grabs to reduce pressure on leadership team to provide ongoing media updates
- Conversation with QFES Media to ensure consistent messaging coming from both teams.

Let me know what you think and we'll get this moving.

Andrea



Andrea Grant
Director-Media
Corporate Communications
Department of Environment and Science

M **Personal in**
Level 31, 400 George St, Brisbane
GPO Box 2454, Brisbane 4001

Released by DES
RTI Act 2009

Date : 1/12/2020 3:34:06 PM
From : "DAVIDSON Brent"
To : "KLAASSEN Ben"
Cc : "BUCKLEY Andrew" , "HEAD Damien" , "GRANT Andrea"
Subject : Final for review
Attachment : image001.png;image002.png;image003.png;image004.png;
Hi Ben
As requested, final version below

Courier-Mail

- **When did DES first call QFES crews to the Island?**

QFES have assisted QPWS from the first week of the fire's outbreak.

- **When was the first water bombing undertaken? If this was after October 14, what caused this delay?**

The ability to deploy and the effectiveness of waterbombing is dictated by the prevailing weather conditions, smoke presence, assets under risk and the vegetation types.

QPWS made use of a large aerial tanker (LAT) several times when conditions were deemed suitable including November 17 and a major effort occurred on the November 22.

Other aerial waterbombing aircraft were used at a variety of other times – including bucket drops via helicopter prior to November 16 - throughout the campaign, all with limited success.

9 Wide Bay

- **The Fraser Coast mayor is calling for an enquiry into the fires once they're out and some operators say a lack of park management has meant the island has lots of fuel for this fire. What does DES think about that?**

QPWS has undertaken significant fire mitigation measures on K'gari including planned burns for asset protection and maintenance on strategic fire lines.

Despite this, it cannot combat the fire inducing effects of prolonged periods of hot, dry and windy weather conditions.

Campers across Queensland need to take responsibility for putting out fires properly to save lives, property and the environment.

That said, several factors including hot, dry and windy conditions have reduced the effectiveness of firefighting efforts that have been ongoing on the island however we have conducted significant fire mitigation on the island to ensure we have as much opportunity as possible to prevent devastating fires.

The Fire Minister has today asked the Inspector General Emergency Management to review aspects of this matter.

It would be inappropriate to comment about that specifically however QPWS welcomes the opportunity to work with the IGEM on this matter.

Fraser Coat Chronicle

- **Will the use of saltwater drops to fight the fire impact on the environment on Fraser Island? – it's a sand island so the saltwater tends to soak in rather than sit on the surface**

Because K'gari is a sand island and doesn't hold moisture as efficiently as the mainland, while the use of saltwater is not ideal there is little residual impact and presents as the most readily available water source in aerial attack. The impacts from salt water also need to be evaluated against the impacts of the fires continuation

- **The number one question we are being asked is why more action wasn't taken earlier to contain the fire on Fraser Island.**

QPWS responded immediately to the wildlife fire, early attempts to conduct backburns within days after the fire commenced proved difficult and unsuccessful due to strong dry northerly weather conditions and the highly flammable vegetation types.

It is important to remember that while the fire has been burning for some time, for most of that period it is has been in remote and inaccessible parts of the island and burning at lower intensities which was creating a mosaic of burnt and unburnt country.

QPWS has undertaken significant fire mitigation measures on K'gari including planned burns for asset protection and maintenance on strategic fire lines.

Despite this, it cannot combat the fire inducing effects of prolonged periods of hot, dry and windy weather conditions.

Several factors including hot, dry and windy conditions have reduced the effectiveness of firefighting efforts that have been ongoing on the island.

Campers across Queensland need to take responsibility for putting out fires properly to save lives, property and the environment.

ABC Radio

1. What percentage of Fraser Island has been burnt?

Around 50 per cent of the island is within the burn perimeter. (QFES just said this was in their latest flash brief)

2. When were waterbombers first used/deployed on this fire? (Please give us a breakdown of dates and how many per day.)

The ability to deploy and the effectiveness of waterbombing is dictated by the prevailing weather conditions, smoke presence, assets under risk and the vegetation types.

QPWS made use of a large aerial tanker (LAT) several times when conditions were deemed suitable including November 17 and a major effort occurred on the November 22.

Other aerial waterbombing aircraft were used at a variety of other times – including bucket drops via helicopter prior to November 16 - throughout the campaign, all with limited success.

Did QFES want to deploy these waterbombing resources earlier than they were deployed?

QPWS and QFES have been working together to tackle the fire on K'gari and naturally there has been strong collaboration about logistics and tactics.

7 News:

There have been questions raised about the use / lack of use of a water tanker that arrived in Bundaberg in August specifically for this year's fire season, in fighting the Fraser Island fire. And the length of time it's been allowed to burn.

Firies have said they only took over agency of the fire on Friday.. is QPWS able to comment on the use of the Tanker 141/Bomber 141 (C-FFQE) before that time – and their firefighting efforts before that time.

- Was it used by QPWS?
- When was it used – the flight log please
- If not, why?

The ability to deploy and the effectiveness of waterbombing is dictated by the prevailing weather conditions, smoke presence, assets under risk and the vegetation types.

QPWS made use of a large aerial tanker (LAT) several times when conditions were deemed suitable including November 17 and a major effort occurred on the November 22.

Other aerial waterbombing aircraft were used at a variety of other times – including bucket drops via helicopter prior to November 16 - throughout the campaign, all with limited success.

1. Why did the QPWS allow the fire to continue burning through now – an estimated 40% of the island... are there environmental reasons behind this? Is it regenerative?

QPWS responded immediately to the wildlife fire, early attempts to conduct backburns within days after the fire commenced proved difficult and unsuccessful due to strong dry northerly weather conditions and the highly flammable vegetation types.

It is important to remember that while the fire has been burning for some time, for most of that period it is has been in remote and inaccessible parts of the island.

Fire is a natural part of Queensland's landscape and the vegetation communities on K'gari have adapted to survive bushfires, with some species of flora and fauna totally reliant on it for regeneration or future food source and habitat.

- What sort of water is used to fight these fires... salt water / fresh water and why? Is that a point of difficulty ?

Because K'gari is a sand island and doesn't hold moisture, the environmental impacts of using saltwater to suppress the fire are

reduced. Helicopters sourced water from the nearest points which was often the ocean.

Fixed wing aircraft were required to source water from the mainland as the closest suitable location.

ABC News

- The Minister mentioned in Parliament today that the more than the “recommended 5% outlined by the Royal Commission” has been burned in mitigation burns. **Is that specific to Fraser Island/K’Gari? (I don’t think we’ve answered that?)**

QPWS has conducted significant fire mitigation on K’gari (Fraser Island), with planned burns averaging approximately 13,000 hectares per year over the last five years.

- Can you outline the details of the 13,000 ha burns?

This year the focus was on protection burns for communities of Orchid Beach and Happy Valley which are smaller in size but more complex to implement.

- **When did the 4 burns occur this year, how much was burned then? (Would still like to answer this)**
- Are QPWS, or any other agency, any closer to identifying the person/s who lit the illegal campfire?

No

- Have any fines or charges been laid?

No.



Brent Davidson
Media Manager
Media Unit | Corporate Communications
Department of Environment and Science

[Chat with me on teams](#) **Personal info**

E brent.davidson@des.qld.gov.au

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Date : 25/11/2020 12:36:46 PM

From : "STRYBOS Stacey"

To : "DARGUSCH Marc" , "CUBIS Mick" , "BRIANT Steve" , "MCARTHUR Donna"

Cc : "SENGERS Nathalie" , "GRANT Andrea" , "DAVIDSON Brent"

Subject : For review/approval – K'gari fire comms

Attachment : K'gari fire comms CC.docx;image001.png;image004.png;image002.png;image007.jpg;image008.png;image009.png;

Hi Marc/Mick

Please see attached for your initial review/approval, proposed emails to campers and tourism operators, and a draft social media post about the K'gari fires as discussed.

Steve/Donna, please note the inclusion of the customer information as reflected in the Park Alerts.

Could you please let me know if you have any amendments/corrections?

I'll then send to Damien/Neil for approval.

Thanks

Stacey



Stacey Strybos

Principal Communications Officer

Communication Services -- Corporate Communications

Department of Environment and Science

Level 31, 400 George St, Brisbane QLD 4000

GPO Box 2454, Brisbane QLD 4001

[Chat via Teams](#)

I acknowledge that Aboriginal Peoples and Torres Strait Islander Peoples are the Traditional Owners of this country and they retain their relationship and connection to the land, sea and community.

I pay my respects to all Traditional Owners, and to the Elders past, present and the future for land and sea on which I work, live and walk.



From: CUBIS Mick <Mick.Cubis@des.qld.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 25 November 2020 10:08 AM

To: DARGUSCH Marc; GRANT Andrea

Cc: DAVIDSON Brent; SENGER Nathalie; STRYBOS Stacey; CAMBOURN Neil; HEAD Damien

Subject: RE: Comms/media plan for K'Gari fire

Thanks Marc and Andrea, I am happy with the proposed actions (subject to content approval of course). Appreciate the help here Andrea,

Thanks

Mick

Mick Cubis

Regional Director, Coastal and Islands Region

GBRMCI | QPWS & Partnerships

Department of Environment and Science

P: 07 54471137 M: [Personal info](#)

240 Moorindil Street, Tewantin

Qld 4565

mick.cubis@des.qld.gov.au

From: DARGUSCH Marc <Marc.Dargusch@des.qld.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 25 November 2020 10:03 AM

To: GRANT Andrea; CUBIS Mick

Cc: DAVIDSON Brent; SENGER Nathalie; STRYBOS Stacey; CAMBOURN Neil

Subject: RE: Comms/media plan for K'Gari fire

Hello Andrea – sounds good. You will have seen the email I've sent to IMT with a view to bedding down information flow.

We might add **Direct email to LDMG/DDMG** to cover off on the disaster management angle.

Hi Mick – are you good with this approach ?

Regards, Marc



Marc Dargusch

Principal Ranger – Great Sandy Area
Coastal and Islands Region | QPWS and Partnerships
Department of Environment and Science

M **Personal inf** P 07 54869960
Level 6, 12 on First Avenue, Maroochydore 4558
www.des.qld.gov.au

I give my respect to the traditional and custodial Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Elders and Owners of the Land in which I work, live and walk.

From: GRANT Andrea <Andrea.Grant@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 25 November 2020 9:56 AM
To: DARGUSCH Marc; CUBIS Mick; CAMBOURN Neil
Cc: DAVIDSON Brent; SENGER Nathalie; STRYBOS Stacey
Subject: Comms/media plan for K'Gari fire

Hi Marc

As discussed, the media and communications team can definitely help with getting our important messaging out on this fire. Like I said if we are not leading the communications others will fill the gaps and we lose control of the messaging. After a quick brainstorm here we have come up with these communications ideas and just need content/information to achieve them:

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- Conversation with QFES Media to ensure consistent messaging coming from both teams.

Let me know what you thing and we'll get this moving.
Andrea



Andrea Grant
Director-Media
Corporate Communications
Department of Environment and Science

M **Personal inf**
Level 31, 400 George St, Brisbane
GPO Box 2454, Brisbane 4001

Direct mail to everyone who has a camping permits on the island



IMPORTANT INFORMATION: K'gari (Fraser Island) fire update for permit holders

You are receiving this email as you have been identified as holding a camping or vehicle access permit for K'gari (Fraser Island), Great Sandy National Park.

Due to the current fire burning on K'gari, conditions have changed on some parts of the island which may impact your visit and use of your permit.

Always check [Park Alerts](#) before leaving home for up-to-date information from the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service about access, closures and conditions relating to K'gari.

Please note the following information (as at 25 November):

- You can access the full list of specific locations impacted, including camping areas, roads, day use areas and other closures, at [Park Alerts](#) — keep checking before you leave home as it may be updated at short notice
- While some camping areas remain open, this may change quickly at short notice so be prepared to change your plans
- People may be requested to leave for their own safety if camping areas and day sites are closed to ensure public safety
- Smoke may impact some camping areas, and beach drivers should exercise caution if smoke is impacting visibility. Please consider if smoke conditions may affect you particularly if you have a respiratory condition.
- If you're on the island, observe all signage, barriers and directions from rangers and emergency personnel and do not enter closed areas.

Please note, any permits for closed areas will be transferred to alternative camping areas where possible. To request a refund please log into your account at www.qld.gov.au/camping.

The fires are being managed by Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, the Butchulla Land and Sea Rangers and Rural Fire Brigade and any closed areas will be reopened once conditions are considered safe.

Commented [SS1]: check

Kind regards

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service
Department of Environment and Science

Direct mail to tourist operators who use the island

Commented [SS2]: is this suitable, anything else to include to tourism operators?



IMPORTANT INFORMATION: K’gari (Fraser Island) fire update

Due to the current fire burning on parts of K’gari (Fraser Island), a number of conditions have changed for people visiting and tourism businesses operating on the island.

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service encourages all tourism operators to continue to check [Park Alerts](#) for up-to-date information about access, closures and conditions relating to the fires.

We are also advising camping permit holders to keep up-to-date via Park Alerts before planning to visit the island, to help ensure their safety.

The fires are being managed by Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, the Butchulla Land and Sea Rangers and Rural Fire Brigade and any closed areas will be reopened once conditions are considered safe.

We will keep you updated with any further information.

Kind regards
Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service
Department of Environment and Science

Facebook post (National Parks and Environment channel)



Due to the current wildfire burning on K'gari (Fraser Island), camping areas, roads, walking tracks, day use and visitor facility conditions have changed on parts of the island, with some closures in place to protect visitors.

If you were planning to visit the island, please keep across the latest information before making the trip to stay safe.

The latest information and advice from the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service about K'gari, including critical safety information, is available via Park Alerts <https://parks.des.qld.gov.au/park-alerts>. This includes a list of closures relating to specific locations on the island.

You should continue to check [Park Alerts](#) before leaving home for the most up-to-date information, as Alerts may be updated at short notice when conditions change quickly.

Please note, any camping permits for closed areas will be transferred to alternative camping areas where possible, or if you would like to request a refund please log into your account at www.qld.gov.au/camping

Released by DES
RTI Act 2009

Date : 11/12/2020 8:23:57 AM

From : "KLAASSEN Ben"

To : "DAVIDSON Brent"

Cc : "GRANT Andrea"

Subject : FW: Daily Media Clips Friday December 11, 2020

Attachment : 111220 - Daily Media Clips.pdf;image001.png;image006.png;image004.png;image007.jpg;image008.png;

Hi Brent

Can you confirm for me did we provide any comment to the CM on the story that quotes an Environment Dept source. The Commonwealth will ask me.

I believe we did not and the comments attributed are not of the sort we would make.

Thanks

Ben



Ben Klaassen

Deputy Director-General

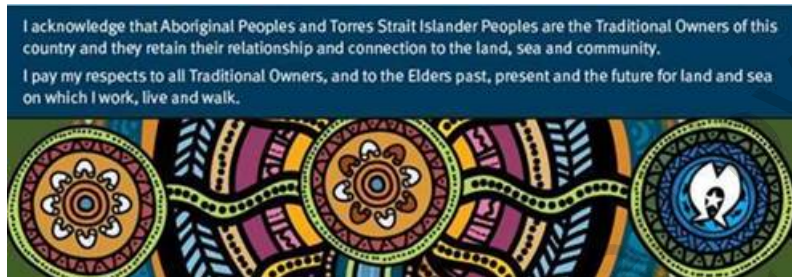
Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships

Department of Environment and Science

P 07 3199 7538 | M **Personal in** | E ben.klaassen@des.qld.gov.au

Level 5, 400 George St, Brisbane QLD 4000

PO Box 15187, CITY EAST QLD 4002



From: Media DES <Media@des.qld.gov.au>

Sent: Friday, 11 December 2020 7:15 AM

Subject: Daily Media Clips Friday December 11, 2020

Good morning,

Attached are today's morning media clips, while below is a short summary of some of today's news items.

Please note: Clicking on the link "Read on source site" for online articles in the attached PDF should take you behind the paywall. If you are having difficulties please contact media@des.qld.gov.au.

Leaked reports show Federal Government no-showed crucial Fraser Island meetings - Leaked State Government documents reveal Federal bureaucrats didn't show up for 13 crucial meetings about Fraser Island's management prior to its worst bushfire in recent history. The blame game has now begun over how the fire could've been prevented, with a Queensland Environment Department source saying the Federal Government is "hanging park rangers out to dry" over the crisis. (Courier Mail) <https://readnow.isentia.com/Temp/140240-698495/1370824158.pdf>

No threat to property, but fires continue to burn on island - BUSHFIRES continue to burn on Fraser Island, with those who remain in the area warned to stay informed. Fire crews continue to manage the fire and patrol the fireground in numerous locations across the island, in conjunction with the Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation. Ground crews are being supported by aircraft where required. (Fraser Coast Chronicle) <https://www.frasercoastchronicle.com.au/news/no-threat-to-property-but-fires-continue-to-burn-o/4156105/?cspt=1607633974|17461572502f9caaa1a07e2858b416dc>


Cool change allows firefighters to get on top of Fraser Island blaze - Several bushfires burning through Queensland's heritage-listed Fraser Island remained under control on Thursday after a cool change arrived in the state's south-east. A Queensland Fire and Emergency Services spokeswoman said significant resources remained on the island on Thursday, a reduction from the personnel required to fight the blazes on Monday and Tuesday. (Brisbane Times) <https://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/national/queensland/cool-change-allows-firefighters-to-get-on-top-of-fraser-island-blaze-20201210-p56m89.html>

Nests appear on Strand as residents warned to keep clear - It's turtle time on Townsville's Strand as the first nests of the season have been found along the beach. Residents are being reminded to keep clear of nesting sites as sea turtles make their way onto land to lay their eggs in the sand. (Townsville Bulletin) <https://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/news/nests-appear-on-strand-as-residents-warned-to-keep->

Thanks,



Matt Watson
Principal Media Officer
Media Unit | Corporate Communications
Department of Environment and Science

M Personalia  [Chat with me on Teams!](#)
GPO Box 2454, Brisbane QLD 4001
If it's a media matter, please include the group email media@des.qld.gov.au
Website www.des.qld.gov.au

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RTI Act 2009

Pages 15 through 28 redacted for the following reasons:

s.68(4)(c) Copyright infringement
s73 - Irrelevant information

Released by DES
RTI Act 2009

Date : 25/11/2020 10:59:46 AM

From : "GRANT Andrea"

To : "DARGUSCH Marc"

Subject : FW: Draft

Attachment : image001.png;image003.png;image005.png;image006.png;

Is this factually correct?

From: DAVIDSON Brent <Brent.Davidson@des.qld.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 25 November 2020 10:14 AM

To: GRANT Andrea

Subject: Draft

This is what I've got so far from ... my head, and also Park Alerts

Media release

Update on Fraser Island bushfire

November 25 2020

Campers and visitors to Fraser Island are being warned that their plans may be disrupted at short notice due to the current bushfire situation.

As a result of the fire, which is burning in the northern part of the island, people may be requested to leave for their own safety as campgrounds are closed.

As part of firefighting activity, the following camping areas and roads are temporarily closed:

- Bowal, Awinya, Bowarrady, Woralie, Coongul and Moon Point camping areas
- Beach Camping Zones 6 (Eugarie, Yurru and Guruman) and 7 (Wyuna and Burad)
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- Lake Allom day use area
- Sandy Cape Lighthouse visitor precinct

All permits for closed areas are being transferred to alternative camping areas where possible.

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) crews are on the ground working hard to contain the fire, which is burning in the northern part of the island and at this stage is not directly threatening life or property.

An Incident Management Team has been set up to manage the situation and is based at Rainbow Beach. It allows QPWS staff to monitor the fire, get real-time situation updates, share information across agencies and local government as well as coordinate resources.

To request a refund log into your account at www.qld.gov.au/camping

Information on the situation is being provided online at the Park Alerts website: www.parks.qld.gov.au/park-alerts/ or on Twitter at @QldParkAlerts.

ENDS

Media contact: DES Media Unit on (07) 3339 5831 or media@des.qld.gov.au



Brent Davidson
Media Manager
Media Unit | Corporate Communications
Department of Environment and Science

[Chat with me on teams](#) [Personal info](#)

E brent.davidson@des.qld.gov.au

Visit the [Environment Media Centre](#)

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Date : 25/11/2020 11:26:49 AM
From : "DARGUSCH Marc"
To : "GRANT Andrea"
Subject : FW: Draft
Attachment : image001.png;image003.png;image006.png;image002.png;
"Hiya – a bit of a go below."

From: GRANT Andrea <Andrea.Grant@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 25 November 2020 11:00 AM
To: DARGUSCH Marc
Subject: FW: Draft

Is this factually correct?

From: DAVIDSON Brent <Brent.Davidson@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 25 November 2020 10:14 AM
To: GRANT Andrea
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- Poyungan Valley Road (500m off the beach) & Happy Valley Road closed 100m from Happy Valley
- Wungul / Bowarrady walking tracks
- Lake Allom day use area
- Sandy Cape Lighthouse visitor precinct

Note: we are about to close more roads from 1pm this arvo More on this as it is bedded down. These closures will allow a back-burning operation to occur.

All permits for closed areas are being transferred to alternative camping areas where possible.

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS), the Butchulla Land and Sea Rangers and Rural Fire Brigade crews are on the ground working hard to contain the fire, which has burnt as far south as Cathedrals on Fraser is burning in the northern part of the island and at this stage is not directly threatening life or property.

An Incident Management Team has been set up to manage the situation and is based at Rainbow Beach. QPWS is running the IMT which is made up of representatives and experts in their fields from Queensland Fire and Rescue Service, the Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation and QPWS. This team steers how the fire is tactically managed, feeds combined resources where they are needed, brings together the latest technology to monitor the fire and get real-time situation updates and facilitates the sharing of information across state agencies, local government and other important stakeholders.

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Brent Davidson
Media Manager
Media Unit | Corporate Communications
Department of Environment and Science

 [Chat with me on teams](#)  [Personal info](#)
E brent.davidson@des.qld.gov.au
[Visit the Environment Media Centre](#)
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Date : 24/11/2020 2:12:24 PM

From : "CAMBOURN Neil"

To : "GRANT Andrea"

Subject : FW: Duling Wildfire K'Gari 24/11/2020 as at 1230

Attachment :

201124_DulingWildfire_IMT_Structure_A3.pdf;image001.jpg;image002.jpg;image003.png;image004.png;image007.png;image009.png;

Hi Andrea, Ben and Jamie are briefing Minister at the moment. Please retain this information exchange in confidence. Another email to follow.



Neil Cambourn

Assistant Director-General
Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships
Department of Environment and Science

P 07 3199 7518 M [Personal info](#)
Level 5, 400 George Street, Brisbane QLD 4000

From: CAMBOURN Neil
Sent: Tuesday, 24 November 2020 1:34 PM
To: KLAASSEN Ben; HEAD Damien; SPINKS Troy; HARRIS Leigh
Subject: FW: Duling Wildfire K'Gari 24/11/2020 as at 1230

Ben apologies for delay. No mention of imminent takeover by QFES as indicated by Leigh/ Troy but team indicate support for that below.



Neil Cambourn

Assistant Director-General
Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships
Department of Environment and Science

P 07 3199 7518 M [Personal info](#)
Level 5, 400 George Street, Brisbane QLD 4000

From: DARGUSCH Marc <Marc.Dargusch@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 24 November 2020 1:32 PM
To: HEAD Damien; CUBIS Mick; CAMBOURN Neil
Subject: FW: Duling Wildfire K'Gari 24/11/2020 as at 1230

Hi Mick/Damien/Neil - Situation @ 1300hrs 20201124:

- The main fire continues to move in a south easterly direction with poor fire weather conditions on the island.
- The community of Happy Valley is potentially under threat within the next 24hrs **although** the latest mapping and predictions indicate this threat has abated with an improved forecast. QFES, RFS, QPWS and QPS, Ambulance are working together to prepare the community. It is worth noting that the fire has not yet exited the closed forest into the dryer eastern vegetation types.
- Forecast wind change easterly at about 4.00am 25/11/2020 will further lessen the current risk to Happy Valley.
- Fire to the south has now just over the Bogimbah Track.
- Other sectors:
 - Active fire at the north of the island at Sandy Cape sector is being monitored.
 - Cathedral Beach sector is blacking out.
- IMT has relocated and ramped up (refer attached pdf) to Rainbow Beach. Nathan Connor is now the IC.
- Divisional control is operating out of QPWS Dundabara.

Given the fire proximity to Happy Valley (and smaller communities to south including Yidney Rocks etc) + Kingfisher Bay Resort the current QPWS run IMT would be comfortable with QFES taking control if QFES happy to attempt to utilise the Smith-Poyungun Road as the southern control line & have QPWS on IMT with them.

Some fire predictions are contained below.

Regards, Marc



Marc Dargusch

Principal Ranger – Great Sandy Area
Coastal and Islands Region | QPWS and Partnerships
Department of Environment and Science

M [Personal info](#) P 07 54869960
Level 6, 12 on First Avenue, Maroochydore 4558
www.des.qld.gov.au

I give my respect to the traditional and custodial Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Elders and Owners of the Land in which I work, live and walk.

Predicted fire spread details below as sourced from QFES FBAN imbedded in IMT Rainbow;

Fire spread prediction generated this morning for Fraser Island - Happy Valley.

The image below is for 14:00 hrs today & 0100 hrs Wednesday. The Simulation runs through to 25th November in the attached KMZ file, but this will be revised throughout today as new mapping is made available.



Fire Spread to 14:00hrs 24-11-20



Fire Spread to 0100hrs 25th Nov 2020

Assumptions used to develop this prediction:

- Active fire edge as determined by Air Obs at 08:20hrs 24-11-20 have been used.
- No active fire suppression is being undertaken.
- No additional backburning has been undertaken.
- Phoenix standard inputs have not been adjusted.
- Weather is from BOM grids downloaded this morning.



