Date : 11/12/2020 8:29:20 AM
From : "BRIANT Steve"
To : "HEAD Damien" , "DAVIDSON Brent" , "STRYBOS Stacey" , "CUBIS Mick"
Cc : "BUCKLEY Andrew" , "SIEBUHR Leanne" , "LEGGATE Lauren" , "MCARTHUR Donna"
Subject : RE: FOR APPROVAL: K'gari emails to camping/VAP holders
Attachment : K'gari reopening.xlsx;image001.png;image003.png;image004.png;image005.png;image006.png;image009.png;

Good morning all

I support Damien's assessment of priority messaging noting that we should clearly identify exactly which camping areas are opening from Tuesday and also provide a clear date that other camping areas will open. If we do not do this then the OBS team and SSQ will continue to be bombarded with questions.

There are 36 camping bookings (111 people) that have permits commencing Monday and 303 camping bookings commencing next week. Ideally we need to get the messaging out as early as we can today so customers can take appropriate action. Messaging to customers who will not be impacted (their permit is in a camping area not fire impacted) will need to be different to customers who hold a permit in a camping area that will remain closed.

Campers are not able to move their booking in the system, so we will need to advise all rangers working that they should not tell customers to contact SSQ. We should just apply some leniency with which camping zones campers set up in and Rangers could run a compliance report just to identify which zones have additional capacity. Any campers that hold a valid permit should be allowed to camp in a different zone without hassle.

Cheers
Steve

From: HEAD Damien <Damien.Head@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 10 December 2020 6:32 PM
To: DAVIDSON Brent; STRYBOS Stacey; BRIANT Steve; CUBIS Mick
Cc: BUCKLEY Andrew; SIEBUHR Leanne; LEGGATE Lauren; MCARTHUR Donna
Subject: RE: FOR APPROVAL: K'gari emails to camping/VAP holders

I think we might have buried the key line.

Access to Kgari townships and accommodation house will reopen in time for the school holidays

Then reference the eastern beach reopening to vehicle track providing holiday goers access to townships and accommodation houses.

Some of the islands popular eastern beach destinations will also reopen including – Lake Wabby, Eli Creek, Maheno and Champagne Pools.

Campers will be able to return to the island on Tuesday 15 December 2020 with camping zones south of Cornwells break road reopening.

From: DAVIDSON Brent <Brent.Davidson@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 10 December 2020 3:29 PM
To: STRYBOS Stacey; HEAD Damien; BRIANT Steve; CUBIS Mick
Cc: BUCKLEY Andrew; SIEBUHR Leanne; LEGGATE Lauren; MCARTHUR Donna
Subject: RE: FOR APPROVAL: K'gari emails to camping/VAP holders

Hi everyone

Given this, I have updated our MR to reflect this timeframe pending approval from the DG/IMT.

Damien/Mick, I just have a few comments & additional information I require

See attached.

Happy to discuss.

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
Visit the Environment Media Centre
Visit us on Twitter

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From: STRYBOS Stacey <Stacey.Strybos@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 10 December 2020 3:01 PM
To: HEAD Damien; BRIANT Steve; CUBIS Mick
Cc: BUCKLEY Andrew; SIEBUHR Leanne; DAVIDSON Brent; LEGGATE Lauren; MCARTHUR Donna
Subject: RE: FOR APPROVAL: K'gari emails to camping/VAP holders

Ok, for the emails I'll discuss potential information/messaging with Leanne and Donna and wait for confirmation…
Thanks
Stacey

From: HEAD Damien <Damien.Head@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 10 December 2020 2:36 PM
To: BRIANT Steve; STRYBOS Stacey; CUBIS Mick
Cc: BUCKLEY Andrew; SIEBUHR Leanne; DAVIDSON Brent; LEGGATE Lauren; MCARTHUR Donna
Subject: RE: FOR APPROVAL: K'gari emails to camping/VAP holders

We are currently working towards a camping reopening on the night of the Tuesday 15 December. Suggest we hold off sending this as the message may have the ability to be a lot more positive and definitive.

Friday 11 December – announce recommencement of camping bookings (14/12/2020) and camping to reopen for the night of 15/12/2020
Monday 14 December – booking system reopens
Tuesday 15 December – camping areas reopen (selected locations)

Announcement to be email mail out to affected campers and media release.

From: BRIANT Steve <Steve.Briant@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 10 December 2020 2:21 PM
To: STRYBOS Stacey; CUBIS Mick; HEAD Damien
Cc: BUCKLEY Andrew; SIEBUHR Leanne; DAVIDSON Brent; LEGGATE Lauren; MCARTHUR Donna
Subject: RE: FOR APPROVAL: K'gari emails to camping/VAP holders
Importance: High

Hi all

I would suggest holding this following advice I just received from Damien indicating a potential date for bookings to reopen.

Once we have a firm date for this then we can progress.

Cheers
Steve

From: STRYBOS Stacey <Stacey.Strybos@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 10 December 2020 2:13 PM
To: CUBIS Mick
Cc: BUCKLEY Andrew; SIEBUHR Leanne; DAVIDSON Brent; LEGGATE Lauren; BRIANT Steve; MCARTHUR Donna
Subject: FOR APPROVAL: K'gari emails to camping/VAP holders
Importance: High

Hi Mick

Please see attached two proposed emails to K'gari camping/VAP permit holder customers who have booked between 14-20 December, advising of how to obtain a refund.

Are you able to please check for accuracy and advise of any amendments?

I'll then send on to Andrew>Ben for approval to distribute to the attached database.

Kind regards
Stacey

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Stacey Strybos
Principal Communications Officer
Communication Services -- Corporate Communications
Department of Environment and Science
Level 31, 400 George St, Brisbane QLD 4000
GPO Box 2454, Brisbane QLD 4001
Chat via Teams

From: SIEBUHR Leanne <Leanne.Siebuhr@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 10 December 2020 12:17 PM
To: STRYBOS Stacey
Cc: BARRACLOUGH Emma; MCARTHUR Donna
Subject: K'gari wildlife emails to campers and VAP holders

Hi Stacey,

Attached is the updated emails and spreadsheet for campers and VAP holders with booking from 14-20 December for K'gari.

The email names Agent and Web match the spreadsheet tabs provided by Donna McArthur.

I've added an extra line of text (in track changes) but you are welcome to remove if you feel this isn't necessary.

The Online booking team have send text messages to all customers in tab 3 of the spreadsheet to no action required here.

If you require anything please call or email.

Kind regards,
Leanne

Leanne Siebuhr
A/Senior Ranger I Visitor Management I Technical Support
Coastal and Islands Region / QPWS & Partnerships
Department of Environment and Science
P 07 3101 2076 **M** Personal inf
34 Trafalgar Street, MANLY QLD 4179
PO Box 5178, MANLY QLD 4179

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 future for the land and sea on which I work, live and walk.

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Park Name	Facility Name
K'gari (Fraser Island) Recreation Area	Awinya Creek camping area
K'gari (Fraser Island) Recreation Area	Beach camping zone 1 - Govi and Wongai
K'gari (Fraser Island) Recreation Area	Beach camping zone 2 - One Tree, Cornwells, Gabala
K'gari (Fraser Island) Recreation Area	Beach camping zone 3 - Poyungan and Winnam
K'gari (Fraser Island) Recreation Area	Beach camping zone 4 - Guluri and Eli
K'gari (Fraser Island) Recreation Area	Beach camping zone 5 - Maheno and Wahba
K'gari (Fraser Island) Recreation Area	Beach camping zone 6 - Eugarie, Yurru, Guruman
K'gari (Fraser Island) Recreation Area	Beach camping zone 7 - Wyuna and Burad
K'gari (Fraser Island) Recreation Area	Beach camping zone 8 - Marloo, Ocean Lake, Duling
K'gari (Fraser Island) Recreation Area	Beach camping zone 9 - Diray and Carree
K'gari (Fraser Island) Recreation Area	Bowal Creek camping area
K'gari (Fraser Island) Recreation Area	Bowarrady Creek camping area
K'gari (Fraser Island) Recreation Area	Central Station (Tent Site) camping area
K'gari (Fraser Island) Recreation Area	Central Station (Trailer Site) camping area
K'gari (Fraser Island) Recreation Area	Coolooloi Creek camping area
K'gari (Fraser Island) Recreation Area	Coongul Creek camping area
K'gari (Fraser Island) Recreation Area	Cornwells camping area (fenced)
K'gari (Fraser Island) Recreation Area	Dundubara (Tent Site) camping area
K'gari (Fraser Island) Recreation Area	Dundubara (Trailer Site) camping area
K'gari (Fraser Island) Recreation Area	Eli camping area (fenced)
K'gari (Fraser Island) Recreation Area	Garry’s Anchorage camping area
K'gari (Fraser Island) Recreation Area	Lake Boomanjin camping area
K'gari (Fraser Island) Recreation Area	Moon Point camping area
K'gari (Fraser Island) Recreation Area	One Tree camping area (fenced)
K'gari (Fraser Island) Recreation Area	Teebing (Wathumba Spit) camping area
K'gari (Fraser Island) Recreation Area	Ungowa (Tent Site) camping area
K'gari (Fraser Island) Recreation Area	Ungowa (Trailer Site) camping area
K'gari (Fraser Island) Recreation Area	Waddy Point beachfront (Tent Site) camping area
K'gari (Fraser Island) Recreation Area	Waddy Point beachfront (Trailer Site) camping area
K'gari (Fraser Island) Recreation Area	Waddy Point Top (Tent Site) camping area
K'gari (Fraser Island) Recreation Area	Waddy Point Top (Trailer Site) camping area
K'gari (Fraser Island) Recreation Area	Wathumba (Tent Site) camping area
K'gari (Fraser Island) Recreation Area	Wathumba (Trailer Site) camping area
K'gari (Fraser Island) Recreation Area	Wongai camping area (fenced)
K'gari (Fraser Island) Recreation Area	Woralie Creek camping area

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14-20 Dec	21-26 Dec	27-31 Dec
9	8	4
1	23	45
21	35	55
22	28	38
25	23	25
26	46	29
22	33	32
15	15	16
34	72	61
14	13	9
3	6	1
3	2	6
14	47	57
5	16	24
0	1	7
12	10	5
2	7	8
22	44	44
4	2	7
6	6	8
0	1	5
0	2	8
0	1	6
1	6	10
1	1	15
0	1	6
0	0	5
9	19	25
5	4	6
9	34	25
5	5	2
1	7	15
1	2	2
0	6	0
11	9	16

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Re

Date : 11/12/2020 8:30:34 AM
From : "BUCKLEY Andrew"
To : "DAVIDSON Brent"
Cc : "HEAD Damien" , "STRYBOS Stacey"
Subject : Re: FOR APPROVAL: K'gari emails to camping/VAP holders

Brent
Damien is leading on this this morning I'm with Min at stakeholder meeting.
Cheers Buck

Sent from my iPhone

> On 11 Dec 2020, at 8:23 am, DAVIDSON Brent <Brent.Davidson@des.qld.gov.au> wrote:
>
> Was there any further progress on this? It still waiting pattern?
>
> Brent Davidson
> Media Manager
> Personal inform

From: BUCKLEY Andrew <Andrew.Buckley@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, December 10, 2020 8:23:38 PM
To: DAVIDSON Brent <Brent.Davidson@des.qld.gov.au>
Cc: HEAD Damien <Damien.Head@des.qld.gov.au>; STRYBOS Stacey <Stacey.Strybos@des.qld.gov.au>; BRIANT Steve <Steve.Briant@des.qld.gov.au>; CUBIS Mick <Mick.Cubis@des.qld.gov.au>; SIEBUHR Leanne <Leanne.Siebuhr@des.qld.gov.au>; LEGGATE Lauren <Lauren.Leggate@des.qld.gov.au>; MCARTHUR Donna <Donna.McArthur@des.qld.gov.au>
Subject: Re: FOR APPROVAL: K'gari emails to camping/VAP holders

Brent
We are still finalising the details but it will get to Ben tomorrow for endorsement. I am not sure how long the IMT process will take or if they will even support. We will just need to be prepared for a number of scenarios and be somewhat flexible and see where it lands.
Cheers Buck

Sent from my iPhone

> On 10 Dec 2020, at 8:17 pm, DAVIDSON Brent <Brent.Davidson@des.qld.gov.au> wrote:
>
> You're right, I have. I misunderstood the significance of the access. I mistakenly thought fir some reason that it would be for residents only. Was the plan signed off by DG/IMT & are we still working towards an announcement tomorrow?
>
> Brent Davidson
> Media Manager
> Personal inform

From: HEAD Damien <Damien.Head@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, December 10, 2020 6:32:24 PM
To: DAVIDSON Brent <Brent.Davidson@des.qld.gov.au>; STRYBOS Stacey <Stacey.Strybos@des.qld.gov.au>; BRIANT Steve <Steve.Briant@des.qld.gov.au>; CUBIS Mick <Mick.Cubis@des.qld.gov.au>
Cc: BUCKLEY Andrew <Andrew.Buckley@des.qld.gov.au>; SIEBUHR Leanne <Leanne.Siebuhr@des.qld.gov.au>; LEGGATE Lauren <Lauren.Leggate@des.qld.gov.au>; MCARTHUR Donna <Donna.McArthur@des.qld.gov.au>
Subject: RE: FOR APPROVAL: K'gari emails to camping/VAP holders

I think we might have buried the key line.

Access to Kgari townships and accommodation house will reopen in time for the school holidays

Then reference the eastern beach reopening to vehicle track providing holiday goers access to townships and accommodation houses.

Some of the islands popular eastern beach destinations will also reopen including – Lake Wabby, Eli Creek, Maheno

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and Champagne Pools.

Campers will be able to return to the island on Tuesday 15 December 2020 with camping zones south of Cornwells break road reopening.

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Subject: RE: FOR APPROVAL: K'gari emails to camping/VAP holders

Hi everyone

Given this, I have updated our MR to reflect this timeframe pending approval from the DG/IMT.

Damien/Mick, I just have a few comments & additional information I require

See attached.

Happy to discuss.

Cheers

Brent

<image002.png>
Brent Davidson

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

<image004.png>
Chat with me on teams **M** Personal in

E brent.davidson@des.qld.gov.au
Visit the Environment Media Centre
<image005.png>
Visit us on Twitter

From: STRYBOS Stacey <Stacey.Strybos@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 10 December 2020 3:01 PM
To: HEAD Damien; BRIANT Steve; CUBIS Mick
Cc: BUCKLEY Andrew; SIEBUHR Leanne; DAVIDSON Brent; LEGGATE Lauren; MCARTHUR Donna
Subject: RE: FOR APPROVAL: K'gari emails to camping/VAP holders

Ok, for the emails I'll discuss potential information/messaging with Leanne and Donna and wait for confirmation…
Thanks
Stacey

From: HEAD Damien <Damien.Head@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 10 December 2020 2:36 PM
To: BRIANT Steve; STRYBOS Stacey; CUBIS Mick
Cc: BUCKLEY Andrew; SIEBUHR Leanne; DAVIDSON Brent; LEGGATE Lauren; MCARTHUR Donna
Subject: RE: FOR APPROVAL: K'gari emails to camping/VAP holders

We are currently working towards a camping reopening on the night of the Tuesday 15 December. Suggest we hold off sending this as the message may have the ability to be a lot more positive and definitive.

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Tuesday 15 December – camping areas reopen (selected locations)

Announcement to be email mail out to affected campers and media release.

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Sent: Thursday, 10 December 2020 2:21 PM
To: STRYBOS Stacey; CUBIS Mick; HEAD Damien
Cc: BUCKLEY Andrew; SIEBUHR Leanne; DAVIDSON Brent; LEGGATE Lauren; MCARTHUR Donna
Subject: RE: FOR APPROVAL: K'gari emails to camping/VAP holders
Importance: High

Hi all

I would suggest holding this following advice I just received from Damien indicating a potential date for bookings to reopen.

Once we have a firm date for this then we can progress.

Cheers
Steve

From: STRYBOS Stacey <Stacey.Strybos@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 10 December 2020 2:13 PM
To: CUBIS Mick
Cc: BUCKLEY Andrew; SIEBUHR Leanne; DAVIDSON Brent; LEGGATE Lauren; BRIANT Steve; MCARTHUR Donna
Subject: FOR APPROVAL: K'gari emails to camping/VAP holders
Importance: High

Hi Mick

Please see attached two proposed emails to K'gari camping/VAP permit holder customers who have booked between 14-20 December, advising of how to obtain a refund.

