

Date : 11/12/2020 3:58:54 PM

From : "HEAD Damien"

To : "DAVIDSON Brent" , "CAMBOURN Neil" , "CUBIS Mick"

Subject : 11122020 - DRAFT MR - Camping re-opening on K'gari v3

Attachment : 11122020 - DRAFT MR - Camping re-opening on K'gari v3.docx;

Only some minor comments

Published on DES Disclosure Log
RTI Act 2009

Media release

Tourists to return to K'gari following bushfire

December 10, 2020

Tourist accommodation providers will be able to return to K'gari-Fraser Island have been given the green light to start to welcome guests in time for Christmas following the recent bushfire.

Commented [DB1]: I prefer what I had but I can live with this change

In great news for those who planned to stay or visit the island over the Christmas-New Year break, authorities the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service have determined it is safe to restore allow opened up vehicle access along at the eEastern bBeach, allowing visitors to access head to K'gari's townships.

This means resorts, private accommodation such as beach houses and residential Air-B-N-BAirbnb style accommodation will be open for business.

Some of the popular Eastern Beach attractionsThe island's most popular visitor destinations will 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.

Commented [DB2]: I just need to double check here whether they will be opened or progressively opened. We seem to have a bit of different info.

Additionally, some QPWS run camping sitesCampers don't miss out either with — these many campgrounds and beach camping zones reopening and south of Cornwells Break Road available for booking will re-open on the evening of December 15 from the 15 December 2020

Commented [HD3R2]: Leave it like this I think

Commented [DB4]: Are these QPWS-run or are there any private ones?

Those re-opening include:

Commented [HD5R4]: QPWS

- 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

Commented [DB6]: I think this will be important — we can amend depending on which ones are opened etc

Local businesses, and rThe booking system for camping and Vehicle Access Permits (VAPs) on the island will also re-open on December 14.

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

There will be a staged re-opening of the rest of the national park.

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 which will take time to fully assess are still too dangerous to re-open ppotential hazards. During this time and for their safety is it most important visitors follow the directions of rangers and obey any closure signage.

Commented [DB7]: I wouldn't mind keeping 'still too dangerous' in as it ramps home the message not to try & go in even with signage

Burnt trees pose a risk to safety as they can easily fall on someone—seriously injuring or even killing them.

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, and now that the treat has eased, we are pleased to welcome visitors back to enjoy the island's unique natural areas.

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 ensure safety and get the island open to tourists as soon as possible.

Date : 11/12/2020 4:57:08 PM
From : "DAVIDSON Brent"
To : "WATSON Matthew"
Subject : Camping reopening release
Attachment : 11122020 - DRAFT MR - Camping re-opening on K'gari
v3.docx;image001.png;image002.png;image003.png;image004.png;
Hi Matt

Camping reopening is the only thing that may pop up on the weekend.

I very much doubt it as the earliest they want to announce is Monday apparently, so I can pick it up then.

Andrea, just FYI in case you get calls early on Monday morning.

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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Media release

Tourists to return to K'gari following bushfire

December 10, 2020

Tourist ~~accommodation providers~~ ~~s will be able to return to~~ K'gari-Fraser Island ~~have been given the green light to start to welcome guests in time for Christmas following the recent bushfire.~~

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

~~Some of the popular Eastern Beach attractions~~ ~~The island's most popular visitor destinations will~~ ~~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.

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Commented [DB3]: Are these QPWS-run or are there any private ones?

~~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~~

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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 ensure safety and get the island open to tourists as soon as possible.

Date : 1/12/2020 4:17:10 PM

From : "DAVIDSON Brent"

To : "Tim Whittaker" , "Chantelle Rule"

Cc : "QFES Media" , "GRANT Andrea"

Subject : Collated K'gari media question responses

Attachment : 01122020 - Collated K'gari media question responses.docx;image001.png;image002.png;image003.png;image004.png;

Hey, these are the ones approved by the DDG. Are you happy with the content? We're going to get up to our MO soon.

He's just questioned about the IGEM – do you know whether Minister Ryan has officially asked for that? He mentioned it in parliament but we haven't been able to get that confirmed by anyone in our department.

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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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 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 wildfire, 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.

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?**

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?**

We can't get the answer to this this afternoon

- **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.

Date : 30/11/2020 11:37:32 AM
From : "Tim Whittaker"
To : "GRANT Andrea" , "DAVIDSON Brent"
Cc : "Ethan Clissold" , "Hannah Hamer" , "QFES Media"
Subject : Deployed QFES Media Personnel
Attachment : image001.png;

Hi Andrea,

Good to chat just now.

As discussed, we have had a rotation of crew for the Fraser Island incident. Currently Ethan and Hannah Rose are deployed to support the ICC and ROC.

They will continue working hand in hand with your team as we have been to ensure consistent messaging and a unified approach.

We will also keep you in the loop on media queries.

Cheers

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 : 18/11/2020 2:11:57 PM

From : "DAVIDSON Brent"

To : "HEAD Damien"

Subject : Dingos

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

Hi Damien, don't suppose we know about dingo behaviour during bushfires? Or whether any have been lost? I can't imagine we'd know that for sure, possibly ever.. but just thought I'd ask.

Also, not sure if anyone's asked specifically but Schoolies camping on Fraser – would you be worried about reckless behaviour in relation to dingo interactions?



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 : 4/12/2020 4:17:16 PM

From : "TRACEY Ben"

To : "Media Unit"

Subject : Fire response

Attachment : image001.png;image007.png;image004.png;image002.png;image006.png;image008.png;image012.png;image013.png;
FYI



Ben Tracey
Principal Media Officer
Media Unit | Corporate Services
Department of Environment and Science

M **Personal info**
media@des.qld.gov.au
400 George St, Brisbane QLD 4000
GPO Box 2454, Brisbane QLD 4001
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From: CAMBOURN Neil <Neil.Cambourn@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 4 December 2020 4:16 PM
To: WATSON Matthew; HEAD Damien; Media DES
Cc: BUCKLEY Andrew; Media DES
Subject: RE: Fire response

Thanks Matt, Andrea and all members of the media team, and thankyou Damien for taking the time to acknowledge the team, and a very genuinely felt thankyou from me to all of you as well.
The support has been extraordinary, and has extended well beyond the normal call of duty.

Neil



Neil Cambourn
Executive Director
Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service
Department of Environment and Science

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

From: WATSON Matthew <Matthew.Watson@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 4 December 2020 2:34 PM
To: HEAD Damien; Media DES
Cc: BUCKLEY Andrew; CAMBOURN Neil; Media DES
Subject: RE: Fire response

Thank you Damien,
It wasn't just me – as you said it has been a team effort and everyone in the media team has stepped up.
I'd like to thank you and Andrew and Neil and Ben K for responding quickly to the media team.
It's been a huge week. Probably about 40 responses on the fire alone.
The media team don't mind your rants!!

Personal information

Cheers



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

M **Personal info** [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: HEAD Damien <Damien.Head@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 4 December 2020 2:28 PM
To: WATSON Matthew; Media DES
Cc: BUCKLEY Andrew; CAMBOURN Neil
Subject: Fire response

Matt

I know it is going to continue for the days and weeks ahead. But it is Friday afternoon so before I [Personal information] here's cheers and thank you for all your and the media team's efforts and patience this week in preparing responses to the endless media enquiries on the Kgari fire. While the teams out on the fireline work hard and will receive due public acknowledgement there are others like yourselves who are also putting in long hours, doing much after hours and on weekends to preserve the real story and defend the professionalism and reputation of the department. These efforts should be acknowledged too. So thank you Matt and everyone for your efforts, particularly your tolerance for my rants about lazy sensationalist journalism.

Responding to this fire is a team effort which extends well beyond the frontline and includes you and the media team.

Damien



Damien Head
Executive Director
Southern Parks and Forests
Queensland Park and Wildlife Service
Department of Environment and Science

M: [Personal information]
E: Damien.head@des.qld.gov.au

Date : 2/12/2020 12:22:03 PM
From : "Ethan Clissold"
To : "DAVIDSON Brent" , "Media DES"
Cc : "QFES Media"
Subject : FOR APPROVAL - K'gari (Fraser Island) burnt area map
Attachment : Fraser Island Burnt Area.pdf;image001.png;
Good afternoon,

Please find attached the burnt area map from our mapping area to provide to media when we receive requests. This has been approved through the ICC at Rainbow Beach and QFES GIS team.

The map is accurate as of 12pm Wednesday 2 December.

Please note - not all areas within the highlighted area have burnt and some locations have only had limited fire exposure.

Please let me know if you are happy for us to provide this to media, if requested?

Thanks,

Ethan Clissold

Media Supervisor

Media, Communication and Online

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services

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

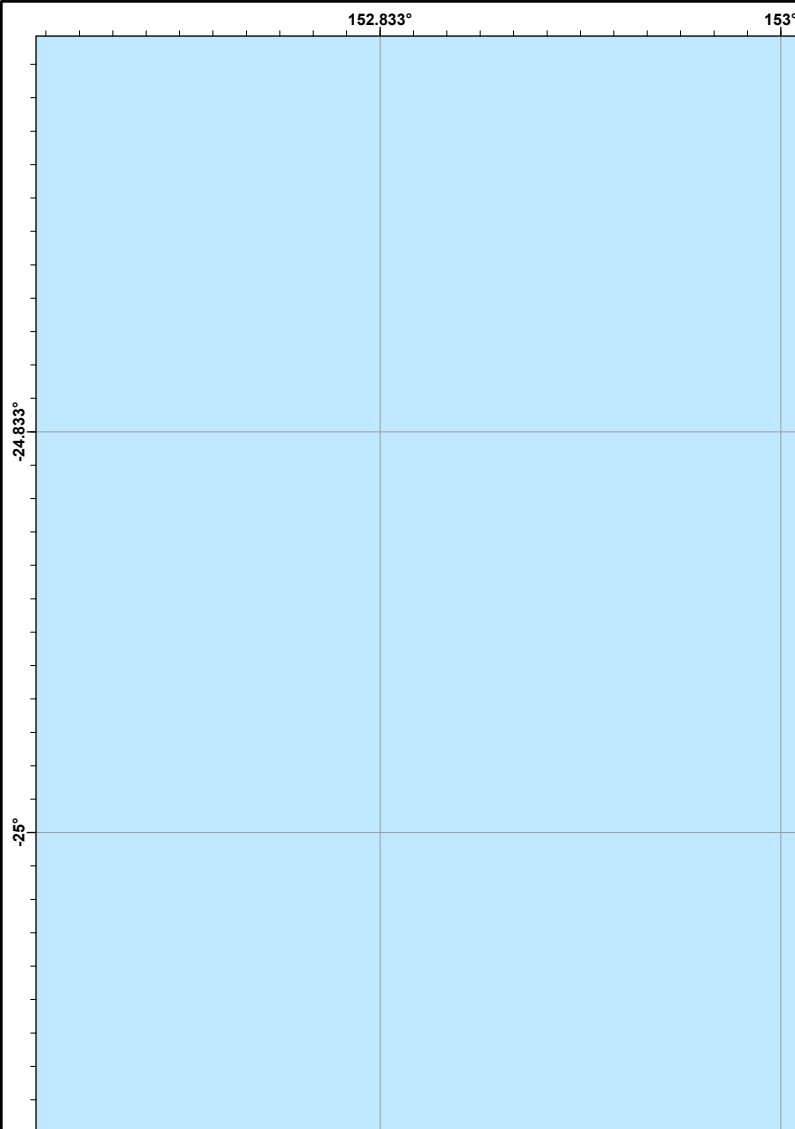
Eethan.clissold@qfes.qld.gov.au

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



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Date : 2/12/2020 4:06:36 PM

From : "DAVIDSON Brent"

To : "Ethan Clissold" , "Chantelle Rule" , "Hayley Gillespie" , "Tim Whittaker"

Cc : "QFES Media"

Subject : For review- K'gari fire - Stuart Fast, Fraser Coast Chronicle

Attachment : 021220 - K'gari fire - Stuart Fast, Fraser Coast

Chronicle.docx;image001.png;image002.png;image003.png;image004.png;

Hi team

We've had an enquiry from the FC Chronicle. Here's what we intend to send to the journalist pending advice from our MO.

Do you have any concerns/additions?

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

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Media statement

K'gari island

December 2 2020

Enquiry from Stuart Fast, Fraser Coast Chronicle

The following can be attributed to a Department of Environment and Science spokesperson:

- Tourism operators that I have spoken to have said "there doesn't seem to be the resources to deal with the fires." How does the Department respond to this?

There is a coordinated fire response by QPWS, QFES and the Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation on K'gari.

Significant resources are being used to support ongoing firefighting operations, including more than 75 personnel and 30 appliances along with aerial support to protect the island's cultural and World Heritage values.

Fire inducing effects of prolonged periods of hot, dry and windy weather conditions remain.

These factors have reduced the effectiveness of firefighting efforts that have been ongoing on the island, however significant fire mitigation has occurred.

- They have also said the Department has not properly maintained the tracks on Fraser Island, impeding their business and which has also allowed the fire to spread. How does the Department respond to this?
- Following on from this, what maintenance measures have been performed on Fraser Island earlier this year to alleviate the risk of bushfire?
- How often does the Department perform these maintenance measures?
- How does the Department maintain tracks on the island?

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.

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.

The department uses a variety of fire mitigation techniques on the island including using machinery to conduct fire breaks and planned burns to reduce fuel loads.

- With the current fire burning, what lessons have been learned to better prepare for future fires?

As always, QPWS will examine all aspects of the fire following the event to inform future practices and preparations.

ENDS

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

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Date : 2/12/2020 10:09:42 AM
From : "DAVIDSON Brent"
To : "Tim Whittaker" , "Hayley Gillespie" , "Chantelle Rule"
Cc : "QFES Media" , "GRANT Andrea"
Subject : For review - media statement - Emilee Gramenz
Attachment : image001.png;image002.png;image003.png;image004.png;
Hi all

Here's what we would like to send back to ABC regarding water bombing/LAT efforts on K'gari pending feedback from our MO. Do you have any comments/additions?

Media statement

K'gari water bombing / LAT

December 1 2020

Enquiry from Emilee Gramenz, ABC:

Can we get a relevant DES spokesperson for an interview today to clarify the firefighting efforts, waterbombing schedule etc prior to QFES taking command? Preferably on camera but over the phone is alright too.

The incident management responsibilities for this fire remained with QPWS until Friday, November 27 when the threat of impact to structures and lives increased.

Incident management responsibilities transferred to QFES at this time and the two agencies, along with the Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation continue to work together on the operational response.

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.

The first waterbombing activity to K'gari took place on November 9 at QPWS request.

It dropped saltwater with QPWS approval.

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.



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
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Date : 27/11/2020 5:53:00 AM

From : "QFES Media"

To : "GRANT Andrea" , "DAVIDSON Brent" , "Bruce Thompson" , "Gary McCormack" , "James Gill" , "Martin Taylor" , "Matthew Inwood" , "Michael Koch" , "Peter Hollier" , "ROC North Coast" , "Shaune Toohey" , "Adam Stevenson" , "Andrew Sbrizzi" , "Greg Leach" , "James Haig" , "Jane Houston" , "Joel Love" , "John Bolger" , "Mark Roche (QFES)" , "Michael Wassing" , "Phil Wilmington" , "QFES Commissioner Staff Officer" , "SOC Admin" , "Tony Johnstone"

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

Subject : Fraser Island - QFES talking points Fri 26/11

Attachment : QFES talking points - Fri 27 Nov 6am.docx;image001.png;

Good morning.

Please see attached talking points for the fire at Fraser Island (Kangari). These are current as at 6am Friday 27 November 2020.

Kind regards,

Jess O'Reilly

Media Officer

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services

P: 07 3635 3860 24hr: 07 3635 3310

E: jessica.oreilly@qfes.qld.gov.au

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



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Key points

- Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) rangers and Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) crews are continuing firefighting operations on K'gari (Fraser Island).
- The bushfire started on 14 October 2020 and QFES crews and QPWS rangers have been operating since this time.
- The fire has burnt approximately **72,000 hectares** and is mostly burning in remote and largely inaccessible parts of the northern half of the island.
- The vegetation type on K'gari is coastal heath and is significantly impacting the way the fire burns as it is extremely flammable and resilient to fire activity.
- Significant resources are being used to support ongoing firefighting operations, including heavy machinery and water bombing aircraft.
- QFES' Large Air Tanker (LAT) has been used to assist ground crews so far and may be used in future operations to strengthen containment lines and slow the progress of the blaze.
- A bushfire community warning is in place, currently sitting at an ADVICE level where people are being asked to **Stay Informed** of the situation.
- Residents, campers and visitors to K'gari should stay up-to-date with the latest bushfire community warnings by monitoring the QFES Newsroom website, QFES and QPWS social media channels and tuning into local media.
- Although there are no properties under direct threat at this time, and no damage to any infrastructure, some camping areas and roads are already temporarily closed.
- To ensure public safety, people may be requested to leave further camping areas or day sites at short notice due to the current bushfire situation.
- Information on those closures and the overall situation is being provided online at the Park Alerts website – www.parks.qld.gov.au/park-alerts/ or on Twitter at @QldParkAlerts
- Smoke is affecting K'gari and is visible from the mainland. Anyone affected is advised to close windows and doors, keep respiratory medication close by and drive to the conditions.
- Community meetings will continue to ensure residents and tourists remain informed as details come to hand.

Weather conditions –

- We are expecting **High to Very High** fire conditions to affect the region over the coming days.
- These conditions may be challenging for both agencies firefighters, however we are prepared.
- Highly trained and skilled firefighters are ready to respond and waterbombing aircraft are on standby.
- Expected wind changes **this afternoon/this morning** may affect firefighting operations **this morning/this afternoon**, however we are prioritising operations based on this information.

Safety

- It's important everyone remains vigilant and follows the advice of QFES and QPWS authorities.
- Stay up-to-date by following QFES on social media, visiting the QFES Newsroom website and tuning in to local media.
- The Park Alerts website and Twitter are providing updates on closures – www.parks.qld.gov.au/park-alerts/ and @QldParkAlerts
- Residents and visitors to K'gari should have a plan ready should the fire impact more populated areas.
- Always report unattended fire or suspicious activity immediately to Triple Zero (000).

ISSUES (if asked)

- Where can people find information about closures –
 - *For questions about visiting the island, camping and closed areas, please refer to the Park Alerts website and Twitter – www.parks.qld.gov.au/park-alerts/ and @QldParkAlerts*
- There has been commentary made regarding the fire being started by an illegal campfire –
 - *There will be an investigation into the possible cause of the blaze once firefighting operations have ceased.*
- There are serious concerns for the Indigenous sites on K'gari, as well as the native flora and fauna. How extensive is the damage on the island, in terms of land burnt and wildlife affected –

- *The Department of Environment and Science is continually assessing the environmental impacts of the fire. Any questions relating to these impacts will need to be referred to DES.*
- What are you dropping on the island – water, retardant?
 - *Water bombing aircraft, including the LAT, have dropped gel and salt water.*

Published on DES Disclosure Log
RTI Act 2009

Date : 1/12/2020 6:12:39 AM

From : "QFES Media"

Subject : Fraser Island (K'gari) talking points for 6am Tues 1/12

Attachment : QFES talking points - Tue 1 Dec 6am.docx;image001.jpg;

Good morning,

Please find the Fraser Island (K'gari) talking points for 6am Tuesday 1 December attached.

Kind regards,

Media Unit

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES)

T. 07 3635 3310 E. media@qfes.qld.gov.au



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All reasonable precautions will be taken to respect the privacy of individuals in accordance with the Information Privacy Act 2009 (Qld).

FDR: Tuesday: **HIGH** Wednesday – Friday: **VERY HIGH**

State Overview

- The Fraser Island fire is one of about 30 bushfires burning statewide.
- There is a heightened fire danger in large parts of Queensland this week, stretching from the north of the state to the border with New South Wales.
- Fires that start under these conditions will be fast-moving and difficult to control.
- 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.
- Residents and visitors must abide by local fire bans and report fires immediately to Triple Zero (000).

K'gari

- The fire has burnt approximately 76,000 hectares, after starting in the north of the island - further damage assessments will be conducted to review actual impact
- Significant resources have been deployed, including more than 75 personnel, 30 appliances, along with aerial support, but the continued dry conditions make this fire difficult to control – the BoM is not expecting rain for a couple of weeks
- The Large Air Tanker (LAT) is supporting the firefighting response, which conducted two gel drops on Monday afternoon, to further strengthen containment lines
- The fire is burning on multiple fronts, with one blaze 3km north east of Kingfisher Bay Resort and another south of the Cathedrals
- Restrictions remain in place for travel to the island, with no visitors currently permitted on the island
- Those currently on the island can stay but should remain close to where they are staying, pay attention to warnings and avoid closed roads
- Residents and those providing essential services can still travel between the island and the mainland
- A bushfire community warning is in place that advises people to **Stay Informed** of the situation in case conditions deteriorate
- Smoke from the fire is affecting the island and mainland. Anyone affected should to close windows and doors, keep respiratory medication close by and drive to the conditions.
- People may be asked to leave camping areas or day sites at short notice, if conditions require.

Background

- We are working closely with Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation to combat the bushfire on K'gari (pronounced "gari") (Fraser Island).
- The bushfire started on 14 October 2020.
- Kingfisher Bay Resort closed on Monday 30 November to 14 December to prioritise the safety and wellbeing of staff and guests. We support this.
- The terrain and weather influence our ability to fight the fire. This fire is partially burning in inaccessible land, which makes access difficult.
- Crews are working under trying conditions to do the best they can. As with any operational incident, QFES will review its response to this fire to determine what we can learn from it.
- Aircraft are using gel and saltwater to slow the advance of the fire.
- K'gari is home to a large variety of wildlife, and mainly known for its dingo population, which is protected. Other types of wildlife include snakes, birds and marine animals.
- QPWS will assess the impact the fire has on animals and the environment, while the main priority at this time is to contain the blaze and protect life and property.
- The Department of Environment and Science is continually assessing the environmental impacts of the fire. Any questions relating to these impacts will need to be referred to DES.
- People should contact the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service for information about visiting the island, camping and closed areas.
- Those whose bookings have been cancelled due to the bushfire should contact the agency they made the booking with to discuss their options.
- Stay up-to-date by following QFES on social media, visiting the QFES Newsroom website and tuning in to local media.
- Residents and visitors to K'gari should have a plan ready should the situation change.
- Always report unattended fire or suspicious activity immediately to Triple Zero (000).

Date : 1/12/2020 4:45:10 PM

From : "Chantelle Rule"

To : "DAVIDSON Brent"

Cc : "Tim Whittaker" , "Brad Gardner" , "Breanna Travers"

Subject : FW: (FOR URGENT APPROVAL) Media enquiry re: K'gari + aerial support

Attachment : image002.png;image001.png;

Hi again Brent,

FYI on the below. We currently have the below response in for approval with the Commissioner. As discussed, just providing you with a heads up for consistency across our messaging.

Thanks,
Chantelle.