John Atkinson

Senior Project Officer

Fire Team | Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service

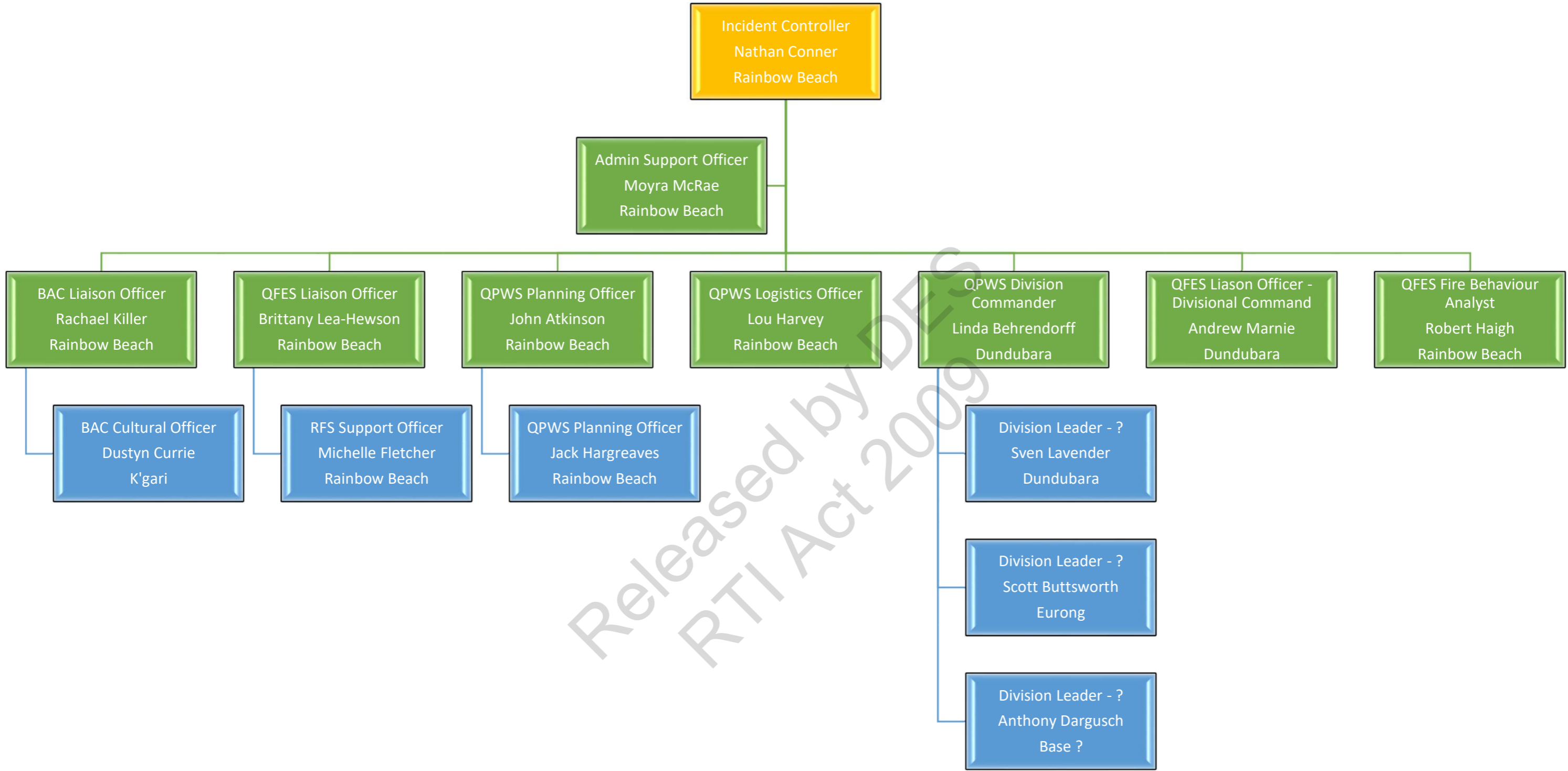
Department of Environment and Science

P 07 4999 8533 | E John.Atkinson@des.qld.gov.au

Level 5 | 44 Nelsen Street | Mackay

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RTI Act 2009

Incident Management Team - Duling Wildfire, Kgari



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RTI Act 2009

Date : 24/11/2020 2:13:08 PM

From : "CAMBOURN Neil"

To : "GRANT Andrea"

Subject : FW: Duling Wildfire K'Gari 24/11/2020 as at 1230

Attachment : image003.png;image010.jpg;image011.jpg;image004.png;image007.png;image008.png;image009.png;image012.png;

Fyi in confidence



Neil Cambourn

Assistant Director-General

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships
Department of Environment and Science

P 07 3199 7518 M [Personal info](#)

Level 5, 400 George Street, Brisbane QLD 4000

From: SPINKS Troy <Troy.Spinks@des.qld.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 24 November 2020 1:44 PM

To: CAMBOURN Neil; HEAD Damien; HARRIS Leigh

Cc: CUBIS Mick

Subject: RE: Duling Wildfire K'Gari 24/11/2020 as at 1230

Hello gents,

Please note the following:

- A meeting was held this morning between Technical Services and CIR to discuss the K'gari fire – QPWS is currently IC.
- There was a notable shift in the language from previous briefings from one of containment and suppression to now being the possible protection life of property – most notably Happy Valley and Kingfisher Bay Resort.
- It was noted that QFES prediction modelling to date has continued to underestimate fire activity onground and the spread of the fire.
- QFES convened a meeting this morning for residents of Happy Valley – while QPWS was able to attend this meeting at late notice, the meeting was convened without prior consultation with QPWS.
- With the support of the group, I contacted James Haig to discuss what the process would be in the instance that QPWS was considering the transfer of the responsibility of the fire from QPWS to QFES.
- James informed me that he believes that in discussions between QFES Commissioner Greg Leach and the DES DG about the K'gari fire, that the matter of transfer of responsibility for the fire **may** have been discussed already.
- James' advice is that given the significance of the K'gari fire that it would be appropriate for the transfer of responsibility to be communicated at the Commissioner and DG level.
- James advice was that should we be considering this, that it should occur sooner than later to allow for the transition to happen before conditions on ground worsen and ahead of forecasted weather conditions.
- The Queensland Bushfire Plan, outlines that where an incident threatens life and property, or the bushfire is likely to progress beyond QPWS managed land, in which case the responsibility for the bushfire will be transferred to QFES. QPWS will continue to coordinate with QFES to maintain an effective response.
- Nathan Connor is currently in the IMT and advises me that there is a notable increase in QFES presence on site today and it appears that decisions (unclear what these are) are being made outside of the knowledge of the QPWS IC.

Given the points above, in particular, the potential threat of the fire to life and property and through discussions with Mick, I recommend that responsibility of the K'gari fire be transferred to QFES.

Regards,



Troy Spinks

Director, Technical Services

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships | Park Services Branch
Department of Environment and Science

M [Personal info](#)

Gold Coast Area Office, Kabool Rd, WEST BURLEIGH QLD 4219

PO Box 3454, Burleigh Town LPO, BURLEIGH HEADS QLD 4220

From: CAMBOURN Neil <Neil.Cambourn@des.qld.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 24 November 2020 1:34 PM

To: KLAASSEN Ben; HEAD Damien; SPINKS Troy; HARRIS Leigh

Subject: FW: Duling Wildfire K'Gari 24/11/2020 as at 1230

Ben apologies for delay. No mention of imminent takeover by QFES as indicated by Leigh/ Troy but team indicate support for that below.



Neil Cambourn

Assistant Director-General

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships
Department of Environment and Science

P 07 3199 7518 M [Personal info](#)

Level 5, 400 George Street, Brisbane QLD 4000

From: DARGUSCH Marc <Marc.Dargusch@des.qld.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 24 November 2020 1:32 PM

To: HEAD Damien; CUBIS Mick; CAMBOURN Neil

20-206

File C Release

Page 23 of 166

Subject: FW: Duling Wildfire K'Gari 24/11/2020 as at 1230

Hi Mick/Damien/Neil - Situation @ 1300hrs 20201124:

- The main fire continues to move in a south easterly direction with poor fire weather conditions on the island.
- The community of Happy Valley is potentially under threat within the next 24hrs **although** the latest mapping and predictions indicate this threat has abated with an improved forecast. QFES, RFS, QPWS and QPS, Ambulance are working together to prepare the community. It is worth noting that the fire has not yet exited the closed forest into the dryer eastern vegetation types.
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 - Active fire at the north of the island at Sandy Cape sector is being monitored.
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- IMT has relocated and ramped up (refer attached pdf) to Rainbow Beach. Nathan Connor is now the IC.
- Divisional control is operating out of QPWS Dundabara.

Given the fire proximity to Happy Valley (and smaller communities to south including Yidney Rocks etc) + Kingfisher Bay Resort the current QPWS run IMT would be comfortable with QFES taking control if QFES happy to attempt to utilise the Smith-Poyungun Road as the southern control line & have QPWS on IMT with them.

Some fire predictions are contained below.

Regards, Marc



Marc Dargusch

Principal Ranger – Great Sandy Area
Coastal and Islands Region | QPWS and Partnerships
Department of Environment and Science

M **Personal** P 07 54869960
Level 6, 12 on First Avenue, Maroochydore 4558
www.des.qld.gov.au

I give my respect to the traditional and custodial Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Elders and Owners of the Land in which I work, live and walk.

Predicted fire spread details below as sourced from QFES FBAN imbedded in IMT Rainbow;

Fire spread prediction generated this morning for Fraser Island - Happy Valley.

The image below is for 14:00 hrs today & 0100 hrs Wednesday. The Simulation runs through to 25th November in the attached KMZ file, but this will be revised throughout today as new mapping is made available.



Fire Spread to 14:00hrs 24-11-20



Fire Spread to 01:00hrs 25th Nov 2020

Assumptions used to develop this prediction:

- Active fire edge as determined by Air Obs at 08:20hrs 24-11-20 have been used.
- No active fire suppression is being undertaken.
- No additional backburning has been undertaken.
- Phoenix standard inputs have not been adjusted.
- Weather is from BOM grids downloaded this morning.



John Atkinson
Senior Project Officer
Fire Team | Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service
Department of Environment and Science
P 07 4999 8533 | E John.Atkinson@des.qld.gov.au
Level 5 | 44 Nelsen Street | Mackay

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Date : 25/11/2020 10:26:14 AM

From : "CUBIS Mick"

To : "CAMBOURN Neil" , "KLAASSEN Ben" , "HEAD Damien" , "DLO DES" , "GRANT Andrea" , "DARGUSCH Marc" , "Media DES"

Cc : "MCQUEENEY John"

Subject : FW: Fraser Island WF

Attachment :

IMG_0062.JPG;IMG_0063.JPG;IMG_0064.JPG;IMG_0065.JPG;IMG_0067.JPG;IMG_0068.JPG;IMG_0069.JPG;IMG_0070.JPG;IMG_0071.JPG;IMG_0072.JPG;IMG_0073.JPG;image001.png;image004.png;

Hi all,

John McQueeneey has passed on the attached photos of the K'gari fire. They were taken by a family member (assume not a QPWS employee), but who has approved their use, subject to faces being covered/blurred.

Some great photos that could be useful for Media,

Thanks

Mick

Mick Cubis
Regional Director, Coastal and Islands Region
GBRMCQ | QPWS & Partnerships
Department of Environment and Science

P: 07 54471137 M: **Person**
240 Moorndil Street, Tewantin
Qld 4565
mickcubis@des.qld.gov.au

From: MCQUEENEY John <John.McQueeneey@des.qld.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 25 November 2020 9:47 AM

To: CUBIS Mick

Subject: FW: Fraser Island WF

Hi Mick,

He has given permission with no credit required but has requested that faces are covered/blurred please.

Regards John



John McQueeneey
Acting Senior Ranger Noosa
Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service
South East Queensland Region
Department of Environment and Science

M: **Person**
24 Beckmans Road, Tewantin Qld, 4565
PO BOX 1805, Noosaville Qld, 4566
www.des.qld.gov.au

From: MCQUEENEY John

Sent: Wednesday, 25 November 2020 9:16 AM

To: CUBIS Mick

Subject: RE: Fraser Island WF

Hi Mick,

I'm checking for you.

Cheers John



John McQueeneey
Acting Senior Ranger Noosa
Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service
South East Queensland Region
Department of Environment and Science

M: **Person**
24 Beckmans Road, Tewantin Qld, 4565
PO BOX 1805, Noosaville Qld, 4566
www.des.qld.gov.au

From: CUBIS Mick <Mick.Cubis@des.qld.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 24 November 2020 7:57 PM

To: MCQUEENEY John

Cc: EDMED Greg; ROGERS Darren; PRICE Stephen (Cotton Tree - Caboolture); ENSLIN Justin; OLIVER Nathan

Subject: Re: Fraser Island WF

Hey John, these are amazing photos. Do you think we could use them for our media? Would be happy to credit the photographers.

Thanks

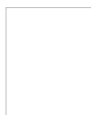
Sent from my iPhone

On 24 Nov 2020, at 1:15 pm, MCQUEENEY John <John.McQueeneey@des.qld.gov.au> wrote:

Hi Greg,

A family member sent me the attached pics of Fraser WF taken a couple of days ago.

Cheers John



John McQueeneey
Acting Senior Ranger Noosa
Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service
South East Queensland Region
Department of Environment and Science

M: **Person**
24 Beckmans Road, Tewantin Qld, 4565

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20-206

File C Release

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Per

MR24

FIRE & EMERGENCY

FIRE & EMERGENCY

Page 29 of 166





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RTI Act 2009





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EMERGENCY

FIRE & EMERGENCY

FIRE & EMERGENCY



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RTI Act 2009

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Released by DES
RTI Act 2009

WARD DE8229





Date : 13/12/2020 12:05:26 PM
From : "KLAASSEN Ben"
To : "DAVIDSON Brent"
Cc : "GRANT Andrea" , "BUCKLEY Andrew" , "CAMBOURN Neil"
Subject : FW: K'gari reopening
Attachment : 11122020 - DRAFT MR - Camping re-opening on K'gari
v3.docx;image001.png;image002.png;image004.jpg;image005.png;
Hi Brent

FYI which aligns with your advice.

In terms of someone standing up I think it should be me as I am across all aspects and can handle any queries if they go back to the fire. We could do something at Walkabout Creek in the morning before 10:30 if MO are supportive as not clear if Minister wants to be involved as well.

Regards
Ben



Ben Klaassen
Deputy Director-General
Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships
Department of Environment and Science
P 07 3199 7538 | M Personal | E ben.klaassen@des.qld.gov.au
Level 5, 400 George St, Brisbane QLD 4000
PO Box 15187, CITY EAST QLD 4002

I acknowledge that Aboriginal Peoples and Torres Strait Islander Peoples are the Traditional Owners of this country and they retain their relationship and connection to the land, sea and community.
I pay my respects to all Traditional Owners, and to the Elders past, present and the future for land and sea on which I work, live and walk.



From: MERRICK Jamie <Jamie.Merrick@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Sunday, 13 December 2020 11:59 AM
To: KLAASSEN Ben; GRANT Andrea
Subject: K'gari reopening

Ben & Andrea

As discussed with Ben, aiming for tomorrow morning to announce, following IC/IMT consideration today.

Andrea, given the media interest, Ben and I have spoken about the need to have someone prepped to stand up.

Attached is the current draft of the MR which will need to be run passed the MO/Minister. Happy if it needs to be amended further.

Cheers
Jamie



Jamie Merrick
Director-General
Department of Environment and Science
07 3338 9304 | Jamie.Merrick@des.qld.gov.au
Level 32, 1 William Street, Brisbane QLD 4000
GPO Box 2454, Brisbane QLD 4001

Media release

Tourists to return to K'gari-Fraser Island following bushfire

December 10, 2020

Tourist accommodation providers on K'gari-Fraser Island have been given the green light to start to welcome guests for Christmas following the recent bushfire.

In great news for those who planned to stay or visit the island over the Christmas-New Year break. Authorities have determined it is safe to permit vehicle access along the eastern beach, allowing visitors to access K'gari's townships.

This means resorts, private accommodation such as beach houses and residential *Airbnb* style accommodation will be open for business.

The island's most popular visitor destinations will also be progressively reopened following hazard assessments and any essential works including Lake McKenzie, Central Station, Lake Wabby, Eli Creek, Maheno and Champagne Pools.

Campers don't miss out either with many campgrounds and beach camping zones reopening and available for booking from the 15 December 2020

Those re-opening include:

- o Beach camping zones south of Poyungan Rocks
- o Beach camping zones north of Dundaburra
- o Waddy Point beachfront camping and campground.
- o Central Station
- o Dundaburra

Local businesses, rangers, emergency services and Butchulla personnel have worked tirelessly to have the island open and ready for some well-deserved Christmas cheer.

Anyone who had a camping or vehicle access permit to visit K'gari up until December 15 can visit www.qld.gov.au/camping for details about how they can get a refund, or if you didn't make the booking online, you can email qpws@des.qld.gov.au

Visitors should be aware that some areas affected by fire or the fire response will remain closed while they are assessed for risks and necessary maintenance is undertaken.

This includes many of the island's walking tracks as it will take time to fully assess potential hazards. During this time and for their safety, it is most important visitors follow the directions of rangers and obey any closure signage.

QPWS regrets the inconvenience caused to those who planned to camp or visit K'gari prior to December 15. However, public safety is always our top priority. Now that the threat has eased, we are pleased to welcome visitors back to enjoy a wonderful K'gari experience.

Commented [DB1]: I just need to double check here whether they will be opened or progressively opened. We seem to have a bit of different info.

Commented [DB2]: I wouldn't mind keeping 'still too dangerous' in as it ramps home the message not to try & go in even with signage

Commented [DB3]: This is standard wording as we're trying to recruit more followers to the Twitter account and get more hits on our website.

Date : 23/11/2020 12:53:20 PM

From : "GRANT Andrea"

To : "CAMBOURN Neil" , "HEAD Damien"

Cc : "DAVIDSON Brent"

Subject : FW: Neil - Damien: Fraser update

Attachment : image001.png;image006.png;image007.jpg;image002.png;image004.png;

Hi Neil and Damian

I've just tried to call you both and you are busy. Could one of you give me a call please. We have had three requests for media interviews on the fire and given the weather conditions could be unfavourable tomorrow, I would like to have a plan in place for ongoing media. Ben Klassen and the DG have endorsed us being proactive and setting up pre-recorded media interviews each day and I would like to get that in place for tomorrow morning.

Thanks
Andrea



Andrea Grant
Director-Media
Corporate Communications
Department of Environment and Science

M Personal
Level 31, 400 George St, Brisbane
GPO Box 2454, Brisbane 4001

From: HEAD Damien <Damien.Head@des.qld.gov.au>

Sent: Monday, 23 November 2020 9:53 AM

To: WATSON Matthew; CAMBOURN Neil

Cc: Media DES

Subject: RE: Neil - Damien: Fraser update

No talking heads today.

From: WATSON Matthew <Matthew.Watson@des.qld.gov.au>

Sent: Monday, 23 November 2020 9:28 AM

To: CAMBOURN Neil; HEAD Damien


Cc: Media DES

Subject: Neil - Damien: Fraser update

Morning Neil and Damien,
Please see request below.
She's after video of a ranger.
I'll check if QFES are standing up.
Your thoughts?
Yesterday's written response is attached.
Cheers



Matt Watson
Principal Media Officer
Media Unit | Corporate Communications
Department of Environment and Science

M Personal  [Chat with me on Teams!](#)
GPO Box 2454, Brisbane QLD 4001
If it's a media matter, please include the group email media@des.qld.gov.au
Website www.des.qld.gov.au

From: O'Brien, Rosie <ROBrien@Seven.com.au>

Sent: Monday, 23 November 2020 8:58 AM

To: WATSON Matthew

Subject: Fraser update

Morning Matt,

I hope you had a great weekend.

Just wondering if there will be an update released today re: Fraser fires?

Thanks so much,
Rosie O'Brien
Journalist, News

T +61 07 419 797 85

M ~~Personal information~~

Seven Network (Operations) Limited
162 Boat Harbour Drive, Hervey Bay QLD 4655 Australia
PO Box 1816, Hervey Bay QLD 4655 Australia

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Released by DES
RTI Act 2009

Date : 15/11/2020 10:10:39 AM
From : "Media DES"
To : "HEAD Damien"
Cc : "DAVIDSON Brent" , "GRANT Andrea"
Subject : FW: QEMR as at 15/11/2020 10:00
Attachment : image001.png;image004.png;image005.png;image006.png;

Hi Damien,

Just further to our chat about water bombing which we say hasn't happened – this QFES report (see below) says they did water bombing.

QFES Significant Operations

o Fraser Coast LGA: Queensland Fire & Emergency Service crews continue to assist Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service with a bush fire on Fraser Island. QPS declared an Emergency Situation under the PSPA yesterday as the fire encroached on campsites and buildings at the Cathedrals, on the eastern side of the island. **Water bombing aircraft conducted water drops yesterday with further aerial support expected today.** •



Felicity Moore
Senior Media Officer
Media Unit | Corporate Communications
Department of Environment and Science
P 07 3339 5831
M **Personal info**
GPO Box 2454, Brisbane QLD 4001
[Visit the Environment Media Centre](#)

[Visit us on Twitter](#)

[Chat with me on Teams!](#)

If it's a media matter, please include the group email media@des.qld.gov.au
Website www.des.qld.gov.au

From: NGComms <sdccqfes@id.ngcomms.net> **On Behalf Of** State Disaster Coordination Centre
Sent: Sunday, 15 November 2020 10:00 AM
To: DES Disaster & Disruption Network
Subject: QEMR as at 15/11/2020 10:00

Good morning,

Please see linked below the Queensland Emergency Management Report as at 15/11/2020 10:00.

QEMR Link: <https://www.disaster.qld.gov.au/dmp/QEMR/QEMR-as-at-1000hrs-15-November-2020.pdf>

If you require further information, please contact the Watch Desk as undersigned.

Regards,

State Disaster Coordination Centre | Watch Desk
Queensland Fire & Emergency Services
Level 2, State Disaster Management Centre, Kedron
GPO Box 1425 Brisbane QLD 4001
P: 07 3635 2387 (24hrs) | M: **Personal info**
F: 07 3357 4682 | E: sdcc@qfes.qld.gov.au

Date : 24/11/2020 2:14:02 PM
From : "CAMBOURN Neil"
To : "GRANT Andrea"
Subject : FW: See these maps of veg type and fire stopping at rainforest
Attachment : image001.png;image004.jpg;image006.jpg;image002.png;image003.png;image007.png;image010.png;image012.png;
Fyi in confidence



Neil Cambourn
Assistant Director-General
Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships
Department of Environment and Science
P 07 3199 7518 M **Persona**
Level 5, 400 George Street, Brisbane QLD 4000

From: CAMBOURN Neil
Sent: Tuesday, 24 November 2020 2:05 PM
To: KLAASSEN Ben
Subject: See these maps of veg type and fire stopping at rainforest

fyi

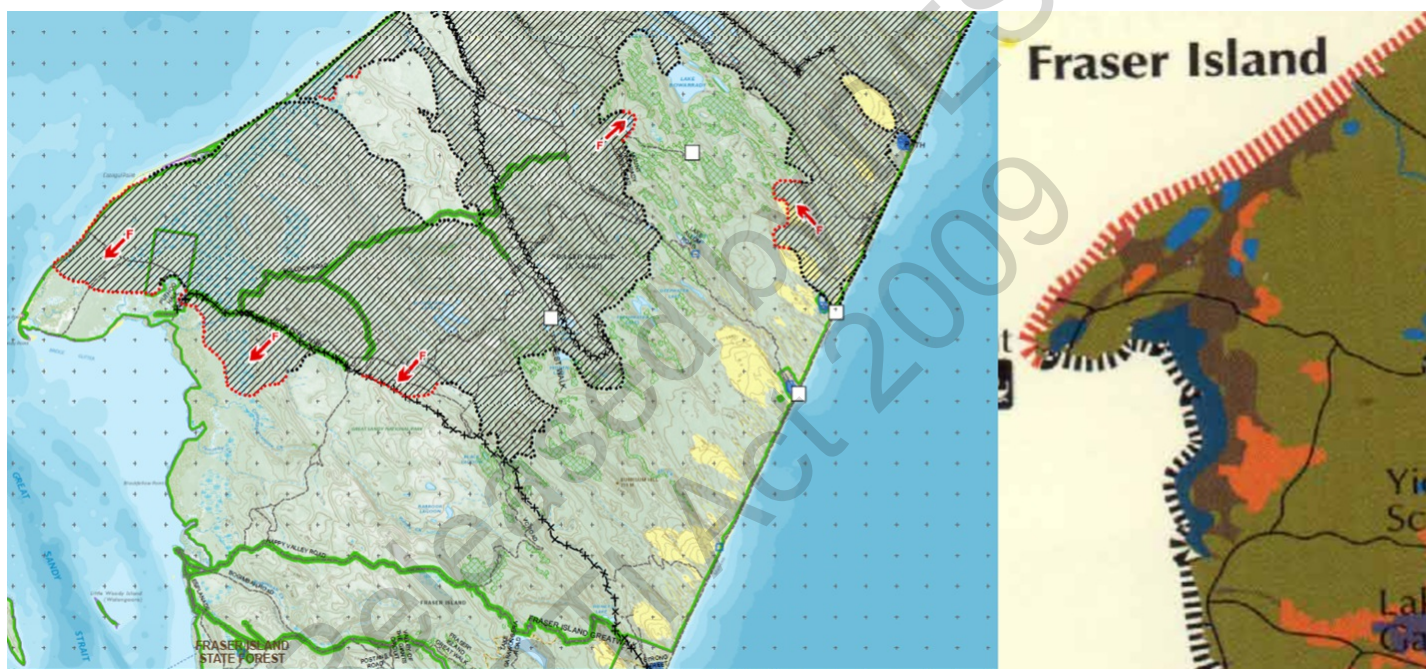


Neil Cambourn
Assistant Director-General
Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships
Department of Environment and Science
P 07 3199 7518 M **Persona**
Level 5, 400 George Street, Brisbane QLD 4000

From: CAMBOURN Neil
Sent: Tuesday, 24 November 2020 2:02 PM
To: HEAD Damien; DARGUSCH Marc; CUBIS Mick
Subject: RE: Duling Wildfire K'Gari 24/11/2020 as at 1230

I think the modelling is incorrect.

If we overlay the veg map to the fire map, it's clear to see it has pulled up at the rainforest line, so will not get to Happy Valley on current trajectory in my view. The line follows exactly that wetter veg line map to map.



Neil Cambourn
Assistant Director-General
Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships
Department of Environment and Science
P 07 3199 7518 M **Persona**
Level 5, 400 George Street, Brisbane QLD 4000

From: HEAD Damien <Damien.Head@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 24 November 2020 1:38 PM
To: DARGUSCH Marc; CUBIS Mick; CAMBOURN Neil
Subject: RE: Duling Wildfire K'Gari 24/11/2020 as at 1230

Marc

Question. Looking at the assumption of the modelling. Is there consideration to the vegetation type in there? That is some pretty aggressive modelling along an edge that hasn't progressed much over the past 7 days. All the fire movement has largely been to the south

From: DARGUSCH Marc <Marc.Dargusch@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 24 November 2020 1:32 PM
To: HEAD Damien; CUBIS Mick; CAMBOURN Neil
Subject: FW: Duling Wildfire K'Gari 24/11/2020 as at 1230

Hi Mick/Damien/Neil - Situation @ 1300hrs 20201124:

- The main fire continues to move in a south easterly direction with poor fire weather conditions on the island.
- The community of Happy Valley is potentially under threat within the next 24hrs *although* the latest mapping and predictions indicate this threat has abated with an improved forecast. QFES, RFS, QPWS and QPS, Ambulance are working together to prepare the community. It is worth noting that the fire has not yet exited the closed forest into the dryer eastern vegetation types.
- Forecast wind change easterly at about 4.00am 25/11/2020 will further lessen the current risk to Happy Valley.
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 - Cathedral Beach sector is blacking out.
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Some fire predictions are contained below.