Are you able to please check for accuracy and advise of any amendments?

I'll then send on to Andrew>Ben for approval to distribute to the attached database.

Kind regards
Stacey

<image007.png>
Stacey Strybos

Principal Communications Officer
Communication Services -- Corporate Communications
Department of Environment and Science

Level 31, 400 George St, Brisbane QLD 4000
GPO Box 2454, Brisbane QLD 4001

<image004.png>
Chat via Teams

From: SIEBUHR Leanne <Leanne.Siebuhr@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 10 December 2020 12:17 PM
To: STRYBOS Stacey
Cc: BARRACLOUGH Emma; MCARTHUR Donna
Subject: K'gari wildlife emails to campers and VAP holders

Hi Stacey,

Attached is the updated emails and spreadsheet for campers and VAP holders with booking from 14-20 December for K'gari.

The email names Agent and Web match the spreadsheet tabs provided by Donna McArthur.

I've added an extra line of text (in track changes) but you are welcome to remove if you feel this isn't necessary.

The Online booking team have send text messages to all customers in tab 3 of the spreadsheet to no action required here.

If you require anything please call or email.

Kind regards,
Leanne

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Leanne Siebuhr
A/Senior Ranger I Visitor Management I Technical Support
Coastal and Islands Region / QPWS & Partnerships
Department of Environment and Science

P 07 3101 2076 **M** Personal Info
34 Trafalgar Street, MANLY QLD 4179
PO Box 5178, MANLY QLD 4179

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 future for the land and sea on which I work, live and walk.

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Date : 12/12/2020 10:02:48 AM
From : "BUCKLEY Andrew"
To : "WATSON Matthew"
Cc : "CAMBOURN Neil" , "DAVIDSON Brent" , "DARGUSCH Marc" , "CUBIS Mick" , "HARRIS Leigh" , "HEAD Damien" , "KLAASSEN Ben"
Subject : Re: Fraser Island opening

Happy for error to come out Maybe just add apologises for any inconvenience

Sent from my iPhone

On 12 Dec 2020, at 9:59 am, WATSON Matthew <Matthew.Watson@des.qld.gov.au> wrote:

Thanks Neil.
I'll amend.
Cheers

Matt Watson
Communication Services
Department of Environment and Science

Sent from my iPhone

On 12 Dec 2020, at 9:28 am, CAMBOURN Neil <Neil.Cambourn@des.qld.gov.au> wrote:

Hi Matt, please don't use the word 'error' they have already given us enough of a flogging with their unfair and unjustified criticism.

It would be fair to report it was an 'automatic system default generated by the park alert system which has 'now been updated' to reflect current advice from the QFES led IMT.

We hope to provide news of a staged reopening as soon as it is safe to do so.

Neil

Sent from my iPhone

On 12 Dec 2020, at 9:06 am, WATSON Matthew <Matthew.Watson@des.qld.gov.au> wrote:

Morning all,

Something like:

The alert was scheduled earlier this week in anticipation that several areas on the island would be opened.
It was uploaded automatically in error, and has now been removed.

Cheers

<image002.png>Matt Watson
Principal Media Officer
Media Unit| Corporate Communications
Department of Environment and Science

M Personal in<image003.png> 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: DAVIDSON Brent <Brent.Davidson@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Saturday, 12 December 2020 9:00 AM
To: BUCKLEY Andrew; DARGUSCH Marc; CUBIS Mick; CAMBOURN Neil; HARRIS Leigh; HEAD Damien
Cc: KLAASSEN Ben; WATSON Matthew
Subject: Re: Fraser Island opening

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Yeah we can put together some holding lines that we can send to CM if they come to ask asking about it. Was it posted in error? Or automated and forgotten about etc

I've CCed in Matt Watson who will assist with that part

Brent Davidson
Media Manager
Personal info

From: BUCKLEY Andrew <Andrew.Buckley@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Saturday, December 12, 2020 8:56:10 AM
To: DARGUSCH Marc <Marc.Dargusch@des.qld.gov.au>; CUBIS Mick <Mick.Cubis@des.qld.gov.au>; CAMBOURN Neil <Neil.Cambourn@des.qld.gov.au>; HARRIS Leigh <Leigh.Harris@des.qld.gov.au>; HEAD Damien <Damien.Head@des.qld.gov.au>; DAVIDSON Brent <Brent.Davidson@des.qld.gov.au>
Cc: KLAASSEN Ben <Ben.Klaassen@des.qld.gov.au>
Subject: Re: Fraser Island opening

Team
Just spoke to Mick and he is getting someone to remove this alert.

Brent
Can you do a simple release to correct the record. If necessary?

Cheers Buck

Sent from my iPhone

> On 12 Dec 2020, at 8:36 am, BUCKLEY Andrew <Andrew.Buckley@des.qld.gov.au> wrote:
>
> Team
> Apologies just tried to call but just need to identify someone with access to remove this alert and post a correction.
> Cheers Buck
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
> > On 12 Dec 2020, at 8:13 am, KLAASSEN Ben <Ben.Klaassen@des.qld.gov.au> wrote:
> >
> > Hi
> >
> > Brent is calling Mick to see who posted this. Looks like it was based on earlier information and should not be up now.
> >
> > Courier Mail are on to it and visitors who have seen it may be planning to head up.
> >
> > We will need to get it down as QFES still have jurisdiction.
> >
> > Ben
> >
> > Sent from my iPhone
> >
> > Begin forwarded message:
> >
> > **From:** DAVIDSON Brent <Brent.Davidson@des.qld.gov.au>
> > **Date:** 12 December 2020 at 8:07:31 am AEST
> > **To:** KLAASSEN Ben <Ben.Klaassen@des.qld.gov.au>, BUCKLEY Andrew <Andrew.Buckley@des.qld.gov.au>
> > **Subject: Fwd: Fraser Island opening**
> >
> > I'll call about this shortly
> >
> > Brent Davidson
> > Media Manager

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Personal infor

From: Hayley Gillespie <Hayley.Gillespie@qfes.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Saturday, December 12, 2020 8:04:17 AM
To: DAVIDSON Brent <Brent.Davidson@des.qld.gov.au>
Subject: Fwd: Fraser Island opening

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

<image001.png>

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)

<image002.png>

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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).

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Date : 12/12/2020 9:18:54 AM
From : "BUCKLEY Andrew"
To : "WATSON Matthew"
Cc : "DAVIDSON Brent" , "DARGUSCH Marc" , "CUBIS Mick" , "CAMBOURN Neil" , "HARRIS Leigh" , "HEAD Damien" , "KLAASSEN Ben"
Subject : Re: Fraser Island opening
Attachment : image002.png;image003.png;

Yep endorsed if required thanks heaps

Sent from my iPhone

On 12 Dec 2020, at 9:06 am, WATSON Matthew <Matthew.Watson@des.qld.gov.au> wrote:

Morning all,

Something like:

The alert was scheduled earlier this week in anticipation that several areas on the island would be opened.
It was uploaded automatically in error, and has now been removed.

Cheers

<image002.png>
Matt Watson

Principal Media Officer
Media Unit | Corporate Communications
Department of Environment and Science
M Personal in
<image003.png>
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: DAVIDSON Brent <Brent.Davidson@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Saturday, 12 December 2020 9:00 AM
To: BUCKLEY Andrew; DARGUSCH Marc; CUBIS Mick; CAMBOURN Neil; HARRIS Leigh; HEAD Damien
Cc: KLAASSEN Ben; WATSON Matthew
Subject: Re: Fraser Island opening

Yeah we can put together some holding lines that we can send to CM if they come to ask asking about it. Was it posted in error? Or automated and forgotten about etc

I've CCed in Matt Watson who will assist with that part

Brent Davidson
Media Manager
Personal info

From: BUCKLEY Andrew <Andrew.Buckley@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Saturday, December 12, 2020 8:56:10 AM
To: DARGUSCH Marc <Marc.Dargusch@des.qld.gov.au>; CUBIS Mick <Mick.Cubis@des.qld.gov.au>; CAMBOURN Neil <Neil.Cambourn@des.qld.gov.au>; HARRIS Leigh <Leigh.Harris@des.qld.gov.au>; HEAD Damien <Damien.Head@des.qld.gov.au>; DAVIDSON Brent <Brent.Davidson@des.qld.gov.au>
Cc: KLAASSEN Ben <Ben.Klaassen@des.qld.gov.au>
Subject: Re: Fraser Island opening

Team
Just spoke to Mick and he is getting someone to remove this alert.

Brent
Can you do a simple release to correct the record. If necessary?

Cheers Buck

Sent from my iPhone

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> > Brent Davidson
> > Media Manager
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> >
> > <image001.png>
> >
> > Thanks,
> >
> > **Hannah Rose Hamer**
> > Media Officer
> > Media, Communications and Online
> > **Queensland Fire and Emergency Services**

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RTI Act 2009

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 : 12/12/2020 10:11:53 AM
From : "BUCKLEY Andrew"
To : "WATSON Matthew" , "KLAASSEN Ben" , "CAMBOURN Neil"
Cc : "DAVIDSON Brent" , "DARGUSCH Marc" , "CUBIS Mick" , "HARRIS Leigh" , "HEAD Damien"
Subject : Re: Fraser Island opening

Ben
No worries will work with Matthew and Neil to redo media and confirm IMT endorsement.
Cheers Buck

Sent from my iPhone

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Media Unit | Corporate Communications
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M Personal in<image003.png> Chat with me on Teams!
GPO Box 2454, Brisbane QLD 4001
If it's a media matter, please include the group email
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Website www.des.qld.gov.au

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Sent: Saturday, 12 December 2020 9:00 AM
To: BUCKLEY Andrew; DARGUSCH Marc; CUBIS Mick; CAMBOURN Neil; HARRIS Leigh; HEAD Damien
Cc: KLAASSEN Ben; WATSON Matthew
Subject: Re: Fraser Island opening

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Personal info

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<image001.png>

Thanks,

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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
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Date : 12/12/2020 10:12:18 AM
From : "CAMBOURN Neil"
To : "KLAASSEN Ben"
Cc : "BUCKLEY Andrew" , "WATSON Matthew" , "DAVIDSON Brent" , "DARGUSCH Marc" , "CUBIS Mick" , "HARRIS Leigh" , "HEAD Damien"
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If it's a media matter, please include the group email
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Website www.des.qld.gov.au

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Personal infor

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Media Manager
Personal info

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Subject: Fraser Island opening

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

<image001.png>

Thanks,

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Media Officer
Media, Communications and Online
Queensland Fire and Emergency Services

24hr: 07 3635 3310 **P:** 07 3635 2965 **M:** Personal info
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Cc : "DARGUSCH Marc" , "CUBIS Mick" , "HARRIS Leigh" , "HEAD Damien" , "KLAASSEN Ben"
Subject : Re: Fraser Island opening

Matthew
I think there was a statement prepared can you circulate for one final check.

I'll work with Neil's team to seek imt endorsement.
Cheers Buck

Sent from my iPhone

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To : "CAMBOURN Neil"
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Subject : Re: Fraser Island opening

Big fan for this approach. Getting a positive statement about opening out in lieu of apologising.

Sorry was offline this morning. And will be again this afternoon Personal information

Sent from my iPhone

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> > Sent from my iPhone
> >
> > > On 12 Dec 2020, at 10:02 am, BUCKLEY Andrew <Andrew.Buckley@des.qld.gov.au> wrote:
> > >
> > > Happy for error to come out Maybe just add apologises for any inconvenience
> > >
> > > Sent from my iPhone
> > >
> > > > On 12 Dec 2020, at 9:59 am, WATSON Matthew <Matthew.Watson@des.qld.gov.au> wrote:
> > > >
> > > > Thanks Neil.
> > > > I'll amend.
> > > > Cheers
> > > >
> > > > Matt Watson
> > > > Communication Services
> > > > Department of Environment and Science
> > > >
> > > > Sent from my iPhone
> > > >
> > > > On 12 Dec 2020, at 9:28 am, CAMBOURN Neil <Neil.Cambourn@des.qld.gov.au>

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wrote:

Hi Matt, please don't use the word 'error' they have already given us enough of a flogging with their unfair and unjustified criticism.

It would be fair to report it was an 'automatic system default generated by the park alert system which has 'now been updated' to reflect current advice from the QFES led IMT.

We hope to provide news of a staged reopening as soon as it is safe to do so.

Neil

Sent from my iPhone

On 12 Dec 2020, at 9:06 am, WATSON Matthew <Matthew.Watson@des.qld.gov.au> wrote:

Morning all,

Something like:

The alert was scheduled earlier this week in anticipation that several areas on the island would be opened.
It was uploaded automatically in error, and has now been removed.

Cheers

<image002.png>Matt Watson
Principal Media Officer
Media Unit | Corporate Communications
Department of Environment and Science

M Personal inf<image003.png> 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: DAVIDSON Brent <Brent.Davidson@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Saturday, 12 December 2020 9:00 AM
To: BUCKLEY Andrew; DARGUSCH Marc; CUBIS Mick; CAMBOURN Neil; HARRIS Leigh; HEAD Damien
Cc: KLAASSEN Ben; WATSON Matthew
Subject: Re: Fraser Island opening

Yeah we can put together some holding lines that we can send to CM if they come to ask asking about it. Was it posted in error? Or automated and forgotten about etc

I've CCed in Matt Watson who will assist with that part

Brent Davidson
Media Manager
Personal infor

From: BUCKLEY Andrew <Andrew.Buckley@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Saturday, December 12, 2020 8:56:10 AM
To: DARGUSCH Marc <Marc.Dargusch@des.qld.gov.au>; CUBIS Mick <Mick.Cubis@des.qld.gov.au>; CAMBOURN Neil <Neil.Cambourn@des.qld.gov.au>; HARRIS Leigh <Leigh.Harris@des.qld.gov.au>; HEAD Damien <Damien.Head@des.qld.gov.au>; DAVIDSON Brent <Brent.Davidson@des.qld.gov.au>
Cc: KLAASSEN Ben <Ben.Klaassen@des.qld.gov.au>
Subject: Re: Fraser Island opening

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Team
Just spoke to Mick and he is getting someone to remove this alert.

Brent
Can you do a simple release to correct the record. If necessary?

Cheers Buck

Sent from my iPhone

> On 12 Dec 2020, at 8:36 am, BUCKLEY Andrew <Andrew.Buckley@des.qld.gov.au> wrote:
>
> Team
> Apologies just tried to call but just need to identify someone with access to remove this alert and post a correction.
> Cheers Buck
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
> > On 12 Dec 2020, at 8:13 am, KLAASSEN Ben <Ben.Klaassen@des.qld.gov.au> wrote:
> >
> > Hi
> >
> > Brent is calling Mick to see who posted this. Looks like it was based on earlier information and should not be up now.
> >
> > Courier Mail are on to it and visitors who have seen it may be planning to head up.
> >
> > We will need to get it down as QFES still have jurisdiction.
> >
> > Ben
> >
> > Sent from my iPhone
> >
> > Begin forwarded message:
> >
> > **From:** DAVIDSON Brent <Brent.Davidson@des.qld.gov.au>
> > **Date:** 12 December 2020 at 8:07:31 am AEST
> > **To:** KLAASSEN Ben <Ben.Klaassen@des.qld.gov.au>, BUCKLEY Andrew <Andrew.Buckley@des.qld.gov.au>
> > **Subject: Fwd: Fraser Island opening**
> >
> > I'll call about this shortly
> >
> > Brent Davidson
> > Media Manager
> > Personal infor
> >
> > ---
> >
> > **From:** Hayley Gillespie <Hayley.Gillespie@qfes.qld.gov.au>
> > **Sent:** Saturday, December

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12, 2020 8:04:17 AM
To: DAVIDSON Brent <Brent.Davidson@des.qld.gov.au>
Subject: Fwd: Fraser Island opening

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

<image001.png>

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)

<image002.png>

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Date : 5/12/2020 2:14:20 PM
From : "Tim Whittaker"
To : "DAVIDSON Brent" , "QFES Media"
Subject : RE: Fraser island wildlife rescue efforts statement for print

Looks good Brent, can we remove the highlighted line, as I think it will generate more queries about our plans to reopen which is a little way off yet.