Chantelle Rule-Murphy

Media Supervisor

Media, Communications and Online

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services

P: 07 3635 3642 | M: Personal info | Media 24hr: 07 3635 3310

E: chantelle.rule@qfes.qld.gov.au

Questions

- Do QFES still provide firefighting efforts?
- Is QFES able to comment on the use of the Tanker 141/Bomber 141 (C-FFQE)
- Was it used by QFES / QPWS?
- When was it used ♦ the flight log please
- If it wasn't used on particular days what were the reasons?
- What sort of water is used to fight these fires ♦ salt water / fresh water and why? Is that a point of difficulty ?

[STARTS]

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) is working closely with the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) and the Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation (BAC) to combat the bushfire on K'gari (Fraser Island).

The bushfire started on 14 October 2020 and was under the management of QPWS rangers until control of the incident was transferred to QFES on 27 November 2020.

QFES continues to provide significant resources to combat the bushfire.

This extends to waterbombing aircraft, including the Large Air Tanker (LAT), which have dropped more than 1 million litres of gel and water since Saturday 28 November 2020.

It is important to note that aircraft are not used to put out fires, but instead to slow the fire down, reduce its intensity and/or strategically steer the fire around assets, in support of ground crews.

The LAT has been used nine times during this incident to establish containment lines. It recently conducted two gel drops on Monday afternoon that successfully protected the world heritage K'gari campground at the Cathedrals.

It has played an important role in supporting 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.

Decisions relating to the use of the LAT are based on operational needs at the time, including the effectiveness of aerial drops, weather conditions, firefighting requirements and fatigue management for pilots.

The type of water used to combat the bushfire on Fraser Island has varied based on the waterbombing aircraft used.

Waterbombing aircraft with capability to draw water directly from the source have predominantly used saltwater given its proximity to Fraser Island. The LAT must be refilled from dry ground, which requires it to return to its base at Bundaberg.

[ENDS]

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Date : 30/11/2020 8:27:02 AM
From : "Tim Whittaker"
To : "DAVIDSON Brent"
Subject : FW: ABC RADIO BRISBANE: URGENT Request for statement
Attachment : image001.png;image003.jpg;
FYI they copied in your old email.

James will be in the best position to manage this

From: QFES Media <QFES.Media@qfes.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 30 November 2020 8:22 AM
To: Ethan Clissold <Ethan.Clissold@qfes.qld.gov.au>
Cc: Brent Davidson <Brent.Davidson@ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Media DES <Media@des.qld.gov.au>; Tim Whittaker <Tim.Whittaker@qfes.qld.gov.au>
Subject: FW: ABC RADIO BRISBANE: URGENT Request for statement
Importance: High

Hi Ethan,

Tim has asked James Haig facilitate this interview. He would like to not provide a statement.

I will give you a call now.

Brent this is an FYI.

Thanks,

Connor Wallace

Media Officer

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services

P: 07 3635 3010 M: Personal info 24hr: 07 3635 3310

E: connor.wallace@qfes.qld.gov.au

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



From: Sophie Volker <Volker.Sophie@abc.net.au>
Sent: Monday, 30 November 2020 8:20 AM
To: QFES Media <QFES.Media@qfes.qld.gov.au>
Subject: ABC RADIO BRISBANE: URGENT Request for statement
Importance: High

Hi there

We're speaking with some Fraser Island residents and tourism operators this morning who have expressed concerns that the fire on Fraser Island wasn't acted on quickly enough. They have said this fire was allowed to burn out of control because a response took too long.

They're also expressing concern that there's been a disconnect between firefighters on the ground and the higher-ups who have been leading the response. Have heard from sources that firefighters on the ground wanted to start fighting this fire earlier, but were not allowed to.

Can you please provide a response to these concerns before 0900 if possible? I do apologise for the tight deadline.

Many thanks,

Sophie Volker
Producer, ABC Radio Brisbane

M: Personal informa

We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Australians and Traditional Custodians of the lands where we live, learn and work.

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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

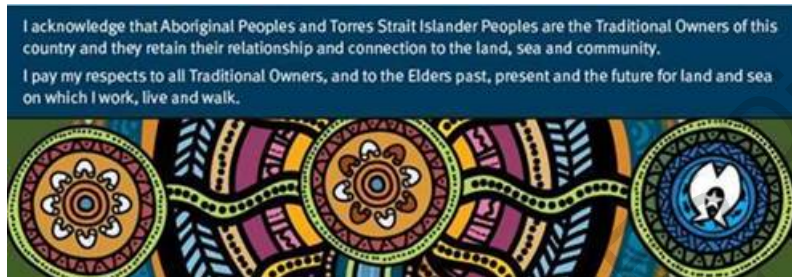
Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships

Department of Environment and Science

P 07 3199 7538 | M **Personal** | 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 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

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Pages 34 through 47 redacted for the following reasons:

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

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Date : 1/12/2020 3:35:25 PM
From : "DAVIDSON Brent"
To : "Chantelle Rule" , "Tim Whittaker"
Cc : "QFES Media"
Subject : FW: Final for review
Attachment : image001.png;image003.png;image005.png;image006.png;
Hi guys

Here's what's with our DDG – heads up copy.

If you have any concerns, just let me know & I'll change.

From: DAVIDSON Brent
Sent: Tuesday, 1 December 2020 3:34 PM
To: KLAASSEN Ben
Cc: BUCKLEY Andrew; HEAD Damien; GRANT Andrea
Subject: Final for review

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

Date : 30/11/2020 5:21:06 PM
From : "Tim Whittaker"
To : "DAVIDSON Brent" , "Media DES"
Cc : "Brad Gardner" , "Ethan Clissold" , "QFES Media"
Subject : FW: FOR APPROVAL - K'gari (Fraser Island) speaking points
Attachment : QFES talking points - Tue 1 Dec 6am.docx;image001.png;
Sorry using correct email!

From: Tim Whittaker
Sent: Monday, 30 November 2020 5:19 PM
To: Ethan Clissold <Ethan.Clissold@qfes.qld.gov.au>; Brent Davidson <Brent.Davidson@ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Media DES <Media@des.qld.gov.au>
Cc: Brad Gardner <Brad.Gardner@qfes.qld.gov.au>; QFES Media <QFES.Media@qfes.qld.gov.au>
Subject: RE: FOR APPROVAL - K'gari (Fraser Island) speaking points

Hey Brent,

We have just condensed this a bit back to key points, and some background as it was growing to a timeline of event.

See attached updated for approval.

Many thanks

Tim

From: Ethan Clissold <Ethan.Clissold@qfes.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 30 November 2020 3:51 PM
To: Brent Davidson <Brent.Davidson@ministerial.qld.gov.au>; Media DES <Media@des.qld.gov.au>
Cc: Tim Whittaker <Tim.Whittaker@qfes.qld.gov.au>; Brad Gardner <Brad.Gardner@qfes.qld.gov.au>; QFES Media <QFES.Media@qfes.qld.gov.au>
Subject: FOR APPROVAL - K'gari (Fraser Island) speaking points

Good afternoon,

Please see the attached afternoon speaking points for approval. These have been endorsed by the ICC (QFES and QPWS)

We will update these tomorrow morning with updated statistics.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

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

E ethan.clissold@qfes.qld.gov.au

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



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FDR:

Tuesday: HIGH

Wednesday – Friday: VERY HIGH

- The fire has burnt approximately 76,000 hectares, after starting in the north of the island - further damage assessments will be conducted to review actual impact
- Significant resources have been deployed, including more than 75 personnel, 30 appliances, and aerial support
- The Large Air Tanker (LAT) is supporting the firefighting response, which conducted two gel drops on Monday afternoon, to further strengthen containment lines
- The fire is burning on multiple fronts, with one blaze 3km north east of Kingfisher Bay Resort and another south of the Cathedrals
- Restrictions remain in place for travel to the island, with no visitors currently permitted on the island
- Those currently on the island can stay but should remain close to where they are staying, pay attention to warnings and avoid closed roads
- Residents and those providing essential services can still travel between the island and the mainland
- A bushfire community warning is in place that advises people to **Stay Informed** of the situation in case conditions deteriorate
- Smoke from the fire is affecting the island and mainland. Anyone affected should to close windows and doors, keep respiratory medication close by and drive to the conditions.
- People may be asked to leave camping areas or day sites at short notice, if conditions require.

Background

- We are working closely with Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation to combat the bushfire on K'gari (pronounced "gari") (Fraser Island).
- The bushfire started on 14 October 2020.
- Kingfisher Bay Resort closed on Monday 30 November to 14 December to prioritise the safety and wellbeing of staff and guests. We support this.
- The terrain and weather influence our ability to fight the fire. This fire is partially burning in inaccessible land, which makes access difficult.
- Crews are working under trying conditions to do the best they can. As with any operational incident, QFES will review its response to this fire to determine what we can learn from it.
- Aircraft are using gel and saltwater to slow the advance of the fire.
- K'gari is home to a large variety of wildlife, and mainly known for its dingo population, which is protected. Other types of wildlife include snakes, birds and marine animals.
- QPWS will assess the impact the fire has on animals and the environment, while the main priority at this time is to contain the blaze and protect life and property.
- The Department of Environment and Science is continually assessing the environmental impacts of the fire. Any questions relating to these impacts will need to be referred to DES.
- People should contact the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service for information about visiting the island, camping and closed areas.
- Those whose bookings have been cancelled due to the bushfire should contact the agency they made the booking with to discuss their options.
- Stay up-to-date by following QFES on social media, visiting the QFES Newsroom website and tuning in to local media.

- Residents and visitors to K'gari should have a plan ready should the situation change.
- Always report unattended fire or suspicious activity immediately to Triple Zero (000).

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RTI Act 2009

Date : 11/12/2020 9:20:35 AM
From : "Tim Whittaker"
To : "DAVIDSON Brent"
Subject : FW: FOR MEDIA USE: Vision from K'gari (Fraser Island)

Hi mate,

As requested.

Cheers

Tim

From: Newsroom (PSBA) <Newsroom@psba.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 10 December 2020 2:36 PM
To: Tim Whittaker <Tim.Whittaker@qfes.qld.gov.au>
Subject: FOR MEDIA USE: Vision from K'gari (Fraser Island)

Please DO NOT REPLY to this email. For urgent media inquiries phone +617 3635 3310 (24/7) or email media@qfes.qld.gov.au for a response in business hours.



General News

FOR MEDIA USE: Vision from K'gari (Fraser Island)
10/12/2020 Vision files are available from the K'gari (Fraser Island) bushfire for media to download.
[Read more >>](#)

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Date : 2/12/2020 5:06:58 PM
From : "BUCKLEY Andrew"
To : "DAVIDSON Brent"
Cc : "KLAASSEN Ben" , "HEAD Damien"
Subject : FW: For review - K'gari fire - Stuart Fast, Fraser Coast Chronicle
Attachment : image001.png;image003.png;image004.png;image005.png;
Brent
Slight modification below.
Cheers buck

From: HEAD Damien <Damien.Head@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 2 December 2020 4:34 PM
To: BUCKLEY Andrew
Subject: RE: For review - K'gari fire - Stuart Fast, Fraser Coast Chronicle

Only a minor change below.

I don't think any major additions are needed

From: BUCKLEY Andrew <Andrew.Buckley@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 2 December 2020 4:24 PM
To: HEAD Damien
Subject: FW: For review - K'gari fire - Stuart Fast, Fraser Coast Chronicle

Thoughts additions?

From: DAVIDSON Brent <Brent.Davidson@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 2 December 2020 4:08 PM
To: BUCKLEY Andrew; KLAASSEN Ben
Cc: Media DES
Subject: For review - K'gari fire - Stuart Fast, Fraser Coast Chronicle

Hi Andrew & Ben

An enquiry from the Fraser Coast Chronicle below & attached for your review/endorsement. There might be something more we want to add about fire mitigation – perhaps we might not actually use machinery on the island?

The following can be attributed to a Department of Environment and Science spokesperson:

- **Tourism operators that I have spoken to have said "there doesn't seem to be the resources to deal with the fires." How does the Department respond to this?**

There is a coordinated fire response by QPWS, QFES and the Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation on K'gari.

Significant resources are being used to support ongoing firefighting operations, including more than 75 personnel and 30 appliances along with aerial support to protect the island's cultural and World Heritage values.

Fire inducing effects of prolonged periods of hot, dry and windy weather conditions remain.

These factors have reduced the effectiveness of firefighting efforts that have been ongoing on the island, however significant fire mitigation has occurred.

- **They have also said the Department has not properly maintained the tracks on Fraser Island, impeding their business and which has also allowed the fire to spread. How does the Department respond to this?**
- **Following on from this, what maintenance measures have been performed on Fraser Island earlier this year to alleviate the risk of bushfire?**
- **How often does the Department perform these maintenance measures?**
- **How does the Department maintain tracks on the island?**

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.

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.

The department uses a variety of fire mitigation techniques on the island including using machinery to maintain conduct fire breaks and conduct planned burns to reduce fuel loads.

- With the current fire burning, what lessons have been learned to better prepare for future fires?

As always, QPWS will examine all aspects of the fire following the event to inform future practices and preparations.



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

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[Visit us on Twitter](#)

Date : 3/12/2020 11:03:35 AM
From : "DAVIDSON Brent"
To : "BUCKLEY Andrew" , "KLAASSEN Ben"
Cc : "Media DES"
Subject : FW: Fraser fire - information appeal
Attachment : image001.png;image002.png;image003.png;image004.png;

Hi Andrew & Ben

Please find below a response to Seven Wide Bay about the appeal for info on the fire/camper involved:

The Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service believes the illegal campfire was lit on 14 October 2020 on the eastern side of the island, in the vicinity of Duling campground and Ocean Lake.

The public has been generous in sharing information in relation to the cause of this fire.

QPWS continues to investigate the illegal campfire, but has not yet identified the who was involved.

Anyone who was in the vicinity of Duling campground and Ocean Lake on 14 October, or anyone with information should contact DES on 1300

In the 2019-20 financial year, QPWS issued 129 fire-related fines on K'gari.

It's been checked by Mike Devrey, QPWS compliance.

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

From: Wilson, Hope <hopewilson@Seven.com.au>

Sent: Thursday, 3 December 2020 8:32 AM

To: Media DES

Subject: Fraser fire - information appeal

Good morning,

I am just wondering if someone is available to comment on the Fraser Island bushfire... in particular, if you're appealing for information to find the people who started the illegal campfire.

I.e how people could help by reporting, if things like videos and dash cam would help? And the penalty for this?

Let me know if this is possible. Ideally we'd love to chat to someone in Hervey Bay but we can try to make another location including Brisbane work 😊

Cheers,

Hope Wilson

Journalist and Producer, 7NEWS

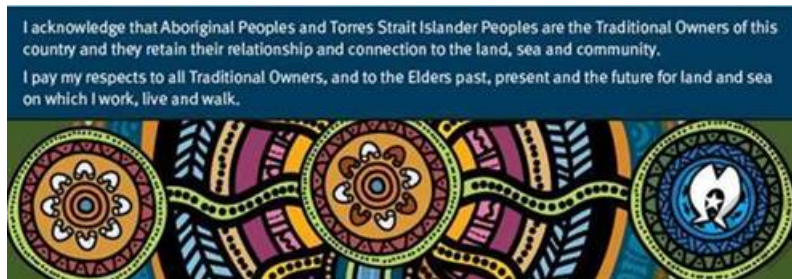
Date : 11/12/2020 5:18:07 PM
From : "KLAASSEN Ben"
To : "HEAD Damien"
Cc : "BUCKLEY Andrew" , "CAMBOURN Neil" , "DAVIDSON Brent"
Subject : FW: K'Gari Fire status and reopening
Attachment : image001.png;image004.jpg;image002.png;image003.jpg;image009.png;image010.png;
Hi Damien

Jamie is fine with the proposal noting IC endorsement will be sought and progress to LDMG.

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: MERRICK Jamie <Jamie.Merrick@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 11 December 2020 5:16 PM
To: KLAASSEN Ben
Subject: RE: K'Gari Fire status and reopening

Ben

I endorse the approach, subject to the I/C signing off and LDMG engagement.

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

From: KLAASSEN Ben <Ben.Klaassen@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 11 December 2020 4:28 PM
To: MERRICK Jamie
Cc: TRACEY Alena; SEELIG Tim
Subject: K'Gari Fire status and reopening
Importance: High

Hi Jamie

As discussed earlier we have been advised by QFES they intend to hand back incident control of the K'Gari fire to QPWS. This is likely to occur by Sunday subject to final observations. The handback is based on QFES assessment of fire status, forecast weather conditions and no current risk to life or property. QFES have committed to ongoing support as required and should circumstances change with fire behaviour would

reevaluate.

The current fire situation is there is no active fire in key locations today and the weather forecast is for E/SE winds with potential for rain on Sunday and Monday. There are also large waves and potentially dangerous conditions for beach driving from Sunday.

On the basis of the above it is considered the eastern side of the Island will be safe for people to access from Tuesday.

The team has been planning for the staged reopening and an outline is attached. The plan has changed from Wednesday given further analysis and weather. Key elements are:

- Stage 1 reopening Eastern Beach and access to all townships on Eastern side. QPWS campgrounds to reopen where assessed as safe. Tourism operators permitted to access Eastern Beach and areas not impacted by fire (Lake Mackenzie, central station etc)
- Stage 2 reopening of all affected fire areas/inland roads closed for fire reasons (once assessed).

Timing is proposed as:

- Stage 1 Tuesday 15 December 2020
- Stage 2 – no timing until on ground assessments can be undertaken

The announcement of the staged reopening can occur anytime before Tuesday but preferably no later than Monday. Media team advice from the Minister's media advisor is the department should lead the announcement.

The Department of Tourism Innovation and Sport are seeking the announcement to be as soon as possible to allow booking time and rebuild confidence before Christmas.

If you support the approach then the Incident Controller will be consulted for approval and LDMG given the advice.

A media release is in approval stages and will be sent shortly (for release when all have endorsed approach)

Happy to discuss.

Regards
ben

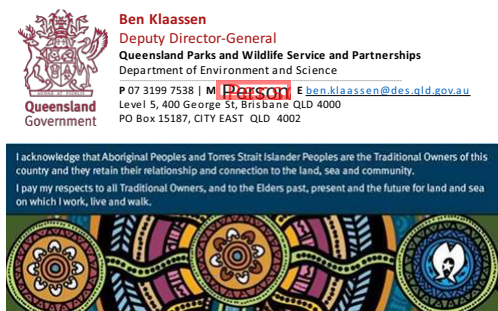


Ben Klaassen
Deputy Director-General
Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships
Department of Environment and Science
P 07 3199 7538 | M **Personal** | E ben.klaassen@des.qld.gov.au
Level 5, 400 George St, Brisbane QLD 4000
PO Box 15187, CITY EAST QLD 4002

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.



Date : 27/11/2020 12:10:01 PM
From : "KLAASSEN Ben"
To : "DAVIDSON Brent"
Subject : FW: K'Gari fire update 27 November 2020
Attachment : image001.png;image005.png;image007.jpg;image006.png;image008.jpg;image009.png;



From: KLAASSEN Ben
Sent: Friday, 27 November 2020 11:41 AM
To: MERRICK Jamie; TRACEY Alena; DLO DES; Hannah Jackson
Subject: K'Gari fire update 27 November 2020

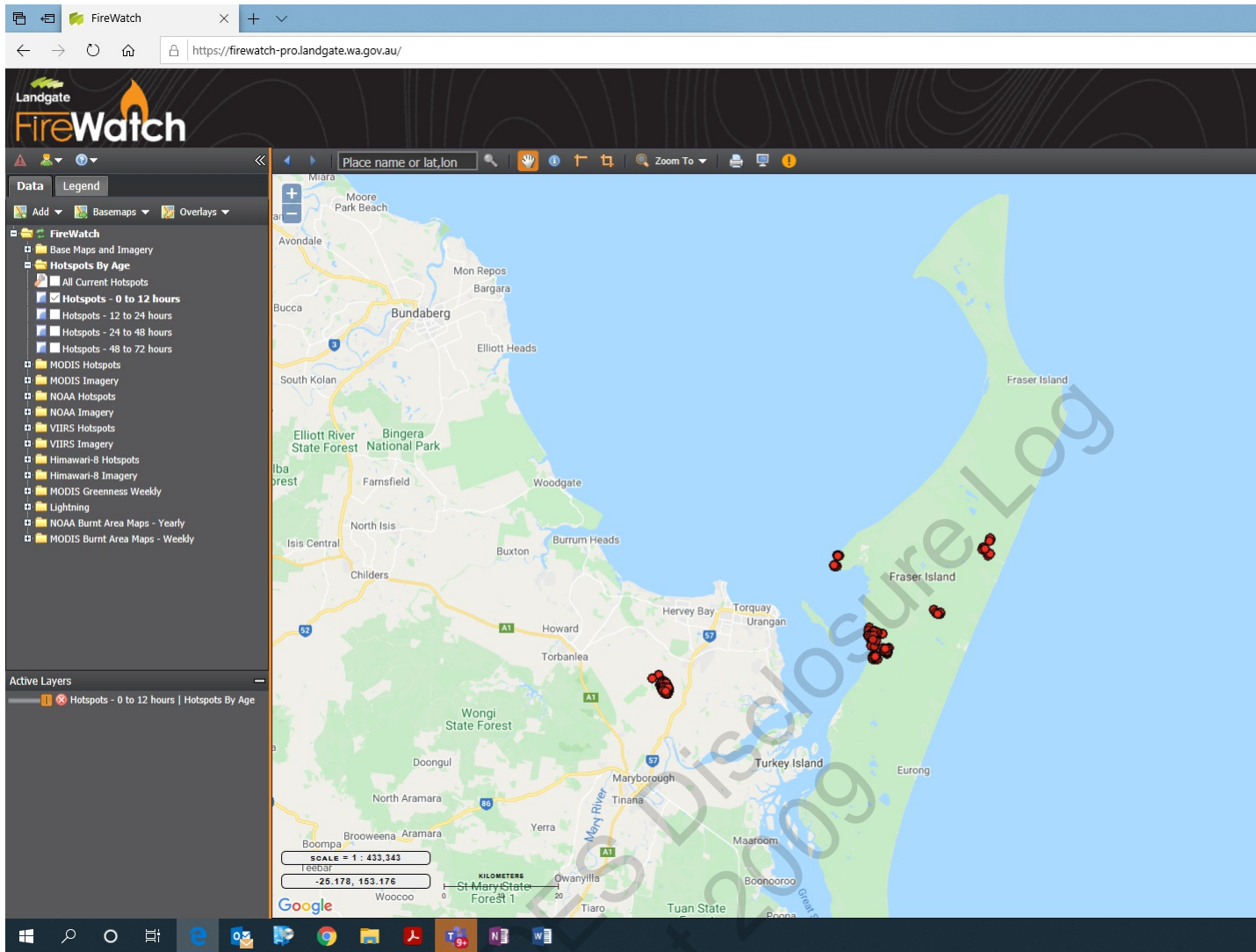
Hi

Current update as follows:

- The fire remains active in the southern and northern sectors.
- Southern fire is north of the Poyungan/Smith fire break (4.6 klms north of Kingfisher resort). The strategy is to contain the fire at this break.
- No further backburning possible overnight (due to conditions).
- Southern fire is holding at present but northerly wind change forecast from tomorrow afternoon which will change fire behaviour (push to the south)
- QFES has deployed resources to Kingfisher to support in preparedness should fire breach Poyungan break.
- QFES are developing strategies for scenarios which include potential evacuation of Kingfisher.
- QPWS are examining scenarios and considering if further closures of campgrounds required.
- Should fire breach containment lines on weekend it may be necessary to engage Local Disaster Management Group protocols to restrict visitation to the Island.
- No current issues with northern fire.
- QPWS and QFES have multiple crews on the Island and a dedicated Incident Management Team (over 30 people involved in the fire)
- Resourcing is sufficient and fatigue is being managed.