Regards, Marc



Marc Dargusch
Principal Ranger – Great Sandy Area
Coastal and Islands Region | QPWS and Partnerships
Department of Environment and Science

M Person P 07 54869960
Level 6, 12 on First Avenue, Maroochydore 4558
www.des.qld.gov.au

I give my respect to the traditional and custodial Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Elders and Owners of the Land in which I work, live and walk.

Predicted fire spread details below as sourced from QFES FBAN imbedded in IMT Rainbow;

Fire spread prediction generated this morning for Fraser Island - Happy Valley.

The image below is for 14:00 hrs today & 0100 hrs Wednesday. The Simulation runs through to 25th November in the attached KMZ file, but this will be revised throughout today as new mapping is made available.



Fire Spread to 14:00hrs 24-11-20



Fire Spread to 0100hrs 25th Nov 2020

Assumptions used to develop this prediction:

- Active fire edge as determined by Air Obs at 08:20hrs 24-11-20 have been used.
- No active fire suppression is being undertaken.
- No additional backburning has been undertaken.
- Phoenix standard inputs have not been adjusted.
- Weather is from BOM grids downloaded this morning.



John Atkinson
Senior Project Officer
Fire Team | Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service
Department of Environment and Science

P 07 4999 8533 | E John.Atkinson@des.qld.gov.au
Level 5 | 44 Nelsen Street | Mackay

Date : 4/12/2020 9:02:55 AM
From : "Tim Whittaker"
To : "GRANT Andrea"
Subject : FW: Was LAT used 20 October on K'gari?
Attachment : image001.png;image006.png;image007.png;image002.png;

From: Ethan Clissold <Ethan.Clissold@qfes.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 2 December 2020 3:09 PM
To: DAVIDSON Brent <Brent.Davidson@des.qld.gov.au>
Cc: Tim Whittaker <Tim.Whittaker@qfes.qld.gov.au>; Hayley Gillespie <Hayley.Gillespie@qfes.qld.gov.au>; Chantelle Rule <Chantelle.Rule@qfes.qld.gov.au>; Brad Gardner <Brad.Gardner@qfes.qld.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Was LAT used 20 October on K'gari?

Hi Brent,

The State Air Desk have confirmed the Large Air Tanker (Bomber 141) did not fly to Fraser Island on 20/10/2020.

Please let me know if you require anything further.

Kind regards,

Ethan Clissold

Media Supervisor

Media, Communication and Online

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services

P: 07 3635 3784 M: Personal info 24hr: 07 3635 3310

From: DAVIDSON Brent <Brent.Davidson@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 2 December 2020 1:14 PM
To: Chantelle Rule <Chantelle.Rule@qfes.qld.gov.au>; Ethan Clissold <Ethan.Clissold@qfes.qld.gov.au>; Hayley Gillespie <Hayley.Gillespie@qfes.qld.gov.au>; Tim Whittaker <Tim.Whittaker@qfes.qld.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Was LAT used 20 October on K'gari?

Hey, this entry is from our FLAME system which indicates maybe the LAT was used on October 20 but it might not have actually dumped anything.
At the moment we're saying first request for aerial assistance was Nov 6. Is there any way your Air Desk has a record of whether it actually happened?

From: DOBBYN Andrea <Andrea.Dobbyn@ditid.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 2 December 2020 11:45 AM
To: DAVIDSON Brent
Subject: Was LAT used 20 October on K'gari?

Brent

I found this in the K'gari fire details on Flame from 20 Oct:

20.10.20 1000 JRK Backburning operations paused for the moment but **Large air tanker on route to suppress fire from east to west**

We need to find out if that action happened, or was it called off.

Andrea



Andrea Dobbyn
Senior Media Officer
Media Unit | Corporate Services
Department of Environment and Science

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[Visit the Environment Media Centre](#)
 [Visit us on Twitter](#)

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RTI Act 2009

Date : 25/11/2020 7:16:35 AM
From : "CAMBOURN Neil"
To : "GRANT Andrea" , "HEINRITZ Richard"
Subject : Fwd: Duling Wildfire K'Gari - update for 25/11/2020 as at 0600
Attachment : image004.png;image005.jpg;image006.jpg;image007.png;
Fyi

Regards Neil Cambourn

Begin forwarded message:

From: CUBIS Mick <Mick.Cubis@des.qld.gov.au>
Date: 25 November 2020 at 6:57:36 am AEST
To: DARGUSCH Marc <Marc.Dargusch@des.qld.gov.au>
Cc: CONNOR Nathan <Nathan.Cornor@des.qld.gov.au>, CIR Fire Team <CIR.FireTeam@des.qld.gov.au>, MACDONALD Stirling <Stirling.MacDonald@des.qld.gov.au>, SEELEITHER Jamie <Jamie.Seeleither@des.qld.gov.au>, YETMAN Brendon <Brendon.Yetman@des.qld.gov.au>, HARVEY Peter <Peter.Harvey@des.qld.gov.au>, LAWTON Colin <Colin.Lawton@des.qld.gov.au>, EMBREY Teena <Teena.Embrey@des.qld.gov.au>, HEAD Damien <Damien.Head@des.qld.gov.au>, CAMBOURN Neil <Neil.Cambourn@des.qld.gov.au>, KLAASSEN Ben <Ben.Klaassen@des.qld.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Duling Wildfire K'Gari - update for 25/11/2020 as at 0600

Thanks Marc, appreciate the update and it's good to see the wind change has come through.

I have already done this morning's media update, but it pretty much aligns with what you have provided, so that's all good. Also good to see the IMT scaled up. I still haven't had any feedback about the recommendation for QFES to take over responsibility for the fire so we will continue to be the lead until notified otherwise.

Good work all and I look forward to the regular updates.

thanks

Mick Cubis
Regional Director, Coastal and Islands Region
GBRMC | QPWS & Partnerships
Department of Environment and Science

P: 07 54471137 M: Personal
240 Moorindil Street, Tewantin
Qld 4565
mick.cubis@des.qld.gov.au

From: DARGUSCH Marc <Marc.Dargusch@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 25 November 2020 6:39 AM
To: CUBIS Mick
Cc: CONNOR Nathan; CIR Fire Team; MACDONALD Stirling; SEELEITHER Jamie; YETMAN Brendon; HARVEY Peter; LAWTON Colin; EMBREY Teena
Subject: Duling Wildfire K'Gari - update for 25/11/2020 as at 0600

Hi Mick – We'll embed the 0900/1500 SitReps today again – pretty hard for IC/IMT as the new IMT came together yesterday. They've organised for QFES demountable unit to be dropped at Rainbow Office carpark and will work out of that space IMT too large to fit in Rainbow as it grew yesterday to fit need/demands. I'll be working further with IC/IMT to bed down a Comms officer to better deal with communicating outwards (in QFES speak ... a PIO – they love acronyms). I want to ensure key stakeholders are getting the one consistent message (has been a prob).

In case you are doing media

- The southerly change came through and fire weather conditions have eased on the fire ground.
- Four major components to fire:
 - Fire in South
 - The intent is to hold the wildfire on a southern fire control line (Smith-Poyungan/Cornwalls Road).
 - A range of options at IMT disposal with some already implemented which include: mechanical work on break, aerial support (waterbombing/aerial ignition) and back burning.
 - Happy Valley – no immediate threat, watching brief with good prep work undertaken.
 - Cathedrals on Fraser – no immediate threat, watching brief with good prep work undertaken.
 - Sandy Cape – no immediate threat, watching brief with good prep work undertaken.

All in all feeling much better with cooler southerly conditions. Time for taking action whilst we can. I'll bed down planning with appropriate docs during day so everyone in alignment.

Regards, Marc

From: DARGUSCH Marc
Sent: Tuesday, 24 November 2020 1:32 PM
To: HEAD Damien; CUBIS Mick; CAMBOURN Neil
Subject: FW: Duling Wildfire K'Gari 24/11/2020 as at 1230

Hi Mick/Damien/Neil - Situation @ 1300hrs 20201124:

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Some fire predictions are contained below.

Regards, Marc



Marc Dargusch
Principal Ranger – Great Sandy Area
Coastal and Islands Region | QPWS and Partnerships
Department of Environment and Science

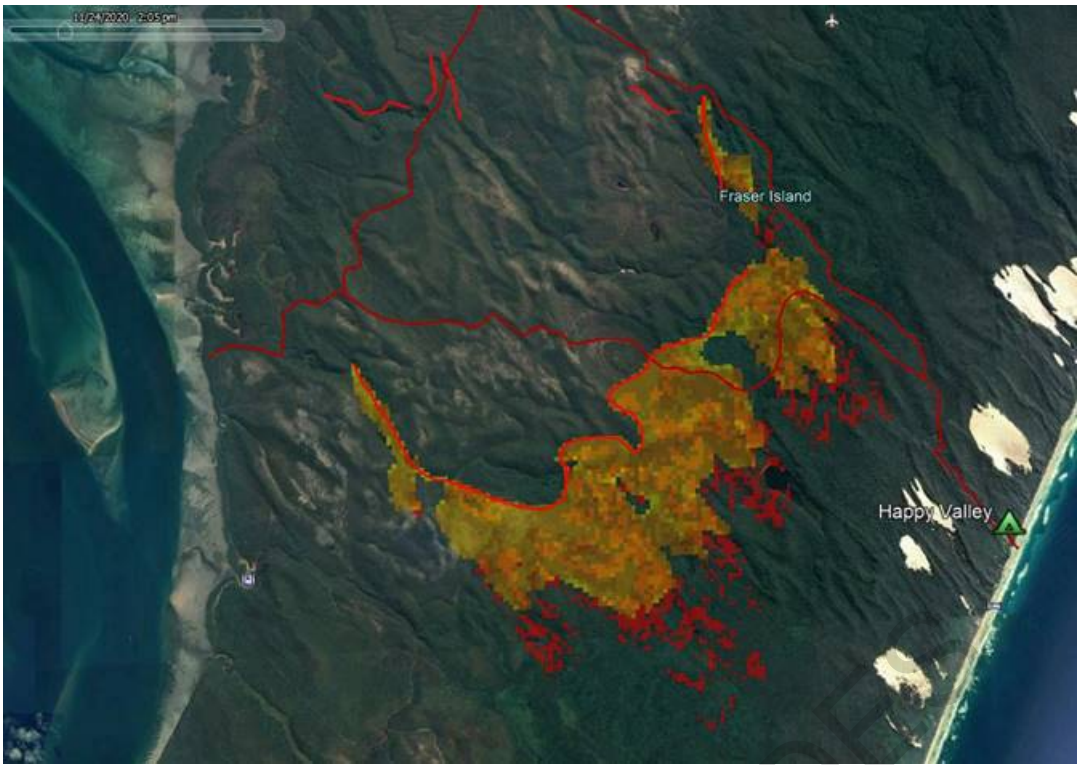
M **Personal in** P 07 54869960
Level 6, 12 on First Avenue, Maroochydore 4558
www.des.qld.gov.au

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John Atkinson
Senior Project Officer
Fire Team | Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service
Department of Environment and Science
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Level 5 | 44 Nelsen Street | Mackay

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RTI Act 2009

Date : 30/11/2020 9:58:35 PM
From : "Tim Whittaker"
To : "GRANT Andrea"
Cc : "Troy Davies"
Subject : K'gari Fire - Media narrative and strategy
Attachment : image001.png;
Evening Andrea,

Thanks again for your time on the phone tonight.

As discussed, see at the end of this email article that is picking up traction on the Courier Mail website in relation to the management of the K'gari fire. In addition, the Fraser Coast Mayor is now public in his calls for an inquiry into the management of the Island, having been on ABC state-wide news at 8pm and 9pm.

I do have concerns, as you can appreciate, that the narrative is fast becoming beyond QFES remit, and we will need to direct media queries in relation to management and mitigation on the Island back to QPWS, for all upcoming media queries.

We have received a query from the Courier Mail this evening in relation to timeline of when we took over the fire and also when we first started providing support. We will run this response by you in the morning.

In addition, we have a Sunrise cross at 6:10am, where we will deflect management and mitigation questions back to QPWS.

We will continue to support from a media point of view where we can, including updates on the incident and firefighting strategy, but we cannot be drawn into commentary that we have no active role in.

As I am sure you would agree, I would highly advise that QPWS begins to take a proactive approach to managing the media commentary and narrative before it creates any further damage.

Happy to discuss tactics further on the phone tomorrow and we will support on the ground through our deployed media officers as much as possible.

Many thanks,

Tim

◆ Nightmare ◆ as tour owner demands answers on fires

A Fraser Island tourist operator has blasted the Queensland Government for failing to learn from last fire season.

Kylie Lang & Stuart Fast

November 30, 2020 - 7:38PM

The Courier-Mail

[53 comments](#)

<https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/emergency-services/nightmare-as-tour-owner-demands-answers-on-fires/news-story/838df83d761ae1fd3f974353daa377c6>

Furious tour operators have launched a scathing attack on the State Government as bushfires ravage Fraser Island.

Mark Robinson, of Drop Bear Adventures, said the devastation could have been prevented but the government ◆had learnt nothing from its mistakes◆ with the 2019-20 blazes.

◆This is a nightmare, and every other tour operator on the island feels the same,◆ Mr Robinson said.

◆Why weren◆t the fires put out sooner?

◆Now the island has been shut down, having a massive effect on tourism again, not to mention thousands of hectares of burned vegetation and untold loss of wildlife.◆

He said precious little had been done by way of preventive measures, such as maintenance of tracks and controlled burning, during the year, and Queensland Wildlife and Parks Service rangers were severely under-resourced.

They don't have the manpower to make sure the island is OK it all comes down to funding; I pay tens of thousands of dollars every year in permits and government fees, but it's hard to see where that money goes.

The Government must be held to account, because this is not good enough.

We are ridiculously frustrated as we were just starting to come out of COVID and now all we are doing is refunding and cancelling bookings it's hard to stay motivated and not throw in the towel.

Mr Robinson, in business for nine years with wife Hana, said Fraser Island generated millions of dollars in revenue for the government but was not getting the attention and management it deserves.

This is a world-heritage-listed island with unique flora and fauna, and one of the most popular national parks in Australia, yet it seems to be very low priority.

Four planned burns were completed this fire season by QPWS and the Rural Fire Service in the townships of Orchid Beach, Happy Valley, Ocean Lake South and Kingfisher Bay Resort.

A government spokesman said an independent review by the inspector-general of emergency management found Queensland's 2019 bushfire response and preparation was strong.

However, there will always be bushfire risk in Queensland, as there is in other states, he said.

The spokesman said it was believed the Fraser Island bushfire was started after someone lit an illegal campfire.

While it is recognised that travel bans announced by the Fire Commissioner may have an impact on business, the priority is to protect people and property, he said.

There has been no damage to infrastructure or loss of life.

Meanwhile, a Fraser Island fisherman has captured the moment he and his friends came face-to-face with the bush fire which has ravaged the island for the past six weeks.

Chris Merrison and his friend Josh Hobbs returned to Hervey Bay on the Fraser Venture barge today.

We could hear the roar of the fire between the crashing of the waves we heard the bush crackle and pop, he said.

It was surreal to hear the bush alight.

The men had been with their friends on a fishing trip to the island, and while they had planned to return today, both agreed they were lucky to come back when they did given the fire conditions.

Mr Merrison said the wind picked up on the eastern side of the island over the weekend, causing conditions to worsen.

Mr Hobbs agreed the fire had become worse.

We smelled smoke, there was ash falling, we knew it was going to get worse, Mr Hobbs said.

It was a bit of a shock at first to see ash fall we realised the gravity of the situation when we saw it (the fire) up close, Mr Hobbs said.

When asked whether the fire would deter future visits, both Mr Merrison and Mr Hobbs said they would visit Fraser Island next year.

Tim Whittaker

Director

Media, Communication and Online

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services

M: Personal info 24hr: 07 3635 3310

E tim.whittaker@qfes.qld.gov.au

M Emergency Services Complex, Kedron, Level 1, C Block (Mail Cluster 3.2)



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Date : 13/12/2020 11:58:55 AM

From : "MERRICK Jamie"

To : "KLAASSEN Ben" , "GRANT Andrea"

Subject : K'gari reopening

Attachment : 11122020 - DRAFT MR - Camping re-opening on K'gari v3.docx;image001.png;image003.png;
Ben & Andrea

As discussed with Ben, aiming for tomorrow morning to announce, following IC/IMT consideration today.

Andrea, given the media interest, Ben and I have spoken about the need to have someone prepped to stand up.

Attached is the current draft of the MR which will need to be run passed the MO/Minister. Happy if it needs to be amended further.

Cheers

Jamie



Jamie Merrick

Director-General

Department of Environment and Science

07 3338 9304 | Jamie.Merrick@des.qld.gov.au

Level 32, 1 William Street, Brisbane QLD 4000

GPO Box 2454, Brisbane QLD 4001

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RTI Act 2009

Media release

Tourists to return to K'gari-Fraser Island following bushfire

December 10, 2020

Tourist accommodation providers on K'gari-Fraser Island have been given the green light to start to welcome guests for Christmas following the recent bushfire.

In great news for those who planned to stay or visit the island over the Christmas-New Year break. Authorities have determined it is safe to permit vehicle access along the eastern beach, allowing visitors to access K'gari's townships.

This means resorts, private accommodation such as beach houses and residential *Airbnb* style accommodation will be open for business.

The island's most popular visitor destinations will also be progressively reopened following hazard assessments and any essential works including Lake McKenzie, Central Station, Lake Wabby, Eli Creek, Maheno and Champagne Pools.

Campers don't miss out either with many campgrounds and beach camping zones reopening and available for booking from the 15 December 2020

Those re-opening include:

- o Beach camping zones south of Poyungan Rocks
- o Beach camping zones north of Dundaburra
- o Waddy Point beachfront camping and campground.
- o Central Station
- o Dundaburra

Local businesses, rangers, emergency services and Butchulla personnel have worked tirelessly to have the island open and ready for some well-deserved Christmas cheer.

Anyone who had a camping or vehicle access permit to visit K'gari up until December 15 can visit www.qld.gov.au/camping for details about how they can get a refund, or if you didn't make the booking online, you can email qpws@des.qld.gov.au

Visitors should be aware that some areas affected by fire or the fire response will remain closed while they are assessed for risks and necessary maintenance is undertaken.

This includes many of the island's walking tracks as it will take time to fully assess potential hazards. During this time and for their safety, it is most important visitors follow the directions of rangers and obey any closure signage.

QPWS regrets the inconvenience caused to those who planned to camp or visit K'gari prior to December 15. However, public safety is always our top priority. Now that the threat has eased, we are pleased to welcome visitors back to enjoy a wonderful K'gari experience.

Commented [DB1]: I just need to double check here whether they will be opened or progressively opened. We seem to have a bit of different info.

Commented [DB2]: I wouldn't mind keeping 'still too dangerous' in as it ramps home the message not to try & go in even with signage

Commented [DB3]: This is standard wording as we're trying to recruit more followers to the Twitter account and get more hits on our website.

Date : 1/12/2020 6:06:57 PM

From : "Tim Whittaker"

To : "GRANT Andrea" , "DAVIDSON Brent"

Cc : "Chantelle Rule" , "Brad Gardner" , "Hayley Gillespie" , "Ethan Clissold"

Subject : LAT Release - for AM

Attachment : QFES buckles down as Queensland heats up_media release.docx;image001.png;

Hi both,

Thanks again for all the work together today, it's good to be on the same page with everything.

Attached is a release we will put out in the AM, to support points around what the LAT does, compared to fire bombing (as well as general fire conditions this week).

Any dramas please shout.

Many thanks,

Tim

Tim Whittaker

Director

Media, Communication and Online

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services

M: [Personal info 24hr: 07 3635 3310](tel:0736353310)

E tim.whittaker@qfes.qld.gov.au

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QFES buckles down as Queensland heats up

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) is marshalling its suite of firefighting resources as the state grapples with a stretch of heightened fire conditions.

QFES Commissioner Greg Leach said firefighters were prepared to deal with the likelihood of increased fire activity affecting most of Queensland this week.

Mr Leach said areas from the border with New South Wales to Queensland's far north would reach a very high fire danger from today until Friday.

"A run of hot and dry conditions is exacerbating the bushfire risk to Queensland, and this is likely to continue until the state receives sufficient rain," Mr Leach said.

"While the weather is outside of our control, QFES does have the resources it needs to respond to emergencies when called upon.

"We have seen this at K'gari (Fraser Island), where significant firefighting efforts continue despite the challenges firefighters face from the terrain and unfavourable weather.

"Our personnel are on the ground, in addition to the 10 aircraft on standby – including the Large Air Tanker (LAT) – and support from Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) and the Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation.

"Waterbombing aircraft have dropped more than 1 million litres of water and gel on K'gari since Friday 27 November, when QFES took over control of the incident from QPWS."

Mr Leach said the inclusion of the Large Air Tanker (LAT) this bushfire season was playing a crucial role in firefighting efforts and had been used nine times at the Fraser Island bushfire.

"The LAT is responsible for establishing containment lines ahead of a fire to slow its progress," he said.

"This is its purpose and why it has been deployed to Fraser Island and previous bushfires.

"The LAT supports our firefighters on the ground and is one component of our aerial firefighting fleet, which includes light airplanes and helicopters to map fires and conduct strategic waterbombing activities.

"Having a range of air response types allows QFES to provide the most effective support to ground crews."

Mr Leach said the return to heightened fire conditions was a warning to residents and visitors to take precautions and report fires immediately to Triple Zero (000).

"Fires that start under these conditions will be fast-moving and difficult to control," he said.

"Local fire bans have been imposed in multiple areas in the south-east between the Gold Coast and Bundaberg, and in the Whitsundays in North Queensland to reduce the risk of fires starting and spreading.

"It is essential people in these areas follow the directions of the local fire bans, because doing so will reduce the risk of fires breaking out and significantly help firefighters in what may be a very challenging period coming up."

Background information – QFES aerial firefighting fleet this bushfire season

- Aircraft deployed to more than 100 different bushfires.
- More than 40 different aircraft used.
- QFES aerial fleet includes aircraft for waterbombing, observation, mapping and air attack supervision.
- More than 4 million litres of water dropped (including firefighting water additives).
- The LAT has 10,000 litre capacity.
- The LAT has a cruise speed up to 670km/h with 1800km range to easily travel from one end of the state to the other.

Released by DES
RTI Act 2009

Date : 1/12/2020 1:19:43 PM

From : "DAVIDSON Brent"

To : "KLAASSEN Ben" , "BUCKLEY Andrew" , "HEAD Damien"

Cc : "GRANT Andrea"

Subject : List of questions for fact checking/endorsement

Attachment : image001.png;image002.png;image003.png;image004.png;

Hi all

I've compiled a list of all of the questions we've been asked and put them together. I was hoping you could please read & check for factual accuracy and help provide some of the information in yellow. Matt Watson is going to speak to Marc or Mick about the LAT and I have QFES checking as well.

Courier-Mail

- **When did DES first call QFES crews to the Island?**
- When was the first water bombing undertaken? If this was after October 14, what caused this delay?

QPWS made use of a large aerial tanker (LAT) several times before QFES took over as the lead agency.

It was used when conditions were deemed suitable including on November 22.

9 Wide Bay

- The Fraser Coast mayor is calling for an enquiry into the fires once they're out and some operators say a lack of park management has meant the island has lots of fuel for this fire. What does DES think about that?

Senior representatives from the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) have spoken to the Mayor of Fraser Coast to discuss the fire.

QPWS has conducted significant fire mitigation on K'Gari, but all the planning in the world cannot prevent fires that were started by an illegal campfire.

Campers across Queensland need to take responsibility for putting out fires properly to save lives, property and the environment.

That said, several factors including hot, dry and windy conditions have reduced the effectiveness of firefighting efforts that have been ongoing on the island however we have conducted significant fire mitigation on the island – above those recommended in the recent Royal Commission - to ensure we have as much opportunity as possible to prevent devastating fires.

The Fire Minister has today asked the Inspector General Emergency Management to review aspects of this matter.

It would be inappropriate to comment about that specifically however QPWS welcomes the opportunity to work with the IGEM on this matter.

Fraser Coat Chronicle

- **Will the use of saltwater drops to fight the fire impact on the environment on Fraser Island? – it's a sand island so the saltwater tends to soak in rather than sit on the surface**

Because K'gari is a sand island and doesn't hold moisture, the environmental impacts of using saltwater to suppress the fire are reduced.

- **The number one question we are being asked is why more action wasn't taken earlier to contain the fire on Fraser Island.**

QPWS responded immediately to the wildlife fire, early attempts to conduct backburns within days after the fire commenced proved difficult and unsuccessful due to strong dry northerly weather conditions and the highly flammable vegetation types.

It is important to remember that while the fire has been burning for some time, for most of that period it is has been in remote and inaccessible parts of the island.

QPWS has conducted significant fire mitigation on K'Gari, but all the planning in the world cannot prevent fires that were started by an illegal campfire.

Campers across Queensland need to take responsibility for putting out fires properly to save lives, property and the environment.

That said, several factors including hot, dry and windy conditions have reduced the effectiveness of firefighting efforts that have been ongoing on the island however we have conducted significant fire mitigation on the island – above those recommended in the recent Royal Commission - to ensure we have as much opportunity as possible to prevent devastating fires.

ABC Radio

1. **What percentage of Fraser Island has been burnt?**

Around 46 per cent of the island is within the burn perimeter.

2. When were waterbombers first used/deployed on this fire? (Please give us a breakdown of dates and how many per day.)

QPWS made use of a large aerial tanker (LAT) several times before QFES took management of the fire.

It was used when conditions were deemed suitable including on November 22.

[Further information required – QFES checking to see if their flight desk has this info]

3. **Did QFES want to deploy these waterbombing resources earlier than they were deployed?**

Up until Friday, QPWS was the lead in responding to the fire and as such QFES was not the decision-making agency.

7 News:

There have been questions raised about the use / lack of use of a water tanker that arrived in Bundaberg in August specifically for this year's fire season, in fighting the Fraser Island fire. And the length of time it's been allowed to burn.

Firies have said they only took over agency of the fire on Friday.. is QPWS able to comment on the use of the Tanker 141/Bomber 141 (C-FFQE) before that time – and their firefighting efforts before that time.

- **Was it used by QPWS?**
- **When was it used – the flight log please**
- **If not, why?**

QPWS made use of a large aerial tanker (LAT) several times before QFES took management of the fire.