From: DAVIDSON Brent <Brent.Davidson@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Saturday, 5 December 2020 2:09 PM
To: Tim Whittaker <Tim.Whittaker@qfes.qld.gov.au>; QFES Media <QFES.Media@qfes.qld.gov.au>
Subject: Fwd: Fraser island wildlife rescue efforts statement for print

Hey Tim

Draft response to wildlife enquiry below. Mentions QFES. Do you have any concerns/amendments?

Brent Davidson
Media Manager
Personal info

From: DAVIDSON Brent
Sent: Saturday, December 5, 2020 1:58:15 PM
To: BUCKLEY Andrew <Andrew.Buckley@des.qld.gov.au>
Subject: Fwd: Fraser island wildlife rescue efforts statement for print

Hi Andrew, would you mind having a look at the below for your endorsement. Info has been sourced by Neil. It's for CM enquiry below.

QPWS has already established a recovery cell embedded within the Incident Management Team.

It is focussed on assessments of natural environmental and cultural values, and tourism recovery including risk assessments and reopening the island 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 IMT permits the team to access.

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 the IMT.

December 14 is not a a set date for any matter as the situation is still very dynamic. That date is simply indicative of one incidence of when advice to campers will be updated. This is happening on a rolling basis and when new advice is required.

Finally, rangers are keeping an eye on and assisting with any wildlife matters and we have trained rangers on the island to assist if needed.

Cultural and dingo health checks have also been completed by representatives of the Butchulla people.

Brent Davidson
Media Manager
Personal info

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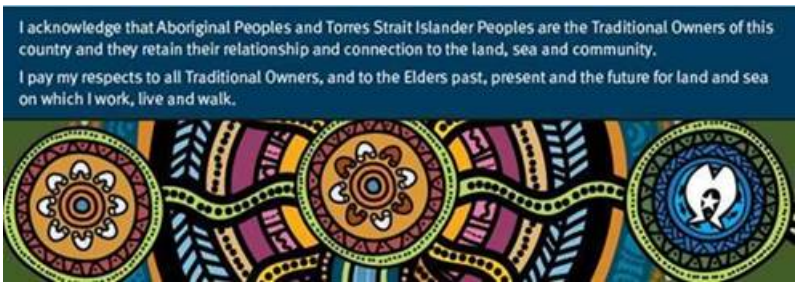
Date : 14/12/2020 4:41:42 PM
From : "BUCKLEY Andrew"
To : "DAVIDSON Brent"
Cc : "KLAASSEN Ben"
Subject : RE: K'Gari Status Update Monday 14/12/2020
Attachment : image001.png;image004.png;image007.jpg;image008.png;image009.png;image010.png;image011.png;
endorsed

Andrew Buckley
Assistant Director-General
Management & Operations
Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships
Department of Environment and Science
M Personal ir | E andrew.buckley@des.qld.gov.au
Stage II, Level 3, William McCormack Place, 5b Sheridan Street, Cairns



From: DAVIDSON Brent <Brent.Davidson@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 14 December 2020 4:41 PM
To: BUCKLEY Andrew
Cc: KLAASSEN Ben
Subject: RE: K'Gari Status Update Monday 14/12/2020

Damien has given me his feedback. For endorsement below:

Further areas of K'gari – such as campgrounds and popular sites – have been assessed for hazards and will be reopened tomorrow along with previously announced areas.

The following will be open from tomorrow:

- Vehicle access along the eastern beach. This will allow visitors to travel to K'gari's townships, resorts, private accommodation and island businesses.
- Kingfisher Bay Resort and Village, Lake McKenzie, Pile Valley, Central Station, Wanggoolba Creek and Eurong. However, the only Eastern Beach access to these sites is via Eurong (or Dilli Village in the south) The Wanggoolba creek to Eurong Road is open giving access to the River Heads/Wanggoolba Creek barge service.
- Lake Birrabeen and Lake Boomanjin remain accessible from both the Dilli Village and Eurong eastern beach access tracks
- Lake Wabby walking track and toilet facilities from the eastern beach.
- The Champagne Pools (Middle Rocks) and associated carparks and toilet facilities.
- Wathumba Creek via the Wathumba-Orchid Beach track.

The following additional camping areas will also be open to visitors:

- Beach camping zones 1,2 & 3.
- Dundubara campground.
- Beach Camp Zones 6, 7 & 8.

Visitors who have booked a camp site in an area that continues to be closed beyond tomorrow will be given a refund. To request a refund please log into your account at www.qld.gov.au/camping.
Other camping opportunities and popular visitor destinations including walking tracks will progressively be reopened following hazard assessments and completion of any essential maintenance works.
Visitors should exercise caution at all times when travelling in fire effects areas on the island and observe all signage, barriers and directions from rangers and do not enter closed areas.
QPWS staff have worked hard alongside the Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, 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 during the closure, however public safety is always the top priority.

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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

From: BUCKLEY Andrew <Andrew.Buckley@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 14 December 2020 4:20 PM
To: MERRICK Jamie
Cc: KLAASSEN Ben; ABURN Mark; HARRIS Leigh; CAMBOURN Neil; CUBIS Mick; DARGUSCH Marc; CONNOR Nathan; HEAD Damien; Media DES; SEELEITHER Jamie
Subject: K'Gari Status Update Monday 14/12/2020

DG
Please find below our initial report happy for feedback on level of detail and content for future versions. We will look to add some more intel on recovery actions in next report.

Cheers Buck

K'Gari Status Update Monday 14/12/2020

- Control has been returned to QPWS by QFES on Sunday 13/12/2020 under conditions that the fire has been contained and deescalated to a Level One incident..
- QFES made that decision on the following basis:
  - 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).
  - The fire has been contained as per the above.
  - The fire has been extensively patrolled by both vehicle where accessible and by aircraft where not with potential hot spots actively suppressed.
  - 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).
  - 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.
  - The current forecast conditions at the time of handover include further widespread significant rain in excess of 40mm in coming days.
  - 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).

Fire Management Actions:

- Management of this fire will now require a vigilant patrolling regime and continue monitoring patrols in East and West sectors. Extinguish fire when detected through integrated aerial and ground resources however active suppression is unlikely in the next few days given the predicted weather conditions.
- Whilst QFES is transitioning control of this fire to QPWS it will continue to provide active support as a partner and will continue to:
  - QFES NCR will provide a dedicated Liaison Officer in the QPWS Coordination Centre for up to 7 Days after transfer of bushfire.
  - 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.
  - 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
  - The local Rural Fire Brigades based on Fraser Island will also be available to support bushfire fighting operations should they be required.
  - QFES will provide access to any of its mapping and other data relevant to the management of this fire upon request by QPWS.
  - QFES will continue to positively consider any further requests from QPWS for capabilities which QFES holds which QPWS does not.

Recovery and Reopening – Open to visitors

- Restrictions have been lifted for new visitors to K'gari as of Tuesday 15 December 2020. Crews have been tasked with a risk assessment of QPWS visitor nodes and infrastructure. Assessment of inland roads and visitor nodes within burnt area will be assessed and opened in a prioritised and progressive way depending on identified impacts and timeframes for making safe. Local Disaster Management Group and Butchella first nations communities are both being kept informed and consulted on an ongoing basis.
- From 15 December 2020 visitors will have access to:

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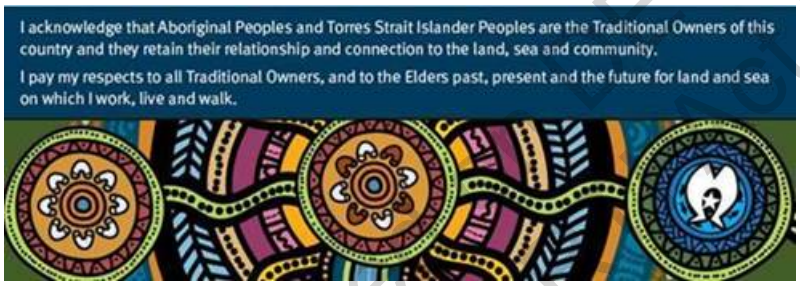
- Beach access along the eastern beach. This will allow visitors to travel to K'gari's townships, resorts, private accommodation and island businesses.
- Kingfisher Bay Resort and Village, Lake McKenzie, Pile Valley, Central Station, Wanggoolba Creek and Eurong. With note:
  - the only access to/from the eastern beach to the above sites is via Eurong (or Dilli Village in the south).
  - the Wanggoolba creek to Eurong Road is open giving access to the River Heads/Wanggoolba Creek barge service.
- Lake Birrabeen, Lake Boomanjin through to Dilli Village (southern lakes circuit from Central Station through to Dilli Village adjacent to the Eastern Beach).
- Lake Wabby walking track and toilet facilities.
- The Champagne Pools (Middle Rocks) and associated carparks and toilet facilities.
- Wathumba Creek via the Wathumba-Orchid Beach track.

- From the 15 December 2020 the following camping areas will be open to visitors:
  - Beach camping zones 1,2 & 3.
  - Dundubara campground.
  - Beach Camp Zones 6, 7 & 8.
  - Waddy Point beachfront camping.
  - Waddy Point campground.
  - Wathumba campground.

- Visitors who have booked a camp site in an area that continues to be closed beyond 15 December will be given a refund. Other camping opportunities, popular visitor destinations including walking tracks will progressively reopened following hazard assessments and completion of any essential maintenance works. Visitors are being advised to exercise caution at all times when travelling in fire effects areas on the island and observe all signage, barriers and directions from rangers and do not enter closed areas. Commercial tour operators and other permit or agreement holders are not permitted to enter closed areas.

Andrew Buckley
Assistant Director-General
Management & Operations
Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships
Department of Environment and Science
M Personal ir | E andrew.buckley@des.qld.gov.au
Stage II, Level 3, William McCormack Place, 5b Sheridan Street, Cairns



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Date : 4/12/2020 4:24:28 PM
From : "DARGUSCH Marc"
To : "DAVIDSON Brent"
Cc : "WATSON Matthew" , "GRANT Andrea" , "TRACEY Ben"
Subject : RE: K'gari wildfire public messaging
Attachment : image001.png;image004.png;image005.png;image002.png;image007.png;image009.png;

Thanks Brent. Glad to know that your team are auto-linked to talking with QFES – there have been suggestions of non-align of messaging (not necessarily a fault of the DES Media/anything to do with DES Media) and I just wanted to ensure messaging is the same from both organisations.

I wasn't aware of the systems that you guys have in place, so it is good to understand the alignment.

Regards, Marc

Marc Dargusch
Principal Ranger – Great Sandy Area
Coastal and Islands Region | QPWS and Partnerships
Department of Environment and Science
M Personal in P 07 54869960
Level 6, 12 on First Avenue, Maroochydore 4558
www.des.qld.gov.au

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

From: DAVIDSON Brent <Brent.Davidson@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 4 December 2020 2:58 PM
To: DARGUSCH Marc
Cc: TRACEY Ben; WATSON Matthew; GRANT Andrea; BUCKLEY Andrew
Subject: RE: K'gari wildfire public messaging

Hi Marc

As discussed also in the ops meeting - just confirming I've spoken with my QFES colleagues & we're all looped in on this issue. Messaging around wanting to get people back onto the island as quickly as possible is well reflected in our talking points and we will keep liaising with QFES as things keep progressing. Thank you for the document. We will keep everyone in the loop. We work very very close with QFES Media and I guarantee we will be saying the same thing. We have extensive messaging going out on Twitter & our @QldParkAlerts account has recently been updated to allow for better real-time information to be shared & we have been sharing a LOT of information recently. This will be the perfect outlet – in addition to mainstream media – to feed all the recovery/opening messaging through.

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
Visit the Environment Media Centre
Visit us on Twitter

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.

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Many thanks,

Marc

Marc Dargusch
Principal Ranger – Great Sandy Area
Coastal and Islands Region | QPWS and Partnerships
Department of Environment and Science
M [redacted] **P** 07 54869960
Level 6, 12 on First Avenue, Maroochydore 4558
www.des.qld.gov.au

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

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Date : 13/12/2020 11:45:17 AM
From : "BUCKLEY Andrew"
To : "DAVIDSON Brent"
Cc : "WATSON Matthew" , "CONNOR Nathan" , "KLAASSEN Ben" , "HARRIS Leigh" , "CAMBOURN Neil"
Subject : Re: Transition document for K'gari fire back to QPWS control.

Thanks Brent I believe this was always the plan
Cheers Buck

Sent from my iPhone

> On 13 Dec 2020, at 11:37 am, DAVIDSON Brent <Brent.Davidson@des.qld.gov.au> wrote:
>
> Hi everyone
>
> The Min's media advisor just called me about all of this – she's had an enquiry today from 7 I believe. She said until the Min signs off on the release & timing etc, no comms is to go out & that includes emails and other external-facing content.
>
> I think the COS may speak to the DG…
>
> So we're kinda back in a holding pattern.
>
> What I'm going to do is send the release to the MO so at least they can see what direction we're heading in.
>
> ---
>
> **From:** BUCKLEY Andrew <Andrew.Buckley@des.qld.gov.au>
> **Sent:** Sunday, 13 December 2020 11:15 AM
> **To:** WATSON Matthew
> **Cc:** CONNOR Nathan; KLAASSEN Ben; DAVIDSON Brent; HARRIS Leigh; CAMBOURN Neil
> **Subject:** Re: Transition document for K'gari fire back to QPWS control.
>
> Brent/ Matthew
> Just spoke to Nathan he is getting lots of requests from QPS to say that people want to know what's going on. I think the earlier we get it out that Tuesday is the day the better. But let's discuss once IMT give our strategy the green light should be noonish.
> Cheers Buck
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
> > On 13 Dec 2020, at 10:27 am, WATSON Matthew <Matthew.Watson@des.qld.gov.au> wrote:
> >
> > Okay, thank you.
> > I agree with Brent's advice from yesterday to announce the reopening tomorrow.
> > I can put the today show off.
> > I am heading to Personal information but will be taking my laptop, phone etc.
> > Call if anything changes.
> > Cheers
> >
> > <image004.png>
> > Matt Watson
> > Principal Media Officer
> > **Media Unit | Corporate Communications**
> > Department of Environment and Science
> > **M** Personal in
> > <image005.png>
> > 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:** BUCKLEY Andrew <Andrew.Buckley@des.qld.gov.au>
> > **Sent:** Sunday, 13 December 2020 10:26 AM
> > **To:** WATSON Matthew; CONNOR Nathan; KLAASSEN Ben; DAVIDSON Brent
> > **Cc:** HARRIS Leigh; CAMBOURN Neil
> > **Subject:** Re: Transition document for K'gari fire back to QPWS control.
> >
> > Matthew
> > I believe it is Tuesday for reopening eastern beach access.
> > Cheers Buck

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Get Outlook for iOS

From: WATSON Matthew <Matthew.Watson@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Sunday, December 13, 2020 10:19:32 AM
To: BUCKLEY Andrew <Andrew.Buckley@des.qld.gov.au>; CONNOR Nathan <Nathan.Connor@des.qld.gov.au>; KLAASSEN Ben <Ben.Klaassen@des.qld.gov.au>; DAVIDSON Brent <Brent.Davidson@des.qld.gov.au>
Cc: HARRIS Leigh <Leigh.Harris@des.qld.gov.au>; CAMBOURN Neil <Neil.Cambourn@des.qld.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Transition document for K'gari fire back to QPWS control.

No worries Andrew,
As part of the reopening strategy, will the island be opened tomorrow?
The Today Show are going to call me about 12pm today to check.
Cheers

<image006.png>
Matt Watson
Principal Media Officer
Media Unit | Corporate Communications
Department of Environment and Science
M Personal info
<image005.png>
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: BUCKLEY Andrew <Andrew.Buckley@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Sunday, 13 December 2020 10:12 AM
To: CONNOR Nathan; KLAASSEN Ben; DAVIDSON Brent; WATSON Matthew
Cc: HARRIS Leigh; CAMBOURN Neil
Subject: Re: Transition document for K'gari fire back to QPWS control.

Ben
Based on the information from Nathan it would seem the restrictions to access for Fraser that were enacted were through our processes around visitation and camping. Therefore post IC handover to QPWS&P we will be able to push on with our reopening strategy and media release.