Discussions this morning have resolved the fire is escalating to a higher level incident and it has been agreed QFES will take the lead Incident Control role forthwith. The IC team are implementing these arrangements now.

Fire hot spot map below.



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



Date : 4/12/2020 2:36:33 PM
From : "DAVIDSON Brent"
To : "Hayley Gillespie" , "Chantelle Rule"
Subject : FW: K'gari wildfire public messaging
Attachment : Document1.docx;image001.png;image003.png;
Hey, was this the document from yesterday...?
It's waaaaay too early to be talking about reopening

From: DARGUSCH Marc <Marc.Dargusch@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 4 December 2020 2:19 PM
To: Media DES; iccnorthcoastregion.maryborough@qfes.qld.gov.au
Cc: SEELEITHER Jamie; Anthony Clowes; DAVIES Matt; BARRACLOUGH Emma; OLIVER Nathan
Subject: K'gari wildfire public messaging

Hi DES Media – We're keen to get some media messaging out in relation to the K'gari wildfire that aims at keeping the public up to date + reinforces that we are mindful of timely reopening of K'gari to visitors (refer attached as starting point).

There is a need for our media team to liaise with the QFES media team to ensure aligned messaging in this space. The below message to the ICC will produce the contact point for DES Media to engage with QFES media. Please come back to Jamie Seeleither (cc'd in) if you want any local refinement of messaging.

Hello ICC – can you please supply a contact point for QFES Media so that DES Media can work with them to produce this media item in alignment.

Many thanks,

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.

K'gari (Fraser Island) remains Closed

- The K'gari fire remains uncontained and continues to burn on a number of different fronts.
- The response to the fire is currently being managed through a coordinated multi –agency management team.
- Current heatwave and winds and forecasted conditions through to early next week are a current focus for all agencies involved.
- There is current planning being undertaken for a staged reopening of the Island's accommodation and camping, subject to an ongoing risk assessment process.
- In this regard public safety is the highest priority.
- Heatwave and high wind conditions are forecast throughout the weekend and pose a significant challenge for fire suppression efforts on the Island.
- Please be assured latest planning for a staged reopening remains in place and further reviews will be made regularly as forecast conditions change.

Date : 17/11/2020 2:08:09 PM

From : "DAVIDSON Brent"

To : "HEAD Damien" , "CAMBOURN Neil"

Subject : FW: Photos from K'gari fire management

Attachment : image001.png;image003.png;image002.png;image006.png;image007.png;image008.png;image009.png;

Hi both

Not sure if the DLO went to you directly. I said that we didn't have any here but wasn't sure about you. Could you let us know and I'll feed back to MO?

Cheers

Brent



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

Chat with me on teams M **Personahinfo**
E brent.davidson@des.qld.gov.au
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From: DLO DES <DLO.DES@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 17 November 2020 1:47 PM
To: Media DES
Cc: DAVIDSON Brent
Subject: FW: Photos from K'gari fire management

Hi team – can you please assist with the below?
thanks



Peta Johnston
Senior Departmental Liaison Officer
Office of the Director-General
Department of Environment and Science

Ph: 3087 8407 | Mob: **Personahinfo**
Peta.Johnston@des.qld.gov.au | Level 32, 1 William Street, Brisbane

From: Hannah Jackson <hannah.jackson@ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 17 November 2020 1:46 PM
To: DLO DES
Cc: Lucy Collier
Subject: Photos from K'gari fire management

Hi Peta

Are there any photos of rangers doing fire management on K'gari at the moment that could be provided to our office for social media?

Thanks
Hannah



Hannah Jackson
Chief of Staff
Office of the Hon. Meaghan Scanlon MP
Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef
Minister for Science and Youth Affairs

M **Personahinfo** E hannah.jackson@ministerial.qld.gov.au
1 William Street Brisbane 4000 | GPO Box 5078 Brisbane QLD 4001

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20-206 File D1 Release Page 52 of 177

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Date : 10/12/2020 11:56:44 AM

From : "BUCKLEY Andrew"

To : "DAVIDSON Brent"

Subject : FW: QPWS K'gari Re Opening

Attachment : QPWS K'gari Re Opening.docx;image001.png;image002.png;image004.jpg;image005.png;



Andrew Buckley

Assistant Director-General

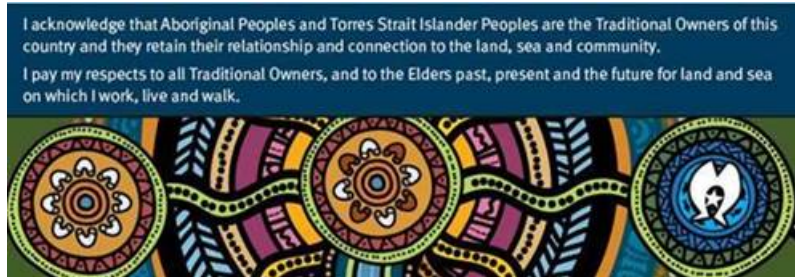
Management & Operations

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships

Department of Environment and Science

P 07 4222 5174 | M **Personal** | E andrew.buckley@des.qld.gov.au

Stage II, Level 3, William McCormack Place, 5b Sheridan Street, Cairns



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

Sent: Thursday, 10 December 2020 11:22 AM

To: BUCKLEY Andrew; CAMBOURN Neil; HEAD Damien; HARRIS Leigh

Cc: DARGUSCH Marc; SEELEITHER Jamie

Subject: FW: QPWS K'gari Re Opening

Hi all, attached is our draft proposal for staged reopening of K'gari as part of the recovery project. Can you please review and provide comment if supported or any concerns? This has been discussed with IMT and following your feedback we will go to IMT for endorsement.

Thanks

Mick

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: SEELEITHER Jamie <Jamie.Seeleither@des.qld.gov.au>

Sent: Thursday, 10 December 2020 11:09 AM

To: CUBIS Mick; DARGUSCH Marc; DAVIES Matt

Subject: QPWS K'gari Re Opening

Mick/ Marc/ Matt

Please see attached the Draft re opening Plan for your editing / endorsement as per our discussions on the tele hook-up this morning.

We will also work on draft messaging/ Park Alert with Emma/ Leanne.

Regards

Jamie Seeleither

A/ Principal Ranger – Special Projects



Department of Environment and Science

P (07) 54596130 | M Personal info | E: jamie.seeleither@des.qld.gov.au

12 First Avenue Maroochydore QLD 4558 |

***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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RTI Act 2009

QPWS+P K'gari Staged Re-opening Plan

(As of 10th December 2020)

QPWS+P is proposing a staged reopening of resident and visitor use of K'gari (Fraser Island).

The process will be informed via both fire and hotspot monitoring and also a risk assessment process.

The staged process will allow QPWS+P and other officers to continue the rapid assessment process of cultural, infrastructure, ecological and wildlife impact to occur while opening areas where it is safe to do so.

Stage 1. Townships

- Townships remain open to residents
- Townships in the North K'gari Open to visitor accommodation.
- Once access is cleared and pending risk assessment (either QPWS for access, QFES for Villages or private landholder assessment)
- Requires BAC Rapid Cultural Impact assessment process (may be undertaken in conjunction with opening)

Trigger Point: No hotspots in large unburnt vegetated blocks adjacent or within spotting distance.

- Stage 1 Opening includes townships/ villages / resorts listed below:
 - Orchid Beach
 - Waddy Point
 - Indian Point
 - Cathedrals
 - K'gari Camp (Risk assessment plus health clearance)
 - Kingfisher

Stage 2. Southern Townships

- Once access is cleared and pending risk assessment (either QPWS for access, QFES for Villages or private landholder assessment).
- May be able to done in conjunction with or close behind Stage 1.

Trigger point: Trigger for Stage above plus risk assessment by QFES/ Landholder / FCRC/ QPWS risk assessment for access.

- This stage includes the following townships and resorts :
 - Happy Valley
 - Yidney Rocks
 - Poyungan

- The Oaks
- Dili Village
- Eurong

Stage 3. Fenced QPWS Campsites/ Iconic destinations

May also include day guided tours in this stage.

Trigger Point: Access cleared and risk assessed plus above triggers for stage 1 and 2.

Hazard assessment

- Central Station
- Dunduburra
- Ocean Beach fenced Campsites in unburnt area

For iconic destinations the trigger points for assessment will be:

- Hazardous assessment
- Risk assessment
- Not affected by fires

Stage 4. Other Beach campsites (eastern and western beach)

May be able to prioritised by burnt / unburnt areas

Trigger point: As above stages but in addition requires risk assessment, hazardous tree, and slope stability assessment.

Stage 5. Walking Tracks/ Great Walks campsites affected by fire.

Will be prioritized approach with regards to popularity and ease of access.

May be some tracks that can be declared open if unaffected by fire.

Trigger point:

- As above stages but in addition requires cultural assessment, risk assessment, hazardous tree assessment, and signage audit.

Infrastructure Assessment Priorities

Priority One

Townships

Priority Two Roads

- Key road assessment
 - Areas not affected by fire (rapid assessment)
 - Areas affected by fire (Prioritised assessment – town access / major features)
- Secondary road assessment.
- Sign audit in burnt areas.

Priority Three Major Features/ Iconic Sites

- Champagne Pools
- Valley of the Giants
- Lake Mackenzie
- Eli Creek (and Board walk / toilet block)
- Indian Head (Unaffected by fire)
- Woralie Road/ Northern Circuit.

Priority Four Camping

- Camping in the north of K'gari after assessment / risk assessment of both access and campsite availability. (May require a one by zone assessment and possibly a reduction in camping capacities for zones for slope stability)
- Camp zones not affected by fires (Rapid Assessment)
- Camp Zones affected by fire (Prioritised assessment)
- Staged opening of beach zones following risk assessment/ cultural impact assessment of zones

Priority Five Walking Tracks (including Great Walk)

- Areas unaffected by fire (Rapid Assessment)
- Areas affected by fire (priority assessment)

Date : 17/11/2020 2:35:15 PM

From : "Media DES"

To : "HEAD Damien"

Subject : FW: Query

Attachment : IMG_1713.jpg;IMG_3597.jpg;image001.jpg;image001.png;image002.png;image003.png;image004.png;

Hi Damien

Can we give Carlie some pics? I like these two.

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
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From: Walker, Carlie <carlie.walker@news.com.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 17 November 2020 2:29 PM

To: Media DES

Subject: Query

Hey,
Were there any photos from the Fraser Island fire?
Thanks so much,
Carlie
--

CARLIE WALKER
Senior Journalist

T +61 7 4120 1053
E carlie.walker@news.com.au W [NewsCorpAustralia.com](https://www.news.com.au)

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Date : 2/12/2020 12:23:14 PM
From : "DAVIDSON Brent"
To : "Chantelle Rule" , "Hayley Gillespie" , "Tim Whittaker" , "Ethan Clissold"
Cc : "QFES Media"
Subject : FW: Question for Minister
Attachment : image001.jpg;image001.png;image002.png;

Hi all

This is what we intend to send to our MO. Would you mind having a look & letting us know if you have any concerns?

Cheers

Brent

Media statement

K'gari fire

2 December 2020

Enquiry from Scott Sawyer, News Corp:

Q: Can you explain why QFES had to wait so long to become involved in the Fraser Island fire? Can QFES overrule QPWS and take action, or do they rely on information from QPWS to determine whether or not they need to intervene? How long was the fire burning before QPWS sought QFES assistance?

The following can be attributed to a Department of Environment and Science spokesperson:

QFES has assisted QPWS from the first week of the fire's outbreak on October 14.

Both agencies worked collaboratively and shared information with each other between this period and when incident management responsibilities for this fire were transferred to QFES on November 27 when the threat of impact to structures and lives increased.

The two agencies, along with the Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation, continue to work together on the operational response.

From: Lucy Collier <Lucy.Collier@ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 2 December 2020 12:03 PM
To: DLO DES; Media DES; Hannah Jackson
Subject: FW: Question for Minister

Hi guys, can you please draft a response – should be along the lines of responses provided yesterday

Kind Regards,



Lucy Collier
Senior Media Advisor
Office of the Hon. Meaghan Scanlon MP
Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef
Minister for Science and Youth Affairs
M Personal

From: Sawyer, Scott <scott.sawyer@news.com.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 2 December 2020 11:56 AM
To: Lucy Collier <Lucy.Collier@ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Subject: Question for Minister

Hi Lucy,

I've been advised by Mark Ryan's office that this question will have to be directed to you guys re Fraser Island.

Q: Can you explain why QFES had to wait so long to become involved in the Fraser Island fire? Can QFES overrule QPWS and take action, or do they rely on information from QPWS to determine whether or not they need to intervene? How long was the fire burning before QPWS sought QFES assistance?

Are you able to get me an answer on this from Minister Scanlon by 4pm.

Cheers,

T +61 7 5430 8017 M Personal info
E scott.sawyer@news.com.au W NewsCorpAustralia.com

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Date : 2/12/2020 1:14:09 PM

From : "DAVIDSON Brent"

To : "Chantelle Rule" , "Ethan Clissold" , "Hayley Gillespie" , "Tim Whittaker"

Subject : FW: Was LAT used 20 October on K'gari?

Attachment : image001.png;image003.png;image004.png;image005.png;

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

Ph (07) 3339 5831
media@des.qld.gov.au
400 George St, Brisbane QLD 4000
GPO Box 2454, Brisbane QLD 4001
www.des.qld.gov.au
[Chat with me on Teams!](#)
[Visit the Environment Media Centre](#)
[Visit us on Twitter](#)

Date : 5/12/2020 2:16:09 PM
From : "BUCKLEY Andrew"
To : "DAVIDSON Brent"
Subject : Fwd: Fraser island wildlife rescue efforts statement for print
Attachment : image005.png;image006.jpg;
FYI

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: KLAASSEN Ben <Ben.Klaassen@des.qld.gov.au>
Date: 5 December 2020 at 2:09:45 pm AEST
To: CAMBOURN Neil <Neil.Cambourn@des.qld.gov.au>, Media DES <Media@des.qld.gov.au>, HARRIS Leigh <Leigh.Harris@des.qld.gov.au>, CUBIS Mick <Mick.Cubis@des.qld.gov.au>, DARGUSCH Marc <Marc.Dargusch@des.qld.gov.au>, SPINKS Troy <Troy.Spinks@des.qld.gov.au>, BUCKLEY Andrew <Andrew.Buckley@des.qld.gov.au>, KENYON Kirstin <Kirstin.Kenyon@des.qld.gov.au>, HEAD Damien <Damien.Head@des.qld.gov.au>, SEELEITHER Jamie <Jamie.Seeleither@des.qld.gov.au>, OLIVER Nathan <Nathan.Oliver@des.qld.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Fraser island wildlife rescue efforts statement for print

Hi all

Humane Society reps had a teleconference with Mins office yesterday which I sat in on. Key points were:

- A recovery arm in the IMT is established to lead environmental recovery
- Threatened species and ecological experts in the department are available to assist
- On ground assessments will be progressed once deemed safe to do
- Aerial activity is focussed on supporting the fire effort so deploying drones or other aircraft for wildlife survey needs to be coordinated through QFES. Mike Wassing advised access for non fire related aircraft was not a current priority
- No dates were discussed on when work could progress other than when safe to do so.

The Humane Society offered use of a thermal drone once safe to access. They also asked about any reports on wildlife which I advised was difficult as we had not done assessments with the focus on fire containment. I did indicate we had not received any reports of major issues and BAC were engaged in regard to wongari. They advised Save Fraser Island Dingoes believed dingo pups were in distress with no food and having to move territories – I advised we had no evidence of this and given the fire was slow moving dingoes would be able to move around and there are areas of unburnt ground that would support food sources.

We agreed that when the time was right we would connect through the environmental recovery team in the IMT. Jamie I agreed to provide your name as someone to liaise with moving forward (have not done that as yet)

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

Sent: Saturday, 5 December 2020 1:42 PM

To: Media DES; HARRIS Leigh; CUBIS Mick; DARGUSCH Marc; SPINKS Troy; KLAASSEN Ben; BUCKLEY Andrew; KENYON Kirstin; HEAD Damien; SEELEITHER Jamie; OLIVER Nathan

Subject: Re: Fraser island wildlife rescue efforts statement for print

Hi Brent yes we have a recovery cell established and embedded within the IMT.

It is focussed on assessments of natural environmental and cultural values, and tourism recovery (risk assessments and reopening when safe)

The environmental and cultural assessment team is comprised of departmental ecological assessment and threatened species and wildlife experts, and Butchulla representatives.

Desktop assessment work has commenced and will be complemented by on ground evaluations using helicopter access when it is safe to do so and when the QFES led int permits the team to access. Noting there is a lot of air traffic in the area at present.

The humane society has been in touch with the team via email last Monday/ Tuesday.

Access to the fire ground by others is a matter for QFes who would require an environmental risk assessment to be developed by the recovery team and approved by IMT. As nite yesterday, the risk assessment for return of visitors to holiday houses in northern locations was not approved.

Leigh Harris will have more details on the assessment plans.

Jamie Seeleither/ Marc Dargusch can assist with advice on whether we responded to humane society yet, but that may have been passed back to Leigh's team too.

MO are aware humane society have made enquiries.

The date of the 14th probably only aligns with advice to campers that we have been updating on a rolling basis. It's is not a set date for anything as the situation is still very dynamic.

Important to note that rangers are keeping an eye on and assisting with any wildlife matters and we have trained rangers on the island to assist if needed. I don't have any information on whether any wildlife issues have been observed.

Also **Personal information** attended the island with another Butchulla person on Tuesday to evaluate Wangari health.

Further cultural health checks have also been undertaken with Butchulla representatives by boat and helicopter as part of the IMT response and planning arrangements.

If we were going to mention **Personal info** please check with Jamie and then we would need BAC permission as well.

One more point of interest is that our assessment and recovery will be also looking at feral weed and animal incursions.

Regards Neil Cambourn

On 5 Dec 2020, at 1:09 pm, Media DES <Media@des.qld.gov.au> wrote:

Hi Neil, any idea with this one?

I don't know where they plucked the Dec 14 date from either

Brent Davidson

Media Manager

Personal information

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

Sent: Saturday, December 5, 2020 1:04:12 PM

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

Subject: Fraser island wildlife rescue efforts statement for print

Hey team,

The humane society has posted that they've been told the state government has established a threatened species team to

work on assessment and recovery following the fires.

Is this true? If so when will this team be deployed to the island?

Will animal rescue teams be allowed to access the island before December 14 (when it reopens)?

What animal rescue efforts are currently underway?

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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Date : 12/12/2020 8:04:17 AM
From : "Hayley Gillespie"
To : "DAVIDSON Brent"
Subject : Fwd: Fraser Island opening
Attachment : image001.png;image002.png;

Hayley Gillespie
Executive Manager, Media
Queensland Fire and Emergency Services

Personal info

From: Hannahrose Hamer <Hannahrose.Hamer@qfes.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Saturday, December 12, 2020 7:57:23 AM
To: Hayley Gillespie <Hayley.Gillespie@qfes.qld.gov.au>
Subject: Fraser Island opening

Hi Hayley,

As discussed, the Courier Mail would like confirmation that the following update on the QLD Park Alerts website is correct:

<https://parks.des.qld.gov.au/park-alerts/20457>

The following areas are currently open:

- Access to Wanggoolba Creek barge, Happy Valley and Cathedral Beach
- Beach Camping Zones 1 (Govi & Wongai) & 8 (Marloo, Ocean Lake, Duling
- Day use areas: Ocean Lake, Champagne Pools, Maheno shipwreck, Lake Birrabreen, Lake Boomanjin

Thanks,

Hannah Rose Hamer

Media Officer

Media, Communications and Online

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services

24hr: 07 3635 3310 P: 07 3635 2965 M: Personal info

E: hannahrose.hamer@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 9:10:06 PM

From : "Tim Whittaker"

To : "DAVIDSON Brent" , "Chantelle Rule" , "Brad Gardner"

Subject : Fwd: FYI - K'gari reopening media release

Attachment : image001.png;14122020 - FINAL - Camping re-opening on K'gari.docx;image006.png;image004.png;image005.png;

Thanks Brent, no probs this end.

Cheers

Tim

Tim Whittaker

Director

Media, Communication and Online

Queensland Fire & Emergency Services

M: Personal information 24hr: 07 3635 3310

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

Sent: Sunday, December 13, 2020 8:41:58 PM

To: Tim Whittaker <Tim.Whittaker@qfes.qld.gov.au>; Hayley Gillespie <Hayley.Gillespie@qfes.qld.gov.au>

Subject: FYI - K'gari reopening media release

Hi Tim and Hayley

Here's our final release that'll go out tomorrow morning around 7am about K'gari reopening.

Thanks again for all your help over this incredibly trying time.

I'm sure we'll talk again soon.

Cheers

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

 [Chat with me on teams](#)  [Personal info](#)
E brent.davidson@des.qld.gov.au
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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.

Published on DES Disclosure Log
RTI Act 2009

Date : 5/12/2020 2:10:02 PM
From : "CAMBOURN Neil"
To : "Media DES" , "DAVIDSON Brent"
Subject : Fwd: MEDIA STATEMENT: Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation response to K'gari wildfires
Attachment : image002.png;IMG_0386.jpg;

Regards Neil Cambourn

Begin forwarded message:

From: OLIVER Nathan <Nathan.Oliver@des.qld.gov.au>

Date: 5 December 2020 at 1:22:09 pm AEST

To: CIR Fire Team <CIR.FireTeam@des.qld.gov.au>, CUBIS Mick <Mick.Cubis@des.qld.gov.au>, DARGUSCH Marc <Marc.Dargusch@des.qld.gov.au>, BULLEY Graeme <Graeme.Bulley@des.qld.gov.au>, SEELEITHER Jamie <Jamie.Seeleither@des.qld.gov.au>, BLACKMAN Boyd <Boyd.Blackman@des.qld.gov.au>, BARRACLOUGH Emma <Emma.Barracrough@des.qld.gov.au>, HARVEY Peter <Peter.Harvey@des.qld.gov.au>, YETMAN Brendon <Brendon.Yetman@des.qld.gov.au>, KLEKAR John <John.Klekar@des.qld.gov.au>, gadejould <gadejould@gmail.com>, rachel.killer@bac-kgari.org, LAYFIELD Wayne <Wayne.Layfield@des.qld.gov.au>, CAMBOURN Neil <Neil.Cambourn@des.qld.gov.au>, BUCKLEY Andrew <Andrew.Buckley@des.qld.gov.au>, HEAD Damien <Damien.Head@des.qld.gov.au>, KLAASSEN Ben <Ben.Klaassen@des.qld.gov.au>, HARRIS Leigh <Leigh.Harris@des.qld.gov.au>, BURNHAM Mark <Mark.Burnham@des.qld.gov.au>

Subject: FW: MEDIA STATEMENT: Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation response to K'gari wildfires



Nathan Oliver
Principal Ranger Fire Management
South East Queensland Region | QPWS & Partnerships
Department of Environment and Science
P **Personal**
Kabool Road, West Burleigh 4220
www.des.qld.gov.au

From: gadejould <gadejould@des.qld.gov.au> **Personal**

Sent: Saturday, 5 December 2020 12:56 PM

To: matthew.inwood@qfes.qld.gov.au; OLIVER Nathan

Subject: MEDIA STATEMENT: Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation response to K'gari wildfires

Hi Mat & Nathan

Please see below a copy of the BACs media statement in response to the K'gari wildfires.