It was used when conditions were deemed suitable including on November 22.

1. **Why did the QPWS allow the fire to continue burning through now – an estimated 40% of the island... are there environmental reasons behind this? Is it regenerative?**

QPWS responded immediately to the wildlife fire, early attempts to conduct backburns within days after the fire commenced proved difficult and unsuccessful due to strong dry northerly weather conditions and the highly flammable vegetation types.

It is important to remember that while the fire has been burning for some time, for most of that period it is has been in remote and inaccessible parts of the island.

Fire is a natural part of Queensland's landscape and the vegetation communities on K'gari have adapted to survive bushfires, with some species of flora and fauna totally reliant on it for regeneration or future food source and habitat.

- **What sort of water is used to fight these fires... salt water / fresh water and why? Is that a point of difficulty ?**

Saltwater.

Because K'gari is a sand island and doesn't hold moisture, the environmental impacts of using saltwater to suppress the fire are reduced.

ABC News

- **The Minister mentioned in Parliament today that the more than the "recommended 5% outlined by the Royal Commission" has been burned in mitigation burns. Is that specific to Fraser Island/K'Gari?**
- **Can you outline the details of the 13,000 ha burns?**
- **When did the 4 burns occur this year, how much was burned then?**
- **Are QPWS, or any other agency, any closer to identifying the person/s who lit the illegal campfire? Have any fines or charges been laid?**

No. No.



Brent Davidson
Media Manager
Media Unit | Corporate Communications
Department of Environment and Science

[Chat with me on teams](#) **Personal info**
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[Visit the Environment Media Centre](#)
[Visit us on Twitter](#)

Date : 1/12/2020 9:22:56 AM
From : "GRANT Andrea"
To : "KLAASSEN Ben"
Cc : "CHRISP Susan" , "STEELE Mary" , "DAVIDSON Brent"
Subject : Media plan for today
Attachment : image001.png;image002.png;
Ben

Thanks for your call earlier. Brent and I have worked quickly to pull together this plan and here is what we recommend the department does today. Can I leave it with you to get approval (but would recommend we do this quickly):

1. A senior DES officer calls the Mayor of Fraser Coast this morning.
2. Stakeholder engagement occurs with tourist operators in the region today.
3. Media team organises interviews with Fraser Coast Chronicle and ABC radio for Ben Klassen (we need to maintain a senior spokesperson for the foreseeable future) using the following talking points
 - This is a significant fire on K'Gari and we are working closely with QFES and BAC to control it.
 - We have conducted significant fire mitigation on K'Gari (and indeed throughout Queensland) to ensure we have as much opportunity as possible to prevent devastating fires.
 - However, all the planning in the world cannot prevent fires like this one that was started by an illegal camp fire. We need campers across Queensland to take responsibility for putting out fires properly to protect our natural environment.
 - This fire has burned for several weeks, mostly in inaccessible and remote parts of the island.
4. Social media on all our channels: how to put out a camp fire; safety messaging for any campers still there, tweet with statement related to above talking points.
5. We manage all other media today (and this could change tomorrow) with a statement similar to the talking points.

Happy to discuss
Andrea



Andrea Grant
Director-Media
Corporate Communications
Department of Environment and Science

M **Personalia**
Level 31, 400 George St, Brisbane
GPO Box 2454, Brisbane 4001

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RTI Act 2009

Date : 13/12/2020 5:07:14 PM
From : "DAVIDSON Brent"
To : "MERRICK Jamie"
Cc : "KLAASSEN Ben" , "GRANT Andrea" , "WATSON Matthew"
Subject : Media release for approval - camp reopening
Attachment : 14122020 - DRAFT TO MO - Camping re-opening on K'gari.docx;image001.png;image002.png;image003.png;image004.png;
Good afternoon DG

As discussed with Andrea Grant, I have attached (and put below) a draft media release for your approval. This would be issued tomorrow morning pending MO endorsement.

Ben has also volunteered to be our spokesperson if you approve.

Our tentative media plan is:

- Sending out the media release about 7am
- Pre-record some comments from Ben to accompany the release (for radio news)
- Coordinate TV requests
- Answer individual enquiries as usual – if information has not been provided in the approved release

Look forward to receiving your feedback.

Kind regards

Brent

Media release

Tourists to return to K'gari following bushfire

December 14, 2020

Tourist accommodation providers on K'gari-Fraser Island have been given the green light to welcome guests for Christmas following the recent bushfire, with access restrictions to be lifted from tomorrow.

In great news for those who planned to stay or visit the island over the Christmas-New Year break, authorities have determined it will be safe to open vehicle access along the eastern beach tomorrow, allowing visitors to travel to K'gari's townships.

This means resorts, private accommodation such as beach houses and residential *Airbnb* style accommodation can be open for business.

The island's most popular visitor destinations will also be progressively reopened following hazard assessments and any essential works.

These include:

- Lake McKenzie
- Central Station
- Lake Wabby
- Eli Creek
- Maheno
- Champagne Pools

Campers don't miss out either, with many campgrounds and beach camping zones reopening and available for booking from tomorrow afternoon.

Those re-opening are:

- Beach camping zones south of Poyungan Rocks
- Waddy Point beachfront camping.
- Waddy Point campground

Other camping opportunities will become available as hazard assessments progress.

Those who booked a site in an area that continues to be closed beyond tomorrow will of course also be given a refund.

QPWS will provide information via [Park Alerts](#) – www.qld.gov.au/parkalerts and [@QldParkAlerts](#) on Twitter for campground

information up until the Christmas-New Year break to keep visitors informed about the status and impacts on their booking.

Visitors should be aware that some areas affected by fire or the fire response will remain closed while they are assessed for risks and necessary maintenance is undertaken.

This includes many of the island's walking tracks which will take time to fully assess and are currently still too dangerous to re-open.

The closure of access to townships and campgrounds has been necessary and in the interests of public safety.

QPWS staff have worked hard alongside Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, the Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation and local businesses to do everything they can to both ensure safety and get the island open to tourists as soon as possible.

QPWS regrets the inconvenience caused to those who planned to camp or visit K'gari prior to today, however public safety is always the top priority.

Visitors to the island should also continue to check [Park Alerts](#) and [Twitter](#) to keep up-to-date on information such as weather, fire or restrictions.



Brent Davidson
Media Manager
Media Unit | Corporate Communications
Department of Environment and Science

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Date : 25/11/2020 2:15:44 PM

From : "KLAASSEN Ben"

To : "CAMBOURN Neil" , "DAVIDSON Brent" , "HEAD Damien" , "GRANT Andrea" , "CUBIS Mick"

Cc : "Media DES"

Subject : RE: 25112020 - MR - Update on Fraser Island fire

Attachment : 25112020 - MR - Update on Fraser Island

fire.docx;image001.png;image002.png;image003.jpg;image004.png;image007.png;image011.png;image012.png;image013.png;

Hi

Please find attached a reworked fire update.

Happy to discuss.

Regards

Ben



Ben Klaassen

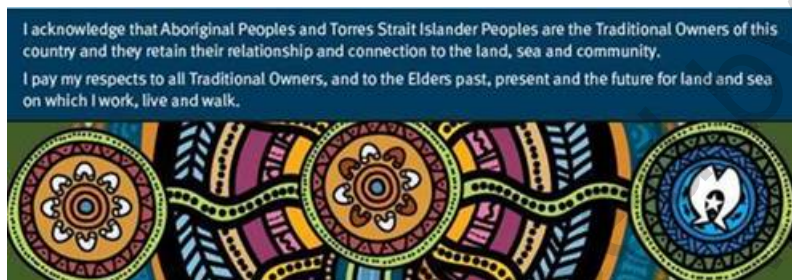
Deputy Director-General

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships
Department of Environment and Science

P 07 3199 7538 | M Personal info E ben.klaassen@des.qld.gov.au

Level 5, 400 George St, Brisbane QLD 4000

PO Box 15187, CITY EAST QLD 4002



From: CAMBOURN Neil <Neil.Cambourn@des.qld.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 25 November 2020 12:38 PM

To: DAVIDSON Brent; HEAD Damien; GRANT Andrea; KLAASSEN Ben; CUBIS Mick

Cc: Media DES

Subject: RE: 25112020 - MR - Update on Fraser Island fire

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Neil Cambourn

Assistant Director-General

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships
Department of Environment and Science

P 07 3199 7518 | M Personal info

Level 5, 400 George Street, Brisbane QLD 4000

From: DAVIDSON Brent <Brent.Davidson@des.qld.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 25 November 2020 12:28 PM

To: HEAD Damien; GRANT Andrea; CAMBOURN Neil; KLAASSEN Ben; CUBIS Mick

Cc: Media DES

Subject: RE: 25112020 - MR - Update on Fraser Island fire

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Some campgrounds are temporarily closed and others have been reopened already. If your existing booking is affected by these temporary closures amendments can be made and accommodated on our booking system.

We ask visitors and campers planning trips to Kgari to continue to monitor the parks website for the latest information.

Chicken little is not required at times like this.

From: GRANT Andrea <Andrea.Grant@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 25 November 2020 12:12 PM
To: CAMBOURN Neil; DAVIDSON Brent; KLAASSEN Ben; HEAD Damien; CUBIS Mick
Cc: Media DES
Subject: RE: 25112020 - MR - Update on Fraser Island fire

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I don't think the release is alarmist, given the advice from Marc this morning. Also there has been a significant uptake in the media today on this issue with Fraser Coast Council, SDIS and others all talking about how the fire is a concern. If we play down the issue we risk looking foolish if it escalates (people can see the smoke and know it's serious) and other organisations are leading the messaging if we don't. Tomorrow Sunrise is doing interviews on the issue. We aren't telling people not to go to the island, we are telling them to check before they do. I think that's a legitimate safety warning for both them and us.

Happy to discuss
Andrea

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Sent: Wednesday, 25 November 2020 12:05 PM
To: DAVIDSON Brent; KLAASSEN Ben; HEAD Damien; CUBIS Mick
Cc: GRANT Andrea; Media DES
Subject: RE: 25112020 - MR - Update on Fraser Island fire

Thanks Brent I don't support the narrative, its unnecessarily alarmist and out of context.

The areas mentioned are inconsequential places in the scheme of the islands broader offerings, and going out to media like that will scare people off from making Christmas bookings to the resorts who badly need the patronage.

Have another crack in the context of "we are open for business but keep an eye on Park Alerts" please.

I wouldn't even list the full list of road closures you have there, just report that some roads in the north and some camping zones may be inaccessible while the fire operation is underway etc.

Most of the camping nodes mentioned are west coast and only accessed by a few locals, the Platypus bay road and moon point road have been closed/ inaccessible to visitors for years.



Neil Cambourn

Assistant Director-General
Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships
Department of Environment and Science

P 07 3199 7518 M Personal info
Level 5, 400 George Street, Brisbane QLD 4000

From: DAVIDSON Brent <Brent.Davidson@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 25 November 2020 11:42 AM
To: CAMBOURN Neil; KLAASSEN Ben
Cc: GRANT Andrea; Media DES
Subject: 25112020 - MR - Update on Fraser Island fire

Hi Neil & Ben

Attached release for your endorsement – has been checked by region.

Hoping to get to the MO ASAP.

Cheers

Brent



Brent Davidson
Media Manager
Media Unit | Corporate Communications
Department of Environment and Science

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[Visit the Environment Media Centre](#)
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Media release

Update on Fraser Island bushfire

November 25 2020

The changed wind conditions from the north to the south east have this morning brought some welcome relief to the firefighting efforts on K'gari (Fraser Island).

With the fire continuing to burn in vegetation in remote parts of the island, the strong northerly winds which have been pushing the main fire-front further south have abated in favour of a southerly change which gives firefighters an opportunity to build and strengthen containment lines.

Smoke may impact townships and campsites along the island's eastern beach and the adjacent mainland over the coming days. Beach drivers should exercise caution when traversing the eastern beach, and in any situation along the coast where smoke may impact visibility.

Campers and visitors to the island are being advised to keep a watch on our website for information on the areas you are planning to visit including our park alert pages, and to look out for any signage and listen to any instructions from rangers.

The fire response is being coordinated by an incident management team (IMT) headed up by experienced Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) officers supported by Queensland Fire and Emergency Services personnel and equipment, and Butchulla representatives.

The IMT has the necessary trained fire personnel and fire equipment at its disposal. This includes multiple crews on the ground each day, with further resources drawn from across south east Queensland to assist where necessary, and access to the aerial support capabilities of QFES.

This team directs how the fire is tactically managed, feeds combined resources where they are needed, brings together the latest technology to monitor the fire and get real-time situation updates and facilitates the sharing of information across state agencies, local government and other important stakeholders.

The fire is not threatening life or property and it has not damaged any infrastructure.

Fire is a natural part of Queensland's landscape and the vegetation communities on K'gari have adapted to not only survive bushfires, but some species of flora and fauna are totally reliant on it for regeneration and/ or future food source and habitat.

QPWS routinely conducts planned burns operations on K'gari, and the use of fire is a globally recognized environmental management strategy.

While the majority of the island, including popular visitor sites, remains open, some campgrounds (such as Dundabura) and access tracks in the middle of the island and the west coast are closed as a safety precaution.

These closures not only protect the public but assist in crews in undertaking important containment and suppression operations.

Information on the situation is being provided online at the Park Alerts website: www.parks.qld.gov.au/park-alerts/ or on Twitter at @QldParkAlerts.

ENDS

Media contact: DES Media Unit on (07) 3339 5831 or media@des.qld.gov.au

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Date : 25/11/2020 12:38:00 PM

From : "CAMBOURN Neil"

To : "DAVIDSON Brent" , "HEAD Damien" , "GRANT Andrea" , "KLAASSEN Ben" , "CUBIS Mick"

Cc : "Media DES"

Subject : RE: 25112020 - MR - Update on Fraser Island fire

Attachment : image001.png;image005.png;image006.png;image008.png;image009.png;image010.png;

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Neil Cambourn

Assistant Director-General

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships

Department of Environment and Science

P 07 3199 7518 M Personal info

Level 5, 400 George Street, Brisbane QLD 4000

From: DAVIDSON Brent <Brent.Davidson@des.qld.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 25 November 2020 12:28 PM

To: HEAD Damien; GRANT Andrea; CAMBOURN Neil; KLAASSEN Ben; CUBIS Mick

Cc: Media DES

Subject: RE: 25112020 - MR - Update on Fraser Island fire

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Tomorrow Sunrise is doing interviews on the issue. We aren't telling people not to go to the island, we are telling them to check before they do. I think that's a legitimate safety warning for both them and us.

Happy to discuss

Andrea

From: CAMBOURN Neil <Neil.Cambourn@des.qld.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 25 November 2020 12:05 PM

To: DAVIDSON Brent; KLAASSEN Ben; HEAD Damien; CUBIS Mick

Cc: GRANT Andrea; Media DES
Subject: RE: 25112020 - MR - Update on Fraser Island fire

Thanks Brent I don't support the narrative, its unnecessarily alarmist and out of context.
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Have another crack in the context of "we are open for business but keep an eye on Park Alerts" please.
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Most of the camping nodes mentioned are west coast and only accessed by a few locals, the Platypus bay road and moon point road have been closed/ inaccessible to visitors for years.



Neil Cambourn
Assistant Director-General
Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships
Department of Environment and Science

P 07 3199 7518 M [Personal info](#)
Level 5, 400 George Street, Brisbane QLD 4000

From: DAVIDSON Brent <Brent.Davidson@des.qld.gov.au>
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To: CAMBOURN Neil; KLAASSEN Ben
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Brent Davidson
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[Visit the Environment Media Centre](#)
[Visit us on Twitter](#)

Date : 25/11/2020 12:34:21 PM

From : "HEAD Damien"

To : "DAVIDSON Brent" , "GRANT Andrea" , "CAMBOURN Neil" , "KLAASSEN Ben" , "CUBIS Mick"

Cc : "Media DES"

Subject : RE: 25112020 - MR - Update on Fraser Island fire

Attachment : image001.png;image008.png;image009.png;image002.png;image003.png;

We continue to state the truth.

The fire presents no risk to the visiting public, there has been no loss or threat to property. As a matter of precaution some sections of the island near the active fire fronts have been closed.

These closures not only protect the public but assist in crews in undertaking important containment and suppression operations.

Current weather conditions are favourable for backburning operations and have reduced the intensity of the fire over the past 12-24 hours. Crews now have a window of a couple of days to attempt to contain the fire.

From: DAVIDSON Brent <Brent.Davidson@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 25 November 2020 12:28 PM
To: HEAD Damien; GRANT Andrea; CAMBOURN Neil; KLAASSEN Ben; CUBIS Mick
Cc: Media DES
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Assistant Director-General
Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships
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Subject: 25112020 - MR - Update on Fraser Island fire

Hi Neil & Ben

Attached release for your endorsement – has been checked by region.

Hoping to get to the MO ASAP.

Cheers

Brent



Brent Davidson
Media Manager
Media Unit | Corporate Communications
Department of Environment and Science

 [Chat with me on teams](#) M Personal info
[E brent.davidson@des.qld.gov.au](mailto:brent.davidson@des.qld.gov.au)
[Visit the Environment Media Centre](#)
[Visit us on Twitter](#)

Date : 25/11/2020 12:25:31 PM

From : "HEAD Damien"

To : "GRANT Andrea" , "CAMBOURN Neil" , "DAVIDSON Brent" , "KLAASSEN Ben" , "CUBIS Mick"

Cc : "Media DES"

Subject : RE: 25112020 - MR - Update on Fraser Island fire

Attachment : image001.png;image004.png;image007.png;image005.png;image006.png;

I think the lead needs to be the island is open and all of the island's popular visitor destinations remain open and well removed from the fire front. Visitors are welcomed and encouraged to first locations such as Lake McKenzie, Central Station, Eli Creek, Maheno and the many other lakes across the southern end of the island. Also beach camping continues to be available along much of the islands 130kms in addition to locations such as Waddy Point and Central Station.

Some campgrounds are temporarily closed and others have been reopened already. If your existing booking is affected by these temporary closures amendments can be made and accommodated on our booking system.

We ask visitors and campers planning trips to Kgari to continue to monitor the parks website for the latest information.

Chicken little is not required at times like this.

From: GRANT Andrea <Andrea.Grant@des.qld.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 25 November 2020 12:12 PM

To: CAMBOURN Neil; DAVIDSON Brent; KLAASSEN Ben; HEAD Damien; CUBIS Mick

Cc: Media DES

Subject: RE: 25112020 - MR - Update on Fraser Island fire

Hi Neil, happy to take out the specific closures, although we are getting media inquiries about what is open/closed so I would prefer to be proactive.

I don't think the release is alarmist, given the advice from Marc this morning. Also there has been a significant uptake in the media today on this issue with Fraser Coast Council, SDIS and others all talking about how the fire is a concern. If we play down the issue we risk looking foolish if it escalates (people can see the smoke and know it's serious) and other organisations are leading the messaging if we don't. Tomorrow Sunrise is doing interviews on the issue. We aren't telling people not to go to the island, we are telling them to check before they do. I think that's a legitimate safety warning for both them and us.

Happy to discuss
Andrea

From: CAMBOURN Neil <Neil.Cambourn@des.qld.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 25 November 2020 12:05 PM

To: DAVIDSON Brent; KLAASSEN Ben; HEAD Damien; CUBIS Mick

Cc: GRANT Andrea; Media DES

Subject: RE: 25112020 - MR - Update on Fraser Island fire

Thanks Brent I don't support the narrative, its unnecessarily alarmist and out of context.

The areas mentioned are inconsequential places in the scheme of the islands broader offerings, and going out to media like that will scare people off from making Christmas bookings to the resorts who badly need the patronage.

Have another crack in the context of "we are open for business but keep an eye on Park Alerts" please.

I wouldn't even list the full list of road closures you have there, just report that some roads in the north and some camping zones may be inaccessible while the fire operation is underway etc.

Most of the camping nodes mentioned are west coast and only accessed by a few locals, the Platypus bay road and moon point road have been closed/ inaccessible to visitors for years.



Neil Cambourn

Assistant Director-General

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships

Department of Environment and Science

P 07 3199 7518 M Personal info

Level 5, 400 George Street, Brisbane QLD 4000

From: DAVIDSON Brent <Brent.Davidson@des.qld.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 25 November 2020 11:42 AM

To: CAMBOURN Neil; KLAASSEN Ben

Cc: GRANT Andrea; Media DES

Subject: 25112020 - MR - Update on Fraser Island fire

Hi Neil & Ben

Attached release for your endorsement – has been checked by region.

Hoping to get to the MO ASAP.
20-206

File C Release

Page 77 of 166

Cheers

Brent



Brent Davidson
Media Manager
Media Unit | Corporate Communications
Department of Environment and Science

Chat with me on teams **Personal info**

E brent.davidson@des.qld.gov.au

[Visit the Environment Media Centre](#)

[Visit us on Twitter](#)

Released by DES
RTI Act 2009

Date : 25/11/2020 12:14:15 PM

From : "CAMBOURN Neil"

To : "GRANT Andrea" , "DAVIDSON Brent" , "KLAASSEN Ben" , "HEAD Damien" , "CUBIS Mick"

Cc : "Media DES"

Subject : RE: 25112020 - MR - Update on Fraser Island fire

Attachment : image001.png;image002.png;image003.png;image004.png;image007.png;image008.png;

I'm not arguing with you, I'm not supporting that approach – it is incorrect.



Neil Cambourn

Assistant Director-General

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships

Department of Environment and Science

P 07 3199 7518 M [Personal info](#)

Level 5, 400 George Street, Brisbane QLD 4000

From: GRANT Andrea <Andrea.Grant@des.qld.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 25 November 2020 12:12 PM

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Cc: GRANT Andrea; Media DES

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Neil Cambourn

Assistant Director-General

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships

Department of Environment and Science

P 07 3199 7518 M [Personal info](#)

Level 5, 400 George Street, Brisbane QLD 4000

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Cc: GRANT Andrea; Media DES

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Cheers

Brent 20-206

File C Release

Page 79 of 166



Brent Davidson
Media Manager
Media Unit | Corporate Communications
Department of Environment and Science

[Chat with me on teams](#) **Personal info**

[E brent.davidson@des.qld.gov.au](mailto:brent.davidson@des.qld.gov.au)

[Visit the Environment Media Centre](#)

[Visit us on Twitter](#)

Released by DES
RTI Act 2009

Date : 25/11/2020 12:05:03 PM

From : "CAMBOURN Neil"

To : "DAVIDSON Brent" , "KLAASSEN Ben" , "HEAD Damien" , "CUBIS Mick"

Cc : "GRANT Andrea" , "Media DES"

Subject : RE: 25112020 - MR - Update on Fraser Island fire

Attachment : 25112020 - MR - Update on Fraser Island

fire.docx;image001.png;image007.png;image002.png;image003.png;image004.png;

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Assistant Director-General

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships
Department of Environment and Science

P 07 3199 7518 M Personal info
Level 5, 400 George Street, Brisbane QLD 4000

From: DAVIDSON Brent <Brent.Davidson@des.qld.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 25 November 2020 11:42 AM

To: CAMBOURN Neil; KLAASSEN Ben

Cc: GRANT Andrea; Media DES

Subject: 25112020 - MR - Update on Fraser Island fire

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Hoping to get to the MO ASAP.

Cheers

Brent



Brent Davidson

Media Manager

Media Unit | Corporate Communications
Department of Environment and Science

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E brent.davidson@des.qld.gov.au

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[Visit us on Twitter](#)

Media release

Update on Fraser Island bushfire

November 25 2020

Campers and visitors to Fraser Island are being warned that their plans may be disrupted at short notice due to the current bushfire situation.

As a result of the fire, which is burning in the northern half of the island, people may be requested to leave for their own safety if campgrounds and day sites are closed to ensure public safety.

As part of firefighting activity, at this stage, camping areas and roads are temporarily closed:

- Bowal, Awinya, Bowarrady, Woralie, Coongul and Moon Point camping areas
- Beach Camping Zones 6 (Eugarie, Yurru and Guruman) and 7 (Wyuna and Burad)
- Dundubara camping area
- Platypus Bay, Awinya and Woralie Roads
- Moon Point Road West of Lake Garawongera
- Northern Road north of Smith-Poyungan Road (from Cornwells road)
- Poyungan Valley Road (500m off the beach) & Happy Valley Road closed 100m from Happy Valley
- Wungul / Bowarrady walking tracks
- Lake Allom day use area
- Sandy Cape Lighthouse visitor precinct

All permits for closed areas are being transferred to alternative camping areas where possible.

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS), the Butchulla Land and Sea Rangers and Queensland Fire and Emergency Service crews are on the ground working hard to contain the fire, which has burnt as far south as Cathedrals on Fraser and but at this stage is not directly threatening life or property.

An Incident Management Team has been set up to manage the situation and is based at Rainbow Beach.

QPWS is running the IMT which is made up of representatives and experts in their fields from Queensland Fire and Emergency Service, the Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation.

This team steers how the fire is tactically managed, feeds combined resources where they are needed, brings together the latest technology to monitor the fire and get real-time situation updates and facilitates the sharing of information across state agencies, local government and other important stakeholders.

To request a refund log into your account at www.qld.gov.au/camping

Information on the situation is being provided online at the Park Alerts website: www.parks.qld.gov.au/park-alerts/ or on Twitter at @QldParkAlerts.

ENDS

Media contact: DES Media Unit on (07) 3339 5831 or media@des.qld.gov.au

Released by DES
RTI Act 2009

Date : 25/11/2020 10:11:52 AM

From : "GRANT Andrea"

To : "CUBIS Mick", "DARGUSCH Marc"

Cc : "DAVIDSON Brent", "SENGERS Nathalie", "STRYBOS Stacey", "CAMBOURN Neil", "HEAD Damien"

Subject : RE: Comms/media plan for K'Gari fire

Attachment : image001.png;image002.png;image004.png;

All good. Just need 10 minutes with someone to get our messaging right. Let me know who that is and we'll sort it

From: CUBIS Mick <Mick.Cubis@des.qld.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 25 November 2020 10:08 AM

To: DARGUSCH Marc; GRANT Andrea

Cc: DAVIDSON Brent; SENGER Nathalie; STRYBOS Stacey; CAMBOURN Neil; HEAD Damien

Subject: RE: Comms/media plan for K'Gari fire

Thanks Marc and Andrea, I am happy with the proposed actions (subject to content approval of course). Appreciate the help here Andrea,

Thanks

Mick

Mick Cubis

Regional Director, Coastal and Islands Region

GBRMCI | QPWS & Partnerships

Department of Environment and Science

P: 07 54471137 M: Personal info

240 Moorindil Street, Tewantin

Qld 4565

mick.cubis@des.qld.gov.au

From: DARGUSCH Marc <Marc.Dargusch@des.qld.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 25 November 2020 10:03 AM

To: GRANT Andrea; CUBIS Mick

Cc: DAVIDSON Brent; SENGER Nathalie; STRYBOS Stacey; CAMBOURN Neil

Subject: RE: Comms/media plan for K'Gari fire

Hello Andrea sounds good. You will have seen the email I've sent to IMT with a view to bedding down information flow.