I will give you a call once official handover occurs to Nathan.

Brent / Matthew
If possible you may want to check in with QFES media to see if they want to do something joint about handover which we could include our reopening info?

Cheers Buck

Sent from my iPhone

> On 13 Dec 2020, at 9:47 am, CONNOR Nathan <Nathan.Connor@des.qld.gov.au> wrote:
>
> Hi Leigh and Buck,
>
> As per Neil's instruction to liaise via yourselves for the time being please see link below from Friday the 27th November – the day QFES took control of the fire. The restrictions mentioned here apply to new campers and visitors to the island only. These arrangements remain and as mentioned in the release the public is to keep an eye on the QFES website for fire status update and the QPWS site for closure status.
>
> The regulation of new campers and visitors to the island has been minimal with no compliance of permits outside that of QPWS process. This has been confirmed by QFES IC Matt Inwood and QPS IMT Liaison Officer
>
> To my understanding this is essentially a matter of us adjusting our park status via Park Alerts once formal handover is completed around midday.
>
> Am I on the money here from your perspective?
>
> https://newsroom.psba.qld.gov.au/Content/Local-News/North-Coast/Article/Access-restricted-to-K-gari-Fraser-Island-as-fire-continues-to-impact-island/1017/1057/15740
> pp

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Matthew Inwood JP
Inspector
Area Director
Caloundra, Rural Fire Service
Queensland Fire and Emergency Services
P 07 5293 4200 **M** Personal info

<image002.jpg>P

From: CAMBOURN Neil <Neil.Cambourn@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Sunday, 13 December 2020 7:20 AM
To: CONNOR Nathan
Cc: BUCKLEY Andrew; CUBIS Mick; HEAD Damien; DARGUSCH Marc; HARRIS Leigh
Subject: Re: Transition document for K'gari fire back to QPWS control.

Thanks Nathan,
It's important for the QFES IC to appreciate that while we have the head of power over the RAM areas to regulate certain activities, enforcing access restrictions to privately held properties on the island is largely outside of our jurisdiction, the private landholdings are not covered by RAM.

For example access restrictions for Kingfisher can not be applied or lifted by QPWS as we have no head of power over their areas. They access directly by and into their own leased areas including their privately held barge landing lease and their Wanggoolba lease and airstrip.

Eurong resort is also accessible by helicopter and has a landing pad and helicopter hangar that we have no powers over.

Also as mentioned, the eastern beach is dedicated road.

For this reason, QPWS has never been able to make the decision to close the whole island, that has always been an LDMG decision using police or other emergency powers.

So the head of power used by QFES to restrict access to the island during the fire emergency, needs to be considered and administered in easing the restrictions as well in my view.

That decision sits with whomever made the call to restrict access, and could also possibly be taken by the LDMG commander.

So the upshot is, applying and removing the restriction on access is not a QPWS power, and we can only open the NP and Rec areas once the restriction is formally revoked.

Sent from my iPhone

On 12 Dec 2020, at 5:31 pm, CONNOR Nathan <Nathan.Connor@des.qld.gov.au> wrote:

> Hi Neil,
>
> IC has confirmed that as is standard practice, the governing agency/authority responsible for the reopening of areas/tracks within their jurisdiction own all matters associated with such decisions.
>
> In accordance with that advice and as confirmed by Marc Dargusch, the Recreation Area Management Act (RAMA) covers the non QPWS areas mentioned below and as such would provide head of power for QPWS to reopen these areas post assessment – noting the inland road is located in non-fire effected country nor is it currently closed.
>
> Fraser Coast Council have indicated a minor role (eastern beach only) in road management previously and also referred to the RAMA as the customary point of truth.
>
> Happy to discuss anytime.
>
> Regards,
>
> Nathan Connor
> Deputy Incident Controller

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From: KLAASSEN Ben <Ben.Klaassen@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Saturday, 12 December 2020 4:03 PM
To: CAMBOURN Neil
Cc: BUCKLEY Andrew; CUBIS Mick; CONNOR Nathan; HEAD Damien; DARGUSCH Marc; HARRIS Leigh
Subject: Re: Transition document for K'gari fire back to QPWS control.

Hi all

The DG has been briefed and noted handover to QPWS tomorrow.

He has asked we follow up one point with current IC noting they have identified QPWS to determine recovery actions.

That is advice that there is nothing of relevance to non QPWS tenures that should be considered in a decision to reopen the eastern beach or inland road we propose. He considers it important we have that from the current IC to inform our decision noting we are not responsible for those tenures.

He has some edits to the media release he will send to me.

Thanks
Ben

Sent from my iPhone

On 12 Dec 2020, at 2:35 pm, CAMBOURN Neil <Neil.Cambourn@des.qld.gov.au> wrote:

Thanks Andrew and Nathan,
Confirming as Executive Director responsible for QPWS operational management of K'Gari, that I endorse the transition document subject to the noted final adjustment of figures to reflect the conditions at the time of proposed transfer, and accept the transfer of control of the fire **as a level one incident** as per the provisions of the Queensland Bushfire Plan, from QFES IC Matt Inwood to QPWS Deputy IC Nathan Connor from tomorrow Sunday 13 December 2020 under appropriate conditions and timing as mutually agreed by the QFES IC Matt Inwood and QPWS Deputy IC Nathan Connor.

Following formal transfer, Nathan Connor is to assume the formal position as incident controller and establish the necessary QPWS Incident Management Team arrangements appropriate to the current fire situation and future expected conditions and management requirements, and the necessary national park/ recreation area recovery actions.

Regards Neil

<image003.png>
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: BUCKLEY Andrew <Andrew.Buckley@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Saturday, 12 December 2020 1:50 PM
To: KLAASSEN Ben; CAMBOURN Neil; CUBIS Mick
Cc: CONNOR Nathan; HEAD Damien; DARGUSCH Marc; HARRIS Leigh
Subject: Fwd: Transition document for K'gari fire back to QPWS control.

Ben
Please see below and attached i will get Neil to confirm but I believe we are prepared for the handover and a including implementing our reopening strategy and media tomorrow. Seeking your ok for this and for sending to DG for visibility. Is there anything else you want in place for tomorrow let me

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know.

Cheers Buck

Get Outlook for iOS

From: CONNOR Nathan <Nathan.Connor@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Saturday, December 12, 2020 1:39 pm
To: BUCKLEY Andrew; CUBIS Mick
Cc: HEAD Damien
Subject: FW: Transition document for K'gari fire back to QPWS control.

Hi Buck,

Please see attached transition document for QPWS endorsement as discussed. Transition is scheduled for tomorrow, Sunday the 13th December, conditions permitting. Note QFES endorsement below.

Happy to discuss.

Nathan

From: james.haig <james.haig@qfes.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Saturday, 12 December 2020 12:13 PM
To: CONNOR Nathan
Cc: Matthew Inwood
Subject: FW: Transition document for K'gari fire back to QPWS control.

Nathan as discussed.

Regards

James

James Haig
Superintendent
Executive Manager Bushfire Mitigation
Office Of Bushfire Mitigation, Rural Fire Service
Queensland Fire and Emergency Services
P 07 3635 3883 **M** Personal info

<image006.jpg>

From: Steve Barber <Steve.Barber@qfes.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Saturday, 12 December 2020 12:08 PM
To: James Haig <James.Haig@qfes.qld.gov.au>
Cc: Matthew Inwood <Matthew.Inwood@qfes.qld.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Transition document for K'gari fire back to QPWS control.

Hi James, as the Commander Regional Operations NCR, I **endorse and approve** the Fraser Island (K'gari) bushfire Transition handover document to QPWS with those minor amendments as discussed.

Kind Regards

Steve Barber AFSM
Assistant Commissioner
Northern Region

<image007.png>
<image008.jpg>

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services

Phone: (07) 47969023
Mobile: Personal inf
Email: steve.barber@qfes.qld.gov.au

From: James Haig <James.Haig@qfes.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Saturday, 12 December 2020 11:46 AM
To: Steve Barber <Steve.Barber@qfes.qld.gov.au>
Cc: Matthew Inwood <Matthew.Inwood@qfes.qld.gov.au>
Subject: Transition document for K'gari fire back to QPWS conmtrol.

Sir, please find attached a draft transition document for this fire.

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I have run this past QPWS Deputy IC Nathan Connor who is supportive.

I am now seeking your support for this so that we can formally share it with him and he can email it through to his executive to ensure an orderly transfer of the fire sometime tomorrow.

Evidence for the statements in the documents have been verified by the Air Operations lead for air observations, the FBAN for weather related information and Operations for the risk assessments for Happy Valley and the small townships. The risk assessments have been confirmed verbally with the assessing officer (Div Com Ash Dickson) however have not been received physically by ICC Operations due to connectivity issues (photo s and scans too large to send from field). This will be done when the officer achieves connectivity.

As this matter has been considered at the executive level could you either approve yourself or whomever is required to approve and advise back by return email and I will forward to QPWS Nathan Connor as per above? I just do not wish to get ahead of where I should be.

This would be my last task as IC and I will formally transfer control of the incident to Matt Ingram upon completion. Matt is aware that he may need to update some figures in the document tomorrow to reflect conditions at the time.

Lastly can I thank you for your support and leadership during this incident. I have certainly appreciated the clear direction of both yourself and Mr McCormack as well as the friendly advice and support and wanted to acknowledge that.

Regards

James

James Haig
Superintendent
Executive Manager Bushfire Mitigation
Office Of Bushfire Mitigation, Rural Fire Service
Queensland Fire and Emergency Services
P 07 3635 3883 **M** Personal info

<image006.jpg>

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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).

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Date : 13/12/2020 4:05:18 PM
From : "BUCKLEY Andrew"
To : "CONNOR Nathan" , "DAVIDSON Brent" , "WATSON Matthew" , "KLAASSEN Ben"
Cc : "HARRIS Leigh" , "CAMBOURN Neil"
Subject : Re: Transition document for K'gari fire back to QPWS control.

Thanks Nathan

Brent /Matthew
Are you able to finalise through to Ben please
Cheers Buck

Get Outlook for iOS

From: CONNOR Nathan <Nathan.Connor@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Sunday, December 13, 2020 3:24 pm
To: DAVIDSON Brent; BUCKLEY Andrew; WATSON Matthew
Cc: KLAASSEN Ben; HARRIS Leigh; CAMBOURN Neil
Subject: RE: Transition document for K'gari fire back to QPWS control.

Hi Brent,

Apologies for the tardy response. My amendments in red bold for your consideration.

Nathan

Nathan Connor
Principal Conservation Officer – Fire Management
Technical Services
Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service
Department of Environment and Science
M Personal Info

From: DAVIDSON Brent <Brent.Davidson@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Sunday, 13 December 2020 12:00 PM
To: BUCKLEY Andrew; WATSON Matthew
Cc: CONNOR Nathan; KLAASSEN Ben; HARRIS Leigh; CAMBOURN Neil
Subject: RE: Transition document for K'gari fire back to QPWS control.

I've just got off the phone with the MO again and we're working towards release tomorrow morning. Once the IMT has signed off the plan, I just need someone (Nathan?) to check over the below to make sure everything in yellow is factually incorrect and then the DG's asked to see it before it gets escalated to MO.

Tourist accommodation providers on K'gari-Fraser Island have been given the green light to welcome guests for Christmas following the recent bushfire **as of tomorrow, Tuesday the 15th December**

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

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

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

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

Those re-opening include:

1. **Beach camping zones south of Poyungan Rocks**
2. **Waddy Point beachfront camping.**
3. **Waddy Point campground.**

Other camping opportunities will become available as hazard assessments progress

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

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

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

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

QPWS regrets the inconvenience caused to those who planned to camp or visit K'gari prior to today, however public safety is always the top priority, and now that the threat has eased, visitors can be welcomed back to enjoy the island's unique natural areas.

The closure of access to townships and camp grounds has been necessary in the interest of public safety and QPWS staff have worked hard alongside Queensland Fire and Emergency Services and the Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation during this incident to do everything they can to both ensure safety and get the island open to tourists as soon as possible.

Visitors to the island should continue to check www.qld.gov.au/parkalerts or @QldParkAlerts on Twitter to keep up-to-date on information such as weather, fire or restrictions.

From: BUCKLEY Andrew <Andrew.Buckley@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Sunday, 13 December 2020 11:15 AM
To: WATSON Matthew
Cc: CONNOR Nathan; KLAASSEN Ben; DAVIDSON Brent; HARRIS Leigh; CAMBOURN Neil
Subject: Re: Transition document for K'gari fire back to QPWS control.

Brent/ Matthew
Just spoke to Nathan he is getting lots of requests from QPS to say that people want to know what's going on. I think the earlier we get it out that Tuesday is the day the better. But let's discuss once IMT give our strategy the green light should be noonish.
Cheers Buck

Sent from my iPhone

> On 13 Dec 2020, at 10:27 am, WATSON Matthew <Matthew.Watson@des.qld.gov.au> wrote:
>
> Okay, thank you.
> I agree with Brent's advice from yesterday to announce the reopening tomorrow.
> I can put the today show off.
> I am heading to Personal information but will be taking my laptop, phone etc.
> Call if anything changes.
> Cheers
>
> <image004.png>
> Matt Watson
> Principal Media Officer
> **Media Unit | Corporate Communications**
> Department of Environment and Science
> M Personal in
> <image005.png>
> 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:** BUCKLEY Andrew <Andrew.Buckley@des.qld.gov.au>
> **Sent:** Sunday, 13 December 2020 10:26 AM
> **To:** WATSON Matthew; CONNOR Nathan; KLAASSEN Ben; DAVIDSON Brent
> **Cc:** HARRIS Leigh; CAMBOURN Neil
> **Subject:** Re: Transition document for K'gari fire back to QPWS control.
>
> Matthew
> I believe it is Tuesday for reopening eastern beach access.
> Cheers Buck
>
> Get Outlook for iOS

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From: WATSON Matthew <Matthew.Watson@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Sunday, December 13, 2020 10:19:32 AM
To: BUCKLEY Andrew <Andrew.Buckley@des.qld.gov.au>; CONNOR Nathan <Nathan.Connor@des.qld.gov.au>; KLAASSEN Ben <Ben.Klaassen@des.qld.gov.au>; DAVIDSON Brent <Brent.Davidson@des.qld.gov.au>
Cc: HARRIS Leigh <Leigh.Harris@des.qld.gov.au>; CAMBOURN Neil <Neil.Cambourn@des.qld.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Transition document for K'gari fire back to QPWS control.

No worries Andrew,
As part of the reopening strategy, will the island be opened tomorrow?
The Today Show are going to call me about 12pm today to check.
Cheers

<image006.png>
Matt Watson
Principal Media Officer
Media Unit | Corporate Communications
Department of Environment and Science
M Personal Info
<image005.png>
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: BUCKLEY Andrew <Andrew.Buckley@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Sunday, 13 December 2020 10:12 AM
To: CONNOR Nathan; KLAASSEN Ben; DAVIDSON Brent; WATSON Matthew
Cc: HARRIS Leigh; CAMBOURN Neil
Subject: Re: Transition document for K'gari fire back to QPWS control.

Ben
Based on the information from Nathan it would seem the restrictions to access for Fraser that were enacted were through our processes around visitation and camping. Therefore post IC handover to QPWS&P we will be able to push on with our reopening strategy and media release.

I will give you a call once official handover occurs to Nathan.

Brent / Matthew
If possible you may want to check in with QFES media to see if they want to do something joint about handover which we could include our reopening info?

Cheers Buck

Sent from my iPhone

> On 13 Dec 2020, at 9:47 am, CONNOR Nathan <Nathan.Connor@des.qld.gov.au> wrote:
>
> Hi Leigh and Buck,
>
> As per Neil's instruction to liaise via yourselves for the time being please see link below from Friday the 27th November – the day QFES took control of the fire. The restrictions mentioned here apply to new campers and visitors to the island only. These arrangements remain and as mentioned in the release the public is to keep an eye on the QFES website for fire status update and the QPWS site for closure status.
>
> The regulation of new campers and visitors to the island has been minimal with no compliance of permits outside that of QPWS process. This has been confirmed by QFES IC Matt Inwood and QPS IMT Liaison Officer
>
> To my understanding this is essentially a matter of us adjusting our park status via Park Alerts once formal handover is completed around midday.
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> pp
>
> **Matthew Inwood** JP
> Inspector
> Area Director
> Caloundra, Rural Fire Service

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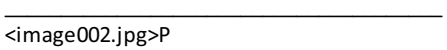
Queensland Fire and Emergency Services
P 07 5293 4200 **M** Personal info



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Sent: Sunday, 13 December 2020 7:20 AM
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Cc: BUCKLEY Andrew; CUBIS Mick; HEAD Damien; DARGUSCH Marc; HARRIS Leigh
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That decision sits with whomever made the call to restrict access, and could also possibly be taken by the LDMG commander.