Galangoor nyin,
Jade



BUTCHULLA ABORIGINAL CORPORATION RNTBC INC - 8107

Butchulla Office & Administration
Unit 5/107 Boat Harbour Drive
Pialba QLD 4655
07 4124 9144

Po Box 7411
Urangan QLD 655
admin@bac-kgari.org
ABN: 38 477 907 513

MEDIA STATEMENT

RESPONSE TO THE K'GARI FIRES BY THE BUTCHULLA ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

4th December 2020

The fires currently burning on K'gari (Fraser Island) continue to cause concern and distress to the Butchulla people who are the Traditional Owners and Native Title holders of K'gari.

The Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation (BAC) are making every effort to provide support to fight the fires. The BAC is working with Queensland Fire Emergency Services (QFES) and Queensland Parks & Wildlife Services (QPWS) to protect our cultural sites of significance, flora and fauna and economic assets on K'gari.

K'gari is extremely significant to Butchulla people and is central to our culture and Dreaming. Actively caring for K'gari is fundamental to the identity of Butchulla People. Rachel Killer, BAC Program Coordinator said, "it is integral to our role as the entity holding Native Title rights over K'gari on behalf of Butchulla People".

Jade Gould, BAC Director stated that "the fires will have a long lasting impact on K'gari's natural environment, many of our cultural heritage sites may be damaged, lost or impacted on in some way that we will not be able to restore. We have concerns for many iconic species and places on the Island that not only attracts many visitors each year but are also very important to Butchulla people."

The BAC has dedicated a significant amount of resources and time to help QPWS and QFES control the fires, these include:

- The General Manager being included as a member of the Incident Management Team (IMT) to collaborate with QPWS and QFES on the management of the fire;
- The Cultural Heritage Officer, Program Coordinator and Cultural Advisors using traditional knowledge and understanding of Country to provide advice to assist QPWS and QFES in managing significant cultural assets on K'gari;
- Frontline firefighting personal being provided by the Butchulla Land & Sea Rangers and Community Rangers.

The BAC welcomes the Queensland Premier's announcement into a review of the management of K'gari and Butchulla People's desire for joint management of K'gari.



BUTCHULLA ABORIGINAL CORPORATION RNTBC INC - 8107

Butchulla Office & Administration
Unit 5/107 Boat Harbour Drive
Pialba QLD 4655
07 4124 9144

Po Box 7411
Urangan QLD 655
admin@bac-kgari.org
ABN: 38 477 907 513

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The BAC welcomes the Queensland Premier's announcement into a review of the management of K'gari and Butchulla People's desire for joint management of K'gari.

Date : 2/12/2020 12:37:39 PM

From : "DAVIDSON Brent"

To : "Ethan Clissold" , "Chantelle Rule" , "Hayley Gillespie" , "Tim Whittaker"

Cc : "QFES Media" , "Media DES"

Subject : FYI - K'gari fire World Heritage implications - Matt Dennien, Brisbane Times

Attachment : 021220 - K'gari fire World Heritage implications - Matt Dennien, Brisbane Times.docx;image001.png;image002.png;image003.png;image004.png;

Hi team, FYI – response to K'gari world heritage implications from the fire.

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

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Media statement

K'gari fire World Heritage implications

2 December 2020

Enquiry from Matt Dennien, Brisbane Times:

- Is the department/unit concerned about the impact of the fire on the island's unique tall sand-growing rainforest, dune lakes and wildlife?
- Could damage to these and other elements listed in the island's Statement of Outstanding Value impact its status on the UNESCO list?
- Has UNESCO been briefed on the situation at all by Queensland or Australian authorities?

The following can be attributed to a Department of Environment and Science spokesperson:

K'gari is home to one of the world's most famous, picturesque and important natural environments.

The fire is still burning with government agencies currently focused on the wildfire response and mitigating any potential threat to life and property.

Fire is a natural and ecological important part of K'gari's landscape.

Many vegetation communities and species are adapted to fire and reliant upon it for their longer-term health and regeneration.

The island's closed forest communities including its tall rainforest stands have been unaffected by the fire, the fire's incursion into these areas has been minimal with the closed forest moister conditions inhibiting the fire's movement across the island.

Once the fire is contained QPWS will redirect its resources to assessing and reporting on the fire's impacts on island's natural, cultural and world heritage values.

ENDS

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

Date : 13/12/2020 8:41:58 PM

From : "DAVIDSON Brent"

To : "Tim Whittaker" , "Hayley Gillespie"

Subject : FYI - K'gari reopening media release

Attachment : 14122020 - FINAL - Camping re-opening on K'gari.docx;image001.png;image006.png;image004.png;image005.png;

Hi Tim and Hayley

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Brent

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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

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

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](https://www.qld.gov.au/parkalerts) – www.qld.gov.au/parkalerts and [@OldParkAlerts](https://twitter.com/OldParkAlerts) 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.

Published on DES Disclosure Log
RTI Act 2009

Date : 4/12/2020 6:06:41 AM

From : "QFES Media"

Subject : K'gari (Fraser Island) talking points for 6am Fri 04/12

Attachment : QFES talking points - Fri 4 Dec 6am.docx;image001.jpg;

Good morning,

Please find the K'gari (Fraser Island) talking points for 6am, Friday 4 December attached.

Background

- QFES is working closely with QPWS and the Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation to combat the bushfire on K'gari (pronounced 'gari) (Fraser Island).
- It is important to recognise that QFES does not own or manage the land where fuel is located but does work very closely with land managers in a partnership to manage fuel loads and provide support.
- Land managers include the Department of Environment and Science (DES) especially the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) local governments, Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy (DNRME), utilities such as South East Queensland Water, and private companies.
- The bushfire started on 14 October 2020.
- Kingfisher Bay Resort closed on Monday 30 November to 14 December to prioritise the safety and wellbeing of staff and guests. We support this.
- The terrain and weather influence our ability to fight the fire. This fire is partially burning in inaccessible land, which makes access difficult.
- Crews are working under trying conditions to do the best they can. As with any operational incident, QFES will review its response to this fire to determine what we can learn from it.
- Where appropriate, aircraft are using gel, freshwater and saltwater to slow the advance of the fire.
- K'gari is home to a large variety of wildlife, and mainly known for its dingo population, which is protected. Other types of wildlife include snakes, birds and marine animals.
- QPWS will continue to assess the impact, including the coverage and intensity, the fire has had on animals and the environment.
- People should refer to the DES website for information about visiting the island, camping and closed areas.
- Stay up-to-date by following QFES on social media, visiting the QFES Newsroom website and tuning in to local media.
- Always report unattended fire or suspicious activity immediately to Triple Zero (000).

Kind regards,

Media Unit

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES)

T. 07 3635 3310 E. media@qfes.qld.gov.au



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All reasonable precautions will be taken to respect the privacy of individuals in accordance with the Information Privacy Act 2009 (Qld).

FDR: Friday – Monday: VERY HIGH

State Overview

- The Fraser Island fire is one of about 30 bushfires burning statewide.
- Heightened fire danger will continue in large parts of Queensland across the weekend, stretching from the north of the state to the border with New South Wales.
- Fires that start under these conditions will be fast-moving and difficult to control.
- Local fire bans have been imposed in multiple areas in the south between the Gold Coast and Bundaberg and west to the border as well as in the Whitsundays in North Queensland.
- Residents and visitors must abide by local fire bans and report fires immediately to Triple Zero (000).

K'gari

- The fire has burnt approximately 82,000 hectares, after starting in the north of the island. This equates to approximately 50% of the island.
- QFES is heavily attacking the fire with 17 water bombing aircraft, including the Large Air Tanker (LAT) working to reduce the fire's intensity and rate of spread yesterday.
- Significant resources have responded to this fire with more than 90 personnel (QFES, QPWS and BAC) in 38 vehicles, along with aerial support working on K'gari (Fraser Island) today.
- Additional resourcing of ground crews and air support allowing a greater weight of attack, has meant that the fire's rate of spread has slowed significantly in the last 48 hours.
- Operations over the last two days have seen the head of the fire successfully steered and maintained 2km east of Kingfisher Bay Resort Village. QFES will continue to use extensive air and ground resources to slow and stop progression of the fire to the south.
- Kingfisher Bay Resort staff remain onsite and are prepared to enact their evacuation plan, if required.
- QFES and QPWS are rotating responders for fatigue management and replacement crews from both agencies have arrived on the island to relieve current personnel.
- The fire is burning on multiple fronts, with one blaze 2km east of Kingfisher Bay Resort Village, another south of the Cathedrals and another west of Happy Valley.
- Restrictions remain in place for travel to the island, with no visitors currently permitted on the island.

- Those currently on the island can stay but should remain close to where they are staying, pay attention to warnings and avoid closed roads.
- Residents and those providing essential services can still travel between the island and the mainland.
- Two bushfire community warnings are in place that advise people at KBRV to **Prepare to Leave** and people elsewhere on the island to **Stay Informed** of the situation in case conditions deteriorate.
- Smoke from the fire is affecting the island and mainland. Anyone affected should to close windows and doors, keep their medication close by and drive to the conditions.

Issues (if asked)

QPWS management:

- It would be inappropriate for QFES to comment on incident management decisions prior to the transfer of responsibility to QFES on November 27. An IGEM review into this fire has been announced by the Premier.

IGEM:

QFES welcomes any opportunity to review the key observations and learnings identified as part of an independent review, with a view to better understand how its operational response and processes with partner agencies can improve to further enhance the service we provide to the Queensland community.

Date : 10/12/2020 7:38:25 AM

From : "QFES Media"

Subject : K'gari (Fraser Island) talking points Thurs 10 Dec

Attachment : QFES talking points - Thurs 10 Dec 6am.docx;image001.jpg;

Good morning,

Please see the updated talking points attached for the K'gari (Fraser Island) fire.

Kind regards,

Media Unit

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES)

T. 07 3635 3310 E. media@qfes.qld.gov.au



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State Overview

- The Fraser Island fire is one of about 30 bushfires burning statewide.
- Heightened fire danger will begin to ease across large parts of Queensland throughout the week.
- Local fire bans remain in place for the South East and North Coast Regions as well as the Whitsunday local government area.
- Residents and visitors must abide by local fire bans and report fires immediately to Triple Zero (000).

K'gari - FDR: Thursday to Saturday: HIGH/LOW-MODERATE

- An ADVICE warning is current for K'Gari (Fraser Island) asking people to STAY INFORMED of the situation in case conditions deteriorate. This is the only warning for the island.
- Rain on Tuesday night and milder conditions on Wednesday have significantly slowed the rate of spread of the fire and allowed crews to bolster firefighting efforts.
- Operations on the ground and in the air have focussed heavily on areas of particular concern including around The Oakes, Happy Valley, Kingfisher Bay and K'Gari Camp as well as a number of culturally significant assets identified by the Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation.
- Significant resources are deployed to this fire with more than 60 personnel (QFES, QPWS and BAC) in 32 vehicles.
- 17 aircraft including the Large Air Tanker (LAT), are available for the K'gari (Fraser Island) fire today.
- The Large Air Tankers (LAT) from Queensland and New South Wales have collectively been used 33 times during the K'gari (Fraser Island) incident to establish containment lines.
- This fire moved very little yesterday. Finer resolution mapping now indicates the fire has burnt approximately 85,000 hectares. This equates to more than 50% of the island.
- Restrictions remain in place for travel to the island, with no visitors currently permitted on the island.
- Those currently on the island can stay but should remain close to where they are staying, pay attention to warnings and avoid closed roads.
- Residents and those providing essential services can still travel between the island and the mainland.
- Smoke from the fire is affecting the island and mainland. Anyone affected should to close windows and doors, keep their medication close by and drive to the conditions.

Issues (if asked)

QPWS management:

- It would be inappropriate for QFES to comment on incident management decisions prior to the transfer of responsibility to QFES on November 27.
- An IGEM review into this fire has been announced by the Premier.

Visitors returning to the Island:

- While conditions have eased, travel restrictions will remain in place until QFES and QPWS deems it is safe for visitors to return to the island. This will be until further notice as the health and safety of the community and our people is the main priority.

IGEM:

- QFES welcomes any opportunity to review the key observations and learnings identified as part of an independent review, with a view to better understand how its operational response and processes with partner agencies can improve to further enhance the service we provide to the Queensland community.

LAT use:

- The LAT was first used on November 17, following a request from the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Services (QPWS).
- To date, the LAT has been used more than 32 times during the Fraser Island (K'gari) incident to establish containment lines.
- The New South Wales Large Air Tanker (LAT) was deployed on Monday and Tuesday to assist firefighting efforts. It has now returned to NSW.
- The LAT is one of many aerial assets utilised by QFES during the bushfire season. It has played an important role in supporting 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.
- Decisions relating to the use of the LAT are based on operational needs at the time, including the effectiveness of aerial drops, weather conditions, firefighting requirements and fatigue management for pilots.

Date : 28/11/2020 10:06:56 AM

From : "KLAASSEN Ben"

To : "MERRICK Jamie" , "TRACEY Alena" , "DLO DES" , "Hannah Jackson"

Cc : "DAVIDSON Brent" , "WATSON Matthew"

Subject : K'Gari fire update 28 November 2020

Attachment : image001.png;image008.png;image011.jpg;image013.png;image003.png;image007.jpg;image010.png;image012.png;

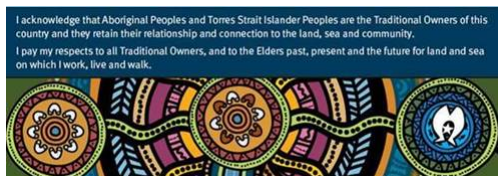
Hi all

Update following this morning's discussion with QFES:

- The fire remains active in the southern and northern sectors.
- Southern fire remains north of the Poyungan/Smith fire break. The strategy is to contain the fire at this break for as long as possible however confidence is not high it will hold past Sunday.
- No backburning possible overnight (due to conditions)
- East/ North Easterly wind change forecast from 7pm today which will change fire behaviour (push to the south). Northerly wind influence will then prevail through to Thursday.
- QFES has deployed 11 appliances and crews to Kingfisher to support preparedness and defend if required.
- Visitor access restrictions implemented and no current issues. Barge operators assisting and Police supporting (noting they have commitments at Teewah Beach with schoolies)
- Residents and those providing essential services will still be able to travel between the island and the mainland.
- Communications sent to Vehicle Access Permit holders, camping permit holders and commercial tourism operators advising of restrictions.
- Camping booking system not allowing further bookings for December 2020 (will be reviewed regularly).
- All tours to cease on island from today (to restrict movement and enhance safety). Kingfisher resort aligned with IMT and no issues.
- Butchulla liaison officer to be embedded with IMT from today.

There is also evidence from this morning's aerial surveillance that a hut may have been lost approximately 8kms north of Kingfisher. No specifics but could be an old forestry hut or a privately owned structure. IMT to investigate further.

Regards
Ben



From: KLAASSEN Ben

Sent: Friday, 27 November 2020 5:35 PM

To: MERRICK Jamie; TRACEY Alena; DLO DES; Hannah Jackson

Cc: DAVIDSON Brent

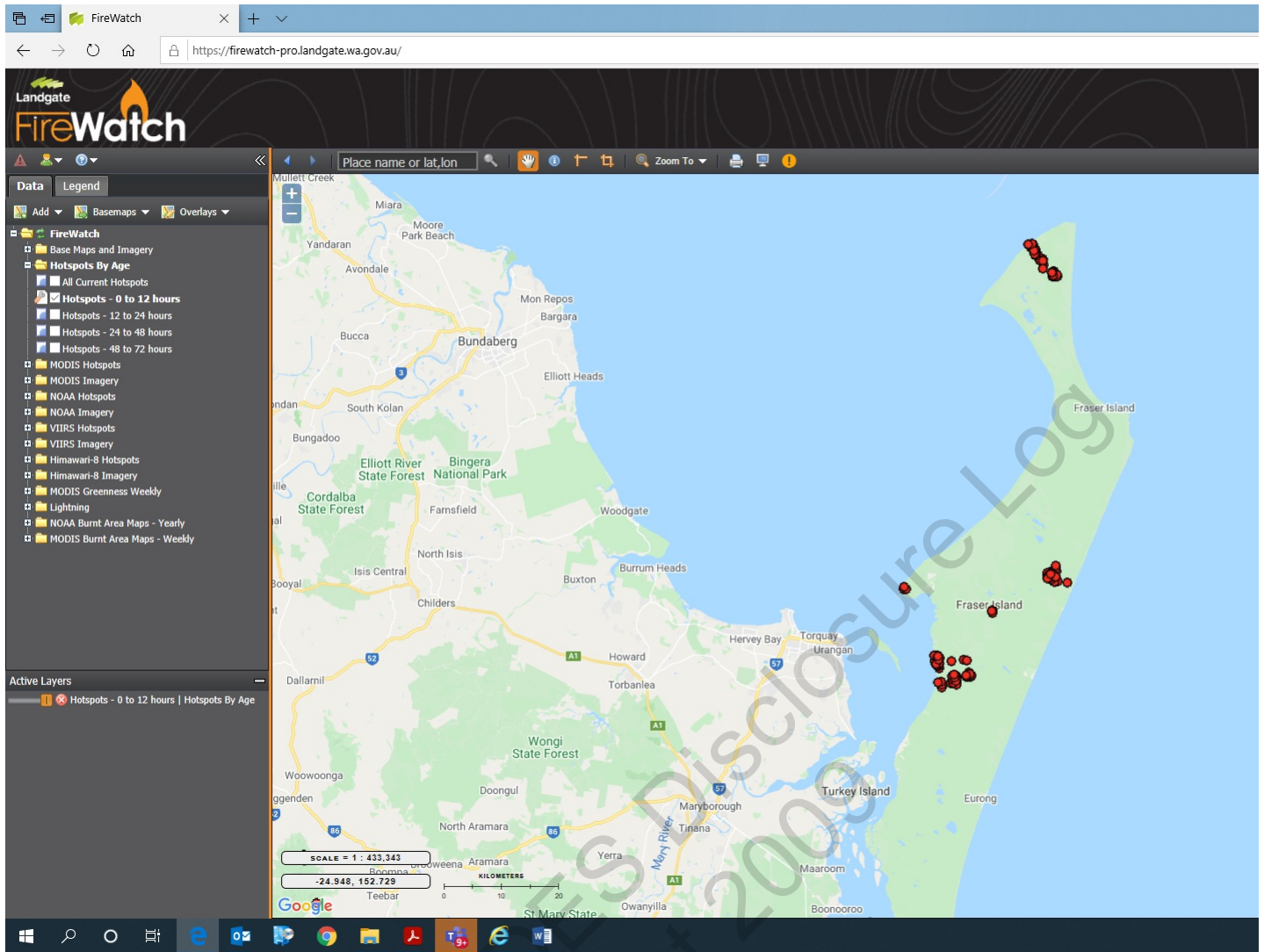
Subject: RE: K'Gari fire update 27 November 2020

Hi all

Latest update:

- QFES assumed Incident Control from 27 November. QPWS in a deputy IC role.
- The fire remains active in the southern and northern sectors.
- Southern fire is north of the Poyungan/Smith fire break. The strategy is to contain the fire at this break.
- Some spotting of the southern fire this afternoon with aerial attack assisting.
- Northerly wind change forecast from tomorrow afternoon which will change fire behaviour (push to the south)
- QFES has deployed resources to Kingfisher to support in preparedness should fire breach Poyungan break.
- QFES has assessed the situation in conjunction with QPWS and decided to restrict access to the island after 5pm today, Friday 27 November. This is due to erratic and difficult conditions expected in coming days.
- Residents and those providing essential services will still be able to travel between the island and the mainland, however travel to and from the island will be stopped from 5pm today, Friday 27 November.
- Communications sent to Vehicle Access Permit holders, camping permit holders and commercial tourism operators advising of restrictions.
- Camping booking system not allowing further bookings for December 2020 (will be reviewed regularly).
- All tours to cease on island from tomorrow (to restrict movement and enhance safety).

Latest fire hot spot map below.