We might add *Direct email to LDMG/DDMG* to cover off on the disaster management angle.

Hi Mick – are you good with this approach ?

Regards, Marc



Marc Dargusch

Principal Ranger – Great Sandy Area

Coastal and Islands Region | QPWS and Partnerships

Department of Environment and Science

M: Personal info P 07 54869960

Level 6, 12 on First Avenue, Maroochydore 4558

www.des.qld.gov.au

I give my respect to the traditional and custodial Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Elders and Owners of the Land in which I work, live and walk.

From: GRANT Andrea <Andrea.Grant@des.qld.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 25 November 2020 9:56 AM

To: DARGUSCH Marc; CUBIS Mick; CAMBOURN Neil

Cc: DAVIDSON Brent; SENGER Nathalie; STRYBOS Stacey

Subject: Comms/media plan for K'Gari fire

Hi Marc

As discussed, the media and communications team can definitely help with getting our important messaging out on this fire. Like I said if we are not leading the communications others will fill the gaps and we lose control of the messaging. After a quick brainstorm here we have come up with these communications ideas and just need content/information to achieve them:

- Direct mail to everyone who has a camping permits on the island
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- Direct mail to Fraser Coast Council
- Social media posts (these would include how people should prepare on the island, what camping spots are closed, whether people

- should delay going to the island etc)
- Social media that shows the face of rangers/land and sea rangers who are fighting the fire (this would be done in conjunction with BAC)
- Media release (and social media) on how people should put out camp fires correctly (this could be an ongoing post we use throughout the year as an educational piece)
- Ongoing daily media grabs to reduce pressure on leadership team to provide ongoing media updates
- Conversation with QFES Media to ensure consistent messaging coming from both teams.

Let me know what you think and we'll get this moving.

Andrea



Andrea Grant
Director-Media
Corporate Communications
Department of Environment and Science

M **Personalia**
Level 31, 400 George St, Brisbane
GPO Box 2454, Brisbane 4001

Released by DES
RTI Act 2009

Date : 25/11/2020 10:02:33 AM
From : "DARGUSCH Marc"
To : "GRANT Andrea" , "CUBIS Mick"
Cc : "DAVIDSON Brent" , "SENGERS Nathalie" , "STRYBOS Stacey" , "CAMBOURN Neil"
Subject : RE: Comms/media plan for K'Gari fire
Attachment : image001.png;image002.png;image004.png;

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Marc Dargusch
Principal Ranger – Great Sandy Area
Coastal and Islands Region | QPWS and Partnerships
Department of Environment and Science

M **Personal in** P 07 54869960
Level 6, 12 on First Avenue, Maroochydore 4558
www.des.qld.gov.au

I give my respect to the traditional and custodial Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Elders and Owners of the Land in which I work, live and walk.

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Andrea Grant
Director-Media
Corporate Communications
Department of Environment and Science

M **Personal in**
Level 31, 400 George St, Brisbane
GPO Box 2454, Brisbane 4001

Date : 25/11/2020 10:29:58 AM

From : "CUBIS Mick"

To : "GRANT Andrea" , "DARGUSCH Marc"

Cc : "DAVIDSON Brent" , "SENGERS Nathalie" , "STRYBOS Stacey" , "CAMBOURN Neil" , "HEAD Damien"

Subject : RE: Comms/media plan for K'Gari fire

Attachment : image001.png;image003.png;image005.png;

I would defer to Marc to recommend best source of required content Andrea,

Thanks

Mick

Mick Cubis

Regional Director, Coastal and Islands Region

GBRMCI | QPWS & Partnerships

Department of Environment and Science

P: 07 54471137 M: Personal info

240 Moorindil Street, Tewantin

Qld 4565

mick.cubis@des.qld.gov.au

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Cc: DAVIDSON Brent; SENGER Nathalie; STRYBOS Stacey; CAMBOURN Neil; HEAD Damien

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Sent: Wednesday, 25 November 2020 10:08 AM

To: DARGUSCH Marc; GRANT Andrea

Cc: DAVIDSON Brent; SENGER Nathalie; STRYBOS Stacey; CAMBOURN Neil; HEAD Damien

Subject: RE: Comms/media plan for K'Gari fire

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Mick

Mick Cubis

Regional Director, Coastal and Islands Region

GBRMCI | QPWS & Partnerships

Department of Environment and Science

P: 07 54471137 M: Personal info

240 Moorindil Street, Tewantin

Qld 4565

mick.cubis@des.qld.gov.au

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Sent: Wednesday, 25 November 2020 10:03 AM

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Marc Dargusch
Principal Ranger – Great Sandy Area
Coastal and Islands Region | QPWS and Partnerships
Department of Environment and Science

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Andrea Grant
Director-Media
Corporate Communications
Department of Environment and Science

M **Personahin**
Level 31, 400 George St, Brisbane
GPO Box 2454, Brisbane 4001

Date : 25/11/2020 7:24:19 AM
From : "GRANT Andrea"
To : "CAMBOURN Neil" , "DARGUSCH Marc"
Cc : "HEINRITZ Richard"
Subject : Re: Duling Wildfire K'Gari - update for 25/11/2020 as at 0600
Attachment : image004.png;image005.jpg;image006.jpg;image007.png;

Thanks Neil

Really happy to talk with Marc this morning about providing the comms support as discussed. Marc, my mobile is Personal info

Thanks

Andrea

Sent from my iPhone

On 25 Nov 2020, at 7:16 am, CAMBOURN Neil <Neil.Cambourn@des.qld.gov.au> wrote:

Fyi

Regards Neil Cambourn

Begin forwarded message:

From: CUBIS Mick <Mick.Cubis@des.qld.gov.au>
Date: 25 November 2020 at 6:57:36 am AEST
To: DARGUSCH Marc <Marc.Dargusch@des.qld.gov.au>
Cc: CONNOR Nathan <Nathan.Connor@des.qld.gov.au>, CIR Fire Team <CIR.FireTeam@des.qld.gov.au>, MACDONALD Stirling <Stirling.MacDonald@des.qld.gov.au>, SEELEITHER Jamie <Jamie.Seeleither@des.qld.gov.au>, YETMAN Brendon <Brendon.Yetman@des.qld.gov.au>, HARVEY Peter <Peter.Harvey@des.qld.gov.au>, LAWTON Colin <Colin.Lawton@des.qld.gov.au>, EMBREY Teena <Teena.Embrey@des.qld.gov.au>, HEAD Damien <Damien.Head@des.qld.gov.au>, CAMBOURN Neil <Neil.Cambourn@des.qld.gov.au>, KLAASSEN Ben <Ben.Klaassen@des.qld.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Duling Wildfire K'Gari - update for 25/11/2020 as at 0600

Thanks Marc, appreciate the update and it's good to see the wind change has come through.

I have already done this morning's media update, but it pretty much aligns with what you have provided, so that's all good. Also good to see the IMT scaled up. I still haven't had any feedback about the recommendation for QFES to take over responsibility for the fire so we will continue to be the lead until notified otherwise.

Good work all and I look forward to the regular updates.

thanks

Mick Cubis
Regional Director, Coastal and Islands Region
GBRMI | QPWS & Partnerships
Department of Environment and Science

P: 07 54471137 M: Personal info
240 Moorindil Street, Tewantin
Qld 4565
mick.cubis@des.qld.gov.au

From: DARGUSCH Marc <Marc.Dargusch@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 25 November 2020 6:39 AM
To: CUBIS Mick
Cc: CONNOR Nathan; CIR Fire Team; MACDONALD Stirling; SEELEITHER Jamie; YETMAN Brendon; HARVEY Peter; LAWTON Colin; EMBREY Teena
Subject: Duling Wildfire K'Gari - update for 25/11/2020 as at 0600

Hi Mick – We'll embed the 0900/1500 SitReps today again – pretty hard for IC/IMT as the new IMT came together yesterday. They've organised for QFES demountable unit to be dropped at Rainbow Office carpark and will work out of that space IMT too large to fit in Rainbow as it grew yesterday to fit need/demands. I'll be working further with IC/IMT to bed down a Comms officer to better deal with communicating outwards (in QFES speak ... a PIO – they love acronyms). I want to ensure key stakeholders are getting the one consistent message (has been a prob).

In case you are doing media

- The southerly change came through and fire weather conditions have eased on the fire ground.
- Four major components to fire:
 - Fire in South
 - The intent is to hold the wildfire on a southern fire control line (Smith-Poyungan/Cornwalls Road).
 - A range of options at IMT disposal with some already implemented which include: mechanical work on break, aerial support (waterbombing/aerial ignition) and back burning.
 - Happy Valley – no immediate threat, watching brief with good prep work undertaken.
 - Cathedrals on Fraser – no immediate threat, watching brief with good prep work undertaken.
 - Sandy Cape – no immediate threat, watching brief with good prep work undertaken.

All in all feeling much better with cooler southerly conditions. Time for taking action whilst we can. I'll bed down planning with appropriate docs during day so everyone in alignment.

Regards, Marc

From: DARGUSCH Marc
Sent: Tuesday, 24 November 2020 1:32 PM
To: HEAD Damien; CUBIS Mick; CAMBOURN Neil
Subject: FW: Duling Wildfire K'Gari 24/11/2020 as at 1230

Hi Mick/Damien/Neil - Situation @ 1300hrs 20201124:

- The main fire continues to move in a south easterly direction with poor fire weather conditions on the island.
- The community of Happy Valley is potentially under threat within the next 24hrs **although** the latest mapping and predictions indicate this threat has abated with an improved forecast. QFES, RFS, QPWS and QPS, Ambulance are working together to prepare the community. It is worth noting that the fire has not yet exited the closed forest into the dryer eastern vegetation types.
- Forecast wind change easterly at about 4.00am 25/11/2020 will further lessen the current risk to Happy Valley.
- Fire to the south has now just over the Bogimbah Track.
- Other sectors:
 - Active fire at the north of the island at Sandy Cape sector is being monitored.
 - Cathedral Beach sector is blacking out.
- IMT has relocated and ramped up (refer attached pdf) to Rainbow Beach. Nathan Connor is now the IC.
- Divisional control is operating out of QPWS Dundabara.

Given the fire proximity to Happy Valley (and smaller communities to south including Yidney Rocks etc) + Kingfisher Bay Resort the current QPWS run IMT would be comfortable with QFES taking control if QFES happy to attempt to utilise the Smith-Poyungun Road as the southern control line & have QPWS on IMT with them.

Some fire predictions are contained below.

Regards, Marc

<image004.png>
Marc Dargusch

Principal Ranger – Great Sandy Area
Coastal and Islands Region | QPWS and Partnerships
Department of Environment and Science

M | **Personal** P 07 54869960
Level 6, 12 on First Avenue, Maroochydore 4558
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John Atkinson

Senior Project Officer

Fire Team | Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service

Department of Environment and Science

P 07 4999 8533 | E John.Atkinson@des.qld.gov.au

Level 5 | 44 Nelsen Street | Mackay

Date : 25/11/2020 8:48:41 AM
From : "DARGUSCH Marc"
To : "GRANT Andrea"
Cc : "HEAD Damien" , "HEINRITZ Richard" , "CAMBOURN Neil" , "CUBIS Mick"
Subject : RE: Duling Wildfire K'Gari - update for 25/11/2020 as at 0600
Attachment : image001.png,image003.png;

Hi Andrea

Thinking we can do this remotely, IMT setting up TeamsSite as we speak. Not wanting this to be a component part of IMT as they have enough on plate ... just looking to ensure/bed system down to empower good comms with externals.

I'll ring you by 9am.

M

From: CAMBOURN Neil <Neil.Cambourn@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 25 November 2020 7:59 AM
To: GRANT Andrea
Cc: DARGUSCH Marc; HEAD Damien; HEINRITZ Richard
Subject: RE: Duling Wildfire K'Gari - update for 25/11/2020 as at 0600

Yes thanks, talk to Marc when he is free.



Neil Cambourn
Assistant Director-General
Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships
Department of Environment and Science
P 07 3199 7518 M Personal info
Level 5, 400 George Street, Brisbane QLD 4000

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utilise the Smith-Poyungun Road as the southern control line & have QPWS on IMT with them.

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Coastal and Islands Region | QPWS and Partnerships

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Subject : RE: Duling Wildfire K'Gari - update for 25/11/2020 as at 0600
Attachment : image001.png;image002.png;

Maybe think about someone on site at Rainbow office with the IMT Andrea?
I don't think there will be appetite for QFES to hand back with current conditions again favouring the fire away from property.



Neil Cambourn
Assistant Director-General
Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships
Department of Environment and Science
P 07 3199 7518 M Personal info
Level 5, 400 George Street, Brisbane QLD 4000

From: GRANT Andrea <Andrea.Grant@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 25 November 2020 7:24 AM
To: CAMBOURN Neil; DARGUSCH Marc
Cc: HEINRITZ Richard
Subject: Re: Duling Wildfire K'Gari - update for 25/11/2020 as at 0600

Thanks Neil
Really happy to talk with Marc this morning about providing the comms support as discussed. Marc, my mobile is Personal info
Thanks
Andrea

Sent from my iPhone

On 25 Nov 2020, at 7:16 am, CAMBOURN Neil <Neil.Cambourn@des.qld.gov.au> wrote:

Fyi

Regards Neil Cambourn

Begin forwarded message:

From: CUBIS Mick <Mick.Cubis@des.qld.gov.au>
Date: 25 November 2020 at 6:57:36 am AEST
To: DARGUSCH Marc <Marc.Dargusch@des.qld.gov.au>
Cc: CONNOR Nathan <Nathan.Connor@des.qld.gov.au>, CIR Fire Team <CIR.FireTeam@des.qld.gov.au>, MACDONALD Stirling <Stirling.MacDonald@des.qld.gov.au>, SEELEITHER Jamie <Jamie.Seeleither@des.qld.gov.au>, YETMAN Brendon <Brendon.Yetman@des.qld.gov.au>, HARVEY Peter <Peter.Harvey@des.qld.gov.au>, LAWTON Colin <Colin.Lawton@des.qld.gov.au>, EMBREY Teena <Teena.Embrey@des.qld.gov.au>, HEAD Damien <Damien.Head@des.qld.gov.au>, CAMBOURN Neil <Neil.Cambourn@des.qld.gov.au>, KLAASSEN Ben <Ben.Klaassen@des.qld.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Duling Wildfire K'Gari - update for 25/11/2020 as at 0600

Thanks Marc, appreciate the update and it's good to see the wind change has come through.

I have already done this morning's media update, but it pretty much aligns with what you have provided, so that's all good. Also good to see the IMT scaled up. I still haven't had any feedback about the recommendation for QFES to take over responsibility for the fire so we will continue to be the lead until notified otherwise.

Good work all and I look forward to the regular updates.

thanks

Mick Cubis
Regional Director, Coastal and Islands Region
GBRIMCI | QPWS & Partnerships
Department of Environment and Science

P: 07 54471137 M Personal info
240 Moorindil Street, Tewantin
Qld 4565
mick.cubis@des.qld.gov.au

From: DARGUSCH Marc <Marc.Dargusch@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 25 November 2020 6:39 AM
20-206

File C Release

Page 104 of 166

To: CUBIS Mick
Cc: CONNOR Nathan; CIR Fire Team; MACDONALD Stirling; SEELEITHER Jamie; YETMAN Brendon; HARVEY Peter; LAWTON Colin; EMBREY Teena
Subject: Duling Wildfire K'Gari - update for 25/11/2020 as at 0600

Hi Mick – We'll embed the 0900/1500 SitReps today again – pretty hard for IC/IMT as the new IMT came together yesterday. They've organised for QFES demountable unit to be dropped at Rainbow Office carpark and will work out of that space IMT too large to fit in Rainbow as it grew yesterday to fit need/demands. I'll be working further with IC/IMT to bed down a Comms officer to better deal with communicating outwards (in QFES speak ... a PIO – they love acronyms). I want to ensure key stakeholders are getting the one consistent message (has been a prob).

In case you are doing media

- The southerly change came through and fire weather conditions have eased on the fire ground.
- Four major components to fire:
 - Fire in South
 - The intent is to hold the wildfire on a southern fire control line (Smith-Poyungan/Cornwalls Road).
 - A range of options at IMT disposal with some already implemented which include: mechanical work on break, aerial support (waterbombing/aerial ignition) and back burning.
 - Happy Valley – no immediate threat, watching brief with good prep work undertaken.
 - Cathedrals on Fraser – no immediate threat, watching brief with good prep work undertaken.
 - Sandy Cape – no immediate threat, watching brief with good prep work undertaken.

All in all feeling much better with cooler southerly conditions. Time for taking action whilst we can. I'll bed down planning with appropriate docs during day so everyone in alignment.

Regards, Marc

From: DARGUSCH Marc
Sent: Tuesday, 24 November 2020 1:32 PM
To: HEAD Damien; CUBIS Mick; CAMBOURN Neil
Subject: FW: Duling Wildfire K'Gari 24/11/2020 as at 1230

Hi Mick/Damien/Neil - Situation @ 1300hrs 20201124:

- The main fire continues to move in a south easterly direction with poor fire weather conditions on the island.
- The community of Happy Valley is potentially under threat within the next 24hrs *although* the latest mapping and predictions indicate this threat has abated with an improved forecast. QFES, RFS, QPWS and QPS, Ambulance are working together to prepare the community. It is worth noting that the fire has not yet exited the closed forest into the dryer eastern vegetation types.
- Forecast wind change easterly at about 4.00am 25/11/2020 will further lessen the current risk to Happy Valley.
- Fire to the south has now just over the Bogimbah Track.
- Other sectors:
 - Active fire at the north of the island at Sandy Cape sector is being monitored.
 - Cathedral Beach sector is blacking out.
- IMT has relocated and ramped up (refer attached pdf) to Rainbow Beach. Nathan Connor is now the IC.
- Divisional control is operating out of QPWS Dundabara.

Given the fire proximity to Happy Valley (and smaller communities to south including Yidney Rocks etc) + Kingfisher Bay Resort the current QPWS run IMT would be comfortable with QFES taking control if QFES happy to attempt to utilise the Smith-Poyungan Road as the southern control line & have QPWS on IMT with them.

Some fire predictions are contained below.

Regards, Marc

Marc Dargusch

Principal Ranger – Great Sandy Area

Coastal and Islands Region | QPWS and Partnerships

Department of Environment and Science

M **Personal** P 07 54869960

Level 6, 12 on First Avenue, Maroochydore 4558

www.des.qld.gov.au

I give my respect to the traditional and custodial Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Elders and Owners of the Land in which I work, live and walk.

Predicted fire spread details below as sourced from QFES FBAN imbedded in IMT Rainbow;

Fire spread prediction generated this morning for Fraser Island - Happy Valley.

The image below is for 14:00 hrs today & 0100 hrs Wednesday. The Simulation runs through to 25th November in the attached KMZ file, but this will be revised throughout today as new mapping is made available.

<image005.jpg>

Fire Spread to 14:00hrs 24-11-20

<image006.jpg>

Fire Spread to 0100hrs 25th Nov 2020

Assumptions used to develop this prediction:

- Active fire edge as determined by Air Obs at 08:20hrs 24-11-20 have been used.
- No active fire suppression is being undertaken.
- No additional backburning has been undertaken.
- Phoenix standard inputs have not been adjusted.
- Weather is from BOM grids downloaded this morning.

<image007.png>

John Atkinson

Senior Project Officer

Fire Team | Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service

Department of Environment and Science

P 07 4999 8533 | E John.Atkinson@des.qld.gov.au

Level 5 | 44 Nelsen Street | Mackay

Date : 1/12/2020 4:23:08 PM
From : "DAVIDSON Brent"
To : "KLAASSEN Ben"
Cc : "BUCKLEY Andrew" , "HEAD Damien" , "GRANT Andrea"
Subject : RE: Final for review
Attachment : image001.png;image005.png;image006.jpg;image007.png;image008.png;image009.png;
Thanks Ben. QFES is going to confirm about IGEM.

From: KLAASSEN Ben <Ben.Klaassen@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 1 December 2020 4:10 PM
To: DAVIDSON Brent
Cc: BUCKLEY Andrew; HEAD Damien; GRANT Andrea
Subject: RE: Final for review

Hi Brent

Just one minor highlight in yellow to fix.

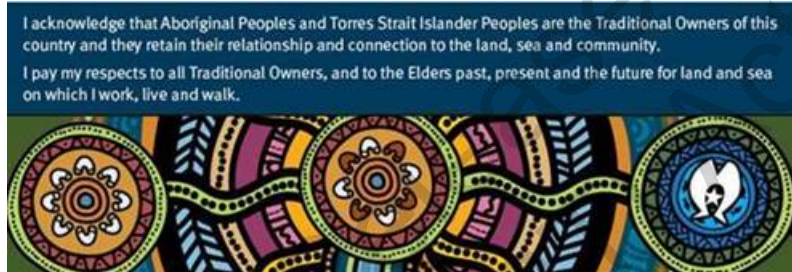
Let's not give specifics on when the burns were done in the interest of time.

Have you confirmed that Min Ryan announced the IGEM review (I have not had time to check that).

Regards
Ben



Ben Klaassen
Deputy Director-General
Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships
Department of Environment and Science
P 07 3199 7538 | M Personal | E ben.klaassen@des.qld.gov.au
Level 5, 400 George St, Brisbane QLD 4000
PO Box 15187, CITY EAST QLD 4002



From: DAVIDSON Brent <Brent.Davidson@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 1 December 2020 3:34 PM
To: KLAASSEN Ben
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Hi Ben
As requested, final version below

Courier-Mail

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QFES have assisted QPWS from the first week of the fire's outbreak.

- **When was the first water bombing undertaken? If this was after October 14, what caused this delay?**

The ability to deploy and the effectiveness of waterbombing is dictated by the prevailing weather conditions, smoke presence, assets under risk and the vegetation types.

QPWS made use of a large aerial tanker (LAT) several times when conditions were deemed suitable including November 17 and a major effort occurred on the November 22.

Other aerial waterbombing aircraft were used at a variety of other times – including bucket drops via helicopter prior to November 16 - throughout the campaign, all with limited success.

9 Wide Bay

- **The Fraser Coast mayor is calling for an enquiry into the fires once they're out and some operators say a lack of park management has meant the island has lots of fuel for this fire. What does DES think about that?**

QPWS has undertaken significant fire mitigation measures on K'gari including planned burns for asset protection and maintenance on strategic fire lines.

Despite this, it cannot combat the fire inducing effects of prolonged periods of hot, dry and windy weather conditions.

Campers across Queensland need to take responsibility for putting out fires properly to save lives, property and the environment.

That said, several factors including hot, dry and windy conditions have reduced the effectiveness of firefighting efforts that have been ongoing on the island however we have conducted significant fire mitigation on the island to ensure we have as much opportunity as possible to prevent devastating fires.

The Fire Minister has today asked the Inspector General Emergency Management to review aspects of this matter.

It would be inappropriate to comment about that specifically however QPWS welcomes the opportunity to work with the IGEM on this matter.

Fraser Coast Chronicle

- **Will the use of saltwater drops to fight the fire impact on the environment on Fraser Island? – it's a sand island so the saltwater tends to soak in rather than sit on the surface**

Because K'gari is a sand island and doesn't hold moisture as efficiently as the mainland, while the use of saltwater is not ideal there is little residual impact and presents as the most readily available water source in aerial attack. The impacts from salt water also need to be evaluated against the impacts of the fires continuation

- **The number one question we are being asked is why more action wasn't taken earlier to contain the fire on Fraser Island.**

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It is important to remember that while the fire has been burning for some time, for most of that period it is has been in remote and inaccessible parts of the island and burning at lower intensities which was creating a mosaic of burnt and unburnt country.

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ABC Radio

1. **What percentage of Fraser Island has been burnt?**

Around 50 per cent of the island is within the burn perimeter. (QFES just said this was in their latest flash brief)

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November 16 - throughout the campaign, all with limited success.

Did QFES want to deploy these waterbombing resources earlier than they were deployed?

QPWS and QFES have been working together to tackle the fire on K'gari and naturally there has been strong collaboration about logistics and tactics.

7 News:

There have been questions raised about the use / lack of use of a water tanker that arrived in Bundaberg in August specifically for this year's fire season, in fighting the Fraser Island fire. And the length of time it's been allowed to burn.

Firies have said they only took over agency of the fire on Friday.. is QPWS able to comment on the use of the Tanker 141/Bomber 141 (C-FFQE) before that time – and their firefighting efforts before that time.

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Fire is a natural part of Queensland's landscape and the vegetation communities on K'gari have adapted to survive bushfires, with some species of flora and fauna totally reliant on it for regeneration or future food source and habitat.

- **What sort of water is used to fight these fires... salt water / fresh water and why? Is that a point of difficulty ?**

Because K'gari is a sand island and doesn't hold moisture, the environmental impacts of using saltwater to suppress the fire are reduced. Helicopters sourced water from the nearest points which was often the ocean.

Fixed wing aircraft were required to source water from the mainland as the closest suitable location.

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QPWS has conducted significant fire mitigation on K'gari (Fraser Island), with planned burns averaging approximately 13,000 hectares per year over the last five years.

- **Can you outline the details of the 13,000 ha burns?**

This year the focus was on protection burns for communities of Orchid Beach and Happy Valley which are smaller in size but more complex to implement.

- **When did the 4 burns occur this year, how much was burned then? (Would still like to answer this)**
- **Are QPWS, or any other agency, any closer to identifying the person/s who lit the illegal campfire?**

No

- Have any fines or charges been laid?

No.



Brent Davidson
Media Manager
Media Unit | Corporate Communications
Department of Environment and Science

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[Visit the Environment Media Centre](#)
[Visit us on Twitter](#)

Released by DES
RTI Act 2009

Date : 1/12/2020 5:06:35 PM

From : "KLAASSEN Ben"

To : "DAVIDSON Brent"

Cc : "BUCKLEY Andrew" , "HEAD Damien" , "GRANT Andrea"

Subject : RE: Final for review

Attachment : image001.png;image006.jpg;image011.png;image012.png;image005.png;image007.jpg;image008.png;image009.png;
Brent

The wording Min Ryan used was:

I will be speaking with the Inspector-General Emergency Management to ensure that all possible reviews can be done to make sure that we continue to learn from natural disasters and our response to it.

So not announcing a review per se.

Ben



Ben Klaassen

Deputy Director-General

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships
Department of Environment and Science

P 07 3199 7538 | M Personal | E ben.klaassen@des.qld.gov.au
Level 5, 400 George St, Brisbane QLD 4000
PO Box 15187, CITY EAST QLD 4002

I acknowledge that Aboriginal Peoples and Torres Strait Islander Peoples are the Traditional Owners of this country and they retain their relationship and connection to the land, sea and community.