So the upshot is, applying and removing the restriction on access is not a QPWS power, and we can only open the NP and Rec areas once the restriction is formally revoked.

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> Deputy Incident Controller
>
> ---
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> **From:** KLAASSEN Ben <Ben.Klaassen@des.qld.gov.au>
> **Sent:** Saturday, 12 December 2020 4:03 PM
> **To:** CAMBOURN Neil
> **Cc:** BUCKLEY Andrew; CUBIS Mick; CONNOR Nathan; HEAD Damien; DARGUSCH Marc; HARRIS Leigh
> **Subject:** Re: Transition document for K'gari fire back to QPWS control.

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Hi all

The DG has been briefed and noted handover to QPWS tomorrow.

He has asked we follow up one point with current IC noting they have identified QPWS to determine recovery actions.

That is advice that there is nothing of relevance to non QPWS tenures that should be considered in a decision to reopen the eastern beach or inland road we propose. He considers it important we have that from the current IC to inform our decision noting we are not responsible for those tenures.

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Thanks
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Sent from my iPhone

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Regards Neil

<image003.png>
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

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Cheers Buck

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Sent: Saturday, December 12, 2020 1:39 pm
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Cc: HEAD Damien
Subject: FW: Transition document for K'gari fire back to QPWS control.

Hi Buck,

Please see attached transition document for QPWS endorsement as discussed. Transition

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is scheduled for tomorrow, Sunday the 13th December, conditions permitting. Note QFES endorsement below.

Happy to discuss.

Nathan

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Sent: Saturday, 12 December 2020 12:13 PM
To: CONNOR Nathan
Cc: Matthew Inwood
Subject: FW: Transition document for K'gari fire back to QPWS control.

Nathan as discussed.

Regards

James

James Haig
Superintendent
Executive Manager Bushfire Mitigation
Office Of Bushfire Mitigation, Rural Fire Service
Queensland Fire and Emergency Services
P 07 3635 3883 **M** Personal infor

<image006.jpg>

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To: James Haig <James.Haig@qfes.qld.gov.au>
Cc: Matthew Inwood <Matthew.Inwood@qfes.qld.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Transition document for K'gari fire back to QPWS control.

Hi James, as the Commander Regional Operations NCR, I **endorse and approve** the Fraser Island (K'gari) bushfire Transition handover document to QPWS with those minor amendments as discussed.

Kind Regards

Steve Barber AFSM
Assistant Commissioner
Northern Region

<image007.png>
<image008.jpg>

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services

Phone: (07) 47969023
Mobile: Personal inf
Email: steve.barber@qfes.qld.gov.au

From: James Haig <James.Haig@qfes.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Saturday, 12 December 2020 11:46 AM
To: Steve Barber <Steve.Barber@qfes.qld.gov.au>
Cc: Matthew Inwood <Matthew.Inwood@qfes.qld.gov.au>
Subject: Transition document for K'gari fire back to QPWS conmtrol.

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Lastly can I thank you for your support and leadership during this incident. I have certainly appreciated the clear direction of both yourself and Mr McCormack as well as the friendly advice and support and wanted to acknowledge that.

Regards

James

James Haig
Superintendent
Executive Manager Bushfire Mitigation
Office Of Bushfire Mitigation, Rural Fire Service
Queensland Fire and Emergency Services
P 07 3635 3883 **M** Personal info

<image006.jpg>

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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).

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Date : 11/12/2020 3:46:42 PM
From : "CUBIS Mick"
To : "CAMBOURN Neil" , "DAVIDSON Brent" , "HEAD Damien" , "BRIANT Steve"
Cc : "BUCKLEY Andrew"
Subject : RE: 11122020 - DRAFT MR - Camping re-opening on K'gari v2
Attachment : 11122020 - DRAFT MR - Camping re-opening on K'gari v3.docx;image001.png;image004.png;image007.png;image009.png;image010.png;image011.png;

Yes, I'm happy, have just made some minor typo / spelling edits.

Mick Cubis
Regional Director, Coastal and Islands Region
GBRMCI | QPWS & Partnerships
Department of Environment and Science
P: 07 54471137 M: Personal info
240 Moorindil Street, Tewantin
Qld 4565
mick.cubis@des.qld.gov.au

From: CAMBOURN Neil <Neil.Cambourn@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 11 December 2020 3:36 PM
To: DAVIDSON Brent; CUBIS Mick; HEAD Damien; BRIANT Steve
Cc: BUCKLEY Andrew
Subject: RE: 11122020 - DRAFT MR - Camping re-opening on K'gari v2

Looks good thanks Brent. Mick and Damien are you ok?

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: DAVIDSON Brent <Brent.Davidson@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 11 December 2020 3:32 PM
To: CUBIS Mick; HEAD Damien; BRIANT Steve; CAMBOURN Neil
Cc: BUCKLEY Andrew
Subject: RE: 11122020 - DRAFT MR - Camping re-opening on K'gari v2

Have just made some comments again for consideration. We'll get there…

From: CUBIS Mick <Mick.Cubis@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 11 December 2020 2:51 PM
To: HEAD Damien; BRIANT Steve; CAMBOURN Neil; DAVIDSON Brent; Media DES
Cc: BUCKLEY Andrew
Subject: RE: 11122020 - DRAFT MR - Camping re-opening on K'gari v2

Damien, the bookings for K'gari have been cancelled until 14th December. We have been assessing on a week by week basis and were looking to cancel the next week 15th December – 20th December but have held off given the uncertainty around the reopening strategy dates. I think we need to advise campers that Monday bookings are cancelled.

Mick Cubis
Regional Director, Coastal and Islands Region
GBRMCI | QPWS & Partnerships
Department of Environment and Science
P: 07 54471137 M: Personal info
240 Moorindil Street, Tewantin
Qld 4565
mick.cubis@des.qld.gov.au

From: HEAD Damien <Damien.Head@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 11 December 2020 2:46 PM
To: BRIANT Steve; CAMBOURN Neil; DAVIDSON Brent; Media DES
Cc: BUCKLEY Andrew; CUBIS Mick
Subject: RE: 11122020 - DRAFT MR - Camping re-opening on K'gari v2

So a closure is not in place? Or the current one expires before Monday?

From: BRIANT Steve <Steve.Briant@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 11 December 2020 2:43 PM
To: CAMBOURN Neil; HEAD Damien; DAVIDSON Brent; Media DES

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Cc: BUCKLEY Andrew; CUBIS Mick
Subject: RE: 11122020 - DRAFT MR - Camping re-opening on K'gari v2

Sorry for the confusion.

Below stated that media release will potentially be on Monday – we need to advise people arriving Monday today if their booking is cancelled.

Cheers
Steve

From: CAMBOURN Neil <Neil.Cambourn@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 11 December 2020 2:37 PM
To: BRIANT Steve; HEAD Damien; DAVIDSON Brent; Media DES
Cc: BUCKLEY Andrew; CUBIS Mick
Subject: RE: 11122020 - DRAFT MR - Camping re-opening on K'gari v2

Cheers Steve, we appreciate that, but the island is still under the control of a QFES led IMT and DDMG (police and local authorities) sanctioned closures.
It's not our call until control is handed back, so we need to be patient, but ready, and let the process take its course.

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: BRIANT Steve <Steve.Briant@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 11 December 2020 2:26 PM
To: HEAD Damien; DAVIDSON Brent; Media DES
Cc: BUCKLEY Andrew; CAMBOURN Neil; CUBIS Mick
Subject: RE: 11122020 - DRAFT MR - Camping re-opening on K'gari v2

Hi all

We are getting to the pointy end where we need to advise people arriving Monday if their bookings are cancelled – we cannot wait for Monday for this. Enquiries are coming through SSQ, the OBS team and social media channels as the park alert currently only includes information to Sunday.

Following this there are over 300 booking next week on K'gari where people are requesting urgent updates for their holiday plans.

We are happy to open or close but we need advice on what we are communicating urgently please.

FYI – Donna is unhappy ;)

Cheers
Steve

From: HEAD Damien <Damien.Head@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 11 December 2020 1:48 PM
To: DAVIDSON Brent; Media DES; BRIANT Steve
Cc: BUCKLEY Andrew; CAMBOURN Neil; CUBIS Mick
Subject: RE: 11122020 - DRAFT MR - Camping re-opening on K'gari v2

Brent

I have made some edits in track changes that reflect the latest direction (in second attachment). This is currently being reviewed by the region before being put to DG/DDG for approval.
It is likely Monday will be the day for public and media announcements.

The stage reopening plan may also provide more to add to the announcement, at your discretion.

Damien

From: DAVIDSON Brent <Brent.Davidson@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 11 December 2020 1:03 PM
To: HEAD Damien
Cc: BUCKLEY Andrew; CAMBOURN Neil
Subject: RE: 11122020 - DRAFT MR - Camping re-opening on K'gari v2

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Thanks, you just let me know how those discussions go & once you make some changes, send back to me & I'll prepare.

From: HEAD Damien <Damien.Head@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 11 December 2020 1:02 PM
To: DAVIDSON Brent
Cc: BUCKLEY Andrew; CAMBOURN Neil
Subject: RE: 11122020 - DRAFT MR - Camping re-opening on K'gari v2

Brent

Reads pretty well I am just going to make some changes. After discussion with Ben we should be prepping this for a release on Monday.

Damien

From: DAVIDSON Brent <Brent.Davidson@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 11 December 2020 11:02 AM
To: HEAD Damien
Cc: BUCKLEY Andrew
Subject: 11122020 - DRAFT MR - Camping re-opening on K'gari v2

Hi Damien,

How's this?

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
Visit the Environment Media Centre
Visit us on Twitter

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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~~on K'gari-Fraser Island have been given the green light to start to welcome guests ~~in time~~ for Christmas following the recent bushfire.

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

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.

~~Additionally, some QPWS-run camping sites~~Campers don't miss out either with ~~those~~ 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

Those re-opening include:

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

Local businesses, ~~and r~~~~The 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-ope~~ ~~n P~~otential hazards. During this time and for their safety is it most important visitors follow the directions of rangers and obey any closure signage.

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

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

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.

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

Commented [DB4]: I think this will be important – we can amend depending on which ones are opened etc

Commented [DB5]: I wouldn't mind keeping 'still too dangerous' in as it ramps home the message not to try & go in even with signage

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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 threat 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.

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Date : 11/12/2020 6:08:20 PM
From : "KLAASSEN Ben"
To : "DAVIDSON Brent"
Subject : RE: 11122020 - DRAFT MR - Camping re-opening on K'gari v3
Attachment : image001.png;image004.png;image005.jpg;

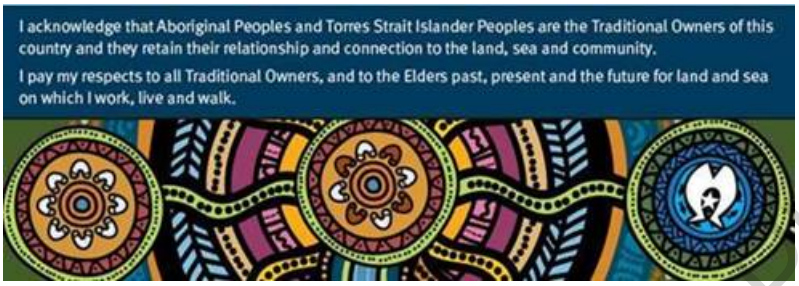
Brent

DG said he was tinkering with the MR so if I get a revised version will pass on.

Regards
Ben

Queensland Government

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



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From: DAVIDSON Brent <Brent.Davidson@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 11 December 2020 4:19 PM
To: HEAD Damien; CAMBOURN Neil; CUBIS Mick; KLAASSEN Ben
Subject: RE: 11122020 - DRAFT MR - Camping re-opening on K'gari v3

Here we go

From: HEAD Damien <Damien.Head@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 11 December 2020 4:18 PM
To: DAVIDSON Brent; CAMBOURN Neil; CUBIS Mick; KLAASSEN Ben
Subject: RE: 11122020 - DRAFT MR - Camping re-opening on K'gari v3

Brent

Can you please send through a final to the team. Ben will forward to DG for consideration.

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 : 25/11/2020 12:27:32 PM
From : "DAVIDSON Brent"
To : "HEAD Damien" , "GRANT Andrea" , "CAMBOURN Neil" , "KLAASSEN Ben" , "CUBIS Mick"
Cc : "Media DES"
Subject : RE: 25112020 - MR - Update on Fraser Island fire
Attachment : image001.png;image002.png;image003.png;image004.png;image007.png;

Well they mayor's been on the radio telling people to reconsider their need to go to the island and we've just had a bollocking from residents, interest groups and others for half an hour on Brisbane's most listened to radio station so we've well and truly lost control of this narrative. It's too late.

From: HEAD Damien <Damien.Head@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 25 November 2020 12:26 PM
To: GRANT Andrea; CAMBOURN Neil; DAVIDSON Brent; KLAASSEN Ben; CUBIS Mick
Cc: Media DES
Subject: RE: 25112020 - MR - Update on Fraser Island fire

I think the lead needs to be the island is open and all of the island's popular visitor destinations remain open and well removed from the fire front. Visitors are welcomed and encouraged to first locations such as Lake McKenzie, Central Station, Eli Creek, Maheno and the many other lakes across the southern end of the island. Also beach camping continues to be available along much of the islands 130kms in addition to locations such as Waddy Point and Central Station.
Some campgrounds are temporarily closed and others have been reopened already. If your existing booking is affected by these temporary closures amendments can be made and accommodated on our booking system.

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

Chicken little is not required at times like this.

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

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

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

Happy to discuss
Andrea

From: CAMBOURN Neil <Neil.Cambourn@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 25 November 2020 12:05 PM
To: DAVIDSON Brent; KLAASSEN Ben; HEAD Damien; CUBIS Mick
Cc: GRANT Andrea; Media DES
Subject: RE: 25112020 - MR - Update on Fraser Island fire

Thanks Brent I don't support the narrative, its unnecessarily alarmist and out of context.
The areas mentioned are inconsequential places in the scheme of the islands broader offerings, and going out to media like that will scare people off from making Christmas bookings to the resorts who badly need the patronage.
Have another crack in the context of "we are open for business but keep an eye on Park Alerts" please.
I wouldn't even list the full list of road closures you have there, just report that some roads in the north and some camping zones may be inaccessible while the fire operation is underway etc.
Most of the camping nodes mentioned are west coast and only accessed by a few locals, the Platypus bay road and moon point road have been closed/ inaccessible to visitors for years.

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

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

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Sent: Wednesday, 25 November 2020 11:42 AM
To: CAMBOURN Neil; KLAASSEN Ben
Cc: GRANT Andrea; Media DES
Subject: 25112020 - MR - Update on Fraser Island fire

Hi Neil & Ben

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

Hoping to get to the MO ASAP.

Cheers

Brent

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

Chat with me on teams **M** Personal info
E brent.davidson@des.qld.gov.au
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Date : 4/12/2020 12:33:58 PM
From : "BUCKLEY Andrew"
To : "DAVIDSON Brent" , "KLAASSEN Ben"
Cc : "GRANT Andrea"
Subject : RE: ABC 7.30 media request regarding Fraser Island/K'Gari fire
Attachment : image002.png;image006.png;image007.png;image008.png;image009.png;

Thanks Brent

From: DAVIDSON Brent <Brent.Davidson@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 4 December 2020 12:22 PM
To: BUCKLEY Andrew; KLAASSEN Ben
Cc: GRANT Andrea
Subject: FW: ABC 7.30 media request regarding Fraser Island/K'Gari fire

Hi Andrew & Ben

FYI – ABC 7.30 looking at doing a story. They appear to be focused on – so far – on the impact on wildlife/vegetation. I am going to have to reply to him so I will say that we are still fighting the fire so not in a position to consider requests like this at the moment.