 **Ben Klaassen**
Deputy Director-General
Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships
Department of Environment and Science
P 07 3199 7538 | M   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: KLAASSEN Ben
Sent: Friday, 27 November 2020 11:41 AM
To: MERRICK Jamie; TRACEY Alena; DLO DES; Hannah Jackson
Subject: K'Gari fire update 27 November 2020

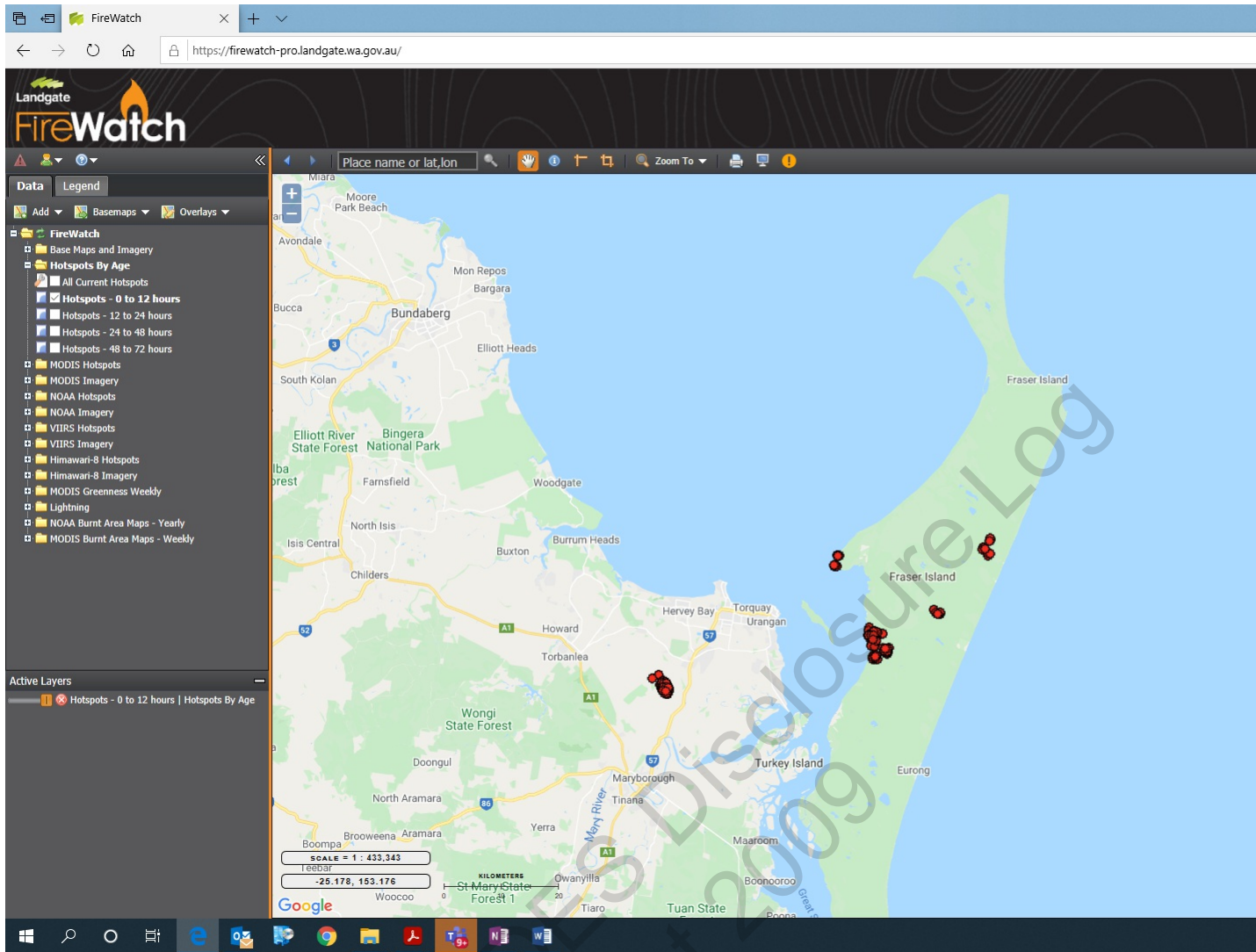
Hi

Current update as follows:

- The fire remains active in the southern and northern sectors.
- Southern fire is north of the Poyungan/Smith fire break (4.6 kims north of Kingfisher resort). The strategy is to contain the fire at this break.
- No further backburning possible overnight (due to conditions).
- Southern fire is holding at present but northerly wind change forecast from tomorrow afternoon which will change fire behaviour (push to the south)
- QFES has deployed resources to Kingfisher to support in preparedness should fire breach Poyungan break.
- QFES are developing strategies for scenarios which include potential evacuation of Kingfisher.
- QPWS are examining scenarios and considering if further closures of campgrounds required.
- Should fire breach containment lines on weekend it may be necessary to engage Local Disaster Management Group protocols to restrict visitation to the Island.
- No current issues with northern fire.
- QPWS and QFES have multiple crews on the Island and a dedicated Incident Management Team (over 30 people involved in the fire)
- Resourcing is sufficient and fatigue is being managed.

Discussions this morning have resolved the fire is escalating to a higher level incident and it has been agreed QFES will take the lead Incident Control role forthwith. The IC team are implementing these arrangements now.

Fire hot spot map below.



Ben Klaassen
Deputy Director-General
Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships
Department of Environment and Science
P 07 3199 7538 | M [0412 222 222](tel:0412 222 222) | E ben.klaassen@des.qld.gov.au
Level 5, 400 George St, Brisbane QLD 4000
PO Box 15187, CITY EAST QLD 4002

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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.



Date : 9/12/2020 5:52:16 AM

From : "QFES Media"

Subject : K'gari Fraser Island talking points Wed 9 Dec

Attachment : UPDATED QFES talking points - Wed 9 Dec 6am.docx;image001.jpg;

Good morning,

Please see talking points attached for the K'gari (Fraser Island) fire.

Kind regards,

Media Unit

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES)

T. 07 3635 3310 E. media@qfes.qld.gov.au



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All reasonable precautions will be taken to respect the privacy of individuals in accordance with the Information Privacy Act 2009 (Qld).

State Overview

- The Fraser Island fire is one of about 35 bushfires burning statewide.
- Heightened fire danger will begin to ease across large parts of Queensland throughout the week.
- Local fire bans remain in place for multiple areas in the south between the Gold Coast and Bundaberg as well as the Whitsundays in North Queensland.
- Residents and visitors must abide by local fire bans and report fires immediately to Triple Zero (000).

K'gari - FDR: Wednesday - Friday: VERY HIGH/HIGH

- Watch and Act warnings remain current for The Oaks and Kingfisher Bay Resort and Village asking people in those areas to PREPARE TO LEAVE.
- An Advice warning has been issued for other areas of K'gari (Fraser Island) asking people outside of the Oaks and KBRV to STAY INFORMED of the situation in case conditions deteriorate.
- Rain on Monday night and milder conditions on Tuesday have significantly slowed the rate of spread of the fire and allowed crews to bolster firefighting efforts. Multiple aircraft waterbombed hot spots across the fireground yesterday to strengthen the containment lines.
- Operations on the ground and in the air have focussed heavily on areas of particular concern including around The Oaks, Happy Valley, Kingfisher Bay and Camp K'Gari as well as a number of culturally significant assets identified by the Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation.
- Significant resources are deployed this fire with more than 90 personnel (QFES, QPWS and BAC) in 38 vehicles and 11 aircraft including the Large Air Tanker (LAT), working on K'gari (Fraser Island) yesterday.
- The New South Wales Large Air Tanker (LAT) was deployed on Monday and Tuesday to assist firefighting efforts. It has now returned to NSW.
- The fire has burnt **approximately** 87,000 hectares, after starting in the north of the island. This equates to **more than** 50% of the island.
- Restrictions remain in place for travel to the island, with no visitors currently permitted on the island.
- Those currently on the island can stay but should remain close to where they are staying, pay attention to warnings and avoid closed roads.
- Residents and those providing essential services can still travel between the island and the mainland.
- Smoke from the fire is affecting the island and mainland. Anyone affected should to close windows and doors, keep their medication close by and drive to the conditions.

Issues (if asked)

QPWS management:

- It would be inappropriate for QFES to comment on incident management decisions prior to the transfer of responsibility to QFES on November 27.
- An IGEM review into this fire has been announced by the Premier.

IGEM:

- QFES welcomes any opportunity to review the key observations and learnings identified as part of an independent review, with a view to better understand how its operational response and processes with partner agencies can improve to further enhance the service we provide to the Queensland community.

LAT use:

- The LAT was first used on November 17, following a request from the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Services (QPWS).
- To date, the LAT has been used more than 32 times during the Fraser Island (K'gari) incident to establish containment lines.
- The LAT is one of many aerial assets utilised by QFES during the bushfire season. It has played an important role in supporting 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.
- Decisions relating to the use of the LAT are based on operational needs at the time, including the effectiveness of aerial drops, weather conditions, firefighting requirements and fatigue management for pilots.

Date : 29/11/2020 3:40:14 PM
From : "QFES Media"
To : "DAVIDSON Brent" , "Media DES"
Cc : "Tim Whittaker"
Subject : K'gari talking points for 6am Mon 30 Nov
Attachment : QFES talking points - Sun 29 Nov 3pm.docx;image001.jpg;
Good afternoon,

Please see talking points attached. Please let me know if you require any changes as soon as you can.

These are endorsed by Senior Ranger Scott Brook.

Kind regards,
Amy

Media Unit
Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES)
T. 07 3635 3310 E. media@qfes.qld.gov.au



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Key points

- Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) crews and Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) rangers and Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation rangers are continuing firefighting operations on K'gari (pronounced "gari") (Fraser Island).
- Additional Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) and Rural Fire Service (RFS) resources crews have been pre-deployed to the Kingfisher Resort and Happy Valley precincts and are undertaking preparation works in the areas.
- Significant resources are being used to support ongoing firefighting operations, including heavy machinery and multiple water bombing aircraft.
- Residents and those providing essential services can still travel between the island and the mainland, however travel for **visitors** to the island was stopped at 5pm Friday 27 November.
- Restrictions remain in place until further notice, with heightened fire conditions expected to continue.
- These restrictions **do not** signal an evacuation of the island and anyone who is currently on the island is able to stay but we are asking everyone to pay attention to current warnings as the situation could deteriorate.
- Kingfisher Bay Resort has made the decision to temporarily close the resort from today (Monday, 30 November) to 14 December to prioritise the safety and well-being of its staff and guests.
- QFES has been working with Kingfisher Bay Resort management over recent days and will continue to do so and are supportive of their proactive approach.
- QPWS have developed a staged road closure plan for the island based off expected conditions. A number of inland roads have already been closed with further track closures expected.
- Residents, campers and visitors already on the island should also limit their movements to within close proximity of where they are staying and avoid travelling on any closed roads.
- All tour operations on K'gari/Fraser Island are cancelled until further notice.
- The bushfire started on 14 October 2020 and QFES crews and QPWS rangers have been fighting the fire since this time.
- The fire has burnt approximately 74,000 hectares, after starting in the north of the island.

- The fire has two major fronts, one north of Kingfisher Bay Resort and one west of Cathedrals on Fraser. The fire in each front is travelling in a south-easterly direction.
- While the fire is behaving as predicted, QFES and QPWS crews remain vigilant and well-prepared given the variability of conditions that can occur on the island.
- QFES and QPWS crews have been working with the traditional owners of the land, the Butchulla people, to minimise the environmental and cultural impacts of firefighting operations.
- K'gari (say "gari") is home to a large variety of wildlife, and mainly known for its dingo population, which is protected. Other types of wildlife include snakes, birds and marine animals.
- QPWS will assess the impact the fire has on animals and the environment, while the main priority at this time is to contain the blaze and protect life and property.
- QFES' Large Air Tanker (LAT) has been used to assist ground crews so far and may be used in future operations to strengthen containment lines and slow the progress of the blaze.
- A bushfire community warning is in place, currently sitting at an ADVICE level where people are being asked to **Stay Informed** of the situation.
- Residents, campers and visitors already on K'gari should stay up-to-date with the latest bushfire community warnings by monitoring the QFES Newsroom website, QFES and QPWS social media channels and tuning into local media.
- To ensure public safety, people may be requested to leave further camping areas or day sites at short notice if it is deemed necessary.
- Information on those closures are being provided online at the Park Alerts website – des.qld.gov.au or on Twitter at @QldParkAlerts
- Camp site bookings will be cancelled until further notice, and campers will be notified with refunds provided.
- If you have a camping and associated vehicle access permit booked to visit K'gari and are not able to access the island, you can apply for a refund.
- Permit holders are also able to manage their booking via qld.gov.au/camping.
- Smoke is affecting K'gari and is visible from numerous areas on the mainland. Anyone affected is advised to close windows and doors, keep respiratory medication close by and drive to the conditions.
- A community meeting was held at Happy Valley on Saturday, 28 November to update residents and tourists on the current situation. Meetings will continue as details come to hand.

Safety

- It's important everyone remains vigilant and follows the advice of QFES and QPWS authorities.
- Stay up-to-date by following QFES on social media, visiting the QFES Newsroom website and tuning in to local media.
- The Park Alerts website and Twitter are providing updates on closures – parks.qld.gov.au/park-alerts/ and @QldParkAlerts
- Residents and visitors to K'gari should have a plan ready should the situation change.
- Always report unattended fire or suspicious activity immediately to Triple Zero (000).

Weather conditions

- We are expecting Very High fire conditions to affect the region over the coming days.
- These conditions may be challenging for both agencies firefighters, however we are prepared.
- Trained and skilled firefighters will continue to respond and additional resources are on standby, including waterbombing aircraft.

ISSUES (if asked)

- *Are accommodation providers taking new bookings from Wednesday?*
 - *Restrictions will remain in place until further notice with heightened fire conditions expected to continue into next week.*
- *Where can people find information about closures –*
 - *For questions about visiting the island, camping and closed areas, please refer to the Park Alerts website and Twitter – www.parks.qld.gov.au/park-alerts/ and @QldParkAlerts*
- *There are serious concerns for the Indigenous sites on K'gari, as well as the native flora and fauna. How extensive is the damage on the island, in terms of land burnt and wildlife affected –*
 - *The Department of Environment and Science is continually assessing the environmental impacts of the fire. Any questions relating to these impacts will need to be referred to DES.*
 - *DES and QFES will continue to manage this fire collaboratively.*

- What are you dropping on the island – water, retardant?
 - *Water bombing aircraft, including the LAT, have dropped gel and saltwater.*

Published on DES Disclosure Log
RTI Act 2009

Date : 28/11/2020 3:53:02 PM
From : "QFES Media"
To : "DAVIDSON Brent" , "Media DES"
Cc : "Tim Whittaker"
Subject : K'gari talking points for 6am Sun 29 Nov
Attachment : QFES talking points - Sun 29 Nov 6am.docx;image001.jpg;
Good afternoon,

Please see talking points attached. Please let me know if you require any changes as soon as you can.

These are endorsed by Senior Ranger Scott Brook.

Kind regards,
Maddy

Media Unit
Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES)
T. 07 3635 3310 E. media@qfes.qld.gov.au



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Key points

- Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) crews and Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) rangers are continuing firefighting operations on K'gari (Fraser Island).
- Additional Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) and Rural Fire Service (RFS) resources crews have been pre-deployed to the Kingfisher Resort and Happy Valley precincts to assist occupants in preparing their properties.
- Additional resourcing from across the state is being utilised and will be allocated to the incident as the fire moves closer to these areas.
- Significant resources are being used to support ongoing firefighting operations, including heavy machinery and water bombing aircraft.
- QFES has assessed the situation in conjunction with QPWS and decided to restrict access to the island after 5pm, Friday 27 November. This was due to erratic and difficult conditions expected in coming days.
- Residents and those providing essential services can still travel between the island and the mainland, however travel for **visitors** to the island was stopped 5pm Friday 27 November.
- Restrictions will remain in place until further notice with heightened fire conditions expected to continue into next week.
- These restrictions **do not** signal an evacuation of the island and anyone who is currently on the island is able to stay but we are asking everyone to pay attention to current warnings as the situation could deteriorate.
- QPWS have developed a staged road closure plan for the island based off expected conditions with further track closures expected.
- Residents, campers and visitors already on the island should also limit their movements to within close proximity of where they are staying and avoid travelling on the inland tracks and roads where possible.
- All tour operations on K'gari / Fraser Island are cancelled until further notice.
- The bushfire started on 14 October 2020 and QFES crews and QPWS rangers have been fighting the fire since this time.
- The fire has burnt approximately **74,000** hectares, after starting in the north of the island and is moving in a southerly direction.

- QFES and QPWS crews have been working with the traditional owners of the land, the Butchulla people, to minimise the environmental and cultural impacts of firefighting operations.
- K'gari is home to a large variety of wildlife, and mainly known for its Dingo population, which is protected. Other types of wildlife include snakes, crocodiles, cassowaries, birds and marine animals.
- QPWS will assess the impact the fire has on animals and the environment, while the main priority is to contain the blaze and protect life and property.
- QFES' Large Air Tanker (LAT) has been used to assist ground crews so far and may be used in future operations to strengthen containment lines and slow the progress of the blaze.
- A bushfire community warning is in place, currently sitting at an ADVICE level where people are being asked to **Stay Informed** of the situation.
- Residents, campers and visitors already on K'gari should stay up-to-date with the latest bushfire community warnings by monitoring the QFES Newsroom website, QFES and QPWS social media channels and tuning into local media.
- Many camping areas and roads are already temporarily closed.
- To ensure public safety, people may be requested to leave further camping areas or day sites at short notice due to the current bushfire situation.
- Information on those closures are being provided online at the Park Alerts website – www.des.qld.gov.au or on Twitter at @QldParkAlerts
- Bookings from tomorrow and onwards will be cancelled until further notice, and campers will be notified with refunds provided.
- If you have a camping and associated vehicle access permit booked to visit K'gari and are not able to access the island, you will receive a refund.
- Permit holders are also able to manage their booking any time via www.qld.gov.au/camping.
- Smoke is affecting K'gari and is visible from numerous areas on the mainland. Anyone affected is advised to close windows and doors, keep respiratory medication close by and drive to the conditions.
- A Community meeting was held at Happy Valley on Saturday 28 November to update residents and tourists on the current situation. Meetings will continue as details come to hand.

Safety

- It's important everyone remains vigilant and follows the advice of QFES and QPWS authorities.
- Stay up-to-date by following QFES on social media, visiting the QFES Newsroom website and tuning in to local media.
- The Park Alerts website and Twitter are providing updates on closures – www.parks.qld.gov.au/park-alerts/ and @QldParkAlerts
- Residents and visitors to K'gari should have a plan ready should the situation change.
- Always report unattended fire or suspicious activity immediately to Triple Zero (000).

Weather conditions

- We are expecting **High to Very High** fire conditions to affect the region over the coming days.
- These conditions may be challenging for both agencies firefighters, however we are prepared.
- Trained and skilled firefighters will continue to respond and additional resources are on standby, including waterbombing aircraft.
- Expected wind changes **this afternoon/this morning** may affect firefighting operations **this morning/this afternoon**, however we are prioritising operations based on this information.

ISSUES (if asked)

- *Are accommodation providers taking new bookings from Wednesday?*
 - *Restrictions will remain in place until further notice with heightened fire conditions expected to continue into next week.*
- Where can people find information about closures –
 - *For questions about visiting the island, camping and closed areas, please refer to the Park Alerts website and Twitter – www.parks.qld.gov.au/park-alerts/ and @QldParkAlerts*
- There are serious concerns for the Indigenous sites on K'gari, as well as the native flora and fauna. How extensive is the damage on the island, in terms of land burnt and wildlife affected –
 - *The Department of Environment and Science is continually assessing the environmental impacts of the fire. Any questions relating to these impacts will need to be referred to DES.*

- *DES and QFES will continue to manage this fire collaboratively.*
- What are you dropping on the island – water, retardant?
 - *Water bombing aircraft, including the LAT, have dropped gel and saltwater.*

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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

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

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



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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.

Date : 25/11/2020 11:40:26 AM

From : "DAVIDSON Brent"

To : "QFES Media"

Cc : "Hayley Gillespie" , "Media DES" , "GRANT Andrea"

Subject : Media release draft - Fraser Island

Attachment : 061120 - MR - Be safe at Cooloola during schoolies.docx;image001.png;image002.png;image003.png;image004.png;

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

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

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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

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

Tourists to return to K'gari following bushfire

December 14, 2020

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- 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](https://www.qld.gov.au/parkalerts) – www.qld.gov.au/parkalerts and [@OldParkAlerts](https://twitter.com/OldParkAlerts) 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.

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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.

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Date : 1/12/2020 5:47:51 PM
From : "Chantelle Rule"
To : "DAVIDSON Brent"
Cc : "Tim Whittaker"
Subject : QFES data on first saltwater drop to K'gari
Attachment : image001.png;image002.png;
Hi Brent,

Our State Air Desk has confirmed that the first waterbombing activity to K'gari took place on the 9th of November at the request of QPWS. It dropped saltwater at the approval of QPWS.

Thanks,
Chantelle.



Chantelle Rule-Murphy
Media Supervisor
Media, Communications and Online
Queensland Fire and Emergency Services
P: 07 3635 3642 | M: Personal info | Media 24hr: 07 3635 3310
E: chantelle.rule@qfes.qld.gov.au

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Date : 8/12/2020 6:24:15 AM

From : "QFES Media"

Subject : QFES K'gari (Fraser Island) talking points - Tues 8 Dec

Attachment : QFES talking points - Tues 8 Dec 6am.docx;image001.jpg;

Good morning,

Please find the K'gari (Fraser Island) talking points for 6am Tuesday 8 December attached.

Kind regards,

Media Unit

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES)

T. 07 3635 3310 E. media@qfes.qld.gov.au



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State Overview

- The Fraser Island fire is one of about 40 bushfires burning statewide.
- Heightened fire danger will continue in large parts of Queensland throughout the week.
- Fires that start under these conditions will be fast-moving and difficult to control.
- Local fire bans have been imposed in multiple areas in the south between the Gold Coast and Bundaberg and west to the border as well as in the Whitsundays in North Queensland.
- Residents and visitors must abide by local fire bans and report fires immediately to Triple Zero (000).

K'gari - FDR: Tuesday – Wednesday: VERY HIGH/HIGH

- Watch and Act warnings were issued on Monday night for The Oaks and Kingfisher Bay Resort and Village asking people in those areas to **PREPARE TO LEAVE. There is no longer an emergency warning in place for the Oaks, Yidney Rocks and Happy Valley.**
- An Advice warning has been issued for other areas of K'gari (Fraser Island) asking people outside of the Oaks and KBRV to **STAY INFORMED. This warning includes those in the Happy Valley and Yidney Rocks areas.**
- There are around of 50 people in the affected area, a number of which are currently assisting with firefighting efforts.
- Firefighters have slowed the spread of the fire to the north of the Happy Valley township. No structures have been impacted due to significant firefighting on the ground with the assistance of waterbombing operations.
- Significant resources are deployed this fire with more than 90 personnel (QFES, QPWS and BAC) in 38 vehicles and 19 aircraft working on K'gari (Fraser Island) today including the Large Aerial Tanker (LAT).
- The New South Wales Large Aerial Tanker (LAT) was deployed to assist firefighting efforts yesterday (Monday) and today.
- Both LATs made one drop each on Monday, totalling 25,000 litres, to assist in strengthening containment lines.
- A number of agencies including Queensland Police are also assisting with keeping the Happy Valley area informed.
- Other operations have seen the head of the fire successfully steered and maintained 2km east of Kingfisher Bay Resort and Village. QFES will continue to use extensive air and ground resources to slow and stop progression of the fire to the south.
- The fire has burnt approximately 85,000 hectares, after starting in the north of the island. This equates to approximately 50% of the island.
- Kingfisher Bay Resort staff remain onsite and are prepared to enact their evacuation plan, if required.

- The safety and wellbeing of QFES and QPWS staff and volunteers remains a priority, with replacement crews from both agencies arriving on the island Friday to support fatigue management practices.
- The fire is burning on multiple fronts, with one blaze 2km east of Kingfisher Bay Resort and Village. This front is slowly travelling south.
- **Another front is burning to the north of Happy Valley and 3.5km north west of the Cathedrals.**
- Restrictions remain in place for travel to the island, with no visitors currently permitted on the island.
- Those currently on the island can stay but should remain close to where they are staying, pay attention to warnings and avoid closed roads.
- Residents and those providing essential services can still travel between the island and the mainland.
- Two other bushfire community warnings are in place that advise people at KBRV to **Prepare to Leave** and people elsewhere on the island to **Stay Informed** of the situation in case conditions deteriorate.
- Smoke from the fire is affecting the island and mainland. Anyone affected should close windows and doors, keep their medication close by and drive to the conditions.

Issues (if asked)

QPWS management:

- It would be inappropriate for QFES to comment on incident management decisions prior to the transfer of responsibility to QFES on November 27.
- An IGEM review into this fire has been announced by the Premier.

IGEM:

- QFES welcomes any opportunity to review the key observations and learnings identified as part of an independent review, with a view to better understand how its operational response and processes with partner agencies can improve to further enhance the service we provide to the Queensland community.