I pay my respects to all Traditional Owners, and to the Elders past, present and the future for land and sea on which I work, live and walk.



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Sent: Tuesday, 1 December 2020 4:23 PM

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Department of Environment and Science

[Chat with me on teams](#) [Personal info](#)
E brent.davidson@des.qld.gov.au
[Visit the Environment Media Centre](#)
[Visit us on Twitter](#)

Date : 1/12/2020 6:18:30 PM

From : "KLAASSEN Ben"

To : "DAVIDSON Brent" , "BUCKLEY Andrew"

Cc : "GRANT Andrea"

Subject : RE: Fraser Island Bushfire Questions

Attachment : image001.png;image009.png;image012.jpg;image002.png;image003.jpg;image004.png;image013.png;

Hi Brent

How is this? I have linked in Council in the last question as off park it is their role.

- We've heard from a source that Parks and wildlife may have had the chance to put the Fraser Island fire out but didn't and it has since gotten out of hand. Was DES ever in a position to extinguish the fire since it broke out on October 14?

QPWS have robust and effective fire management strategies and have been actively fighting the fire since it began on October 14.

QPWS responded immediately to the wildfire, and attempted to conduct backburns within days after the fire commenced which proved difficult and unsuccessful due to strong dry northerly weather conditions and the highly flammable vegetation types.

It is important to remember that while the fire has been burning for some time, for most of that period it is has been in remote and inaccessible parts of the island and burning at lower intensities which was creating a mosaic of burnt and unburnt country but also makes extinguishment not possible in this terrain.

We have also been working with the Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation and other stakeholders to keep them up-to-date on firefighting activities on the island.

- We've also heard from stakeholders about red tape around operating on the island. What laws/regulations limit fire management on the island?
- Are residents or operators allowed to maintain tracks and trails of their own volition?

QPWS has responsibility for fire mitigation of the national park only however collaborates with other stakeholders on fire management across the Island. Laws/regulations are for fire management on the Island outside the national park are a matter for Fraser Coast Regional Council. Residents/operators would need to comply with Council laws/regulations in maintaining their properties.



Ben Klaassen

Deputy Director-General

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships

Department of Environment and Science

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From: DAVIDSON Brent <Brent.Davidson@des.qld.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 1 December 2020 5:57 PM

To: KLAASSEN Ben; BUCKLEY Andrew

Cc: GRANT Andrea

Subject: FW: Fraser Island Bushfire Questions

Some new questions from CM. Is something like this okay? Unless you know differently about a 'chance to put out a fire'. I'm also not sure of the accuracy of the last bit.

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gotten out of hand. Was DES ever in a position to extinguish the fire since it broke out on October 14?

We are and have always been committed to preserving the unique natural environment of K'gari as well as property and life on the island.

We have robust and effective fire management strategies and have been actively fighting the fire since it began on October 14.

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Visit the [Environment Media Centre](#)
[Visit us on Twitter](#)

From: Jurss-Lewis, Tobias <tobias.jurss-lewis@news.com.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 1 December 2020 5:29 PM

To: Media DES

Cc: Shiloh Payne

Subject: Re: Fraser Island Bushfire Questions

Hey team following up on this again and adding one more thing - in case DES was wanting to respond to the previous questions or these ones below.

We've heard from a source that Parks and wildlife may have had the chance to put the Fraser Island fire out but didn't and it has since gotten out of hand. Was DES ever in a position to extinguish the fire since it broke out on October 14?

We've also heard from stakeholders about red tape around operating on the island. What laws/regulations limit fire management on the island?

Are residents or operators allowed to maintain tracks and trails of their own volition?

Thanks,

Toby

On Tue, 1 Dec 2020 at 12:28 pm Jurss-Lewis, Tobias <tobias.jurss-lewis@news.com.au> wrote:

Hey team,

I wrote in asking for a similar response yesterday, which was told wasn't delivered by ou deadline.
But I wanted to touch base after the Minister's comments in Parliament this morning.

Can I ask:

How much money DES allocated to upgrading tracks and maintaining fire lines on Fraser Island in each of the 2019 and 2018 fire seasons?

And in relation to the current bushfire on Fraser Island:

When did DES first call QFES crews to the Island?

When was the first water bombing undertaken? If this was after October 14, what caused this delay?

If it's possible to get a response by 5.30pm that'd be amazing.

Thanks,

Toby

--

TOBIAS JURSS-LEWIS

Graduate Journalist

Cnr Mayne Road & Campbell Street Bowen Hills QLD 4006

M **Personal info**

E tobias.jurss-lewis@news.com.au W www.couriermail.com.au

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[]

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RTI Act 2009

Date : 25/11/2020 10:56:45 AM

From : "CAMBOURN Neil"

To : "CUBIS Mick" , "KLAASSEN Ben" , "HEAD Damien" , "DLO DES" , "GRANT Andrea" , "DARGUSCH Marc" , "Media DES"

Cc : "MCQUEENEY John"

Subject : RE: Fraser Island WF

Attachment : image001.png;image003.png;image006.png;image007.png;

Thanks Mick,

Two of these cant be used 62 and 69. The potential perception of the gent on the fireline in shorts and short sleeve shirt is not an appropriate professional look.

I would not recommend use of anything other than 63, 67, 72 and 73 (and perhaps 68) which present the fire in an appropriate context. Ie we don't subscribe to the CM's notion of this event being apocalyptic.

While the black smoke looks exciting, anyone who has experienced swamp fires in this country know that it is the highly volatile oils in these plant communities that generate that heavy dark emission.



Neil Cambourn

Assistant Director-General
Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships
Department of Environment and Science

P 07 3199 7518 M Personal info
Level 5, 400 George Street, Brisbane QLD 4000

From: CUBIS Mick <Mick.Cubis@des.qld.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 25 November 2020 10:26 AM

To: CAMBOURN Neil; KLAASSEN Ben; HEAD Damien; DLO DES; GRANT Andrea; DARGUSCH Marc; Media DES

Cc: MCQUEENEY John

Subject: FW: Fraser Island WF

Hi all,

John McQueeney has passed on the attached photos of the K'gari fire. They were taken by a family member (assume not a QPWS employee), but who has approved their use, subject to faces being covered/blurred.

Some great photos that could be useful for Media,

Thanks

Mick

Mick Cubis

Regional Director, Coastal and Islands Region
GBRMC | QPWS & Partnerships
Department of Environment and Science

P: 07 54471137 M Personal info
240 Moorindil Street, Tewantin
Qld 4565
mick.cubis@des.qld.gov.au

From: MCQUEENEY John <John.McQueeney@des.qld.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 25 November 2020 9:47 AM

To: CUBIS Mick

Subject: FW: Fraser Island WF

Hi Mick,

He has given permission with no credit required but has requested that faces are covered/blurred please.

Regards John



John McQueeney

Acting Senior Ranger Noosa
Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service
South East Queensland Region
Department of Environment and Science

M Personal info
24 Beckmans Road, Tewantin Qld, 4565

From: MCQUEENEY John
Sent: Wednesday, 25 November 2020 9:16 AM
To: CUBIS Mick
Subject: RE: Fraser Island WF

Hi Mick,

I'm checking for you.

Cheers John



John McQueeney
Acting Senior Ranger Noosa
Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service
South East Queensland Region
Department of Environment and Science

M Personal info
24 Beckmans Road, Tewantin Qld, 4565
PO BOX 1805, Noosaville Qld, 4566
www.des.qld.gov.au

From: CUBIS Mick <Mick.Cubis@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 24 November 2020 7:57 PM
To: MCQUEENEY John
Cc: EDMED Greg; ROGERS Darren; PRICE Stephen (Cotton Tree - Caboolture); ENSLIN Justin; OLIVER Nathan
Subject: Re: Fraser Island WF

Hey John, these are amazing photos. Do you think we could you them for our media? Would be happy to credit the photographers.

Thanks

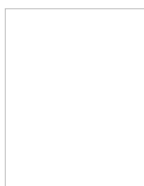
Sent from my iPhone

On 24 Nov 2020, at 1:15 pm, MCQUEENEY John <John.McQueeney@des.qld.gov.au> wrote:

Hi Greg,

A family member sent me the attached pics of Fraser WF taken a couple of days ago.

Cheers John



John McQueeney
Acting Senior Ranger Noosa
Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service
South East Queensland Region
Department of Environment and Science

M Personal info
24 Beckmans Road, Tewantin Qld, 4565
PO BOX 1805, Noosaville Qld, 4566
www.des.qld.gov.au

<IMG_0062.JPG>
<IMG_0063.JPG>
<IMG_0064.JPG>
<IMG_0065.JPG>
<IMG_0067.JPG>
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<IMG_0069.JPG>
<IMG_0070.JPG>
<IMG_0071.JPG>
<IMG_0072.JPG>
<IMG_0073.JPG>

Released by DES
RTI Act 2009

Date : 24/11/2020 8:39:03 AM
From : "HARRIS Leigh"
To : "GRANT Andrea"
Subject : RE: K'Gari fire
Attachment : image001.png;image002.png;

I have not checked it out yet but will – our Air quality website may provide some helpful information or S&T can provide advice directly.
Leigh



Leigh Harris
Executive Director – Park Services
Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships
Department of Environment and Science

Personal info
Level 5, 44 Nelson Street, Mackay QLD 4740
Po box 623, Mackay QLD 4740

I acknowledge the Traditional Owners on whose land I work and live. I pay my respects to all elders past, present and emerging.

From: CUBIS Mick <Mick.Cubis@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 24 November 2020 6:58 AM
To: GRANT Andrea
Cc: MERRICK Jamie; KLAASSEN Ben; CAMBOURN Neil; HEAD Damien; HARRIS Leigh; Media DES; DAVIES Matt; DARGUSCH Marc
Subject: Re: K'Gari fire

Thanks Andrea, we will keep you updated of any escalation of the situation today,

Thanks

Mick

Mick Cubis
Regional Director
Coastal and Islands | QPWS&Partnerships
Department of Environment and Science
P (07) 54471137 | Mobile Personal info

On 24 Nov 2020, at 6:41 am, GRANT Andrea <Andrea.Grant@des.qld.gov.au> wrote:

Good morning everyone

Given it's parliament today, I thought I'd send the story below to you. It's one of the lead stories on the Courier Mail website. Mick will be doing pre-recorded grabs at 7am today for all media who inquire today. However, given the possibility of changing weather, can you keep us in the loop if there is any threat to property or if evacuations need to occur please.

Thanks

Andrea

<image002.png> **Andrea Grant**
Director-Media
Corporate Communications
Department of Environment and Science

Personal info
Level 31, 400 George St, Brisbane
GPO Box 2454, Brisbane 4001

Sunshine Coast firefighters have received calls from anxious members of the public as an "apocalyptic" cloud of smoke blows in from a massive fire on Fraser Island, 200km away.

There were a significant number of triple-o calls after a wind change pushed a "blanket of smoke" from the Fraser Island fire over the Coast.

"We've received quite an increase in calls because they can smell smoke," a Queensland Fire and Emergency Services spokeswoman said.

"We are based in Kawana and you can smell the smoke.

"It's like a blanket of smoke."

The "apocalyptic" cloud of smoke continues to hang over Fraser Island where a five-week fire continues to burn through the World Heritage Listed bushland.

Tasman Venture tour guide Vicki Neville shared a series of photos she took of the fire on the weekend.

Ms Neville said multiple fires were burning on the island.

"Everyone knows it started about five weeks ago," she said.

"There are multiple fires, not just one.

"Over this period of time it has hopped, skipped and jumped all over the place.

"From Wathumba to Moon Point, there are multiple fires."

Ms Neville described the sky going dark with smoke in what she called "apocalyptic" scenes on the island on the weekend.

"It's so out of control," she said.

<image003.jpg>

Photos of the fire burning on Fraser Island.

"Fire is not bad to rejuvenate the bush, but this one is devastating the island.

"It will come back eventually - but this fire is that big and widespread."

Ms Neville said she had heard descriptions of snakes and insects and even dingo pups fleeing from the fire.

"In 20 odd years, I haven't seen fires this large in multiple areas on the island," she said.

A Department of Environment and Science spokesman said Queensland Parks and Wildlife crews had undertaken backburning and water bombing operations over the past 48 hours in an attempt to contain and suppress the fire's movements.

"This fire has been burning in remote and largely inaccessible parts of the island. Fire is a natural part of the bush landscape and, for the most part, this fire has been burning at an acceptable intensity," the spokesman said.

<image004.jpg>

Photos of the fire burning on Fraser Island.

"QPWS is monitoring the fire and has crews on site.

"It is currently not a threat to life or property and it has not damaged any infrastructure.

"The majority of the island, including popular visitor sites, remains open.

"The impact on visitors, beyond smoke and visibility issues, is minimal.

"Some sites previously closed have already reopened.

"Smoke may impact townships and campsites along the island's eastern beach and the adjacent mainland over the coming days.

"Beach drivers should exercise caution when traversing the eastern beach, and in any situation along the coast where smoke may impact visibility."

Date : 13/12/2020 12:12:15 PM
From : "DAVIDSON Brent"
To : "KLAASSEN Ben"
Cc : "GRANT Andrea" , "BUCKLEY Andrew" , "CAMBOURN Neil"
Subject : RE: K'gari reopening
Attachment : 11122020 - DRAFT MR - Camping re-opening on K'gari
v6.docx;image001.png;image003.png;image006.jpg;image007.png;

Thanks Ben. This is the latest version of the MR which has been circulated to be checked for factual accuracy to ensure it aligns with final plan ticked off by IMT.

From: KLAASSEN Ben <Ben.Klaassen@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Sunday, 13 December 2020 12:05 PM
To: DAVIDSON Brent
Cc: GRANT Andrea; BUCKLEY Andrew; CAMBOURN Neil
Subject: FW: K'gari reopening

Hi Brent

FYI which aligns with your advice.

In terms of someone standing up I think it should be me as I am across all aspects and can handle any queries if they go back to the fire. We could do something at Walkabout Creek in the morning before 10:30 if MO are supportive as not clear if Minister wants to be involved as well.

Regards
Ben



Ben Klaassen
Deputy Director-General
Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships
Department of Environment and Science
P 07 3199 7538 | M Personal | E ben.klaassen@des.qld.gov.au
Level 5, 400 George St, Brisbane QLD 4000
PO Box 15187, CITY EAST QLD 4002

I acknowledge that Aboriginal Peoples and Torres Strait Islander Peoples are the Traditional Owners of this country and they retain their relationship and connection to the land, sea and community.
I pay my respects to all Traditional Owners, and to the Elders past, present and the future for land and sea on which I work, live and walk.



From: MERRICK Jamie <Jamie.Merrick@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Sunday, 13 December 2020 11:59 AM
To: KLAASSEN Ben; GRANT Andrea
Subject: K'gari reopening

Ben & Andrea

As discussed with Ben, aiming for tomorrow morning to announce, following IC/IMT consideration today.

Andrea, given the media interest, Ben and I have spoken about the need to have someone prepped to stand up.

Attached is the current draft of the MR which will need to be run passed the MO/Minister. Happy if it needs to be amended further.

Cheers
Jamie



Jamie Merrick
Director-General
Department of Environment and Science

07 3338 9304 | Jamie.Merrick@des.qld.gov.au
Level 32, 1 William Street, Brisbane QLD 4000
GPO Box 2454, Brisbane QLD 4001

Released by DES
RTI Act 2009

Media release

Tourists to return to K'gari following bushfire

December 14, 2020

Tourist accommodation providers on K'gari-Fraser Island have been given the green light to welcome guests for Christmas following the recent bushfire.

In great news for those who planned to stay or visit the island over the Christmas-New Year break, authorities have determined it is now safe to allow vehicle access along the eastern beach, allowing visitors to access K'gari's townships **from today**.

This means resorts, private accommodation such as beach houses and residential *Airbnb* style accommodation can be open for business.

The island's most popular visitor destinations will also be progressively reopened following hazard assessments and any essential works. These include **Lake McKenzie, Central Station, Lake Wabby, Eli Creek, Maheno and Champagne Pools**.

Campers don't miss out either with many campgrounds and beach camping zones reopening and available for booking from **tomorrow afternoon**.

Those re-opening include:

1. Beach camping zones south of Poyungan Rocks
2. Beach camping zones north of Dundaburra
3. Waddy Point beachfront camping and campground.
4. Central Station
5. Dundaburra

Local businesses, rangers, emergency services and Butchulla personnel have worked tirelessly to have the island open and ready for some well-deserved Christmas cheer.

Anyone who had a camping or vehicle access permit to visit K'gari up until **tomorrow** can visit www.qld.gov.au/camping for details about how they can get a refund, or if they didn't make the booking online, can email qpws@des.qld.gov.au

Visitors should be aware that some areas affected by fire or the fire response will remain closed while they are assessed for risks and necessary maintenance is undertaken.

This includes many of the island's walking tracks which will take time to fully assess and are currently still too dangerous to re-open.

QPWS regrets the inconvenience caused to those who planned to camp or visit K'gari prior to today, however public safety is always the top priority, and now that the threat has eased, visitors can be welcomed back to enjoy the island's unique natural areas.

The closure of access to townships and camp grounds has been necessary in the interest of public safety and QPWS staff have worked hard alongside Queensland Fire and Emergency Services and the Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation during this incident to do everything they can to both ensure safety and get the island open to tourists as soon as possible.

Visitors to the island should continue to check www.qld.gov.au/parkalerts or @QldParkAlerts on Twitter to keep up-to-date on information such as weather, fire or restrictions.

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Date : 13/12/2020 12:10:11 PM
From : "MERRICK Jamie"
To : "KLAASSEN Ben" , "GRANT Andrea"
Subject : RE: K'gari reopening
Attachment : image001.png,image002.png,image004.png,image005.jpg,image008.png;
Great thanks.



Jamie Merrick
Director-General
Department of Environment and Science

07 3338 9304 | Jamie.Merrick@des.qld.gov.au
Level 32, 1 William Street, Brisbane QLD 4000
GPO Box 2454, Brisbane QLD 4001

From: KLAASSEN Ben <Ben.Klaassen@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Sunday, 13 December 2020 12:10 PM
To: MERRICK Jamie; GRANT Andrea
Subject: RE: K'gari reopening

Thanks Jamie

We are working together on it.

It will likely be me to stand up tomorrow morning as I am across all aspects and can handle any out of scope queries on prior response (with our estimates lines).

Regards
Ben



Ben Klaassen
Deputy Director-General
Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships
Department of Environment and Science

P 07 3199 7538 | M Personal info | E ben.klaassen@des.qld.gov.au
Level 5, 400 George St, Brisbane QLD 4000
PO Box 15187, CITY EAST QLD 4002

I acknowledge that Aboriginal Peoples and Torres Strait Islander Peoples are the Traditional Owners of this country and they retain their relationship and connection to the land, sea and community.
I pay my respects to all Traditional Owners, and to the Elders past, present and the future for land and sea on which I work, live and walk.



From: MERRICK Jamie <Jamie.Merrick@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Sunday, 13 December 2020 11:59 AM
To: KLAASSEN Ben; GRANT Andrea
Subject: K'gari reopening

Ben & Andrea

As discussed with Ben, aiming for tomorrow morning to announce, following IC/IMT consideration today.

Andrea, given the media interest, Ben and I have spoken about the need to have someone prepped to stand up.

Attached is the current draft of the MR which will need to be run passed the MO/Minister. Happy if it needs to be amended further.

Cheers



Jamie Merrick

Director-General

Department of Environment and Science

07 3338 9304 | Jamie.Merrick@des.qld.gov.au

Level 32, 1 William Street, Brisbane QLD 4000

GPO Box 2454, Brisbane QLD 4001

Released by DES
RTI Act 2009

Date : 15/11/2020 8:57:54 AM

From : "CAMBOURN Neil"

To : "Media DES"

Cc : "HEAD Damien" , "CUBIS Mick" , "GRANT Andrea" , "DAVIDSON Brent"

Subject : Re: Kgari Wildfire Sit Rep - 14/11/2020

Attachment : image005.png;image002.png;image003.png;

Hi felicity, we simply don't have the resources of an agency like QFES. The people on duty are busy managing the fire and keeping people safe.

Key messaging continues to be there is no current threat to life and property, fire is a natural part of the landscape and has been for thousands of years, the vegetation communities are fire adapted, and many species rely on fire to be able to naturally regenerate.

Air tanker support is available if it is considered necessary.

Thanks, Neil

Regards Neil Cambourn

On 15 Nov 2020, at 8:48 am, Media DES <Media@des.qld.gov.au> wrote:

Thanks Damien, I'll start drafting a response now.

Having someone who could do interviews would be preferred, but if that's not possible, do we have someone who could record some grabs for us?

A presser, or someone who could do interviews, would help quell media interest a little and move the story on more substantially. A written statement will not really stop queries.

Cheers,
f



Felicity Moore
Senior Media Officer
Media Unit | Corporate Communications
Department of Environment and Science

P 07 3339 5831
M [Personal](tel:0733395831)
GPO Box 2454, Brisbane QLD 4001

[Visit the Environment Media Centre](#)

[Visit us on Twitter](#)

[Chat with me on Teams!](#)

If it's a media matter, please include the group email media@des.qld.gov.au
Website www.des.qld.gov.au

From: HEAD Damien <Damien.Head@des.qld.gov.au>

Sent: Sunday, 15 November 2020 8:42 AM

To: Media DES; CAMBOURN Neil; CUBIS Mick

Subject: Fwd: Kgari Wildfire Sit Rep - 14/11/2020

Felicity

Some info for media statements.
Little change from previous media statement prepared.
We do not have anyone to talk to media. Sorry

Media DES will continue to be forwarded the sitreps throughout the day.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: HEAD Damien <Damien.Head@des.qld.gov.au>

Date: 14 November 2020 at 11:09:00 pm AEST

To: CAMBOURN Neil <Neil.Cambourn@des.qld.gov.au>, CUBIS Mick <Mick.Cubis@des.qld.gov.au>, KLAASSEN Ben <Ben.Klaassen@des.qld.gov.au>

Cc: DARGUSCH Marc <Marc.Dargusch@des.qld.gov.au>

Subject: Kgari Wildfire Sit Rep - 14/11/2020

Ben

As requested and for on forwarding to DG. Information gleaned from more detailed sit reps and discussions with IMT members.

As at 1700 hrs on 14/11/2020

Anticipated to be minimal change before morning

Points of Note

- The wildfire presents no immediate threat to life or property. No property lost to date.
- As a precaution campers and guests of Cathedral Village (a small private beach front camping and accommodation area) have been asked to vacate.
- National park roads and campgrounds effected by the fire and in the path of the active fire fronts have been closed.
- The majority of the island, including all major tourist destinations and townships, remain open to campers, visitors and residents.
- Intense smoke will persist, and will continue to effect island and adjacent mainland communities for the foreseeable future.

Fire Activity (refer map)

- Over the previous 24 hour period the active South East fire front has only advanced 300 m approx. and is located 1.2 kilometres to the north of Cathedral Beach Camping/Accommodation Area. This is significantly less than was expected.
- The Western fire has moved approx. 2 kilometres in a SSW Direction today towards the township of Happy Valley compared to a 7 k run over the previous night. Despite its intensity this active fire front currently poses no threat as it remains a substantial distance from the township.
- An active firefront exists on the northern tip of the island in proximity to the Sandy Cape lighthouse.
- The firefronts are being driven by a northerly wind which is forecast to continue through until Wednesday.
- The active fire fronts are producing significant amounts of smoke which are affecting island visitors and campers and the mainland communities to the south (e.g. Rainbow Beach). Smoke will continue to persist over the island and effect communities south and west (Rainbow Beach to Hervey Bay) for the foreseeable future.

Tactics

- Preparation works have been undertaken around Cathedral village with firelines cleared and widened in preparation for future burning operations when favourable weather conditions present or when the fire is in closer proximity to the area. Given current rate of spread this may not occur for another 48 hours.
- The active western fire front, while continuing to burn with greater intensity, remains a considerable distance away from any life and property and will continue to be monitored.
- Preparatory works will continue on fire lines and private properties around Happy Valley and towards the island's west coast.
- Briefings to inform Happy Valley residents of the fires movements are planned to take place.
- The southerly wind change forecast to move through on the Wednesday will present an opportunity to commence back burning operations under favourable conditions and establish containment lines across the island and hazard reduction burns around vulnerable townships (if necessary).

Resources Deployed

- QPWS (14 personnel and 7 vehicles) and QFES (10 personnel and 4 vehicles) on site.
- Water bombers remain on standby
- QPS officers on-site to assist with directions to members of the public.
- Aerial surveillance of the fire fronts is occurring regularly

Fire History

- The wildfire started from an disbanded illegal campfire north of Orchid Beach for four weeks ago. The offenders have not been identified.
- Approximately ¼ to 1/3 of the island has been burnt at varying intensities due to this wildfire.

Modelling

24 hour simulation through to midnight 15/11/2020.

Phoenix 24 hour screenshot showing potential spread through to midnight 15/11/2020 with a potential contribution to the fire size of 1156 hectares.

Date : 7/12/2020 9:00:41 AM
From : "KLAASSEN Ben"
To : "GRANT Andrea" , "MERRICK Jamie"
Cc : "DLO DES" , "Media DES"
Subject : RE: Lines on effects on the island after the fire
Attachment : image001.png;image004.png;image005.jpg;
Thanks Andrea

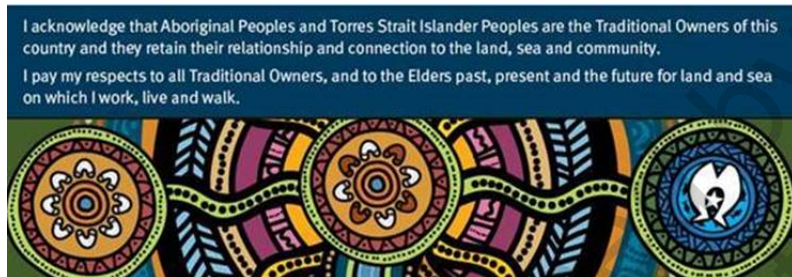
I would add a sentence along the lines "While ground access is currently not possible, extensive desktop analysis is being progressed to identify potential impacts and assist with prioritising areas to focus on-ground studies"

This is to give the assurance we are doing what we can rather than people saying we are waiting for access. For example Mark Jacobs has the Herbarium doing vegetation analysis at the moment.