Cheers

Brent

Queensland Government

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

Chat with me on teams **M** Personal infor
E brent.davidson@des.qld.gov.au
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From: Michael Atkin <Atkin.Michael@abc.net.au>
Sent: Friday, 4 December 2020 12:04 PM
To: Media DES
Subject: ABC 7.30 media request regarding Fraser Island/K'Gari fire

Hi DES Media,

I'm a reporter with the ABC's 7.30 program and I was wondering if DES has people on Fraser Island/K'Gari conducting wildlife and/or vegetation surveys to assess the fire's impact and if so whether it may be possible to conduct a pre-recorded interview with someone doing this early next week.

We would be interested in speaking to this person on camera about the potential impact of the fire as well as discussing the unique flora and fauna there. This interview could be done via Facetime, Skype or Zoom.

Please let me know if this is a possibility by Midday on Monday so we can make further arrangements.

I can be reached on the numbers below should you wish to discuss this further.

Kind regards,

7.30

Michael Atkin
Reporter, 7.30

M Personal inf
W abc.net.au/7.30
P 07 3377 5118
T @michaelatkin
F facebook.com/ABC730

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Date : 6/12/2020 2:41:18 PM
From : "KLAASSEN Ben"
To : "BUCKLEY Andrew" , "CAMBOURN Neil" , "HARRIS Leigh" , "DAVIDSON Brent" , "DARGUSCH Marc"
Subject : RE: Bushfire alert

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 in | 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

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Date : 2/12/2020 9:20:46 AM
From : "CAMBOURN Neil"
To : "DAVIDSON Brent" , "BUCKLEY Andrew" , "KLAASSEN Ben"
Subject : RE: Butchulla negotiations
Attachment : Ben: K'gari fire response Maryborough Sun;image001.png;image002.png;

Thanks I have limited capacity to assist as I'm travelling and in meetings today.
This is from last week (attached)

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: DAVIDSON Brent <Brent.Davidson@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 2 December 2020 8:48 AM
To: BUCKLEY Andrew; KLAASSEN Ben; CAMBOURN Neil
Subject: RE: Butchulla negotiations

Thanks very much. Neil do you know if there's been any specific talk about using water from the lakes etc? I know it's very sacred to the Butchulla – I presume even if we'd asked they would not like that to happen?

From: BUCKLEY Andrew <Andrew.Buckley@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 2 December 2020 8:46 AM
To: DAVIDSON Brent; KLAASSEN Ben; CAMBOURN Neil
Subject: RE: Butchulla negotiations

Brent
My understanding is that we have been consulting with the Butchulla people throughout this campaign. Also I think from my reading it is salt water that is being used **not** water from lakes or other sources on the island but Neil may be best placed to confirm these things.

Cheers buck

From: DAVIDSON Brent <Brent.Davidson@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 2 December 2020 8:21 AM
To: BUCKLEY Andrew; KLAASSEN Ben
Subject: Butchulla negotiations

Hi Ben & Andrew

Would you be able to help us answer this:

Has there been consultation with the Butchulla people regarding using water from water sources on the island?

I know this will need to be treated sensitively. to discuss.

Cheers

Brent

Brent Davidson
Media Manager
Personal info

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Date : 26/11/2020 1:00:43 PM
From : "WATSON Matthew"
To : "KLAASSEN Ben"
Cc : "Media DES" , "CAMBOURN Neil"
Subject : Ben: K'gari fire response Maryborough Sun
Attachment : 251120 - K'gari fire update - Maryborough Sun.docx;image001.png;image003.png;image004.png;

Hi Ben,
Please see response attached and below.
This is based upon previously approved responses.
Neil has approved.
Is this okay to progress?
Cheers

Media statement

K'gari (Fraser Island) update

November 26 2020

Enquiry from Craig Winter – Maryborough Sun

From: The Maryborough Sun - Administration <admin@marysun.com.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 24 November 2020 4:51 PM
To: QPWS
Subject: Fraser Island fires - media story response requested
Importance: High

Good evening,
We are featuring a story on the current Fraser Island fires and have the following questions as asked by our readers, all of whom have been watching the emergency response with interest, and particularly the helicopter taking fresh water from the mainland for dumping on the fire. We are attempting to provide our readers with actual facts, not sourced from Facebook opinions and rumours, so your help would be appreciated.

1. Is it true that the single helicopter (we are aware of the plane assisting of course) assisting in with the fire is NOT ALOWED to fill it's water bucket from the fresh water resources on Fraser Island, and that it has to fly and additional 20 minutes to Booral to do so?
2. The average avgas usage of this type of helicopter is around 45 litres/hour (approx. $200). Can the Government or it's agencies justify the additional cost AND the additional 40 minutes round trip to fill each buck, when Fraser Island famously has almost more fresh water than mainland Queensland?
3. Most pastoralists in the region have been predicting this fire for many years due to the overgrowth of Fraser Island firebreaks and lack of fire maintenance. Do you consider that maintenance is issue with this fire?
4. Are the Rural Fire Brigades hands tied when it comes to making decisions on how to fire similar fires/maintain bush areas because of political pressure from Greens and other parties?
5. Is the department open to considering a new plan for fire maintenance and control in areas to prevent further disastrous fires in the future.

There will be significant economic loss for the Fraser Coast region because of this fire. Local businesses are already reporting multiple tourism cancelations and are afraid that this holiday season won't provide the boost they need after COVID. We are hoping to be able to give them some good news regarding the future of the Island and it's surrounds. Many thanks for your consideration.

Regards,
Craig Winter

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

Approximately 36 per cent of K'gari (Fraser Island) is within the fire perimeter but not all that area has been burned. The fire has been burning at a variety of intensities depending on environmental conditions and vegetation types, and is burning in a mosaic pattern.

Waterbombing has been used to suppress the fire's movement and rate of spread. However, as the soil is sand, it doesn't hold moisture which hampers its residual benefits. In the tall, forested areas it is difficult for water bombing to dampen the ground through the canopy.

Biosecurity and cultural reasons restrict water-bombing helicopters from accessing the island's pristine freshwater lakes. This prevents pest fish, insects, seeds or pest plant species potentially being transferred from a farm dam via water-bombing buckets, which could be catastrophic to the island's natural ecological balance. However, helicopters have sourced water from the ocean.

K'gari is managed in accordance with a comprehensive fire management strategy. This includes a system of prioritised firebreaks and scientifically based planned burn guidelines that integrate traditional mosaic burning practices specifically designed for the island's vegetation communities.

QPWS routinely conduct planned burns operations on K'gari, and the use of fire is an accepted environmental management strategy. 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.

The majority of the island, including popular visitor sites, remains open. The impact on visitors, beyond smoke and visibility issues, is minor. Some camping sites previously closed have reopened.

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Christmas campground bookings on the island and in the neighbouring coastal recreation areas are expected to be at capacity.

Visitors to the island should monitor Park Alerts and Queensland Fire and Emergency Service advice over the coming days.

For more information about planned burn guidelines, please visit:
https://parks.des.qld.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0031/149863/pbg-seq.pdf

ENDS

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

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

M [redacted] 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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Media statement

K’gari (Fraser Island) update

November 26 2020

Enquiry from Craig Winter – Maryborough Sun

From: The Maryborough Sun - Administration <admin@marysun.com.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 24 November 2020 4:51 PM
To: QPWS
Subject: Fraser Island fires - media story response requested
Importance: High

Good evening,
We are featuring a story on the current Fraser Island fires and have the following questions as asked by our readers, all of whom have been watching the emergency response with interest, and particularly the helicopter taking fresh water from the mainland for dumping on the fire. We are attempting to provide our readers with actual facts, not sourced from Facebook opinions and rumours, so your help would be appreciated.

1. Is it true that the single helicopter (we are aware of the plane assisting of course) assisting in with the fire is NOT ALOWED to fill it’s water bucket from the fresh water resources on Fraser Island, and that it has to fly and additional 20 minutes to Booral to do so?
2. The average avgas usage of this type of helicopter is around 45 litres/hour (approx. $200). Can the Government or it’s agencies justify the additional cost AND the additional 40 minutes round trip to fill each buck, when Fraser Island famously has almost more fresh water than mainland Queensland?
3. Most pastoralists in the region have been predicting this fire for many years due to the overgrowth of Fraser Island firebreaks and lack of fire maintenance. Do you consider that maintenance is issue with this fire?
4. Are the Rural Fire Brigades hands tied when it comes to making decisions on how to fire similar fires/maintain bush areas because of political pressure from Greens and other parties?
5. Is the department open to considering a new plan for fire maintenance and control in areas to prevent further disastrous fires in the future.

There will be significant economic loss for the Fraser Coast region because of this fire. Local businesses are already reporting multiple tourism cancelations and are afraid that this holiday season won’t provide the boost they need after COVID. We are hoping to be able to give them some good news regarding the future of the Island and it’s surrounds. Many thanks for your consideration.

Regards,
Craig Winter

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

Approximately 36 per cent of K’gari (Fraser Island) is within the fire perimeter but not all that area has been burned. The fire has been burning at a variety of intensities depending on environmental conditions and vegetation types, and is burning in a mosaic pattern.

Waterbombing has been used to suppress the fire’s movement and rate of spread. However, as the soil is sand, it doesn’t hold moisture which hampers its residual benefits. In the tall, forested areas it is difficult for water bombing to dampen the ground through the canopy.

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Biosecurity and cultural reasons restrict water-bombing helicopters from accessing the island's pristine freshwater lakes. This prevents pest fish, insects, seeds or pest plant species potentially being transferred from a farm dam via water-bombing buckets, which could be catastrophic to the island's natural ecological balance. However, helicopters have sourced water from the ocean.

K'gari is managed in accordance with a comprehensive fire management strategy. This includes a system of prioritised firebreaks and scientifically based planned burn guidelines that integrate traditional mosaic burning practices specifically designed for the island's vegetation communities.

QPWS routinely conduct planned burns operations on K'gari, and the use of fire is an accepted environmental management strategy. 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.

The majority of the island, including popular visitor sites, remains open. The impact on visitors, beyond smoke and visibility issues, is minor. Some camping sites previously closed have reopened.

Christmas campground bookings on the island and in the neighbouring coastal recreation areas are expected to be at capacity.

Visitors to the island should monitor Park Alerts and Queensland Fire and Emergency Service advice over the coming days.

For more information about planned burn guidelines, please visit:
https://parks.des.qld.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0031/149863/pbg-seq.pdf

ENDS

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

Background: not for publication

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RTI Act 2009

Date : 1/12/2020 4:36:11 PM
From : "Chantelle Rule"
To : "DAVIDSON Brent"
Cc : "Tim Whittaker" , "QFES Media" , "GRANT Andrea"
Subject : RE: Collated K'gari media question responses
Attachment : image005.png;image007.png;image009.png;image001.png;image002.png;image003.png;

Hey Brent,

Did you see my email from a couple of minutes ago?

Also, In regards to IGEM, we have a transcript of what was said in parliament and the Minister said he would speak to IGEM about a review.

Tim is offline for the next hour, so please contact me if you need anything urgently.

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 4:17 PM
To: Tim Whittaker <Tim.Whittaker@qfes.qld.gov.au>; Chantelle Rule <Chantelle.Rule@qfes.qld.gov.au>
Cc: QFES Media <QFES.Media@qfes.qld.gov.au>; GRANT Andrea <Andrea.Grant@des.qld.gov.au>
Subject: Collated K'gari media question responses

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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RTI Act 2009

Date : 4/12/2020 7:53:33 AM
From : "KLAASSEN Ben"
To : "WATSON Matthew" , "DAVIDSON Brent"
Cc : "Media DES" , "BUCKLEY Andrew"
Subject : RE: draft world heritage guidelines response
Attachment : image001.png;image004.png;image005.jpg;image006.png;image007.jpg;

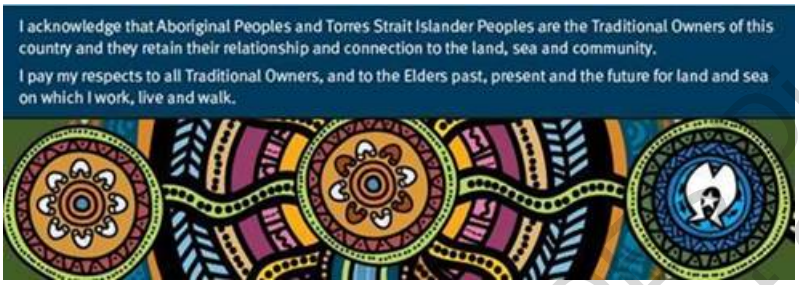
Hi all

There are extensive discussions with QFES this morning re the LAT date. We don't have confirmation as yet if the training run on 20 Oct did happen – may have been pulled last minute.

Will advise when known so we can get the story clear.

Ben

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



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RTI Act 2009

From: KLAASSEN Ben
Sent: Thursday, 3 December 2020 6:36 PM
To: WATSON Matthew; DAVIDSON Brent
Cc: Media DES; BUCKLEY Andrew
Subject: RE: draft world heritage guidelines response

Hi Matt

This has probably gone and my apologies as I was in mock estimates.

In regard to waterbombing I saw some advice today that the LAT was deployed on Oct 20 on this fire. QFES did it as a testing exercise I think.

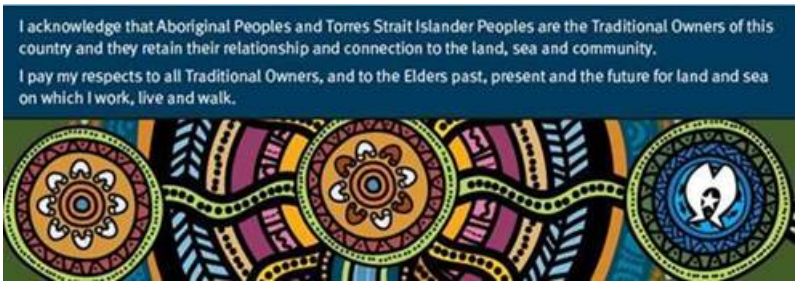
So we just need to keep that in mind when commenting on waterbombing.

Below is probably ok as QPWS did request first on 9 Nov.

We are developing a timeline for the estimates hearing.

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 in | **E** ben.klaassen@des.qld.gov.au
Level 5, 400 George St, Brisbane QLD 4000
PO Box 15187, CITY EAST QLD 4002



From: WATSON Matthew <Matthew.Watson@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 3 December 2020 4:04 PM
To: KLAASSEN Ben
Cc: Media DES; BUCKLEY Andrew
Subject: Ben: draft world heritage guidelines response

Hi Ben,
Please see response below and attached, as endorsed by Andrew.
Is this okay to progress?
Cheers

From: BUCKLEY Andrew <Andrew.Buckley@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 3 December 2020 4:03 PM
To: WATSON Matthew
Cc: Media DES; HEAD Damien
Subject: Re: Andrew: draft world heritage guidelines response

Endorsed
Cheers Buck

Sent from my iPhone

On 3 Dec 2020, at 3:55 pm, WATSON Matthew <Matthew.Watson@des.qld.gov.au> wrote:

Hi Andrew,
Please see response below and attached, as approved by Damien.
Is this okay to progress?
Cheers

Media statement

K'gari fire world heritage guidelines

3 December 2020

Enquiry from Toby Lewis Jurss – Courier Mail

From: Jurss-Lewis, Tobias <tobias.jurss-lewis@news.com.au>
Sent: Thursday, 3 December 2020 12:53 PM
To: Media DES
Subject: Fraser Island statement for print tomorrow - Courier

Hi,
Yesterday DES told the Fraser Coast chronicle that firefighters are not allowed to use water from the island's freshwater lakes due to "biosecurity and cultural" reasons. Does this still stand today (now the fire is burning closer to Lake McKenzie)?
If so, at what point will freshwater from Lake McKenzie be allowed to be used to attack the fire, or any freshwater from the island in general?
Secondly, Bundaberg residents have raised concerns about the use of the Q400MR LAT water bombing aircraft that was unveiled in August. Residents have said they've seen the aircraft in a hangar in Bundaberg throughout the entire duration of the Fraser fire. However, I believe this is incorrect and the aircraft may have been used multiple times since November 17.
Can I receive responses to the following questions:
- When was the first time the Conair Q400MR was used?
- How many times has it been used in total?
Secondly, can I please receive a response about the restrictions on Fraser Island due to biosecurity and cultural concerns. My questions are:
- When was salt water first dumped on this fire?
- When was retardant gel first dumped on this fire?
- What are the current guidelines for QPWS officers working to extinguish a blaze in a World Heritage Area/national park?