LAT use:

- The LAT was first used on November 17, following a request from the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Services (QPWS).
- To date, the LAT has been used more than 32 times during the Fraser Island (K'gari) incident to establish containment lines.
- The NSW LAT has been used one time during the Fraser Island (K'gari) incident to establish containment lines.
- The LAT is one of many aerial assets utilised by QFES during the bushfire season. It has played an important role in supporting 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.
- Decisions relating to the use of the LAT are based on operational needs at the time, including the effectiveness of aerial drops, weather conditions, firefighting requirements and fatigue management for pilots.

Date : 5/12/2020 5:50:37 AM
From : "QFES Media"
Subject : QFES Talking Points - 5 Dec
Attachment : QFES talking points - Sat 5 Dec 6am.docx;image001.jpg;
Good morning.

Talking points for the Kooragari (Fraser Island) fire are attached. These are current as at 6am Saturday 5 December 2020.

Kind regards,

Media Unit
Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES)
T. 07 3635 3310 E. media@qfes.qld.gov.au



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FDR: Friday – Monday: VERY HIGH

State Overview

- The Fraser Island fire is one of about 40 bushfires burning statewide.
- Heightened fire danger will continue in large parts of Queensland across the weekend, stretching from the north of the state to the border with New South Wales.
- Fires that start under these conditions will be fast-moving and difficult to control.
- Local fire bans have been imposed in multiple areas in the south between the Gold Coast and Bundaberg and west to the border as well as in the Whitsundays in North Queensland.
- Residents and visitors must abide by local fire bans and report fires immediately to Triple Zero (000).

K'gari

- Significant resources have responded to this fire with more than 90 personnel (QFES, QPWS and BAC) in 38 vehicles and 17 aircraft working on K'gari (Fraser Island) yesterday including the Large Aerial Tanker (LAT).
- Aerial support has been instrumental in assisting ground crews in reducing the fire's intensity and rate of spread, which has slowed significantly in the last 72 hours. On Thursday alone, almost 1 million litres of water and suppressant was dropped on the fire.
- Operations have seen the head of the fire successfully steered and maintained 2km east of Kingfisher Bay Resort and Village. QFES will continue to use extensive air and ground resources to slow and stop progression of the fire to the south.
- The fire has burnt approximately 82,000 hectares, after starting in the north of the island. This equates to approximately 50% of the island.
- Kingfisher Bay Resort staff remain onsite and are prepared to enact their evacuation plan, if required.
- The safety and wellbeing of QFES and QPWS staff and volunteers remains a priority, with replacement crews from both agencies arriving on the island yesterday (Friday) to support fatigue management practices.
- The fire is burning on multiple fronts, with one blaze 2km east of Kingfisher Bay Resort and Village. This front is slowly travelling south.
- Another front is approximately 3.5km to the north west of Happy Valley and 3.5km north west of the Cathedrals.

- The fire is currently being held with aggressive aerial support.
- Restrictions remain in place for travel to the island, with no visitors currently permitted on the island.
- Those currently on the island can stay but should remain close to where they are staying, pay attention to warnings and avoid closed roads.
- Residents and those providing essential services can still travel between the island and the mainland.
- Two bushfire community warnings are in place that advise people at KBRV to **Prepare to Leave** and people elsewhere on the island to **Stay Informed** of the situation in case conditions deteriorate.
- Smoke from the fire is affecting the island and mainland. Anyone affected should to close windows and doors, keep their medication close by and drive to the conditions.

Issues (if asked)

QPWS management:

- It would be inappropriate for QFES to comment on incident management decisions prior to the transfer of responsibility to QFES on November 27.
- An IGEM review into this fire has been announced by the Premier.

IGEM:

- QFES welcomes any opportunity to review the key observations and learnings identified as part of an independent review, with a view to better understand how its operational response and processes with partner agencies can improve to further enhance the service we provide to the Queensland community.

LAT use:

- The LAT was first used on November 17, following a request from the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Services (QPWS).
- To date, the LAT has been used 21 times during this incident to establish containment lines. It made six drops yesterday (Friday).
- The LAT is one of many aerial assets utilised by QFES during the bushfire season. It has played an important role in supporting 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.
- Decisions relating to the use of the LAT are based on operational needs at the time, including the effectiveness of aerial drops, weather conditions, firefighting requirements and fatigue management for pilots.

Date : 30/11/2020 6:14:13 AM

From : "Jessica Oreilly"

To : "GRANT Andrea" , "DAVIDSON Brent" , "Bruce Thompson" , "Gary McCormack" , "James Gill" , "Martin Taylor" , "Matthew Inwood" , "Michael Koch" , "Peter Hollier" , "ROC North Coast" , "Shaune Toohey" , "Warnings" , "Adam Stevenson" , "Brad Gardner" , "Caitlin Duncan" , "Chantelle Rule" , "Commissioner QFES" , "Media DES" , "Ethan Clissold" , "Greg Leach" , "Hayley Gillespie" , "james.haig" , "Jane Houston" , "Joanne Greenfield" , "Joel Love" , "John Bolger" , "Mark Roche (QFES)" , "Michael Wassing" , "QFES Commissioner Staff Officer" , "SOC Admin" , "SOC State Coordinator" , "Tim Whittaker" , "Tony Johnstone" , "Troy Davies"

Subject : QFES talking points - Fraser Island (K'gari) fire

Attachment : QFES talking points - Mon 30 Nov 6am.docx;image001.jpg;

Good morning.

Please see attached talking points current as at 6am Monday 30 November 2020.

Kind regards,

Media Unit

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES)

T. 07 3635 3310 E. media@qfes.qld.gov.au



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All reasonable precautions will be taken to respect the privacy of individuals in accordance with the Information Privacy Act 2009 (Qld).

Key points

- Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) crews and Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) rangers and Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation rangers are continuing firefighting operations on K'gari (pronounced "gari") (Fraser Island).
- Additional Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) and Rural Fire Service (RFS) resources crews have been pre-deployed to the Kingfisher Resort and Happy Valley precincts and are undertaking preparation works in the areas.
- Significant resources are being used to support ongoing firefighting operations, including heavy machinery and multiple water bombing aircraft.
- To date, more than 250,000 litres of saltwater has been dropped on the large fire at K'gari Fraser Island.
- On Sunday, 19 aircraft were on standby and available for firefighting operations – 18 were used. Today, 21 aircraft are on standby across the state, including the Large Air Tanker (LAT).
- Residents and those providing essential services can still travel between the island and the mainland, however travel for **visitors** to the island was stopped at 5pm Friday 27 November.
- Restrictions remain in place until further notice, with heightened fire conditions expected to continue.
- These restrictions **do not** signal an evacuation of the island and anyone who is currently on the island is able to stay but we are asking everyone to pay attention to current warnings as the situation could deteriorate.
- Kingfisher Bay Resort has made the decision to temporarily close the resort from today (Monday, 30 November) to 14 December to prioritise the safety and well-being of their staff and guests.
- QFES has been working with Kingfisher Bay Resort management over recent days and will continue to do so and are supportive of their proactive approach, and we appreciate their support.
- QPWS have developed a staged road closure plan for the island based off expected conditions. A number of inland roads have already been closed with further track closures expected.
- Residents, campers and visitors already on the island should also limit their movements to within close proximity of where they are staying and avoid travelling on any closed roads.
- All tour operations on K'gari/Fraser Island are cancelled until further notice.

- The bushfire started on 14 October 2020 and QFES crews and QPWS rangers have been fighting the fire since this time.
- The fire has burnt approximately 74,000 hectares, after starting in the north of the island.
- The fire has two major fronts, one north of Kingfisher Bay Resort and one west of Cathedrals on Fraser. The fire in each front is travelling in a south-easterly direction.
- While the fire is behaving as predicted, QFES and QPWS crews remain vigilant and well-prepared given the variability of conditions that can occur on the island.
- QFES and QPWS crews have been working with the traditional owners of the land, the Butchulla people, to minimise the environmental and cultural impacts of firefighting operations.
- K'gari (say "gari") is home to a large variety of wildlife, and mainly known for its dingo population, which is protected. Other types of wildlife include snakes, birds and marine animals.
- QPWS will assess the impact the fire has on animals and the environment, while the main priority at this time is to contain the blaze and protect life and property.
- QFES' Large Air Tanker (LAT) has been used to assist ground crews so far and may be used in future operations to strengthen containment lines and slow the progress of the blaze.
- A bushfire community warning is in place, currently sitting at an ADVICE level where people are being asked to **Stay Informed** of the situation.
- Residents, campers and visitors already on K'gari should stay up-to-date with the latest bushfire community warnings by monitoring the QFES Newsroom website, QFES and QPWS social media channels and tuning into local media.
- To ensure public safety, people may be requested to leave further camping areas or day sites at short notice if it is deemed necessary.
- Information on those closures are being provided online at the Park Alerts website – des.qld.gov.au or on Twitter at @QldParkAlerts
- Camp site bookings will be cancelled until further notice, and campers will be notified with refunds provided.
- If you have a camping and associated vehicle access permit booked to visit K'gari and are not able to access the island, you can apply for a refund.
- Permit holders are also able to manage their booking via qld.gov.au/camping.

- Smoke is affecting K'gari and is visible from numerous areas on the mainland. Anyone affected is advised to close windows and doors, keep respiratory medication close by and drive to the conditions.
- A community meeting was held at Happy Valley on Saturday, 28 November to update residents and tourists on the current situation. Meetings will continue as details come to hand.

Safety

- It's important everyone remains vigilant and follows the advice of QFES and QPWS authorities.
- Stay up-to-date by following QFES on social media, visiting the QFES Newsroom website and tuning in to local media.
- The Park Alerts website and Twitter are providing updates on closures – parks.qld.gov.au/park-alerts/ and @QldParkAlerts
- Residents and visitors to K'gari should have a plan ready should the situation change.
- Always report unattended fire or suspicious activity immediately to Triple Zero (000).

Weather conditions

- We are expecting Very High fire conditions to affect the region over the coming days.
- These conditions may be challenging for both agencies firefighters, however we are prepared.
- Trained and skilled firefighters will continue to respond and additional resources are on standby, including waterbombing aircraft.

ISSUES (if asked)

- *Are accommodation providers taking new bookings from Wednesday?*
 - *Restrictions will remain in place until further notice with heightened fire conditions expected to continue into next week.*
- Where can people find information about closures –
 - *For questions about visiting the island, camping and closed areas, please refer to the Park Alerts website and Twitter – www.parks.qld.gov.au/park-alerts/ and @QldParkAlerts*

- There are serious concerns for the Indigenous sites on K'gari, as well as the native flora and fauna. How extensive is the damage on the island, in terms of land burnt and wildlife affected –
 - *The Department of Environment and Science is continually assessing the environmental impacts of the fire. Any questions relating to these impacts will need to be referred to DES.*
 - *DES and QFES will continue to manage this fire collaboratively.*
- What are you dropping on the island – water, retardant?
 - *Water bombing aircraft, including the LAT, have dropped gel and saltwater.*

Date : 6/12/2020 5:45:23 AM

From : "QFES Media"

Subject : QFES Talking Points - Sunday 6 Dec

Attachment : QFES talking points - Sun 6 Dec 6am.docx;image001.jpg;

Good morning.

Talking points for the Kooragari (Fraser Island) fire are attached. These are current as at 6am Sunday 6 December 2020.

Kind regards,

Media Unit

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES)

T. 07 3635 3310 E. media@qfes.qld.gov.au



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State Overview

- The Fraser Island fire is one of about 40 bushfires burning statewide.
- Heightened fire danger will continue in large parts of Queensland across the weekend, stretching from the north of the state to the border with New South Wales. A severe FDR is predicted for the Darling Downs and Granite Belt, and Maranoa and Warrego on Sunday.
- Fires that start under these conditions will be fast-moving and difficult to control.
- Local fire bans have been imposed in multiple areas in the south between the Gold Coast and Bundaberg and west to the border as well as in the Whitsundays in North Queensland.
- Residents and visitors must abide by local fire bans and report fires immediately to Triple Zero (000).

K'gari - FDR: Sunday – Tuesday: VERY HIGH

- Significant resources have responded to this fire with more than 90 personnel (QFES, QPWS and BAC) in 38 vehicles and 17 aircraft working on K'gari (Fraser Island) yesterday including the Large Aerial Tanker (LAT).
- Aerial support has been instrumental in assisting ground crews in reducing the fire's intensity and rate of spread, which has slowed significantly in the last 72 hours. On Friday, more than 1 million litres of water and suppressant was dropped on the fire.
- Operations have seen the head of the fire successfully steered and maintained 2km east of Kingfisher Bay Resort and Village. QFES will continue to use extensive air and ground resources to slow and stop progression of the fire to the south.
- The fire has burnt approximately 82,500 hectares, after starting in the north of the island. This equates to approximately 50% of the island.
- Kingfisher Bay Resort staff remain onsite and are prepared to enact their evacuation plan, if required.
- The safety and wellbeing of QFES and QPWS staff and volunteers remains a priority, with replacement crews from both agencies arriving on the island Friday to support fatigue management practices.
- The fire is burning on multiple fronts, with one blaze 2km east of Kingfisher Bay Resort and Village. This front is slowly travelling south.
- Another front is approximately 3.5km to the north west of Happy Valley and 3.5km north west of the Cathedrals.

- The fire is currently being held with aggressive aerial support.
- Restrictions remain in place for travel to the island, with no visitors currently permitted on the island.
- Those currently on the island can stay but should remain close to where they are staying, pay attention to warnings and avoid closed roads.
- Residents and those providing essential services can still travel between the island and the mainland.
- **Two** bushfire community warnings are in place for the Island. Current warnings advise people at KBRV to **Prepare to Leave**, and people elsewhere on the island to **Stay Informed** of the situation in case conditions deteriorate.
- Smoke from the fire is affecting the island and mainland. Anyone affected should to close windows and doors, keep their medication close by and drive to the conditions.

Issues (if asked)

QPWS management:

- It would be inappropriate for QFES to comment on incident management decisions prior to the transfer of responsibility to QFES on November 27.
- An IGEM review into this fire has been announced by the Premier.

IGEM:

- QFES welcomes any opportunity to review the key observations and learnings identified as part of an independent review, with a view to better understand how its operational response and processes with partner agencies can improve to further enhance the service we provide to the Queensland community.

LAT use:

- The LAT was first used on November 17, following a request from the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Services (QPWS).
- To date, the LAT has been used 26 times during this incident to establish containment lines. It made five drops yesterday (Saturday).
- The LAT is one of many aerial assets utilised by QFES during the bushfire season. It has played an important role in supporting 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.
- Decisions relating to the use of the LAT are based on operational needs at the time, including the effectiveness of aerial drops, weather conditions, firefighting requirements and fatigue management for pilots.

Commented [TW1]: To be updated COB today

Date : 2/12/2020 6:00:10 AM

From : "QFES Media"

Subject : QFES Talking Points as at 6am Wed 2 Dec

Attachment : QFES talking points - Wed 2 Dec 6am.docx;image001.jpg;

Good morning,

Please see attached the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) talking points as at 6am Wednesday, 2 December 2020.

Kind regards,

Media Unit

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES)

T. 07 3635 3310 E. media@qfes.qld.gov.au



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FDR: Wednesday – Friday: VERY HIGH

State Overview

- The Fraser Island fire is one of about 30 bushfires burning statewide.
- There is a heightened fire danger in large parts of Queensland this week, stretching from the north of the state to the border with New South Wales.
- Fires that start under these conditions will be fast-moving and difficult to control.
- 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.
- Residents and visitors must abide by local fire bans and report fires immediately to Triple Zero (000).

K'gari

- The fire has burnt approximately 81,500 hectares, after starting in the north of the island. This equates to approximately 50% of the island.
- Significant resources have responded to this fire, including more than 74 personnel (QFES, QPWS and BAC) in 31 vehicles, along with aerial support.
- The continued dry conditions make this fire difficult to control – the BoM is not expecting rain for a couple of weeks.
- Resort staff remain onsite and are prepared to enact their evacuation plan, if required.
- QFES is planning for the possibility of the fire front moving closer to Kingfisher Bay Resort and Village (KBRV) however we are using extensive aerial resources to divert the head of the fire to the east of the resort and reduce its spread.
- QFES and QPWS are rotating responders for fatigue management and replacement crews from both agencies have arrived on the island to relieve current personnel.
- The fire is burning on multiple fronts, with one blaze 3km north east of KBRV and another south of the Cathedrals.
- Restrictions remain in place for travel to the island, with no visitors currently permitted on the island.
- Those currently on the island can stay but should remain close to where they are staying, pay attention to warnings and avoid closed roads.
- Residents and those providing essential services can still travel between the island and the mainland.

- Two bushfire community warnings are in place that advise people at KBRV to **Prepare to Leave** and people elsewhere on the island to **Stay Informed** of the situation in case conditions deteriorate.
- Smoke from the fire is affecting the island and mainland. Anyone affected should to close windows and doors, keep their medication close by and drive to the conditions.

Background

- QFES is working closely with QPWS and the Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation to combat the bushfire on K'gari (pronounced "gari") (Fraser Island).
- It is important to recognise that QFES does not own or manage the land where fuel is located but does work very closely with land managers in a partnership to manage fuel loads and provide support.
- Land managers include the Department of Environment and Science (DES) – especially the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) – local governments, Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy (DNRME), utilities such as South East Queensland Water, and private companies.
- The bushfire started on 14 October 2020.
- Kingfisher Bay Resort closed on Monday 30 November to 14 December to prioritise the safety and wellbeing of staff and guests. We support this.
- The terrain and weather influence our ability to fight the fire. This fire is partially burning in inaccessible land, which makes access difficult.
- Crews are working under trying conditions to do the best they can. As with any operational incident, QFES will review its response to this fire to determine what we can learn from it.
- Where appropriate, aircraft are using gel and saltwater to slow the advance of the fire.
- K'gari is home to a large variety of wildlife, and mainly known for its dingo population, which is protected. Other types of wildlife include snakes, birds and marine animals.
- QPWS will continue to assess the impact, including the coverage and intensity, the fire has had on animals and the environment.
- People should refer to the DES website for information about visiting the island, camping and closed areas.
- Stay up-to-date by following QFES on social media, visiting the QFES Newsroom website and tuning in to local media.
- Always report unattended fire or suspicious activity immediately to Triple Zero (000).

Date : 27/11/2020 4:45:38 PM
From : "QFES Media"
To : "QFES Media"
Subject : QFES talking points Fri 26/11
Attachment : QFES talking points - Fri 27 Nov 4pm_.docx;image001.jpg;
Good afternoon,

Please see attached talking points for the fire at K◇gari (Fraser Island). These are current as at 4pm, Friday 27 November 2020.

Kind regards,

Media Unit
Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES)
T. 07 3635 3310 E. media@qfes.qld.gov.au



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All reasonable precautions will be taken to respect the privacy of individuals in accordance with the Information Privacy Act 2009 (Qld).

Key points

- Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) crews and Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) rangers are continuing firefighting operations on K'gari (Fraser Island).
- QFES has assessed the situation in conjunction with QPWS and decided to restrict access to the island after 5pm, Friday 27 November. This is due to erratic and difficult conditions expected in coming days.
- Residents and those providing essential services will still be able to travel between the island and the mainland, however travel to and from the island will be stopped from 5pm today, Friday 27 November.
- This is not an evacuation of the island and anyone who is currently on the island is able to stay but we are asking everyone to pay attention to current warnings as the situation could deteriorate.
- Residents, campers and visitors already on the island should also limit their movements to within close proximity of where they are staying and avoid travelling on the inland tracks and roads where possible.
- All tours on K'gari / Fraser Island are cancelled until further notice.
- The bushfire started on 14 October 2020 and QFES crews and QPWS rangers have been fighting the fire since this time.
- The fire has burnt approximately 74,000 hectares and is moving in a southerly direction.
- This fire is believed to have been caused by an illegal campfire south of Ngkala Rocks. Investigations are ongoing.
- Significant resources are being used to support ongoing firefighting operations, including heavy machinery and water bombing aircraft.
- QFES' Large Air Tanker (LAT) has been used to assist ground crews so far and may be used in future operations to strengthen containment lines and slow the progress of the blaze.
- A bushfire community warning is in place, currently sitting at an ADVICE level where people are being asked to **Stay Informed** of the situation.
- Residents, campers and visitors already on K'gari should stay up-to-date with the latest bushfire community warnings by monitoring the QFES Newsroom website, QFES and QPWS social media channels and tuning into local media.
- Many camping areas and roads are already temporarily closed.

- To ensure public safety, people may be requested to leave further camping areas or day sites at short notice due to the current bushfire situation.
- Information on those closures and the overall situation is being provided online at the Park Alerts website – www.des.qld.gov.au or on Twitter at @QldParkAlerts
- Bookings from tomorrow and onwards will be cancelled until further notice, and campers will be notified with refunds provided.
- If you have a camping and associated vehicle access permit booked to visit K'gari and are not able to access the island, you will receive a refund.
- Permit holders are also able to manage their booking any time via www.qld.gov.au/camping.
- Smoke is affecting K'gari and is visible from numerous areas on the mainland. Anyone affected is advised to close windows and doors, keep respiratory medication close by and drive to the conditions.
- Community meetings will continue to ensure residents and tourists remain informed as details come to hand.

Weather conditions –

- We are expecting High to Very High fire conditions to affect the region over the coming days.
- These conditions may be challenging for both agencies firefighters, however we are prepared.
- Trained and skilled firefighters will continue to respond and additional resources are on standby, including waterbombing aircraft.
- Expected wind changes may affect firefighting operations, however we are prioritising operations based on this information.

Safety

- It's important everyone remains vigilant and follows the advice of QFES and QPWS authorities.
- Stay up-to-date by following QFES on social media, visiting the QFES Newsroom website and tuning in to local media.
- The Park Alerts website and Twitter are providing updates on closures – www.parks.qld.gov.au/park-alerts/ and @QldParkAlerts

- Residents and visitors to K'gari should have a plan ready should the situation change.
- Always report unattended fire or suspicious activity immediately to Triple Zero (000).

ISSUES (if asked)

- Where can people find information about closures –
 - *For questions about visiting the island, camping and closed areas, please refer to the Park Alerts website and Twitter – www.parks.qld.gov.au/park-alerts/ and @QldParkAlerts*
- There are serious concerns for the Indigenous sites on K'gari, as well as the native flora and fauna. How extensive is the damage on the island, in terms of land burnt and wildlife affected –
 - *The Department of Environment and Science is continually assessing the environmental impacts of the fire. Any questions relating to these impacts will need to be referred to DES.*
 - *DES and QFES will continue to manage this fire collaboratively.*
- What are you dropping on the island – water, retardant?
 - *Water bombing aircraft, including the LAT, have dropped gel and salt water.*

Date : 28/11/2020 6:02:41 AM

From : "QFES Media"

Subject : QFES talking points Sat 28/11

Attachment : QFES talking points - Sat 28 Nov 6am.docx;image001.jpg;

Good morning,

Please see attached talking points for the fire at K◇gari (Fraser Island). These are current as at 6am, Saturday 28 November 2020.

Kind regards,

Media Unit

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES)

T. 07 3635 3310 E. media@qfes.qld.gov.au



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All reasonable precautions will be taken to respect the privacy of individuals in accordance with the Information Privacy Act 2009 (Qld).