Regards
Ben



Ben Klaassen
Deputy Director-General
Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships
Department of Environment and Science
P 07 3199 7538 | M [Personal](#) | E ben.klaassen@des.qld.gov.au
Level 5, 400 George St, Brisbane QLD 4000
PO Box 15187, CITY EAST QLD 4002



From: GRANT Andrea <Andrea.Grant@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 7 December 2020 8:35 AM
To: MERRICK Jamie; KLAASSEN Ben
Cc: DLO DES; Media DES
Subject: Lines on effects on the island after the fire

DG

As discussed yesterday here are the lines about the ecological impacts of the fire. We had one call about this yesterday and are anticipating more in coming days. The details of the rejuvenation were provided by Science Division. We need to ensure we have someone from the science team who is available to speak to the media. I'll sort that out this morning. If you are happy with the below I'll send to MO.

Environmental officers will not be able to properly assess the ecological impacts of the fire on K'Gari until the fire is out. A significant assessment must include an on-ground study and it will not be safe to conduct that assessment until the fire is extinguished.

What we do know is most of K'Gari is made of up sclerophyll vegetation – typically eucalypts, wattles and banksias – which are adapted to fire. The sclerophyll communities on the island are diverse, particularly in the heath and forest communities and these native plant species have evolved with fire and are highly dependent on fire for survival.

The majority of plants species in these communities hold their seed in capsules where they're protected from fire. The heat of fire causes the capsules to open and release the seeds within a few days where they germinate and the process of regeneration commences.

We expect plants will reshoot just weeks after the fires if there is adequate soil moisture. This is forecasted to be a La Nina summer, and above average rainfall is anticipated. After rain, trees and shrubs on K'Gari could start resprouting within weeks. Seedlings will germinate and the bushland will start to regenerate.

The land can rejuvenate itself and K'Gari has been subjected to fire and cyclone disturbance over hundreds of years.

However, the wetlands including the patterned fens, wet heaths and sedgeland are the communities that may be adversely affected by fire.

These communities provide habitat for a number of threatened species, including acid frogs and the ground parrot. Until we are able to assess the impact of the fire on these areas we will not know how they have been effected.

Released by DES
RTI Act 2009

Date : 7/12/2020 9:00:18 AM
From : "MERRICK Jamie"
To : "GRANT Andrea"
Subject : Re: Lines on effects on the island after the fire
Attachment : image003.png;
Agreed

Been some additional third party experts weighing in again on radio which has been helpful.

Jamie

Sent from my iPhone

On 7 Dec 2020, at 8:47 am, GRANT Andrea <Andrea.Grant@des.qld.gov.au> wrote:

Great. I'll send up to MO to use these until we have more. Once we have the analysis I think we should give it to the ABC as an exclusive so we get the best run.

From: MERRICK Jamie <Jamie.Merrick@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 7 December 2020 8:44 AM
To: GRANT Andrea
Subject: RE: Lines on effects on the island after the fire

Hi Andrea

These are good as an interim step.

I did yesterday evening speak with Mark about some additional spatial analysis so we can assess the extent that different vegetation communities may have been impacted. This will be provisional as the fire is still going and will ultimately need to be verified on the ground.

Cheers
Jamie

<image003.png>
Jamie Merrick

Director-General
Department of Environment and Science

07 3338 9304 | Jamie.Merrick@des.qld.gov.au
Level 32, 1 William Street, Brisbane QLD 4000
GPO Box 2454, Brisbane QLD 4001

From: GRANT Andrea <Andrea.Grant@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 7 December 2020 8:35 AM
To: MERRICK Jamie; KLAASSEN Ben
Cc: DLO DES; Media DES
Subject: Lines on effects on the island after the fire

DG

As discussed yesterday here are the lines about the ecological impacts of the fire. We had one call about this yesterday and are anticipating more in coming days. The details of the rejuvenation were provided by Science Division. We need to ensure we have someone from the science team who is available to speak to the media. I'll sort that out this morning. If you are happy with the below I'll send to MO.

Environmental officers will not be able to properly assess the ecological impacts of the fire on K'Gari until the fire is out. A significant assessment must include an on-ground study and it will not be safe to conduct that assessment until the fire is out.

extinguished.

What we do know is most of K’Gari is made of up sclerophyll vegetation – typically eucalypts, wattles and banksias – which are adapted to fire. The sclerophyll communities on the island are diverse, particularly in the heath and forest communities and these native plant species have evolved with fire and are highly dependent on fire for survival.

The majority of plants species in these communities hold their seed in capsules where they’re protected from fire. The heat of fire causes the capsules to open and release the seeds within a few days where they germinate and the process of regeneration commences.

We expect plants will reshoot just weeks after the fires if there is adequate soil moisture. This is forecasted to be a La Nina summer, and above average rainfall is anticipated. After rain, trees and shrubs on K’Gari could start resprouting within weeks. Seedlings will germinate and the bushland will start to regenerate.

The land can rejuvenate itself and K’Gari has been subjected to fire and cyclone disturbance over hundreds of years.

However, the wetlands including the patterned fens, wet heaths and sedgelands are the communities that may be adversely affected by fire. These communities provide habitat for a number of threatened species, including acid frogs and the ground parrot. Until we are able to assess the impact of the fire on these areas we will not know how they have been effected.

Released by DES
RTI Act 2009

Date : 7/12/2020 8:44:14 AM
From : "MERRICK Jamie"
To : "GRANT Andrea"
Subject : RE: Lines on effects on the island after the fire
Attachment : image001.png;image002.png;
Hi Andrea

These are good as an interim step.

I did yesterday evening speak with Mark about some additional spatial analysis so we can assess the extent that different vegetation communities may have been impacted. This will be provisional as the fire is still going and will ultimately need to be verified on the ground.

Cheers
Jamie



Jamie Merrick
Director-General
Department of Environment and Science

07 3338 9304 | Jamie.Merrick@des.qld.gov.au
Level 32, 1 William Street, Brisbane QLD 4000
GPO Box 2454, Brisbane QLD 4001

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Sent: Monday, 7 December 2020 8:35 AM
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Date : 1/12/2020 2:36:00 PM

From : "KLAASSEN Ben"

To : "DAVIDSON Brent" , "HEAD Damien" , "BUCKLEY Andrew"

Cc : "GRANT Andrea" , "CAMBOURN Neil" , "DARGUSCH Marc"

Subject : RE: List of questions for fact checking/endorsement

Attachment : image001.png;image008.png;image009.png;image002.png;image003.jpg;image004.png;

Hi Brent

At this stage no discussions at senior level with Mayor have occurred so we need to exclude that.

With burn information I think we emphasise the 13,000 is an average over 5 years however this is variable depending on locations. This year the focus was on protection burns for communities of Orchid Beach and Happy Valley which are smaller in size but more complex to implement. Let's not get into specific figures for burns if possible.

Regards

Ben



Ben Klaassen

Deputy Director-General

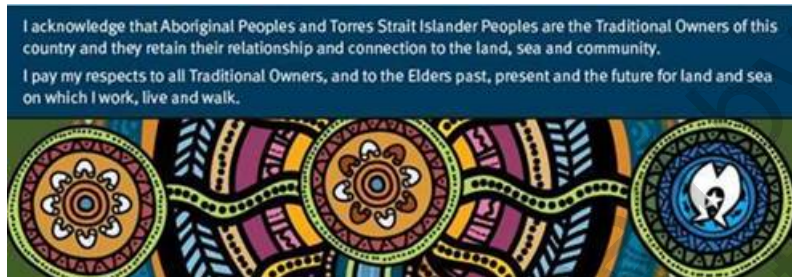
Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships

Department of Environment and Science

P 07 3199 7538 | M [Personal](#) | E ben.klaassen@des.qld.gov.au

Level 5, 400 George St, Brisbane QLD 4000

PO Box 15187, CITY EAST QLD 4002



From: DAVIDSON Brent <Brent.Davidson@des.qld.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 1 December 2020 2:20 PM

To: HEAD Damien; KLAASSEN Ben; BUCKLEY Andrew

Cc: GRANT Andrea; CAMBOURN Neil; DARGUSCH Marc

Subject: RE: List of questions for fact checking/endorsement

Thanks Damien. I assume the figures the ABC has asked (when planned burns were and how much was burned on K'gari) for at the end aren't that easy to pull? I can let the journo know he can't get that by COB? I think Ben said earlier the five per cent was the Victorian Royal Commission, not the recent one – so I'd assume the five per cent is Queensland-wide?

- The Minister mentioned in Parliament today that the more than the "recommended 5% outlined by the Royal Commission" has been burned in mitigation burns. Is that specific to Fraser Island/K'Gari?
- Can you outline the details of the 13,000 ha burns?
- When did the 4 burns occur this year, how much was burned then?

This might be in a Possible Parliamentary Question brief?

From: HEAD Damien <Damien.Head@des.qld.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 1 December 2020 2:14 PM

To: DAVIDSON Brent; KLAASSEN Ben; BUCKLEY Andrew

Cc: GRANT Andrea; CAMBOURN Neil; DARGUSCH Marc

Subject: RE: List of questions for fact checking/endorsement

Brent my comments below in read.

Marc may have some further detail on waterbombing efforts to add.

From: DAVIDSON Brent <Brent.Davidson@des.qld.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 1 December 2020 1:20 PM

To: KLAASSEN Ben; BUCKLEY Andrew; HEAD Damien
Cc: GRANT Andrea
Subject: List of questions for fact checking/endorsement

Hi all

I've compiled a list of all of the questions we've been asked and put them together. I was hoping you could please read & check for factual accuracy and help provide some of the information in yellow. Matt Watson is going to speak to Marc or Mick about the LAT and I have QFES checking as well.

Courier-Mail

- **When did DES first call QFES crews to the Island?**
- When was the first water bombing undertaken? If this was after October 14, what caused this delay?

The ability to deploy and the effectiveness of waterbombing is dictated by the prevailing weather conditions, smoke presence, assets under risk and the vegetation types. QPWS made use of a large aerial tanker (LAT) several times when conditions were deemed suitable. A major effort occurred on the November 22. Other aerial waterbombing aircraft were used at a variety of other times throughout the campaign, all with limited success.

QFES have assisted QPWS from the following the first week of the fire's outbreak.

9 Wide Bay

- The Fraser Coast mayor is calling for an enquiry into the fires once they're out and some operators say a lack of park management has meant the island has lots of fuel for this fire. What does DES think about that?

Senior representatives from the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) have spoken to the Mayor of Fraser Coast to discuss the fire.

QPWS has undertaken significant fire mitigation measures on K'Gari including planned burns for asset protection and maintenance on strategic firelines. Despite these endeavours it can not combat the fire inducing effects of prolonged periods of hot, dry and windy weather conditions.

Campers across Queensland need to take responsibility for putting out fires properly to save lives, property and the environment.

That said, several factors including hot, dry and windy conditions have reduced the effectiveness of firefighting efforts that have been ongoing on the island however we have conducted significant fire mitigation on the island – above those recommended in the recent Royal Commission - to ensure we have as much opportunity as possible to prevent devastating fires.

The Fire Minister has today asked the Inspector General Emergency Management to review aspects of this matter.

It would be inappropriate to comment about that specifically however QPWS welcomes the opportunity to work with the IGEM on this matter.

Fraser Coast Chronicle

- **Will the use of saltwater drops to fight the fire impact on the environment on Fraser Island? – it's a sand island so the saltwater tends to soak in rather than sit on the surface**

Because K'gari is a sand island and doesn't hold moisture as efficiently as the mainland, while the use of saltwater is not ideal there is little residual impact and presents as the most readily available water source in aerial attack. The impacts from salt water also need to be evaluated against the impacts of the fires continuation

- **The number one question we are being asked is why more action wasn't taken earlier to contain the fire on Fraser Island.**

QPWS responded immediately to the wildlife fire, early attempts to conduct backburns within days after the fire commenced proved difficult and unsuccessful due to strong dry northerly weather conditions and the highly flammable vegetation types.

It is important to remember that while the fire has been burning for some time, for most of that period it is has been in remote and inaccessible parts of the island and burning at lower intensities which was creating a mosaic of burnt and unburnt country.

QPWS has conducted significant fire mitigation on K'Gari, but all the planning in the world cannot prevent fires that were started by an illegal **campfire and fuelled by extended periods of dry windy conditions.**

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1. **What percentage of Fraser Island has been burnt?**

Around 46 per cent of the island is within the burn perimeter.

2. When were waterbombers first used/deployed on this fire? (Please give us a breakdown of dates and how many per day.)

QPWS made use of a large aerial tanker (LAT) several times before QFES took management of the fire.

It was used when conditions were deemed suitable including on November 22.

[Further information required – QFES checking to see if their flight desk has this info]

3. **Did QFES want to deploy these waterbombing resources earlier than they were deployed?**

Up until Friday, QPWS was the lead in responding to the fire and as such QFES was not the decision-making agency.

7 News:

There have been questions raised about the use / lack of use of a water tanker that arrived in Bundaberg in August specifically for this year's fire season, in fighting the Fraser Island fire. And the length of time it's been allowed to burn.

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Fire is a natural part of Queensland's landscape and the vegetation communities on K'gari have adapted to survive bushfires, with some species of flora and fauna totally reliant on it for regeneration or future food source and habitat.

- **What sort of water is used to fight these fires... salt water / fresh water and why? Is that a point of difficulty ?**

Saltwater.

Because K'gari is a sand island and doesn't hold moisture, the environmental impacts of using saltwater to suppress the fire are reduced. Helicopters sourced water from the nearest points which was often the ocean.

Fixed wing aircraft were required to source water from the mainland as the closest suitable location.

ABC News

- **The Minister mentioned in Parliament today that the more than the "recommended 5% outlined by the Royal Commission" has been burned in mitigation burns. Is that specific to Fraser Island/K'Gari?**
- **Can you outline the details of the 13,000 ha burns?**
- **When did the 4 burns occur this year, how much was burned then?**
- **Are QPWS, or any other agency, any closer to identifying the person/s who lit the illegal campfire? Have any fines or charges been laid?**

No. No.



Brent Davidson
Media Manager
Media Unit | Corporate Communications
Department of Environment and Science

Chat with me on teams **Personal info**

E brent.davidson@des.qld.gov.au

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Date : 1/12/2020 2:14:07 PM

From : "HEAD Damien"

To : "DAVIDSON Brent" , "KLAASSEN Ben" , "BUCKLEY Andrew"

Cc : "GRANT Andrea" , "CAMBOURN Neil" , "DARGUSCH Marc"

Subject : RE: List of questions for fact checking/endorsement

Attachment : image001.png;image005.png;image006.png;image007.png;

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Sent: Tuesday, 1 December 2020 1:20 PM

To: KLAASSEN Ben; BUCKLEY Andrew; HEAD Damien

Cc: GRANT Andrea

Subject: List of questions for fact checking/endorsement

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Brent Davidson
Media Manager
Media Unit | Corporate Communications
Department of Environment and Science

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Released by DES
RTI Act 2009

Date : 25/11/2020 12:08:54 PM
From : "QFES Media"
To : "DAVIDSON Brent"
Cc : "Hayley Gillespie" , "Media DES" , "GRANT Andrea"
Subject : RE: Media release draft - Fraser Island
Attachment : image005.jpg;image006.png;image008.png;image001.png;image002.png;
Good afternoon Brent,

Thank you for your email.

There's no problem with the content from our end, however the QFES title should read Queensland Fire and Emergency Services.

Kind regards,
Breanna

Media Unit
Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES)
T. 07 3635 3310 E. media@qfes.qld.gov.au



From: DAVIDSON Brent <Brent.Davidson@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 25 November 2020 11:40 AM
To: QFES Media <QFES.Media@qfes.qld.gov.au>
Cc: Hayley Gillespie <Hayley.Gillespie@qfes.qld.gov.au>; Media DES <Media@des.qld.gov.au>; GRANT Andrea <Andrea.Grant@des.qld.gov.au>
Subject: Media release draft - Fraser Island

Hi Hayley/QFES team

We've mentioned you in the attached release. Are you happy with how we've referenced you? If you could let me know as soon as possible, that would be great.

Thanks

Brent



Brent Davidson
Media Manager
Media Unit | Corporate Communications
Department of Environment and Science

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E brent.davidson@des.qld.gov.au
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Date : 6/12/2020 7:53:49 PM
From : "Tim Whittaker"
To : "GRANT Andrea"
Subject : RE: MR for issue at 7am

Thanks for this – yes, a retired firefighter was claiming it.

Have given our side visibility.

Have a good evening!

From: GRANT Andrea <Andrea.Grant@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Sunday, 6 December 2020 7:04 PM
To: Tim Whittaker <Tim.Whittaker@qfes.qld.gov.au>
Subject: Fwd: MR for issue at 7am

We are putting this out tomorrow morning. There was some suggestion it was a result of fire fighting foam. That's not true

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: DAVIDSON Brent <Brent.Davidson@des.qld.gov.au>
Date: 6 December 2020 at 6:50:58 pm AEST
To: GRANT Andrea <Andrea.Grant@des.qld.gov.au>
Subject: Fwd: MR for issue at 7am

Release

Brent Davidson
Media Manager
Personal info

From: DAVIDSON Brent <Brent.Davidson@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Sunday, December 6, 2020 6:20 pm
To: WATSON Matthew
Cc: Media Unit
Subject: MR for issue at 7am

Hi Matt

Would you please issue this release at 7am to Wide Bay media?

Thanks

Brent

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Date : 23/11/2020 2:15:29 PM

From : "GRANT Andrea"

To : "CAMBOURN Neil" , "HEAD Damien"

Cc : "DAVIDSON Brent" , "DEVERY Michael"

Subject : RE: Neil - Damien: Fraser update

Attachment : image001.png;image002.png;image004.png;image006.png;image008.png;image009.png;image010.jpg;

Thanks for your email Neil. I've spoken with Damian and locked Mick in for pre-recorded interviews early each morning for the rest of the week. These will only take five minutes and will mean, barring a disaster, we will be able to leave everyone alone as much as possible. The grabs worked really well last week. However, both Mick and Ben Klassen have mentioned that tomorrow's weather conditions could change how the fire moves and we need to be prepared should evacuations be needed. Finger crossed it won't come to this. I've spoken to Ben and Leigh Harris today and both are supporting my proposal to add media grabs into the operational procedures for any fire so that we can ensure we have them covered off.

I'm also interested in the attached email from Mick about compliance action in the parks at the moment. Although WoG is being cautious about post-school celebrations and police is the lead, would it be possible to get these emails each day? As we are now also taking media inquiries for the youth portfolio (combined with DES) they would be very useful to be across in case we get media inquiries.

Thanks everyone. I understand it's a really busy time for everyone and we are trying to take some of the burden from you (as much as we can).

Andrea



Andrea Grant
Director-Media
Corporate Communications
Department of Environment and Science

M [Personal info](#)
Level 31, 400 George St, Brisbane
GPO Box 2454, Brisbane 4001

From: CAMBOURN Neil <Neil.Cambourn@des.qld.gov.au>

Sent: Monday, 23 November 2020 1:40 PM

To: GRANT Andrea; HEAD Damien

Cc: DAVIDSON Brent

Subject: RE: Neil - Damien: Fraser update

Hi Andrea, yes apologies there's a bit going on.

If Mick is available or he someone to hand that can do it, I'm more than happy, but if he can't we need to respect it as he has more than anyone to deal with at the moment, with keeping schoolies crowds safe, and organising people working 24/7 with police, and the fire strategy and logistics of a six week 24/7 fire campaign amongst everything else. Every man and his dog want a piece of him at the moment including 'cool burn experts' wanting to influence their operations.

The fire is not doing anything that's even remotely newsworthy from one part of the day to the next, it's a campaign fire in a natural fire adapted landscape, with unfriendly environmental conditions keeping it going.

There really is no news other than what we have provided already day in day out – yes it's a fire, there's smoke, its travelled 50km, its in remote areas of the island, nothing is at risk, and we are using water bombers to try to suppress it.

That will be the same scenario until its out, and we wont achieve 'out' without significant rain.

There aren't even reference points of any notoriety for people to speculate on where its at ie we had this fixation with wanting to describe the extent being from Bool Creek – try to find that on google... I couldn't...

We are getting sitreps daily but there's nothing of any real 'news' for me in those either, and we are having the same issues with updating Minister – status unchanged – continuing to burn, continuing to water bomb where feasible.

The large bomber costs us about \$12k an hour, so we are probably burning more \$\$\$ than anything else.

Just to give you a taste of Cooloola at the moment for example please see the attached – this was just the night shift last night.

Damien and/ or Mick will need to advise availabilities.

Regards Neil



Neil Cambourn
Assistant Director-General
Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships
Department of Environment and Science

P 07 3199 7518 M [Personal info](#)
Level 5, 400 George Street, Brisbane QLD 4000

From: GRANT Andrea <Andrea.Grant@des.qld.gov.au>

Sent: Monday, 23 November 2020 12:53 PM

20-206

File C Release

Page 144 of 166

To: CAMBOURN Neil; HEAD Damien
Cc: DAVIDSON Brent
Subject: FW: Neil - Damien: Fraser update

Hi Neil and Damian

I've just tried to call you both and you are busy. Could one of you give me a call please. We have had three requests for media interviews on the fire and given the weather conditions could be unfavourable tomorrow, I would like to have a plan in place for ongoing media. Ben Klassen and the DG have endorsed us being proactive and setting up pre-recorded media interviews each day and I would like to get that in place for tomorrow morning.

Thanks
Andrea



Andrea Grant
Director-Media
Corporate Communications
Department of Environment and Science

M Personal in
Level 31, 400 George St, Brisbane
GPO Box 2454, Brisbane 4001

From: HEAD Damien <Damien.Head@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 23 November 2020 9:53 AM
To: WATSON Matthew; CAMBOURN Neil
Cc: Media DES
Subject: RE: Neil - Damien: Fraser update


No talking heads today.

From: WATSON Matthew <Matthew.Watson@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 23 November 2020 9:28 AM
To: CAMBOURN Neil; HEAD Damien
Cc: Media DES
Subject: Neil - Damien: Fraser update

Morning Neil and Damien,
Please see request below.
She's after video of a ranger.
I'll check if QFES are standing up.
Your thoughts?
Yesterday's written response is attached.
Cheers



Matt Watson
Principal Media Officer
Media Unit | Corporate Communications
Department of Environment and Science

M Personal in  [Chat with me on Teams!](#)
GPO Box 2454, Brisbane QLD 4001
If it's a media matter, please include the group email media@des.qld.gov.au
Website www.des.qld.gov.au

From: O'Brien, Rosie <ROBrien@Seven.com.au>
Sent: Monday, 23 November 2020 8:58 AM
To: WATSON Matthew
Subject: Fraser update

Morning Matt,

I hope you had a great weekend.

Just wondering if there will be an update released today re: Fraser fires?

Thanks so much,
Rosie O'Brien
Journalist, News

T +61 07 419 797 85
M Personal Inform

Seven Network (Operations) Limited
162 Boat Harbour Drive, Hervey Bay QLD 4655 Australia
PO Box 1816, Hervey Bay QLD 4655 Australia

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Released by DES
RTI Act 2009

Date : 23/11/2020 2:01:22 PM

From : "HEAD Damien"

To : "CAMBOURN Neil" , "GRANT Andrea"

Cc : "DAVIDSON Brent"

Subject : RE: Neil - Damien: Fraser update

Attachment : image001.png;image008.png;image009.jpg;image003.png;image005.png;image007.png;

Mick has kindly offered to assist with some media. I had a chat with him. Preference is that we keep to pre recorded pieces once a day to minimise impacts and is commensurate with the status of the fire like neil explains.

From: CAMBOURN Neil <Neil.Cambourn@des.qld.gov.au>

Sent: Monday, 23 November 2020 1:40 PM

To: GRANT Andrea; HEAD Damien

Cc: DAVIDSON Brent

Subject: RE: Neil - Damien: Fraser update

Hi Andrea, yes apologies there's a bit going on.

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Damien and/ or Mick will need to advise availabilities.

Regards Neil



Neil Cambourn

Assistant Director-General

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships
Department of Environment and Science

P 07 3199 7518 M Personal info
Level 5, 400 George Street, Brisbane QLD 4000

From: GRANT Andrea <Andrea.Grant@des.qld.gov.au>

Sent: Monday, 23 November 2020 12:53 PM

To: CAMBOURN Neil; HEAD Damien

Cc: DAVIDSON Brent

Subject: FW: Neil - Damien: Fraser update

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Corporate Communications

Department of Environment and Science

M Personal info
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Department of Environment and Science

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Rosie O'Brien
Journalist, News
T +61 07 419 797 85
M Personal info

Seven Network (Operations) Limited
162 Boat Harbour Drive, Hervey Bay QLD 4655 Australia
PO Box 1816, Hervey Bay QLD 4655 Australia

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Date : 23/11/2020 1:40:14 PM

From : "CAMBOURN Neil"

To : "GRANT Andrea" , "HEAD Damien"

Cc : "DAVIDSON Brent"

Subject : RE: Neil - Damien: Fraser update

Attachment : Fwd: Cooloola compliance activity report

22/11/2020;image001.png;image009.png;image010.jpg;image003.png;image005.png;image007.png;

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If Mick is available or he someone to hand that can do it, I'm more than happy, but if he can't we need to respect it as he has more than anyone to deal with at the moment, with keeping schoolies crowds safe, and organising people working 24/7 with police, and the fire strategy and logistics of a six week 24/7 fire campaign amongst everything else. Every man and his dog want a piece of him at the moment including 'cool burn experts' wanting to influence their operations.

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Regards Neil



Neil Cambourn

Assistant Director-General

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships
Department of Environment and Science

P 07 3199 7518 M **Personal info**
Level 5, 400 George Street, Brisbane QLD 4000

From: GRANT Andrea <Andrea.Grant@des.qld.gov.au>

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To: CAMBOURN Neil; HEAD Damien

Cc: DAVIDSON Brent

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Corporate Communications
Department of Environment and Science

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GPO Box 2454, Brisbane 4001

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Cc: Media DES

Subject: RE: Neil - Damien: Fraser update

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20-206

File C Release


Page 149 of 166

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Matt Watson
Principal Media Officer
Media Unit | Corporate Communications
Department of Environment and Science

M **Personal information**  [Chat with me on Teams!](#)
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Website www.des.qld.gov.au

From: O'Brien, Rosie <ROBrien@Seven.com.au>
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To: WATSON Matthew
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Rosie O'Brien
Journalist, News

T +61 07 419 797 85
M **Personal information**

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Date : 23/11/2020 10:00:07 AM
From : "DEVERY Michael"
To : "CUBIS Mick" , "LAWTON Colin" , "HOEY Kieran" , "CHISHOLM Andrew"
Cc : "WRIGHT Michelle" , "WRIGHT Fiona" , "CAMBOURN Neil" , "ROSS Kate" , "NORTHAM Adam"
Subject : Fwd: Cooloola compliance activity report 22/11/2020

Hi All
Regarding Adam's report from last night, an important point that I'd like to make is that of all the below listed PINs that were issued last night, only one was issued by Queensland Police.