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- Is Valley of the Giants under threat at the moment?
Sorry, I know there are a lot of questions here. If you are able to meet a 5pm deadline, that would be greatly appreciated.
Thanks so much,
Toby - 0458 553 240

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

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.

Waterbombing activity on K'gari is utilising saltwater and first took place on November 9 at the request of QPWS.

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

Other aerial waterbombing aircraft were used at a variety of other times – including saltwater filled bucket drops via helicopter. To minimise the impacts upon the island's fragile lake system, water will continue to be sourced from the ocean while viable to do so.

It is important to note that aircrafts 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.

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

K'gari's rainforest communities have not been impacted by the fire as yet. The island's closed forest communities, including tall rainforest stands such as Valley of the Giants with more moist conditions, continue to inhibit the fire's movement across the island.

QPWS conducts fire management and responses to wildfires in accordance with its Fire management objectives, Planned Burn Guidelines and the island's fire management strategy.
https://parks.des.qld.gov.au/management/programs/fire-management/guidelines#downloads

ENDS

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

Background: not for publication

<image002.png>
Matt Watson
Principal Media Officer
Media Unit | Corporate Communications
Department of Environment and Science
M Personal inf
<image003.png>
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

<031220 - K'gari waterbombing and rainforest Courier Mail.docx>

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RTI Act 2009

Date : 1/12/2020 4:09:22 PM
From : "BUCKLEY Andrew"
To : "DAVIDSON Brent"
Subject : RE: Final for review
Attachment : image001.png;image005.png;image006.png;image007.png;
That sounds better

From: DAVIDSON Brent <Brent.Davidson@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 1 December 2020 4:07 PM
To: BUCKLEY Andrew
Subject: RE: Final for review

I think "Even these mitigation measures cannot.." ?

From: BUCKLEY Andrew <Andrew.Buckley@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 1 December 2020 4:03 PM
To: DAVIDSON Brent
Subject: RE: Final for review

Brent
Just not sure of the highlighted para or clear about what it is saying? Might need a tweak to make a bit more sense?
Cheers buck

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

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this matter.

Fraser Coat Chronicle

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ABC Radio

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

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

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

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

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

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

Did QFES <u>want</u> 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.

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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? Ie 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 onK'gari (Fraser Island), with planned burnsaveraging 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
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Queensland Government

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Date : 2/12/2020 12:26:35 PM
From : "DAVIDSON Brent"
To : "Ethan Clissold" , "Media DES"
Cc : "QFES Media"
Subject : RE: FOR APPROVAL - K'gari (Fraser Island) burnt area map
Attachment : image002.png;image003.png;image004.png;image005.png;image006.png;

Hi Ethan
All good.
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
Visit the Environment Media Centre
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From: Ethan Clissold <Ethan.Clissold@qfes.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 2 December 2020 12:22 PM
To: DAVIDSON Brent; Media DES
Cc: QFES Media
Subject: FOR APPROVAL - K'gari (Fraser Island) burnt area map

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
E ethan.clissold@qfes.qld.gov.au
M Emergency Services Complex, Kedron, Level 1, C Block (Mail Cluster 3.2)

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Date : 10/12/2020 8:23:38 PM
From : "BUCKLEY Andrew"
To : "DAVIDSON Brent"
Cc : "HEAD Damien" , "STRYBOS Stacey" , "BRIANT Steve" , "CUBIS Mick" , "SIEBUHR Leanne" , "LEGGATE Lauren" , "MCARTHUR Donna"
Subject : Re: FOR APPROVAL: K'gari emails to camping/VAP holders
Attachment : image004.png;image005.png;image002.png;image007.png;image008.png;

Brent
We are still finalising the details but it will get to Ben tomorrow for endorsement. I am not sure how long the IMT process will take or if they will even support. We will just need to be prepared for a number of scenarios and be somewhat flexible and see where it lands.
Cheers Buck

Sent from my iPhone

On 10 Dec 2020, at 8:17 pm, DAVIDSON Brent <Brent.Davidson@des.qld.gov.au> wrote:

You're right, I have. I misunderstood the significance of the access. I mistakenly thought fir some reason that it would be for residents only. Was the plan signed off by DG/IMT & are we still working towards an announcement tomorrow?

Brent Davidson
Media Manager
Personal inform

From: HEAD Damien <Damien.Head@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, December 10, 2020 6:32:24 PM
To: DAVIDSON Brent <Brent.Davidson@des.qld.gov.au>; STRYBOS Stacey <Stacey.Strybos@des.qld.gov.au>; BRIANT Steve <Steve.Briant@des.qld.gov.au>; CUBIS Mick <Mick.Cubis@des.qld.gov.au>
Cc: BUCKLEY Andrew <Andrew.Buckley@des.qld.gov.au>; SIEBUHR Leanne <Leanne.Siebuhr@des.qld.gov.au>; LEGGATE Lauren <Lauren.Leggate@des.qld.gov.au>; MCARTHUR Donna <Donna.McArthur@des.qld.gov.au>
Subject: RE: FOR APPROVAL: K'gari emails to camping/VAP holders

I think we might have buried the key line.

Access to Kgari townships and accommodation house will reopen in time for the school holidays

Then reference the eastern beach reopening to vehicle track providing holiday goers access to townships and accommodation houses.

Some of the islands popular eastern beach destinations will also reopen including – Lake Wabby, Eli Creek, Maheno and Champagne Pools.

Campers will be able to return to the island on Tuesday 15 December 2020 with camping zones south of Cornwells break road reopening.

From: DAVIDSON Brent <Brent.Davidson@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 10 December 2020 3:29 PM
To: STRYBOS Stacey; HEAD Damien; BRIANT Steve; CUBIS Mick
Cc: BUCKLEY Andrew; SIEBUHR Leanne; LEGGATE Lauren; MCARTHUR Donna
Subject: RE: FOR APPROVAL: K'gari emails to camping/VAP holders

Hi everyone

Given this, I have updated our MR to reflect this timeframe pending approval from the DG/IMT.

Damien/Mick, I just have a few comments & additional information I require

See attached.

Happy to discuss.

Cheers

Brent

<image002.png>

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Brent Davidson

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

<image004.png>
Chat with me on teams M Personal info

E brent.davidson@des.qld.gov.au
Visit the Environment Media Centre
<image005.png>
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From: STRYBOS Stacey <Stacey.Strybos@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 10 December 2020 3:01 PM
To: HEAD Damien; BRIANT Steve; CUBIS Mick
Cc: BUCKLEY Andrew; SIEBUHR Leanne; DAVIDSON Brent; LEGGATE Lauren; MCARTHUR Donna
Subject: RE: FOR APPROVAL: K'gari emails to camping/VAP holders

Ok, for the emails I'll discuss potential information/messaging with Leanne and Donna and wait for confirmation…
Thanks
Stacey

From: HEAD Damien <Damien.Head@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 10 December 2020 2:36 PM
To: BRIANT Steve; STRYBOS Stacey; CUBIS Mick
Cc: BUCKLEY Andrew; SIEBUHR Leanne; DAVIDSON Brent; LEGGATE Lauren; MCARTHUR Donna
Subject: RE: FOR APPROVAL: K'gari emails to camping/VAP holders

We are currently working towards a camping reopening on the night of the Tuesday 15 December. Suggest we hold off sending this as the message may have the ability to be a lot more positive and definitive.

Friday 11 December – announce recommencement of camping bookings (14/12/2020) and camping to reopen for the night of 15/12/2020
Monday 14 December – booking system reopens
Tuesday 15 December – camping areas reopen (selected locations)

Announcement to be email mail out to affected campers and media release.

From: BRIANT Steve <Steve.Briant@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 10 December 2020 2:21 PM
To: STRYBOS Stacey; CUBIS Mick; HEAD Damien
Cc: BUCKLEY Andrew; SIEBUHR Leanne; DAVIDSON Brent; LEGGATE Lauren; MCARTHUR Donna
Subject: RE: FOR APPROVAL: K'gari emails to camping/VAP holders
Importance: High

Hi all

I would suggest holding this following advice I just received from Damien indicating a potential date for bookings to reopen.

Once we have a firm date for this then we can progress.

Cheers
Steve

From: STRYBOS Stacey <Stacey.Strybos@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 10 December 2020 2:13 PM
To: CUBIS Mick
Cc: BUCKLEY Andrew; SIEBUHR Leanne; DAVIDSON Brent; LEGGATE Lauren; BRIANT Steve; MCARTHUR Donna
Subject: FOR APPROVAL: K'gari emails to camping/VAP holders
Importance: High

Hi Mick

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Please see attached two proposed emails to K'gari camping/VAP permit holder customers who have booked between 14-20 December, advising of how to obtain a refund.

Are you able to please check for accuracy and advise of any amendments?

I'll then send on to Andrew>Ben for approval to distribute to the attached database.

Kind regards
Stacey

Stacey Strybos

Principal Communications Officer
Communication Services -- Corporate Communications
Department of Environment and Science

Level 31, 400 George St, Brisbane QLD 4000
GPO Box 2454, Brisbane QLD 4001

Chat via Teams

From: SIEBUHR Leanne <Leanne.Siebuhr@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 10 December 2020 12:17 PM
To: STRYBOS Stacey
Cc: BARRACLOUGH Emma; MCARTHUR Donna
Subject: K'gari wildlife emails to campers and VAP holders

Hi Stacey,

Attached is the updated emails and spreadsheet for campers and VAP holders with booking from 14-20 December for K'gari.

The email names Agent and Web match the spreadsheet tabs provided by Donna McArthur.

I've added an extra line of text (in track changes) but you are welcome to remove if you feel this isn't necessary.

The Online booking team have send text messages to all customers in tab 3 of the spreadsheet to no action required here.

If you require anything please call or email.

Kind regards,
Leanne

Leanne Siebuhr
A/Senior Ranger I Visitor Management I Technical Support
Coastal and Islands Region / QPWS & Partnerships
Department of Environment and Science

P 07 3101 2076 **M** Personal info
34 Trafalgar Street, MANLY QLD 4179
PO Box 5178, MANLY QLD 4179

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 future for the land and sea on which I work, live and walk.

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Date : 2/12/2020 10:16:39 AM
From : "BUCKLEY Andrew"
To : "DAVIDSON Brent"
Cc : "KLAASSEN Ben"
Subject : RE: For endorsement - MS - K'gari firefighting ops - ABC
Attachment : image001.png;image005.png;image006.png;image007.png;

Yes endorsed minor change
Buck

From: DAVIDSON Brent <Brent.Davidson@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 2 December 2020 10:12 AM
To: BUCKLEY Andrew
Cc: KLAASSEN Ben
Subject: For endorsement - MS - K'gari firefighting ops - ABC

Hi Andrew

Are you happy with the below?

It's all from previously approved responses?

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 waterbombing activity on K'gari is utilising saltwater and first took place on November 9 at QPWS request.

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.

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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Date : 2/12/2020 5:13:34 PM
From : "DAVIDSON Brent"
To : "BUCKLEY Andrew"
Cc : "KLAASSEN Ben" , "HEAD Damien"
Subject : Re: For review - K'gari fire - Stuart Fast, Fraser Coast Chronicle
Attachment : image003.png;image004.png;image005.png;

Thanks everyone

Brent Davidson
Media Manager
Personal inform

From: BUCKLEY Andrew <Andrew.Buckley@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, December 2, 2020 5:06:58 PM
To: DAVIDSON Brent <Brent.Davidson@des.qld.gov.au>
Cc: KLAASSEN Ben <Ben.Klaassen@des.qld.gov.au>; HEAD Damien <Damien.Head@des.qld.gov.au>
Subject: FW: For review - K'gari fire - Stuart Fast, Fraser Coast Chronicle

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**

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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&#65533;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

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E brent.davidson@des.qld.gov.au
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Date : 2/12/2020 5:02:28 PM
From : "Ethan Clissold"
To : "DAVIDSON Brent" , "Chantelle Rule" , "Hayley Gillespie" , "Tim Whittaker"
Cc : "QFES Media"
Subject : RE: For review - K'gari fire - Stuart Fast, Fraser Coast Chronicle
Attachment : image001.png;image005.png;image006.png;image007.png;

Hi Brent,

No issues from us apart from the increase in personnel numbers on the island. I have just sent you an email with the latest count.

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

From: DAVIDSON Brent <Brent.Davidson@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 2 December 2020 4:07 PM
To: Ethan Clissold <Ethan.Clissold@qfes.qld.gov.au>; Chantelle Rule <Chantelle.Rule@qfes.qld.gov.au>; Hayley Gillespie <Hayley.Gillespie@qfes.qld.gov.au>; Tim Whittaker <Tim.Whittaker@qfes.qld.gov.au>
Cc: QFES Media <QFES.Media@qfes.qld.gov.au>
Subject: For review - K'gari fire - Stuart Fast, Fraser Coast Chronicle

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
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E brent.davidson@des.qld.gov.au
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Date : 2/12/2020 10:18:23 AM
From : "Hayley Gillespie"
To : "DAVIDSON Brent" , "Tim Whittaker" , "Chantelle Rule"
Cc : "QFES Media" , "GRANT Andrea" , "Ethan Clissold" , "Brad Gardner"
Subject : RE: For review - media statement - Emilee Gramenz
Attachment : image005.png;image006.png;image007.png;image008.png;image009.png;

Thanks Brent, nothing to add from our perspective

Hayley Gillespie
Executive Manager, Media
Queensland Fire and Emergency Services
P: 07 3635 3320 **M:** Personal Info **24hr:** 07 3635 3310
E hayley.gillespie@qfes.qld.gov.au

From: DAVIDSON Brent <Brent.Davidson@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 2 December 2020 10:10 AM
To: Tim Whittaker <Tim.Whittaker@qfes.qld.gov.au>; Hayley Gillespie <Hayley.Gillespie@qfes.qld.gov.au>; Chantelle Rule <Chantelle.Rule@qfes.qld.gov.au>
Cc: QFES Media <QFES.Media@qfes.qld.gov.au>; GRANT Andrea <Andrea.Grant@des.qld.gov.au>
Subject: For review - media statement - Emilee Gramenz

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 Emilie 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.

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

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Date : 3/12/2020 11:48:42 AM
From : "DAVIDSON Brent"
To : "BUCKLEY Andrew" , "KLAASSEN Ben"
Subject : RE: Fraser fire - information appeal
Attachment : image001.png;image005.png;image006.png;image007.png;

Sorry can we pull this?
I've been given a bum steer on this having been checked for accuracy.
I've also told the team that I'd be the sole conduit between you & them today so that you don't get bombarded by lots of different people, so apologies you got one via Matt. Once the figures are double checked I'll send back.