Key points

- Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) crews and Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) rangers are continuing firefighting operations on K'gari (Fraser Island).
- Additional Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) and Rural Fire Service (RFS) resources and crews have been pre-deployed to the Kingfisher Resort and Happy Valley precincts to assist occupants in preparing their properties.
- Additional resourcing will be allocated to the incident as the fire moves closer to these areas.
- Significant resources are being used to support ongoing firefighting operations, including heavy machinery and water bombing aircraft.
- QFES has assessed the situation in conjunction with QPWS and decided to restrict access to the island after 5pm, Friday 27 November. This was due to erratic and difficult conditions expected in coming days.
- Residents and those providing essential services can still travel between the island and the mainland, however travel for **visitors** to the island was stopped 5pm Friday 27 November.
- These restrictions **do not** signal an evacuation of the island and anyone who is currently on the island is able to stay but we are asking everyone to pay attention to current warnings as the situation could deteriorate.
- Residents, campers and visitors already on the island should also limit their movements to within close proximity of where they are staying and avoid travelling on the inland tracks and roads where possible.
- All tour operations on K'gari / Fraser Island are cancelled until further notice.
- The bushfire started on 14 October 2020 and QFES crews and QPWS rangers have been fighting the fire since this time.
- The fire has burnt approximately 74,000 hectares and is moving in a southerly direction.
- QFES' Large Air Tanker (LAT) has been used to assist ground crews so far and may be used in future operations to strengthen containment lines and slow the progress of the blaze.
- A bushfire community warning is in place, currently sitting at an ADVICE level where people are being asked to **Stay Informed** of the situation.

- Residents, campers and visitors already on K'gari should stay up-to-date with the latest bushfire community warnings by monitoring the QFES Newsroom website, QFES and QPWS social media channels and tuning into local media.
- Many camping areas and roads are already temporarily closed.
- To ensure public safety, people may be requested to leave further camping areas or day sites at short notice due to the current bushfire situation.
- Information on those closures are being provided online at the Park Alerts website – www.des.qld.gov.au or on Twitter at @QldParkAlerts
- Bookings from tomorrow and onwards will be cancelled until further notice, and campers will be notified with refunds provided.
- If you have a camping and associated vehicle access permit booked to visit K'gari and are not able to access the island, you will receive a refund.
- Permit holders are also able to manage their booking any time via www.qld.gov.au/camping.
- Smoke is affecting K'gari and is visible from numerous areas on the mainland. Anyone affected is advised to close windows and doors, keep respiratory medication close by and drive to the conditions.
- Community meetings will continue to ensure residents and tourists remain informed as details come to hand.
- K'gari is home to a large variety of wildlife, and mainly known for its Dingo population, which is protected. Other types of wildlife include snakes, crocodiles, cassowaries, birds and marine animals.

Safety

- It's important everyone remains vigilant and follows the advice of QFES and QPWS authorities.
- Stay up-to-date by following QFES on social media, visiting the QFES Newsroom website and tuning in to local media.
- The Park Alerts website and Twitter are providing updates on closures – www.parks.qld.gov.au/park-alerts/ and @QldParkAlerts
- Residents and visitors to K'gari should have a plan ready should the situation change.
- Always report unattended fire or suspicious activity immediately to Triple Zero (000).

Weather conditions

- We are expecting High to Very High fire conditions to affect the region over the coming days.
- These conditions may be challenging for both agencies firefighters, however we are prepared.
- Trained and skilled firefighters will continue to respond and additional resources are on standby, including waterbombing aircraft.
- Expected wind changes this afternoon/this morning may affect firefighting operations this morning/this afternoon, however we are prioritising operations based on this information.

ISSUES (if asked)

- Where can people find information about closures –
 - *For questions about visiting the island, camping and closed areas, please refer to the Park Alerts website and Twitter – www.parks.qld.gov.au/park-alerts/ and @QldParkAlerts*
- There are serious concerns for the Indigenous sites on K'gari, as well as the native flora and fauna. How extensive is the damage on the island, in terms of land burnt and wildlife affected –
 - *The Department of Environment and Science is continually assessing the environmental impacts of the fire. Any questions relating to these impacts will need to be referred to DES.*
 - *DES and QFES will continue to manage this fire collaboratively.*
- What are you dropping on the island – water, retardant?
 - *Water bombing aircraft, including the LAT, have dropped gel and saltwater.*

Date : 29/11/2020 6:01:03 AM

From : "QFES Media"

Subject : QFES talking points Sun 29/11

Attachment : QFES talking points - Sun 29 Nov 6am.docx;MEDIA ALERT: Update on the K'gari (Fraser Island) bushfire;image001.jpg;

Good morning,

Please see attached talking points for the fire at K'gari (Fraser Island). These are current as at 6am, Sunday 29 November 2020.

The QFES Commissioner will be providing a media update at the Rainbow Beach Incident Control Centre at 11.30am today. The media alert is attached.

Regards,

Media Unit

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES)

T. 07 3635 3310 E. media@qfes.qld.gov.au



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All reasonable precautions will be taken to respect the privacy of individuals in accordance with the Information Privacy Act 2009 (Qld).

Key points

- Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) crews and Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) rangers are continuing firefighting operations on K'gari (Fraser Island).
- Additional Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) and Rural Fire Service (RFS) resources crews have been pre-deployed to the Kingfisher Resort and Happy Valley precincts to assist occupants in preparing their properties.
- Additional resourcing from across the state is being utilised and will be allocated to the incident as the fire moves closer to these areas.
- Significant resources are being used to support ongoing firefighting operations, including heavy machinery and water bombing aircraft.
- QFES has assessed the situation in conjunction with QPWS and decided to restrict visitor access to the island. This is due to the erratic nature of the fire and unpredictable conditions expected in the coming days.
- Residents and those providing essential services can still travel between the island and the mainland, however travel for **visitors** to the island was stopped at 5pm Friday 27 November 2020.
- Restrictions remain in place until further notice, with heightened fire conditions expected to continue.
- These restrictions **do not** signal an evacuation of the island and anyone who is currently on the island is able to stay but we are asking everyone to pay attention to current warnings as the situation could deteriorate.
- QPWS have developed a staged road closure plan for the island based off expected conditions with further track closures expected.
- Residents, campers and visitors already on the island should also limit their movements to within close proximity of where they are staying and avoid travelling on the inland tracks and roads where possible.
- All tour operations on K'gari / Fraser Island are cancelled until further notice.
- The bushfire started on 14 October 2020 and QFES crews and QPWS rangers have been fighting the fire since this time.
- The fire has burnt approximately **74,000** hectares, after starting in the north of the island and is moving in a southerly direction.

- QFES and QPWS crews have been working with the traditional owners of the land, the Butchulla people, to minimise the environmental and cultural impacts of firefighting operations.
- K'gari is home to a large variety of wildlife, and mainly known for its Dingo population, which is protected. Other types of wildlife include snakes, crocodiles, cassowaries, birds and marine animals.
- QPWS will assess the impact the fire has on animals and the environment, while the main priority is to contain the blaze and protect life and property.
- QFES' Large Air Tanker (LAT) has been used to assist ground crews so far and may be used in future operations to strengthen containment lines and slow the progress of the blaze.
- A bushfire community warning is in place, currently sitting at an ADVICE level where people are being asked to **Stay Informed** of the situation.
- Residents, campers and visitors already on K'gari should stay up-to-date with the latest bushfire community warnings by monitoring the QFES Newsroom website, QFES and QPWS social media channels and tuning into local media.
- Many camping areas and roads are already temporarily closed.
- To ensure public safety, people may be requested to leave further camping areas or day sites at short notice due to the current bushfire situation.
- Information on those closures are being provided online at the Park Alerts website – www.des.qld.gov.au or on Twitter at @QldParkAlerts
- Camp site bookings will be cancelled until further notice, and campers will be notified with refunds provided.
- If you have a camping and associated vehicle access permit booked to visit K'gari and are not able to access the island, you will receive a refund.
- Permit holders are also able to manage their booking any time via www.qld.gov.au/camping.
- Smoke is affecting K'gari and is visible from numerous areas on the mainland. Anyone affected is advised to close windows and doors, keep respiratory medication close by and drive to the conditions.
- A Community meeting was held at Happy Valley on Saturday 28 November to update residents and tourists on the current situation. Meetings will continue as details come to hand.

Safety

- It's important everyone remains vigilant and follows the advice of QFES and QPWS authorities.
- Stay up-to-date by following QFES on social media, visiting the QFES Newsroom website and tuning in to local media.
- The Park Alerts website and Twitter are providing updates on closures – www.parks.qld.gov.au/park-alerts/ and @QldParkAlerts
- Residents and visitors to K'gari should have a plan ready should the situation change.
- Always report unattended fire or suspicious activity immediately to Triple Zero (000).

Weather conditions

- We are expecting **High to Very High** fire conditions to affect the region over the coming days.
- These conditions may be challenging for both agencies firefighters, however we are prepared.
- Trained and skilled firefighters will continue to respond and additional resources are on standby, including waterbombing aircraft.
- Expected wind changes **this afternoon/this morning** may affect firefighting operations **this morning/this afternoon**, however we are prioritising operations based on this information.

ISSUES (if asked)

- *Are accommodation providers taking new bookings from Wednesday?*
 - *Restrictions will remain in place until further notice with heightened fire conditions expected to continue into next week.*
- Where can people find information about closures –
 - *For questions about visiting the island, camping and closed areas, please refer to the Park Alerts website and Twitter – www.parks.qld.gov.au/park-alerts/ and @QldParkAlerts*
- There are serious concerns for the Indigenous sites on K'gari, as well as the native flora and fauna. How extensive is the damage on the island, in terms of land burnt and wildlife affected –
 - *The Department of Environment and Science is continually assessing the environmental impacts of the fire. Any questions relating to these impacts will need to be referred to DES.*

- *DES and QFES will continue to manage this fire collaboratively.*
- What are you dropping on the island – water, retardant?
 - *Water bombing aircraft, including the LAT, have dropped gel and saltwater.*

Published on DES Disclosure Log
RTI Act 2009

Date : 29/11/2020 5:47:54 AM
From : "Newsroom (PSBA)"
To : "QFES Media"
Subject : MEDIA ALERT: Update on the K'gari (Fraser Island) bushfire

Please DO NOT REPLY to this email. For urgent media inquiries phone +617 3635 3310 (24/7) or email media@qfes.qld.gov.au for a response in business hours.



North Coast

MEDIA ALERT: Update on the K'gari (Fraser Island) bushfire

29th November 2020 5:40 AM

The QFES Commissioner will be visiting the Rainbow Beach Incident Control Centre today, and will provide media an update on the K'gari (Fraser Island) bushfire and current operations.

When: 11.30am, Sunday 29 November

Where: Rainbow Beach Community Centre and Hall, 32 Rainbow Beach Road.

Who: Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) Commissioner Greg Leach, Incident Controller Superintendent James Haig (RFS) and Senior Ranger Scott Brook (QPWS).

For more information, contact QFES Media on (07) 3635 3310.

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Date : 13/12/2020 12:29:34 PM

From : "CONNOR Nathan"

To : "BUCKLEY Andrew" , "CAMBOURN Neil"

Cc : "KLAASSEN Ben" , "WATSON Matthew" , "DAVIDSON Brent" , "HARRIS Leigh"

Subject : QFES to QPWS transfer of control_Duling Bushfire_20201213_1200hrs

Attachment : 201213 Signed Transition.pdf;IF-00-17-00-SMEACS-Fraser Island_20201213.docx;QPWS K'gari Re Opening_FINAL_20201213.docx;

Hi Buck,

Please note that QPWS has now accepted control of the Duling (K'Gari) incident from QFES. Please see attached documentation including;

- QFES/QPWS signed transition of control document as endorsed by QPWS yesterday via email.
- Updated SMEAC form indicating changeover arrangement through to COB today.
- QPWS approved reopening plan.

Please note that as Incident Controller I can confirm I am happy to proceed with the approved QPWS K'Gari reopening plan as approved.

I will be in touch this afternoon with revised QPWS tactical documentation for tomorrow onward.

Any questions please call.

Nathan

Incident Controller

Nathan Connor

Principal Conservation Officer – Fire Management

Technical Services

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service

Department of Environment and Science

M Personal

K'gari (Fraser Island) Bushfire Incident Transition from QFES to QPWS incident Management on (Date).

This Fire has an extended history. It is now in a safe situation and its expected future management is **as a level one incident** as per the provisions of the Queensland Bushfire Plan based on current fire situation and future expected conditions and management requirements. The reasons for this status are as follows.

Containment: The fire is considered contained for the purposes of this transfer from QFES to QPWS on the following basis:

The bushfire has a complete control line creating a blacked-out perimeter containing the bushfire to prevent any further reasonable spread of fire. This control line consists of:

- 1) Hard containment lines (tracks Roads and other navigable surfaces) where fire has actively been suppressed and blacked out to suppress any flame.
- 2) Non-flammable and fire-resistant barriers (e.g. beach and ocean)
- 3) Burnt edge containment where the fire has been repeatedly and extensively actively suppressed, particularly from the air with extensive water bombing of any detected hot spots (smoking stumps, visible flame and any other identified risks of breaching the burnt area)
- 4) This containment strategy has been effective such that there has been no significant fire activity or spread of the fire for a period of over 72 hours, no fire activity has been observed by aircraft observation flights for this same period and no fire activity has been detected through the CSIRO Sentinel hotspots satellite fire tracking system for a period of over 72 hours as at 10:37 on 12/12/2020 with the exception of the small area mentioned in 5 below.
- 5) A small area of fire activity has burnt in the very far north area of the island near Sandy Cape however this is effectively contained by sea and burnt ground and very low intensity fire activity only was observed on 11/12/2020 by aircraft observers and the most recent Sentinel hotspots were over 40 hours old as at 10:37 on 12/12/2020.

Safe: The fire is considered safe to transition back to QPWS on the following basis:

- 1) The fire has had little or no forward spread for a period of over 72 hours with the exception of a small area burning out to the ocean beach at Sandy Cape with no potential for further spread once it reaches the beach (note low intensity fire activity only was observed on 11/12/2020 by aircraft observers and the most recent Sentinel hotspot detections were over 40 hours old as at 10:37 on 12/12/2020).
- 2) The fire has been contained as per the above.
- 3) The fire has been extensively patrolled by both vehicle where accessible and by aircraft where not with potential hot spots actively suppressed.
- 4) QFES has conducted risk assessments in the areas where fire approached the communities of Happy Valley and the smaller asset areas to its south (The Oakes, Yidney Rocks).
- 5) The fire has been subject to rainfall and humid conditions which have further suppressed fire activity within the contained fire area in the last 24 hours.
- 6) The current forecast conditions at the time of handover include further widespread significant rain in excess of 40mm in coming days.
- 7) The predicted fire danger over the fire ground as assessed by FBAN for the 7 days from 12/12/2020 is forecast as low/moderate (independent of future rain).

- 8) For the above reasons the fire poses at date and time of transfer a very low to nil risk of impacting on any communities or infrastructure.

Expected future management requirements:

Management of this fire will now require a vigilant patrolling regime however active suppression is likely to be very limited given the likely . As such the future management of this fire is considered to be a level one incident.

Whilst QFES is transitioning control of this fire to QPWS it will continue to provide active support as a partner. This will include but not be limited to:

- 1) QFES NCR will provide a dedicated Liaison Officer in the QPWS Coordination Centre for up to 7 Days after transfer of bushfire.
- 2) QFES will provide QPWS access to its Fire Behaviour Analyst (FBAN) capability as a priority upon request from QPWS for up to 7 Days after transfer of bushfire and thereafter consistent with other emergent demands on this capability on an assessed priority basis through the FBAN on call process.
- 3) QFES will base 2 suitable aircraft at a suitable location for up to 7 days from transfer control of the bushfire to support mapping, identification of emergent hotspots, and provide air operations support to QPWS should a flare-up of the bushfire occur on Fraser Island
- 4) The local Rural Fire Brigades based on Fraser Island will also be available to support bushfire fighting operations should they be required.
- 5) QFES will provide access to any of its mapping and other data relevant to the management of this fire upon request by QPWS.
- 6) QFES will continue to positively consider any further requests from QPWS for capabilities which QFES holds which QPWS does not.

Reopening and Recovery

The reopening of the island and its recovery will be managed by QPWS. QFES will not undertake risk assessments or reopening and rehabilitation work on QPWS owned or managed lands.

Personal information

Matthew Inwood
Outgoing QFES Incident Controller
12:00 13/12/2020

Personal information - signature/initials

AC Steve Barber
QFES Commander Regional Operations
12:00 13/12/2020

Personal information - signature

Nathan Connor
Incoming QPWS Incident Controller
12:00 13/12/2020

IF 00.17.00



SMEACS BRIEFING

Incident: QF4-20-116117

Operational
Period

From: 0800

Location: K'Gari (Fraser Island)

To: 1800

Prepared By: Michael Koch

Date Prepared: 13/12/2020

PLANNING

Position: Deputy Incident Controller

Time Prepared: 1000 13/12/20

Situation

Current situation

- The fire started on 14 October 2020 north of Orchid Beach township in the northern section of K'Gari
- The fire was allegedly started from an illegal campfire that had been improperly extinguished
- The fire area is currently 85,342 Ha (approximately 50% of K'Gari)
- The fire has been managed cooperatively by QPWS and QFES with support from the Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation (BAC), QPS and QAS
- Control of the fire was transferred to QFES on 27 November 2020 with support from QPWS and partners.
- Resources to date
 - 264 personnel (OMS data)
 - 143 appliances dispatched through FireCom
 - 28 aircraft have dropped a total of 11, 254,200 litres (fresh & sea water & gel)
- As at 12 December 2020 the risks associated with the fire have reduced significantly due to the onset of the wet weather associated with a deep low-pressure system impacting SE Qld.
- The fire behavior has continued to be mild with all hot spots detected being within the burnt area.
- No fire spread has been observed from the fire beyond the burnt edge for over the last 24 hrs.

Weather outlook

- Heavy rainfall, damaging winds, abnormally high tides and dangerous surf conditions are forecast to develop around southeast Queensland during Sunday and will continue into Monday – a Severe Weather Warning is current.
- Flash flooding will be an increased risk around southeast Queensland in the coming days, particularly if any heavy rain happens to occur about the high tide of any tidally influenced creeks or streams.
- Large waves are expected to develop about the southeast Queensland coast from Sunday and in combination with the abnormally high tides may lead to significant coastal erosion/beach scour.
- A Flood Watch is current for coastal and adjacent inland catchments between Fraser Island and the Qld/NSW border.
- Some locations in southeast Queensland may experience impacts equivalent to a category 1 tropical cyclone or an East Coast Low over the coming days.

Mission

Define incident control objectives

- To handover to QPWS a contained Level 1 bushfire burning on Fraser Island since 14 October 2020
- Continue to suppress any hot spots and ensure blackout to 30 – 50 meters around control lines.
- Ensure the fire remains within current containment lines
- Ensure safety of all personnel and public.

Execution

How control of incident will be achieved. Tactics that will be implemented

If it is safe to do so

- Ground crews continue to patrol all accessible containment lines and blackout as required to a minimum depth of 30 mts.
- Mapping/aerial reconnaissance will continue identifying hotspots using both visual and FLIR detection.
- Air operations will continue to support ground crews as required
- Available crews (as at 0700 13/12/2020)

- Six F&R appliances + one operational support vehicle + one command vehicle based at Kingfisher Bay Resort
- Eight RFS appliances based at Kingfisher Bay, Eurong, Happy Valley and Orchid Beach RFB stations
- Four QPWS appliances
- Three contracted aircraft available (FB432, HT401, HT230)

WESTERN DIVISION

- Lighthouse Sector
 - Minor active fire observed 12/12/2020 in the northern most section
 - This fire is inaccessible and is not posing any threat
 - The fire will burn itself out bounded by the beach/ocean and burnt ground
 - Asset protection burning was carried out around the Sandy Cape Light House on 28/10/2020
- Bogimbah Sector
 - Active fire observed 12/12/2020 north of Kingfisher Bay Resort– the fire was deemed to pose no threat as it was within the burnt area.
 - Patrolling and blacking out to 30 mts along Bogimbah Road (links to Cornwells Road in the Eastern Division)
- Kingfisher Bay Resort Sector
 - Sector not impacted by fire
 - Resort well prepared for potential fire impact
 - Demobilization of all QFES appliances Monday morning 14/12/2020
- McKenzie Sector
 - PAWS Unit dismantled and removed from Wangoolba Creek - Pailba Airstrip
 - Fire did not impact this sector
 - QPWS undertook preparation works around infrastructure

EASTERN DIVISION

- Orchid Beach Sector
 - No fire activity has been observed for more than 14 days
 - Orchid Beach RFB maintaining a watching brief in the vicinity of Orchid Beach township
 - QPWS are patrolling beach area to the south
- Cathedrals Sector – no fire activity observed 12/12/2020
 - 11/12/2020 - Fire activity observed south of K’Gari camping area and water bombed by air operations. The active fire was within containment lines
 - Currently patrolled by QPWS
 - Fire did not impact structures @ Cathedrals on Fraser or K’Gari camping areas
- Happy Valley Sector (includes Happy Valley Township, Yidney Rocks, The Oaks & Poyungan Valley)
 - 12/12/20 no active fire reported in the last 24 hours
 - Currently patrolled by Happy Valley RFB
 - Risk assessments undertaken show no residual threat to structures within the Happy Valley, Yidney Rocks, The Oaks & Poyungan Valley.
- Yidney Sector
 - 12/12/2020 – Two hot spots identified well within the burnt area in inaccessible country
 - Currently patrolled by QPWS crews
 - Patrolling and blacking out to 30 mts along Cornwells Road (links to Bogimbah Road in the Western Division)
- Valley of the Giants Sector
 - No fire detected since 10/12/2020
 - Area currently inaccessible due to burnt bridge
- Eurong Sector
 - Fire did not impact this sector
 - Eurong township used as accommodation hub and Div Com out of the QPWS office

	<p>Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation (BAC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Involved in providing advice/assessments during the operational phase Involved in approvals processes for extracting water from lakes on the island On site assessments included reopening/widening fire lines/mulching/vegetation work/preparation work in cultural way Undertaken assessments of some key cultural sites Significant cultural inform Concentrating efforts/assessments on recovery phase – use of water additives/track work/vegetation assessments IMT representation throughout the incident 	
<p>Administration</p> <p>Logistical arrangements</p>	<p>Pre Handover</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maryborough ICC will maintain full logistical arrangements until the formal handover to QPWS at 1200hrs Sunday 13th December 2020 <p>Post Handover</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> QPWS will establish an ICC at their Maryborough office, from 0800hrs Monday 14th December 2020 QFES will embed a liaison officer within the QPWS IMT structure 	
<p>Command and Communications</p> <p>Command structure and reporting system. Maintenance of communication.</p>	<p>Division Command - Kingfisher Bay</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adrian Massingham Personal infor <p>Division Command – Happy Valley</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Michael Koch Personal infor <p>See attached Structure chart.</p> <p>Radio Communications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> VHF 18 VHF 413 & 411 (QPWS repeaters) 	
<p>Safety</p> <p>Safety issues.</p>	<p>Refer to attachment below</p>	
Time of Briefing:	Briefing to:	Person's Names:
	Unit	
	Division	
	Sector	

S SITUATION	M MISSION	E EXECUTION	A ADMINISTRATION	C COMMUNICATIONS	S SAFETY
IF 00.07.00	<h1 style="text-align: center;">INCIDENT SAFETY PLAN</h1>				
					
	INCIDENT: QF4-20-116117			OPERATIONAL PERIOD 13.12.2020	From: 0800 To: 1800
SAFETY ADVISOR	LOCATION: Fraser Island				
OPERATIONAL RISKS TO PERSONNEL			CONTROL MEASURES AND STRATEGIES		
Fatigue			Ensure Regular Fatigue Breaks Occur, Schedule for all personnel		
Dehydration			Ensure adequate Supply of water and Food, regular crew welfare check		
Risk of appliances and ERVs getting stuck/stranded on sand tracks			Only suitable 4wd Appliances and experienced drivers to access sand trails and tracks. Recovery equipment for vehicles to be sourced. Maps to be given to crews.		
Manage Injuries			Additional Paramedic deployed to Fraser Island to provide Medical Capability for QFES Crews		
Forced Evacuation from Island			All crews given debriefs and LAP for safe access to exit points from Fraser Island		
Appliance breakdowns and maintenance issues.			NCR Regional Mechanic on standby		
Falling trees and tree limbs (LOOK UP WHEN EXITING VEHICLE)			When blacking out be mindful that trees and tree limbs may fall and become a potential hazard. Crews need to be aware and vigilant around trees, avoiding undue risk where possible and identify suspect trees and mark		
Heat related illnesses			Monitor crew rotations, fatigue, rehydration and food intake. Responsible use of electrolyte replacement drinks (1 to 6 waters)		
Entrapment			Maintain situational awareness of conditions and escape routes. Maintain lookouts' hazards, slips, trips and falls and conducting dynamic risk assessments		
Visibility			Lighting to be used where possible for any nighttime operations		
Aerial operations			Remain outside the drop zone and respond to pilots if requested		
Kingfisher Bay Resort Evacuation			Refer to Kingfisher Bay Resort Evacuation Plan, to be distributed to Division Commanders		
Sand Dune slips			Crews to be aware of possible landslides where fire has consumed vegetation on sand dunes		
Washouts & Tide Times			Maintain awareness when driving along beach be mindful of washouts. Movements will take longer at high tide 12.12.2020 @ 0559hrs 1.49m		
Reptiles and Wildlife			Crews to be vigilant with reptiles and wildlife.		
GWN Radios			All vehicles to utilize normal radio procedures, via UHF or VHF, as per SMEACS briefing.		
Gates			All crews to ensure gates are closed – specifically the dingo fencing.		