All others, including 8 relating to allegedly failing to wear a seat belt and 6 for allegedly travelling on the outside of a vehicle etc were issued by the QPWS team, when police were not present.

This gives a very real insight to what rangers are encountering and dealing with out there, and the public safety implications of the involved persons not complying with these fundamental safety requirements when travelling in vehicles in the recreation area.

Clearly a very busy night for the QPWS teams.

mike

Sent from my iPhone

On 23 Nov 2020, at 8:40 am, NORTHAM Adam <Adam.Northam@des.qld.gov.au> wrote:

Hi all,

Last nights patrol comprised 2 x QPWS&P units and 1 QPS unit from Maryborough Tactical Crime.

Compliance statistics are as follows:

7 x PINs for passenger fail to wear seatbelt
1 x PIN for driver failing to ensure passenger wears seatbelt
5 x PINs for travelling in part of vehicle not designed for passengers
1 x PIN for driver carrying passengers in part of vehicle not designed for passengers
1 x PIN for failure to obtain camping permit
1 x PIN for failure to obtain a VAP
2 x warnings for travelling in part of vehicle not designed for passengers
1 x warning for failure to have a dog on a lead
1 x warning for park vehicle in a way that may cause damage (dunes)
1 x warning for failure to obtain camping permit
1 x warning for failure to obtain a VAP
1 x warning for failure to obtain COVID authority
3 x directions to leave the RAM area for non-compliance
1 x QPS PIN for drive without due care and attention
16 x vehicle stops
1 x camp site inspection

Two vehicle stops were of particular interest. The first involved 9 school leavers travelling inside the cabin of a 5 seater vehicle. No occupants were wearing seat belts. 5 persons were found on the back seat and 2 persons were on the front passenger seat. One person who was hiding in the rear of the vehicle initially escaped detection and once located was reluctant to leave the vehicle when directed. All persons other than the driver had been drinking. Rangers ensured all persons welfare at the scene and all made it back to their camp safely.

The second incident involved 5 non-school leavers travelling in the tray of a utility. All were drinking.

Very few campsite inspections were undertaken due to Rangers being preoccupied with unsafe vehicle related matters.

A further patrol is scheduled for tomorrow night with 2 x QPWS&P units and 1 QPS unit.

Georgia Sneesby has been monitoring the 'Bush Doof' Facebook page. A post appeared late yesterday afternoon promoting a bush doof last night at Double Island Point. Rangers checked the southern side and QPS monitored the north side of DI. No party occurred to our knowledge. It may be that party plans gathers momentum and will occur tonight. Georgia will continue to monitor the FB page.

Cheers,

Adam Northam
Manager, Wildlife Assessments
QPWS&P

Released by DES
RTI Act 2009

Date : 23/11/2020 2:48:55 PM

From : "CAMBOURN Neil"

To : "GRANT Andrea" , "HEAD Damien"

Cc : "DAVIDSON Brent" , "DEVERY Michael" , "NORTHAM Adam"

Subject : RE: Neil - Damien: Fraser update

Attachment : image001.png;image003.png;image005.png;image007.png;image011.png;image012.png;image013.png;image014.jpg;

Thanks Andrea, Appreciated.

Yes I will ask Mike D and team to circulate the schoolies updates to you, but just for you to have the information to hand.

They go up through Ben to DG and DG is likely providing MO and Leadership group updates as well I'd expect, so we will keep maintaining that operational reporting line.

Regards Neil



Neil Cambourn

Assistant Director-General

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships

Department of Environment and Science

P 07 3199 7518 M [Personal info](#)

Level 5, 400 George Street, Brisbane QLD 4000

From: GRANT Andrea <Andrea.Grant@des.qld.gov.au>

Sent: Monday, 23 November 2020 2:15 PM

To: CAMBOURN Neil; HEAD Damien

Cc: DAVIDSON Brent; DEVERY Michael

Subject: RE: Neil - Damien: Fraser update

Thanks for your email Neil. I've spoken with Damian and locked Mick in for pre-recorded interviews early each morning for the rest of the week. These will only take five minutes and will mean, barring a disaster, we will be able to leave everyone alone as much as possible. The grabs worked really well last week. However, both Mick and Ben Klassen have mentioned that tomorrow's weather conditions could change how the fire moves and we need to be prepared should evacuations be needed. Finger crossed it won't come to this. I've spoken to Ben and Leigh Harris today and both are supporting my proposal to add media grabs into the operational procedures for any fire so that we can ensure we have them covered off.

I'm also interested in the attached email from Mick about compliance action in the parks at the moment. Although WoG is being cautious about post-school celebrations and police is the lead, would it be possible to get these emails each day? As we are now also taking media inquiries for the youth portfolio (combined with DES) they would be very useful to be across in case we get media inquiries.

Thanks everyone. I understand it's a really busy time for everyone and we are trying to take some of the burden from you (as much as we can).

Andrea



Andrea Grant

Director-Media

Corporate Communications

Department of Environment and Science

M [Personal info](#)

Level 31, 400 George St, Brisbane

GPO Box 2454, Brisbane 4001

From: CAMBOURN Neil <Neil.Cambourn@des.qld.gov.au>

Sent: Monday, 23 November 2020 1:40 PM

To: GRANT Andrea; HEAD Damien

Cc: DAVIDSON Brent

Subject: RE: Neil - Damien: Fraser update

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Department of Environment and Science
P 07 3199 7518 M Personal inf
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 RTI A2009

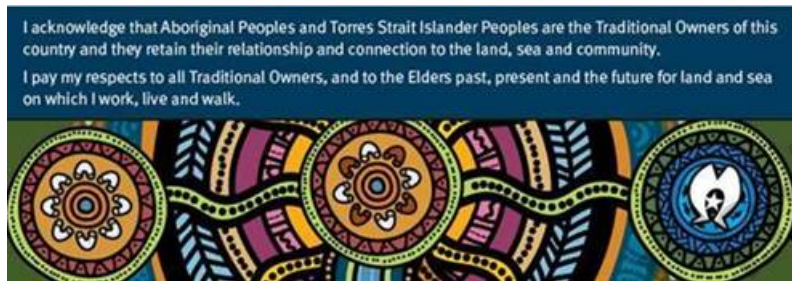
Date : 20/11/2020 5:52:19 PM
From : "KLAASSEN Ben"
To : "GRANT Andrea" , "MERRICK Jamie"
Cc : "DAVIDSON Brent"
Subject : RE: Plan for ongoing media during fire season
Attachment : image001.png;image002.png;image005.jpg;image006.png;image007.png;
Hi Andrea

I support the concept. Please liaise with Leigh Harris and Marty McLaughlin re operationalising it.

Regards
Ben



Ben Klaassen
Deputy Director-General
Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships
Department of Environment and Science
P 07 3199 7538 | M **Personal** | E ben.klaassen@des.qld.gov.au
Level 5, 400 George St, Brisbane QLD 4000
PO Box 15187, CITY EAST QLD 4002



From: GRANT Andrea <Andrea.Grant@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 20 November 2020 1:58 PM
To: MERRICK Jamie; KLAASSEN Ben
Cc: DAVIDSON Brent
Subject: RE: Plan for ongoing media during fire season

Hello DG and Ben

I just wanted to give you an update about this process. We have been trialling it this week with the K'Gari fire and I think it has had a positive result. We have simply pre-recorded a grab at 7am each morning with a pre-determined ranger. It has only taken five minutes of everyone's time and once it's done for the day, it's done. It has meant that we can simply send the grabs to any media who inquires during the day without having to interrupt anyone involved in the fire. The media have been very happy with the service so we have got some good results for minimal effort. Really it's a win, win.

The MO has asked to approve the grabs each morning (which I think will stop once they are more comfortable with the process) and this has only taken a few minutes as well. We aren't going to do any grabs during the weekend unless the situation changes dramatically.

Ideally I would like to continue this process every time we have a major fire which is attracting media attention. It allows us to control the messaging and to ensure the department is recognised for the work the rangers are doing.

Is you agree, who should I speak to for this process to be added to operational planning for fire emergencies?

Thanks
Andrea



Andrea Grant
Director-Media
Corporate Communications
Department of Environment and Science
M **Personal**
Level 31, 400 George St, Brisbane
GPO Box 2454, Brisbane 4001

From: GRANT Andrea
Sent: Monday, 16 November 2020 7:47 AM
To: MERRICK Jamie; KLAASSEN Ben
Cc: DAVIDSON Brent
Subject: Plan for ongoing media during fire season

Good morning everyone

The weekend's fire received a lot of media attention as you know. Thanks to both of you for your help and advice yesterday. I think it was probably the busiest weekend on call for the media team since the dingo attack last Easter. Fires are going to be an ongoing media issue during the coming fire season (particularly following the terrible bush fire season last year). I would like to put a plan together now so we can manage it with positive coverage for the department, reducing demand on the staff fighting the fires and ensuring the media team can keep up with the demands from the media. This final point is important to ensure we are consistent with our safety messaging and also ensuring that the rangers fighting the fires are acknowledged for the good work they are doing and the department is recognised for having a role in this space.

I would like to put in place a system where we pre-record grabs with a senior person twice each day (one about 7am and the other later, maybe 3pm or 4pm). That way we can push those interviews out to the media throughout the day, leaving the rangers and the senior people coordinating the fire response alone. However, to do that we need someone designated early in the season to be that person. We will provide training, although to be honest, it would be a five minute conversation with one of my staff that is very conversational and not confronting.

Can you let me know what you think about this plan please and if you agree, who we designate as our spokespeople (is it the senior ranger in each region?). I would then need your support to ensure the spokesperson is engaged with the process.

Thanks
Andrea



Andrea Grant
Director-Media
Corporate Communications
Department of Environment and Science

M **Personahin**
Level 31, 400 George St, Brisbane
GPO Box 2454, Brisbane 4001

Released by DES
RTI Act 2009

Date : 24/11/2020 2:45:11 PM
From : "GRANT Andrea"
To : "CAMBOURN Neil"
Subject : RE: See these maps of veg type and fire stopping at rainforest
Attachment : image001.png;image005.png;image008.png;image009.png;image011.png;image013.jpg;image014.jpg;image015.png;
Thanks Neil. Let's talk soon

From: CAMBOURN Neil <Neil.Cambourn@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 24 November 2020 2:14 PM
To: GRANT Andrea
Subject: FW: See these maps of veg type and fire stopping at rainforest

Fyi in confidence



Neil Cambourn
Assistant Director-General
Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships
Department of Environment and Science
P 07 3199 7518 M **Parsons**
Level 5, 400 George Street, Brisbane QLD 4000

From: CAMBOURN Neil
Sent: Tuesday, 24 November 2020 2:05 PM
To: KLASSEN Ben
Subject: See these maps of veg type and fire stopping at rainforest

fyi

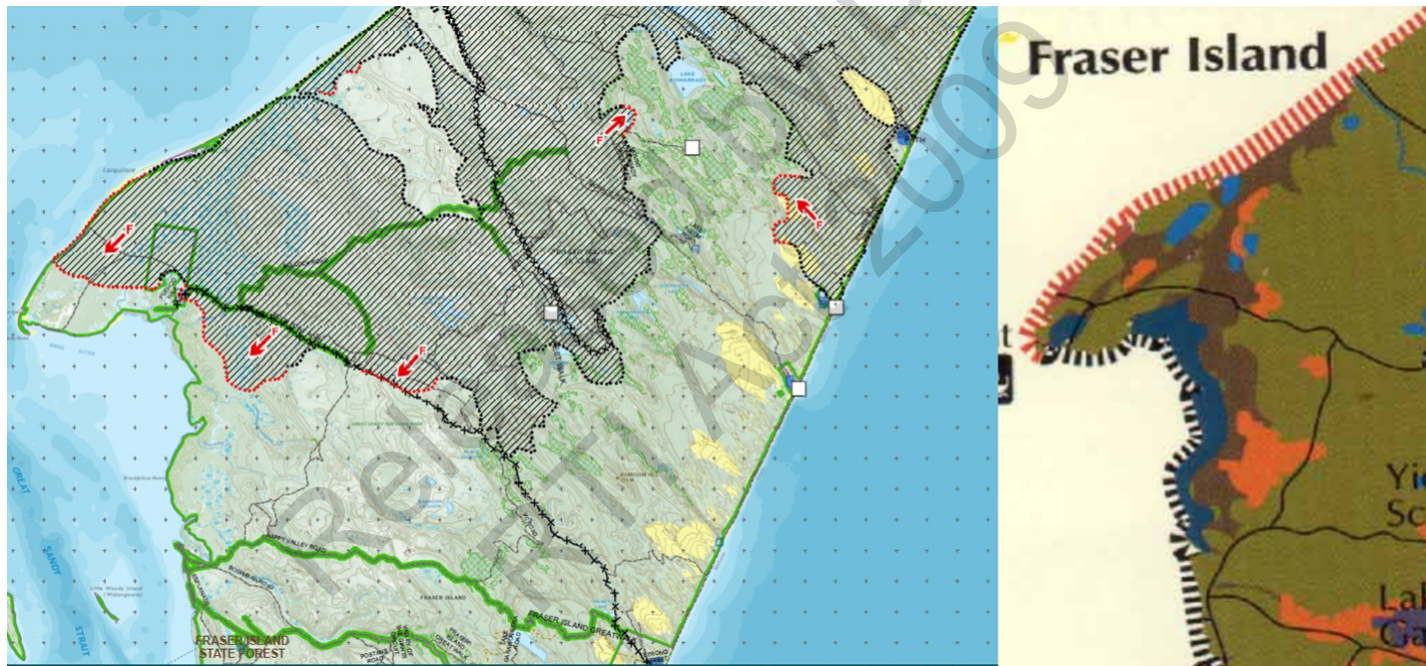


Neil Cambourn
Assistant Director-General
Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships
Department of Environment and Science
P 07 3199 7518 M **Parsons**
Level 5, 400 George Street, Brisbane QLD 4000

From: CAMBOURN Neil
Sent: Tuesday, 24 November 2020 2:02 PM
To: HEAD Damien; DARGUSCH Marc; CUBIS Mick
Subject: RE: Duling Wildfire K'Gari 24/11/2020 as at 1230

I think the modelling is incorrect.

If we overlay the veg map to the fire map, it's clear to see it has pulled up at the rainforest line, so will not get to Happy Valley on current trajectory in my view. The line follows exactly that wetter veg line map to map.



Neil Cambourn
Assistant Director-General
Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships
Department of Environment and Science
P 07 3199 7518 M **Parsons**
Level 5, 400 George Street, Brisbane QLD 4000

From: HEAD Damien <Damien.Head@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 24 November 2020 1:38 PM
To: DARGUSCH Marc; CUBIS Mick; CAMBOURN Neil
Subject: RE: Duling Wildfire K'Gari 24/11/2020 as at 1230

Marc

Question. Looking at the assumption of the modelling. Is there consideration to the vegetation type in there? That is some pretty aggressive modelling along an edge that hasn't progressed much over the past 7 days. All the fire movement has largely been to the south

From: DARGUSCH Marc <Marc.Dargusch@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 24 November 2020 1:32 PM
To: HEAD Damien; CUBIS Mick; CAMBOURN Neil
Subject: FW: Duling Wildfire K'Gari 24/11/2020 as at 1230

Hi Mick/Damien/Neil - Situation @ 1300hrs 20201124:

- The main fire continues to move in a south easterly direction with poor fire weather conditions on the island.
- The community of Happy Valley is potentially under threat within the next 24hrs *although* the latest mapping and predictions indicate this threat has abated with an improved forecast. QFES, RFS, QPWS and QPS, Ambulance are working together to prepare the community. It is worth noting that the fire has not yet exited the closed forest into the dryer eastern vegetation types.
- Forecast wind change easterly at about 4.00am 25/11/2020 will further lessen the current risk to Happy Valley.
- Fire to the south has now just over the Bogimbah Track.
- Other sectors:
 - Active fire at the north of the island at Sandy Cape sector is being monitored.
 - Cathedral Beach sector is blacking out.

- IMT has relocated and ramped up (refer attached pdf) to Rainbow Beach. Nathan Connor is now the IC.
- Divisional control is operating out of QPWS Dundabara.

Given the fire proximity to Happy Valley (and smaller communities to south including Yidney Rocks etc) + Kingfisher Bay Resort the current QPWS run IMT would be comfortable with QFES taking control if QFES happy to attempt to utilise the Smith-Poyungun Road as the southern control line & have QPWS on IMT with them.

Some fire predictions are contained below.

Regards, Marc



Marc Dargusch
Principal Ranger – Great Sandy Area
Coastal and Islands Region | QPWS and Partnerships
Department of Environment and Science

M Person P 07 54869960
Level 6, 12 On First Avenue, Maroochydore 4558
www.des.qld.gov.au

I give my respect to the traditional and custodial Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Elders and Owners of the Land in which I work, live and walk.

Predicted fire spread details below as sourced from QFES FBAN imbedded in IMT Rainbow;

Fire spread prediction generated this morning for Fraser Island - Happy Valley.

The image below is for 14:00 hrs today & 0100 hrs Wednesday. The Simulation runs through to 25th November in the attached KMZ file, but this will be revised throughout today as new mapping is made available.



Fire Spread to 14:00hrs 24-11-20



Fire Spread to 0100hrs 25th Nov 2020

Assumptions used to develop this prediction:

- Active fire edge as determined by Air Obs at 08:20hrs 24-11-20 have been used.
- No active fire suppression is being undertaken.
- No additional backburning has been undertaken.
- Phoenix standard inputs have not been adjusted.
- Weather is from BOM grids downloaded this morning.



John Atkinson
Senior Project Officer
Fire Team | Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service
Department of Environment and Science

P 07 4999 8533 | E John.Atkinson@des.qld.gov.au
Level 5 | 44 Nelsen Street | Mackay

Date : 16/11/2020 4:44:06 PM
From : "CAMBOURN Neil"
To : "MOORE Felicity"
Cc : "HEAD Damien" , "MCLAUGHLIN Marty" , "GRANT Andrea" , "Media DES"
Subject : RE: Talking Points
Attachment : 161120 - TP - K'gari fire update - ABC
radio.docx;image001.png;image003.png;image004.png;image005.png;image006.png;image007.png;
Endorsed thanks



Neil Cambourn
Assistant Director-General
Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships
Department of Environment and Science
P 07 3199 7518 M [Personal info](#)
Level 5, 400 George Street, Brisbane QLD 4000

From: MOORE Felicity <Felicity.Moore@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 16 November 2020 4:25 PM
To: CAMBOURN Neil
Cc: HEAD Damien; MCLAUGHLIN Marty; GRANT Andrea; Media DES
Subject: FW: Talking Points

Hi Neil

Please see attached talking points for an interview for Marty McLaughlin to do with Steve Austin re K'gari fire.

Approved: Damien Head.

Thanks Neil.

Cheers,
f



Felicity Moore
Senior Media Officer
Media Unit | Corporate Communications
Department of Environment and Science
P 07 3339 5831
M [Personal info](#)
GPO Box 2454, Brisbane QLD 4001
[Visit the Environment Media Centre](#)

[Visit us on Twitter](#)

[Chat with me on Teams!](#)

If it's a media matter, please include the group email media@des.qld.gov.au
Website www.des.qld.gov.au

From: HEAD Damien <Damien.Head@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 16 November 2020 4:09 PM
To: MOORE Felicity; MCLAUGHLIN Marty
Cc: Media DES
Subject: RE: Talking Points

No concern with these except for the low intensity statement. Not accurate on the northerly.

Marty just received a good briefing on fire status.

The media statement this morning is also very useful to marty.

Thanks again Marty.

Damien

From: MOORE Felicity <Felicity.Moore@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 16 November 2020 4:00 PM
To: MCLAUGHLIN Marty; HEAD Damien
Cc: Media DES
Subject: Talking Points

Hi Marty and Damien,

In the event that Marty is available to do the 5.30pm radio interview this afternoon, I've drafted some talking points for your approval/amendment.

Please see attached and let me know asap of any changes.

Thanks both!

Cheers,
f



Felicity Moore

Senior Media Officer

Media Unit | Corporate Communications

Department of Environment and Science

P 07 3339 5831

M **Personalia**

GPO Box 2454, Brisbane QLD 4001

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RTI Act 2009

Talking Points
ABC Radio Brisbane: Drive program with Steve Austin
Spokesperson: Marty McLaughlin.

- The fire has been burning since 14 October, 2020
- We believe it may have been started by a campfire not properly extinguished.
- The fire has been a slow moving fire.
- QPWS has aerial support on standby if needed.
- The main impact to visitors and locals will be smoke and visibility.
- Most popular visitor spots are open
- Cathedrals campground has reopened
- We have conducted backburning in some areas
- We will continue to monitor the fire and have crews in attendance

Released by DES
RTI Act 2009

Date : 1/12/2020 1:34:44 PM
From : "KLAASSEN Ben"
To : "BUCKLEY Andrew" , "DAVIDSON Brent"
Cc : "GRANT Andrea"
Subject : RE: Urgent media response for endorsement - K'gari fire.
Attachment : image001.png;image009.png;image010.png;image004.png;image005.jpg;image006.png;

Hi

My edits included below. Note the recent royal commission did not recommend a target it was the Victorian royal commission back in 2008/9 so have removed that. Also want to emphasise the first response was when it was reported.

The following can be attributed to a Department of Environment and Science spokesperson:

QPWS has conducted significant fire mitigation on K'gari (Fraser Island), averaging approximately 13,000 hectares for the last five years, to ensure we minimise and prevent wild fires however, all this good work can be brought undone by the actions of those irresponsible person/s who started and then poorly extinguished an illegal campfire which is the suspected cause of this devastating fire.

QPWS responded as soon as the fire was reported on 14 October 2020. The fire has been burning for most of that period in remote and inaccessible parts of the island making containment very challenging.

Several factors including hot, dry and windy conditions have reduced the effectiveness of firefighting efforts that have been ongoing on the island.

We need campers across Queensland to take responsibility for putting out fires properly to save lives, property and the environment.

The QFES and QPWS Incident Management Team is continuing to monitor and manage the situation.

Multiple QPWS crews on the ground each day, working alongside QFES as the lead agency and the Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation.

Anyone with information about the illegal campfire is urged to contact the department. A person who fails to extinguish a campfire properly can face fines of up to \$22,019.

Happy to discuss.

Ben



Ben Klaassen
Deputy Director-General
Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships
Department of Environment and Science
P 07 3199 7538 | M Personal | E ben.klaassen@des.qld.gov.au
Level 5, 400 George St, Brisbane QLD 4000
PO Box 15187, CITY EAST QLD 4002

I acknowledge that Aboriginal Peoples and Torres Strait Islander Peoples are the Traditional Owners of this country and they retain their relationship and connection to the land, sea and community.
I pay my respects to all Traditional Owners, and to the Elders past, present and the future for land and sea on which I work, live and walk.



From: BUCKLEY Andrew <Andrew.Buckley@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 1 December 2020 1:23 PM
To: DAVIDSON Brent; KLAASSEN Ben
Subject: RE: Urgent media response for endorsement - K'gari fire.

Brent sorry for the delay just some changes/thoughts below what do you think?

Cheers buck

From: DAVIDSON Brent <Brent.Davidson@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 1 December 2020 11:27 AM
To: KLAASSEN Ben; BUCKLEY Andrew
20-206

Subject: Urgent media response for endorsement - K'gari fire.

Importance: High

Hi Ben & Andrew (nice to e-meet you)

Andrea & I have put the below together to answer media enquiries we get today about the fire. While we intend to use this for all media enquiries, there may still be some we will need further advice on if they're very specific questions that we feel need answering – but we will try to limit this as much as possible.

We are seeking your endorsement of the below to answer enquiries from the Fraser Coast Chronicle, Seven News and The Guardian.

Kind regards

Brent

From: DAVIDSON Brent <Brent.Davidson@des.qld.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 1 December 2020 11:20 AM

To: GRANT Andrea

Subject: Statement

What do you reckon?

The following can be attributed to a Department of Environment and Science spokesperson:

QPWS&P has conducted significant fire mitigation on K'gari (Fraser Island) – even above those recommended in the recent Royal Commission - to ensure we minimise and prevent wild fires however, all this good work can be brought undone by the actions of those irresponsible person/s who started and then poorly extinguished an illegal campfire which is the suspected cause of this devastating fire.

Although the fire has been burning since October 14 for most of that period it has been in remote and inaccessible parts of the island.

Several factors including hot, dry and windy conditions have reduced the effectiveness of firefighting efforts that have been ongoing on the island.

We need campers across Queensland to take responsibility for putting out fires properly to save lives, property and the environment.

The QFES and QPWS Incident Management Team is continuing to monitor and manage the situation.

Multiple QPWS crews on the ground each day, working alongside QFES as the lead agency and the Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation.

Anyone with information about the illegal campfire is urged to contact the department. A person who fails to extinguish a campfire properly can face fines of up to \$22,019.



Brent Davidson
Media Manager
Media Unit | Corporate Communications
Department of Environment and Science

[Chat with me on teams](#) **Personal info**

E brent.davidson@des.qld.gov.au

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[Visit us on Twitter](#)

Date : 25/11/2020 10:03:38 AM

From : "Fraser Island IMT"

To : "GRANT Andrea"

Subject : You've joined the Fraser Island IMT group

Attachment :

LogoM365.png;welcome_email_v3_conversations.png;welcome_email_v3_calendar.png;welcome_email_v3_files.png;welcome_email_v3_sharing_laptop.png;welcome_email_v3_onenote.png;welcome_email_v3_team



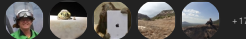
Work Brilliantly Together



Welcome to the Fraser Island IMT Group

A group of key fire management Staff to collaborate, share ideas, problem solve and collectively improve fire management

Public group with 22 members



[View group in Outlook](#)

Get started

You're set to receive only replies and events in your inbox. Change this setting below, or anywhere you see the group in Outlook, to see all of this group's conversations.

[Follow in inbox](#)



Get the conversation rolling

Start your own. Or just catch up. All in the group inbox.



Keep things together

Now, your documents and attachments in one place.



Stay on the same page

Groups that take notes together, stay together. In the group notebook.



Don't miss a thing

Track milestones (and everything in between) in the group calendar.



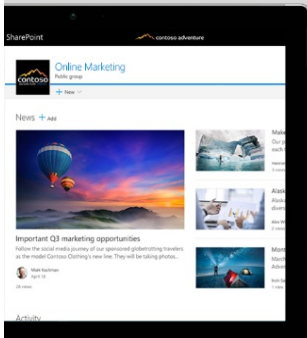
Collaborate with your group

across Microsoft 365

Create content seamlessly

The group's SharePoint team site is the place to share news, work on and organize content, manage rich data within lists, and track all site activities across all members.

[Check it out](#)



Organize group work with Planner

Planner makes it easy for your team to create new plans, organize and assign tasks, share files, chat about what you're working on, and get updates on progress.

[Check it out](#)



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