Solar Power	Properties may not be able to be isolated from solar panels and there may be a residual electrical safety risk		
COVID 19	All Crews to follow COVID safe procedures where possible, social distancing, avoid physical contact etc.		
Drones	All personnel to be aware of any drones operating in areas and to report to a Division Commander.		
Storm Surge	All personnel to be aware of incoming storm surges and remain aware of strong winds and lightning strikes.		
CRITICAL ISSUES (COMMUNITY WARNINGS, SAFETY ALERTS):			
PREPARED BY: Adrian Skete		APPROVED BY: Matthew Inwood	
POSITION: Operations Officer		POSITION: Incident Controller	
TIME: 1742	DATE: 12/12/2020	TIME: 0800	DATE: 13/12/2020

IF 00.08.00 	INCIDENT ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE CHART	PREPARED FOR OPERATIONAL PERIOD	FROM 13/12/2020 TO 13/12/2020
INCIDENT NAME: QF4-20-116117 FRASER ISLAND (K'Gari)		PREPARED BY	APPROVED BY Matt Inwood
ICC NAME: Maryborough ICC Location: Howard		POSITION	POSITION Incident Controller

DEPUTY IC *RFS Michael Koch Personal Inform	INCIDENT CONTROLLER RFS Matt Inwood Personal Inform	DEPUTY IC QPWS Nathan Connor Personal Inform	BAC Coordinator *Chantel Van Wamelen Personal Inform
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LOGISTICS OFFICER *SES Col Hjortshoj Personal Inform	PLANNING FRS Graham Wells Personal Inform	IC ADMIN/SUPPORT QFES Dee Grace Personal Inform	OPERATIONS OFFICER FRS Bernie Massingham Personal Inform	KINGFISHER SECTOR *FRS Adrian Massingham Personal Inform (pm)	
Logistics Support RFS Les Parker Personal Inform	PLANNING QPWS *QPWS Tom Beukers Personal Inform		OPERATIONS QPWS QPWS Dan Witten Personal Inform		
LOGISTICS QPWS *QPWS Alicia Powley Personal Inform	FIRE BEHAVIOR ANALYST 		OPERATIONS ADMIN 		
LOGISTICS ADMIN *SES Sandra Brown Personal Inform	STATE FBAN (07) 3635 1808		AIR OPERATIONS LIASON 		

NOTE Operations/Logistics/Planning units report to relevant deputy IC as displayed however cross agency cooperation as a united IMT units. "*" Next to name indicates from NCR	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="background-color: #ff0000; color: white;"> WESTERN DIVCOM QPWS Scott Buttsworth Personal Inform </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #ff0000; color: white;"> EASTERN DIVCOM QPWS James Kuske 07 4127 9128 </td> </tr> </table>	WESTERN DIVCOM QPWS Scott Buttsworth Personal Inform	EASTERN DIVCOM QPWS James Kuske 07 4127 9128
WESTERN DIVCOM QPWS Scott Buttsworth Personal Inform			
EASTERN DIVCOM QPWS James Kuske 07 4127 9128			

Recovery Cell * QPS Nicole Kunkel Personal Inform * *Fraser Coast Council Brendan Guy Personal Inform Disaster Planning Coordinator

QPWS+P K'gari Staged Re-opening Plan

(As of 11th December 2020)

QPWS is proposing a staged reopening of resident and visitor use of K'gari (Fraser Island).

The process will be informed via both fire and hotspot monitoring and also a risk assessment process.

The staged process will allow QPWS and BAC officers to continue the rapid assessment process of cultural, infrastructure, ecological and wildlife impact to occur while opening areas where it is safe to do so.

Stage 1. Townships and Eastern Beach

- Eastern beach and access tracks (middle rocks road, eastern beach inland road) to townships to reopen to vehicle traffic to allow for all townships and private rental accommodation to open.
- Eastern beach visitor destinations open – Champagne Pools, Maheno, mouth of Eli Creek and Lake Wabby.
- QPWS resumes IC role within IMT.

Rationale:

- No hot spots or active fire fronts threaten townships.
- Site assessments to be completed by Saturday 12/12/2020.
- Prevailing weather conditions mean residual smoke is not affecting eastern beach communities or beach traffic.
- Weather forecasts favour a further easing of fire risk (e.g. forecast rain and continuing south east winds).
- QPWS resumes IC role within IMT as QFRS identifies no further risk to life or property.

Timing: Sunday 13/12/2020

Public message:

- Vehicle access to K'gari's eastern beach will reopen from Sunday 13/12/2020.
- Residents and holiday makers will be able to access private accommodation.
- Access along many of the island's inland tracks and to popular visitor destinations remain closed due to safety concerns.
- Some QPWS camping capacity will be available for bookings/rebookings from the 15/12/2020.
- Visitors should regularly check the DES website and follow the direction of rangers and on-site signage.
- Poor weather (wet and windy) is forecast for the weekend.

Stage 2. Camping partial camping reopen

QPWS beach camping zones and QPWS camping grounds unaffected by fire will reopen for use and bookings, including;

- Beach Camping Zones south of Cornwells break road.
- Waddy Point beachfront camping.
- Waddy Point campground.

Timing: Tuesday 15/12/2020

Public message:

- QPWS camping capacity has been reopened for bookings/rebookings in the following areas from 15/12/2020:
 - Eastern Beach Camping Zones south of Cornwells break road.
 - Waddy Point beachfront camping.
 - Waddy Point campground.
- Visitors should regularly check the DES website and follow the direction of rangers and signage.

Stage 3. Additional campgrounds reopen and access to Iconic Visitor Destinations reinstated.

➤ Commercial day tours to recommence (subject to track/site safety).

➤ Popular visitor destinations open:

- Lake McKenzie
- Central Station
- Lake Boomanjin
- Lake Birrabeen
- Ocean Lake

➤ Some inland access tracks open

- Access to the island's southern lakes
- Eurong – Kingfisher Bay – Central Station – Lake McKenzie – Wanggoolba Creek

Further QPWS beach camping zones and QPWS camping grounds unaffected by fire will reopen for use and bookings, including:

- Central Station
- Dundubara campground
- Beach Camping Zones north of Cornwells break road.

Timing: Monday 21/12/2020 or earlier if assessments completed earlier.

Public Message:

- More Kgari campgrounds open to campers and visitors
- Kgari's most popular island destinations open to visitor and commercial tour operators.
- Barge access to the island's west coast commences
- Further beach camping zones and inland camping areas will open for use and bookings, including:
 - Central Station.
 - Dundubara campground.
 - Beach Camping Zones north of Cornwells break road.
- Visitors should regularly check the DES website and follow the direction of rangers and signage.

Stage 4. Opening of other Locations Affected by Fire

Other areas affected fire will remain closed for the foreseeable future as assessments are made on their condition and inspection for damage. These will be opened as they are made safe, repaired or reinstated.

This includes walking tracks and some roads throughout the centre of the island

Visitors should obey closure signs on site and monitor the parks website for up to date information.

Published on DES Disclosure Log
RTI Act 2009

Date : 1/12/2020 1:58:30 PM
From : "DAVIDSON Brent"
To : "Chantelle Rule"
Cc : "QFES Media" , "Tim Whittaker"
Subject : QPWS generic response
Attachment : image001.png;image002.png;image003.png;image004.png;
Hi Chantelle

Heads up version of our generic statement being pushed through MO at the moment. We will have another document that follows that collates all of the individual Q&As not answered in the statement but have been asked by journos.

Media statement

K'gari fire

November 30 2020

QPWS has conducted significant fire mitigation on K'gari (Fraser Island), averaging approximately 13,000 hectares for the last five years.

This is done to ensure we minimise and hopefully then prevent bushfires however all this good work can be brought undone by the actions of irresponsible visitors to the island.

A poorly extinguished and illegal campfire is the suspected cause of this devastating fire.

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

QPWS responded as soon as the fire was reported on October 14.

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.

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.

Feel free to let us know if you need any changes

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](#)

Date : 26/11/2020 12:26:38 PM
From : "DAVIDSON Brent"
To : "Chantelle Rule"
Subject : QPWS key messages
Attachment : image001.png;image002.png;image003.png;image004.png;

Hi Chantelle

Here are our current key messages.

- 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 when or if campgrounds and day sites are closed to ensure public safety.
- As part of firefighting activity, at this stage, some camping areas and roads are already temporarily closed.
- Information on those closures and the overall situation is being provided online at the Park Alerts website: www.parks.qld.gov.au/park-alerts/ or on Twitter at @QldParkAlerts.
- An Incident Management Team has been set up to manage the situation and is based at Rainbow Beach.

These are obviously subject to change and the QPWS exec don't seem to particularly like the first two.

My number is below 😊

Happy to chat whenever.



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](#)

Date : 11/12/2020 4:12:35 PM

From : "HEAD Damien"

To : "DAVIDSON Brent" , "CAMBOURN Neil" , "CUBIS Mick"

Subject : RE: 11122020 - DRAFT MR - Camping re-opening on K'gari v3

I think we just be ready. Ill advise as soon as we know more.

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

Sent: Friday, 11 December 2020 4:04 PM

To: HEAD Damien; CAMBOURN Neil; CUBIS Mick

Subject: RE: 11122020 - DRAFT MR - Camping re-opening on K'gari v3

Thanks everyone for your help. It's been a lot of work to get here!

Does anyone know when we can expect a decision to be made?

At least we have this ready for Monday and can make necessary amendments quickly.

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

Sent: Friday, 11 December 2020 3:59 PM

To: DAVIDSON Brent; CAMBOURN Neil; CUBIS Mick

Subject: 11122020 - DRAFT MR - Camping re-opening on K'gari v3

Only some minor comments

Date : 6/12/2020 2:45:21 PM

From : "BUCKLEY Andrew"

To : "KLAASSEN Ben"

Cc : "CAMBOURN Neil" , "HARRIS Leigh" , "DAVIDSON Brent" , "DARGUSCH Marc" , "OLIVER Nathan"

Subject : Re: Bushfire alert

No good hope the LAT is effective

Sent from my iPhone

> On 6 Dec 2020, at 2:41 pm, KLAASSEN Ben <Ben.Klaassen@des.qld.gov.au> wrote:

>
> Hi
>
> Mike Wassing just advised me the fire has got on a run with winds and concerns are getting higher.

> LAT is about to be deployed with retardant.

> 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

> -----Original Message-----

> From: BUCKLEY Andrew <Andrew.Buckley@des.qld.gov.au>
> Sent: Sunday, 6 December 2020 2:39 PM
> To: KLAASSEN Ben; CAMBOURN Neil; HARRIS Leigh; DAVIDSON Brent; DARGUSCH Marc
> Subject: Bushfire alert

> Ben
> Just got a heads up from Brent in media who got the intel from QFES Media that an emergency bushfire warning is going out in about 15 minutes for Happy Valley as part of the fire response. Not sure it is an escalation it may just be to reiterate current advice so I'll check with the team.

> Cheers Buck

> Sent from my iPhone

Date : 6/12/2020 2:53:38 PM
From : "OLIVER Nathan"
To : "BUCKLEY Andrew" , "KLAASSEN Ben"
Cc : "CAMBOURN Neil" , "HARRIS Leigh" , "DAVIDSON Brent" , "DARGUSCH Marc"
Subject : RE: Bushfire alert
Attachment : 201206 - 1430 Emergency Warning Low.docx;

Nathan Oliver
Principal Ranger Fire Management
South East Queensland Region I QPWS & Partnerships
Department of Environment and Science

P **Personal**
Kabool Road, West Burleigh 4220
www.des.qld.gov.au

-----Original Message-----

From: BUCKLEY Andrew <Andrew.Buckley@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Sunday, 6 December 2020 2:45 PM
To: KLAASSEN Ben
Cc: CAMBOURN Neil; HARRIS Leigh; DAVIDSON Brent; DARGUSCH Marc; OLIVER Nathan
Subject: Re: Bushfire alert

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MEDIA OUTLETS PLEASE NOTE:

QFES REQUESTS MEDIA BROADCASTING IN THE WARNING AREA TO USE THE STANDARD EMERGENCY WARNING SIGNAL (SEWS) WITH THIS MESSAGE.

LEAVE IMMEDIATELY: bushfire as at 2:30pm on Sunday 6th December 2020

Bushfire warning level: EMERGENCY WARNING

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) advises there is a bushfire approaching Happy Valley. **Leaving immediately** is the safest option, as it will soon be too dangerous to drive. Any persons in the vicinity of Happy Valley township should leave the area heading to the Eastern Beach and head south to Eurong Resort.

Follow your bushfire survival plan now. If you do not have a plan, your safest option is to **leave immediately** if it is clear to do so. If you cannot leave, **identify where you will seek shelter** from the bushfire. If you are not in the area, **do not return**, as conditions are too dangerous.

Currently as at 2:30 pm on Sunday 6th December 2020, a Large fire is travelling in a South Easterly direction towards Happy Valley township on Fraser Island. It is expected to impact Happy Valley township around 4:00pm. The fire is expected to have a significant IMPACT on the community.

Conditions are now very dangerous and firefighters may soon be unable to prevent the fire advancing. The fire may pose a threat to all lives directly in its path. Fire crews may not be able to protect your property. You **should not expect a firefighter at your door**: act now. Power, water, and mobile phone service may be lost and road conditions may become very dangerous over the next several hours.

People in the area will be affected by smoke, which will reduce visibility and air quality.

Call Triple Zero (000) immediately if you believe you are under threat.

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO:

- Listen to your local radio station or visit the Rural Fire Service (RFS) website for regular updates.
- Put on protective clothing (e.g., a long-sleeved cotton shirt, boots with thick soles).
- Drink plenty of water to stay hydrated.
- If you suffer from a respiratory condition, keep your medication close by.

If you are **leaving**:

- Secure your pets for safe transport.
- Check for road closures and then advise family and friends of your intended travel route.
- Take your important documents and essential items (e.g., passports, birth certificates, prescription medication, food and water, and protective clothing) when you leave.
- Drive with caution in low visibility conditions.

If you are **unable to leave**:

- Bring pets inside; restrain them with a leash, a cage, or inside a secure room; and provide them with plenty of water.

- Fill containers such as your bath, sinks, and buckets with water so you have access to drinking water and firefighting water.
- Close windows and doors, sealing the gaps under doors and screens with wet towels to keep smoke out of the house.
- Identify a safe spot to shelter in, which would be a place with more than one exit, preferably inside a brick building, away from windows and doors. The safest spot is the place that will keep you furthest away from the intense heat from the fire. As the fire approaches and passes, the safest spot will change, so be ready to move.

KEEP UP TO DATE BY:

- Following QFES on Facebook (@QldFireandRescueService) and Twitter (@QldFES)
- Staying tuned to your local radio station. Find your local ABC radio station at <https://radio.abc.net.au/help/offline> and your local commercial radio station at <http://www.commercialradio.com.au/find-a-station/queensland>;
- Visiting the Rural Fire Service (RFS) website at www.ruralfire.qld.gov.au/map

FURTHER INFORMATION:

- For bushfire preparation tips, visit the RFS website: www.ruralfire.qld.gov.au/BushFire_Safety
- For information about road closures, call 13 19 40 or visit www.qldtraffic.qld.gov.au

The next update will be provided by 2:45 pm or before if the situation changes.

Date : 6/12/2020 2:43:03 PM

From : "BUCKLEY Andrew"

To : "CAMBOURN Neil" , "HARRIS Leigh" , "DAVIDSON Brent" , "DARGUSCH Marc" , "OLIVER Nathan"

Subject : Re: Bushfire alert

Nathan

See below I was just checking if there has been any escalation in warnings or advice planned for Happy Valley residents ?

Cheers Buck

Sent from my iPhone

> On 6 Dec 2020, at 2:39 pm, BUCKLEY Andrew <Andrew.Buckley@des.qld.gov.au> wrote:

>

> Ben

> Just got a heads up from Brent in media who got the intel from QFES Media that an emergency bushfire warning is going out in about 15 minutes for Happy Valley as part of the fire response. Not sure it is an escalation it may just be to reiterate current advice so I'll check with the team.

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> Sent from my iPhone

Published on DES Disclosure Log
RTI Act 2009

Date : 1/12/2020 4:09:41 PM
From : "KLAASSEN Ben"
To : "DAVIDSON Brent"
Cc : "BUCKLEY Andrew" , "HEAD Damien" , "GRANT Andrea"
Subject : RE: Final for review
Attachment : image001.png;image009.png;image002.png;image003.jpg;image004.png;image012.png;
Hi Brent

Just one minor highlight in yellow to fix.

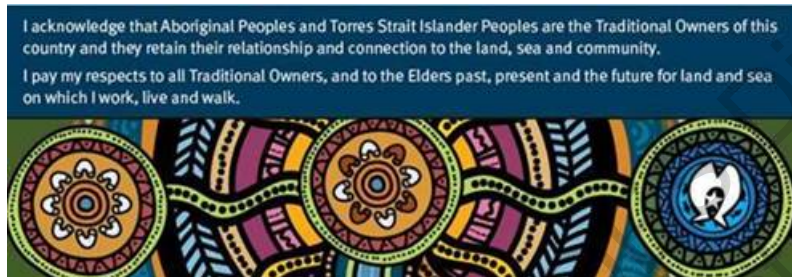
Let's not give specifics on when the burns were done in the interest of time.

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
Cc: BUCKLEY Andrew; HEAD Damien; GRANT Andrea
Subject: Final for review

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 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.

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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)

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.

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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?

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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
[Visit the Environment Media Centre](#)
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Published on DES Disclosure Log
RTI Act 2009

Date : 1/12/2020 4:23:06 PM

From : "Chantelle Rule"

To : "DAVIDSON Brent" , "Tim Whittaker"

Cc : "QFES Media"

Subject : RE: Final for review

Attachment : image002.png;image007.png;image009.png;image001.png;image003.png;image005.png;

Thanks Brent,

We are comfortable with these responses however, we would prefer to add further information to the first response to the Courier Mail. Please see our suggestion below. We can understand why QPWS may not want to include this but we feel the change in command and control structures should be highlighted in this instance to minimise confusion. We will leave the decision to include this line with you.

Courier-Mail

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

QFES has assisted QPWS from the first week of the fire outbreak. The incident management responsibilities for this fire remained with QPWS until Friday, November 27 when the threat of impact to structures and lives increased. Incident management responsibilities transferred to QFES at this time and the two agencies, along with the Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation continue to work together on the operational response.

Thanks,
Chantelle.



Chantelle Rule-Murphy

Media Supervisor

Media, Communications and Online

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services

P: 07 3635 3642 | M: Personal info | Media 24hr: 07 3635 3310

E: chantelle.rule@qfes.qld.gov.au

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

Sent: Tuesday, 1 December 2020 3:35 PM

To: Chantelle Rule <Chantelle.Rule@qfes.qld.gov.au>; Tim Whittaker <Tim.Whittaker@qfes.qld.gov.au>

Cc: QFES Media <QFES.Media@qfes.qld.gov.au>

Subject: FW: Final for review

Hi guys

Here's what's with our DDG heads up copy.

If you have any concerns, just let me know & I'll change.

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Cc: BUCKLEY Andrew; HEAD Damien; GRANT Andrea

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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 : 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

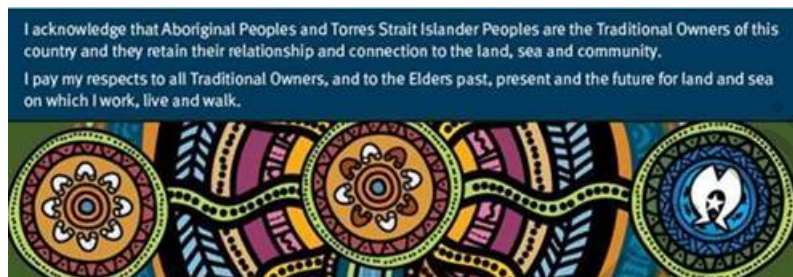
Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships

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



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

Sent: Tuesday, 1 December 2020 4:23 PM

To: KLAASSEN Ben

Cc: BUCKLEY Andrew; HEAD Damien; GRANT Andrea

Subject: RE: Final for review

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

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: DAVIDSON Brent <Brent.Davidson@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 1 December 2020 3:34 PM
To: KLAASSEN Ben
Cc: BUCKLEY Andrew; HEAD Damien; GRANT Andrea
Subject: Final for review

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 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 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 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

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