From: DAVIDSON Brent
Sent: Thursday, 3 December 2020 11:04 AM
To: BUCKLEY Andrew; KLAASSEN Ben
Cc: Media DES
Subject: FW: Fraser fire - information appeal

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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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

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Date : 1/12/2020 6:19:34 PM
From : "DAVIDSON Brent"
To : "KLAASSEN Ben" , "BUCKLEY Andrew"
Cc : "GRANT Andrea"
Subject : Re: Fraser Island Bushfire Questions
Attachment : image009.png;image012.jpg;image002.png;image003.jpg;image004.png;image013.png;
Thanks Ben

Brent Davidson
Media Manager
Personal inform

From: KLAASSEN Ben <Ben.Klaassen@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, December 1, 2020 6:18:30 PM
To: DAVIDSON Brent <Brent.Davidson@des.qld.gov.au>; BUCKLEY Andrew <Andrew.Buckley@des.qld.gov.au>
Cc: GRANT Andrea <Andrea.Grant@des.qld.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Fraser Island Bushfire Questions

Hi Brent

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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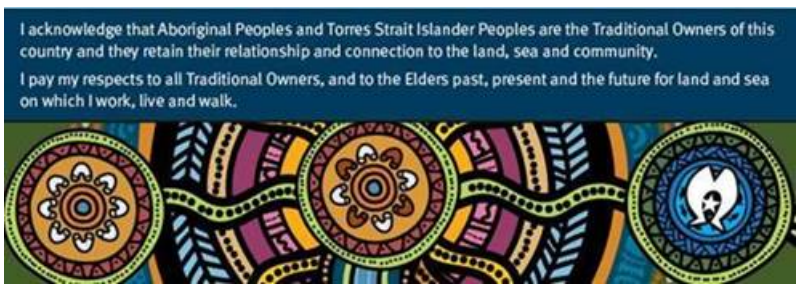
Ben Klaassen
Deputy Director-General
Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships
Department of Environment and Science
P 07 3199 7538 | **M** Personal | **E** ben.klaassen@des.qld.gov.au
Level 5, 400 George St, Brisbane QLD 4000
PO Box 15187, CITY EAST QLD 4002
Queensland Government



From: DAVIDSON Brent <Brent.Davidson@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 1 December 2020 5:57 PM
To: KLAASSEN Ben; BUCKLEY Andrew
Cc: GRANT Andrea
Subject: FW: Fraser Island Bushfire Questions

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

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

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

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

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

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

QPWS has responsibility for fire mitigation of the national park only.

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

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From: Jurss-Lewis, Tobias <tobias.jurss-lewis@news.com.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 1 December 2020 5:29 PM
To: Media DES
Cc: Shiloh Payne
Subject: Re: Fraser Island Bushfire Questions

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

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

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

Thanks,

Toby

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

> Hey team,
>
> I wrote in asking for a similar response yesterday, which was told wasn't delivered by ou deadline.
> But I wanted to touch base after the Minister's comments in Parliament this morning.
>
> Can I ask:
> How much money DES allocated to upgrading tracks and maintaining fire lines on Fraser Island in each of the 2019 and 2018 fire seasons?

And in relation to the current bushfire on Fraser Island:
When did DES first call QFES crews to the Island?
When was the first water bombing undertaken? If this was after October 14, what caused this delay?

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

Thanks,

Toby

--

TOBIAS JURSS-LEWIS
Graduate Journalist

Cnr Mayne Road & Campbell Street Bowen Hills QLD 4006

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

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Date : 2/12/2020 12:26:28 PM
From : "BUCKLEY Andrew"
To : "KLAASSEN Ben" , "DAVIDSON Brent"
Cc : "HEAD Damien"
Subject : RE: Fraser Island closure query
Attachment : image004.png;image005.png;image006.jpg;image007.jpg;image008.jpg;image009.jpg;

Brent
Also some extra intel below to weave into this response

QPWS has made no decision on the length of closure to the island's national park. The health and safety of visitors remains QPWS top priority. The island's national park will be reopened once the fire poses no risk to visitors. Some campers and visitors remain on the island. The national park will reopen as soon as it is considered safe to do so.

Cheers buck

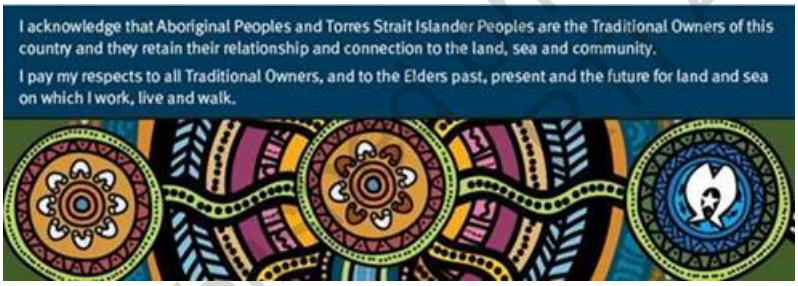
From: KLAASSEN Ben <Ben.Klaassen@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 2 December 2020 12:19 PM
To: DAVIDSON Brent; BUCKLEY Andrew
Subject: RE: Fraser Island closure query

Hi Brent

No that is not correct. We'll consider week by week. We have extended the camping closure to align with Kingfisher closure which is 13 December.

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 in | **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: Wednesday, 2 December 2020 11:55 AM
To: BUCKLEY Andrew
Cc: KLAASSEN Ben
Subject: FW: Fraser Island closure query

This can't possibly be right, surely?
It would be impossible to predict when things would need to stay closed – noting of course that we don't close the island, just the national park.

From: Isobel Roe <Roe.Isobel@abc.net.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 2 December 2020 11:48 AM
To: Media DES
Subject: Fraser Island closure query

Hi there

Can you please confirm if QPWS is considering closing Fraser Island to tourists for the next three months to get the fire under control and recover? If so, what are the specifics and when will it start?

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I am after a response ASAP please
Thank you

Isobel Roe
Journalist, Radio Current Affairs (AM, PM, The World Today)

P **02 8333 2172**
M Personal info
T **@isobelroe**

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 : 27/11/2020 12:49:13 PM
From : "KLAASSEN Ben"
To : "CAMBOURN Neil" , "DAVIDSON Brent" , "HEAD Damien" , "CUBIS Mick"
Subject : RE: Fraser Island multi-agency talking points
Attachment : image001.png;image012.png;image013.png;image002.png;image007.jpg;image008.png;image009.png;image010.png;

Hi all

Just spoke with Mike Wassing at QFES and they are making the call to stop visitors heading over from tomorrow. Last barge tonight will be the closure.

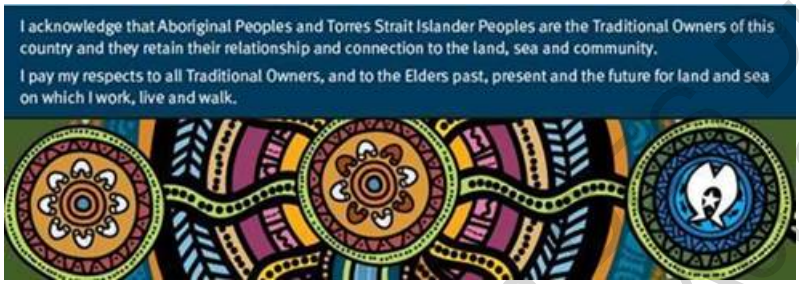
Mike asked us to be prepared to message VAP holders and camping bookings.

Likely to be announced in 1:30 media conference.

I believe those on the Island are not impacted.

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 in | **E** ben.klaassen@des.qld.gov.au
Level 5, 400 George St, Brisbane QLD 4000
PO Box 15187, CITY EAST QLD 4002



From: CAMBOURN Neil <Neil.Cambourn@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 27 November 2020 12:19 PM
To: DAVIDSON Brent; HEAD Damien; KLAASSEN Ben
Subject: RE: Fraser Island multi-agency talking points

Thanks Brent appreciated.

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

From: DAVIDSON Brent <Brent.Davidson@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 27 November 2020 12:17 PM
To: CAMBOURN Neil; HEAD Damien; KLAASSEN Ben
Subject: RE: Fraser Island multi-agency talking points

Thanks Neil, just got to talk to Ben about the developments as well. I've been liaising with my counterpart over at QFES most of the morning so we'll continue to feed our messaging through to them. We've been deferring requests for interviews to them. Will just keep an eye on what's happening with the island and the flow on effect to camping bookings etc.

From: CAMBOURN Neil <Neil.Cambourn@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 27 November 2020 12:14 PM
To: HEAD Damien; DAVIDSON Brent; KLAASSEN Ben
Subject: RE: Fraser Island multi-agency talking points

Thanks Brent,

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Just a heads up that QFES have this morning formally taken lead with the K'Gari fire.
The fire is still relatively stable and poses no imminent threat to life and property, however conditions on the island in the last 24 hours have not matched BOM predictions, and predicted wind changes and higher temperatures are arriving sooner than they previously forecast.
In light of this new development I have amended some content in the messaging below, noting that QFES will now be formal lead for media.

Regards Neil

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

From: HEAD Damien <Damien.Head@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 27 November 2020 9:38 AM
To: DAVIDSON Brent; KLAASSEN Ben; CAMBOURN Neil
Subject: RE: Fraser Island multi-agency talking points

Brent.

Support messaging.

From: DAVIDSON Brent <Brent.Davidson@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 27 November 2020 9:24 AM
To: KLAASSEN Ben; CAMBOURN Neil; HEAD Damien
Subject: Fraser Island multi-agency talking points
Importance: High

Good morning Ben, Neil & Damien

QFES, supported by DPC, are providing a document every morning from tomorrow with talking points from agencies involved in the K'gari response (So them, us & Qld Ambulance re smoke). I've attached the template here. They report at 6am but will mostly get stuff together by COB the night before. Was just wanting to set up a very quick process whereby I get a sitrep (just a quick phone call with perhaps Mick or Marc) late arvo to see if I need to change anything before they're locked in at COB. Any changes would be still need to be approved by one of you. Unless something changes dramatically overnight sort of before 5am, those talking points will go out with the other agencies' unchanged from the COB version.

Below are some TPs based on the release from Wednesday, fleshed out a bit to make it conversational. If endorsed, this is what we will provide at COB for tomorrow morning's TPs. The only bit I'm unsure of is if the bit in yellow is still accurate. It seems to be from Park Alerts but I can check with Mick or Marc if you're happy with the rest?

- Before heading over to Fraser Island, campers and visitors to the island are being advised to double check our Park Alerts for up-to-date information on the areas you are planning to visit.
- You can access these alerts, which are updated regularly, by visiting www.qld.gov.au/parkalerts or by following us on Twitter at @QldParkAlerts.
- Importantly, we ask everyone visiting the island to look out for any signage and listen to and comply with any instructions from rangers or emergency services personnel.
- The current fire is a dynamic situation, and while it is not currently presenting any threats to life and property, visitors are being asked to remain alert to the potential for any change in conditions.
- While many popular spots on the island remain open, campgrounds such as Dundabura and some eastern beach camp sites as well as access tracks in the middle of the island and the west coast are closed as a safety precaution.
- These closures not only protect the public but assist crews in undertaking important containment and suppression operations.
- As always, our top priority is the safety of people on the island and the protection of property.
- Our highly-skilled firefighting crews are well prepared and well-resourced and are working hard on the fire ground.
- The community can be assured that QPWS, QFES and our partner agencies are doing everything necessary to fight this fire.

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Happy to discuss

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

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Date : 12/12/2020 9:01:28 AM
From : "CUBIS Mick"
To : "BUCKLEY Andrew"
Cc : "DARGUSCH Marc" , "CAMBOURN Neil" , "HARRIS Leigh" , "HEAD Damien" , "KLAASSEN Ben" , "CONNOR Nathan" , "DAVIDSON Brent"
Subject : Re: Fraser Island opening

Hi, I've spoken to Nathan Connor in the IMT. Nathan will get on to it to get the changes made and advise when that has been done.

Thanks

Mick Cubis
Regional Director
Coastal and Islands | QPWS&Partnerships
Department of Environment and Science
P (07) 54471137 | Mobile Personal infor

> On 12 Dec 2020, at 8:36 am, BUCKLEY Andrew <Andrew.Buckley@des.qld.gov.au> wrote:
>
> Team
> Apologies just tried to call but just need to identify someone with access to remove this alert and post a correction.
> Cheers Buck
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
> > On 12 Dec 2020, at 8:13 am, KLAASSEN Ben <Ben.Klaassen@des.qld.gov.au> wrote:
> >
> > Hi
> >
> > Brent is calling Mick to see who posted this. Looks like it was based on earlier information and should not be up now.
> >
> > Courier Mail are on to it and visitors who have seen it may be planning to head up.
> >
> > We will need to get it down as QFES still have jurisdiction.
> >
> > Ben
> >
> > Sent from my iPhone
> >
> > Begin forwarded message:
> >
> > **From:** DAVIDSON Brent <Brent.Davidson@des.qld.gov.au>
> > **Date:** 12 December 2020 at 8:07:31 am AEST
> > **To:** KLAASSEN Ben <Ben.Klaassen@des.qld.gov.au>, BUCKLEY Andrew <Andrew.Buckley@des.qld.gov.au>
> > **Subject: Fwd: Fraser Island opening**
> >
> > I'll call about this shortly
> >
> > Brent Davidson
> > Media Manager
> > Personal inform
> >
> > ---
> >
> > **From:** Hayley Gillespie <Hayley.Gillespie@qfes.qld.gov.au>
> > **Sent:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 8:04:17 AM
> > **To:** DAVIDSON Brent <Brent.Davidson@des.qld.gov.au>
> > **Subject:** Fwd: Fraser Island opening

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Hayley Gillespie
Executive Manager, Media
Queensland Fire and Emergency Services
Personal informa

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

<image001.png>

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)

<image002.png>

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Date : 27/11/2020 6:57:57 AM
From : "DAVIDSON Brent"
To : "Tim Whittaker"
Subject : Re: Fraser Island QFES Media Deployment

Hey Tim, just with the TPs this morning,I did provide some of our key messages to Chantelle but didn't get to actually see the whole doc before it went. There's just a few inconsistencies with what we've already said publicly about the cause - we have said that it was started by the illegal camp fire but the TP says an investigation will be underway after the fire - just worried that makes us look silly because we've already said it in a previous release we shared with you guys. Wondering if there's a process whereby I could have a very quick scan before if goes out?

Brent Davidson
Media Manager
Personal informa

From: Tim Whittaker <Tim.Whittaker@qfes.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, November 26, 2020 7:52:46 PM
To: GRANT Andrea <Andrea.Grant@des.qld.gov.au>
Cc: DAVIDSON Brent <Brent.Davidson@des.qld.gov.au>; Chantelle Rule <Chantelle.Rule@qfes.qld.gov.au>; Ethan Clissold <Ethan.Clissold@qfes.qld.gov.au>; Brad Gardner <Brad.Gardner@qfes.qld.gov.au>; Amy Lyne <Amy.Lyne@qfes.qld.gov.au>; Madolyn Peters <Madolyn.Peters@qfes.qld.gov.au>; QFES Media <QFES.Media@qfes.qld.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Fraser Island QFES Media Deployment

Not a problem – FYI our Commissioner is speaking with ABC Breakfast Radio at 7:47am in the morning

---

From: GRANT Andrea <Andrea.Grant@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 26 November 2020 5:59 PM
To: Tim Whittaker <Tim.Whittaker@qfes.qld.gov.au>
Cc: DAVIDSON Brent <Brent.Davidson@des.qld.gov.au>; Chantelle Rule <Chantelle.Rule@qfes.qld.gov.au>; Ethan Clissold <Ethan.Clissold@qfes.qld.gov.au>; Brad Gardner <Brad.Gardner@qfes.qld.gov.au>; Amy Lyne <Amy.Lyne@qfes.qld.gov.au>; Madolyn Peters <Madolyn.Peters@qfes.qld.gov.au>; QFES Media <QFES.Media@qfes.qld.gov.au>
Subject: Re: Fraser Island QFES Media Deployment

Thanks Tim. Really appreciate all you and your team are doing

Sent from my iPhone

> On 26 Nov 2020, at 5:58 pm, Tim Whittaker <Tim.Whittaker@qfes.qld.gov.au> wrote:
>
> Hi Andrea and Brent,
>
> Good to be working with
>
> As discussed, we have deployed 2 media officers to Maryborough. We are still finalising logistics, but Amy will be over on the Island tomorrow, and Maddy will be situated at Rainbow Beach. Beyond this, Amy will attempt to get back on the Island for the next community meeting.
>
> The deployed media officer details are as follows:
>
> **Amy Lyne:** Amy.Lyne@qfes.qld.gov.au M: Personal infor
> **Maddy Peters:** Madolyn.Peters@qfes.qld.gov.au M: Personal infor
>
> I'm the on-call manager for this incident, but failing being able to contact one of the three of us, the 24 hour number in my signature is a good option. At this stage, I'll stay on-call for the weekend. Can you let me know who is best contact for you over the weekend?
>
> We are looking at a rotation of deployment on Sunday afternoon, to then cover Monday to Thursday, should it be needed, but we will make a final call on this over the weekend.
>
> Our team have also included you both on the daily talking points email, and any further intel on the ground we gather we will look to share.
>
> We'll also begin to look at proactive opportunities and a couple of social posts to help ahead of the weekend.
>
> Anything further you need, don't hesitate to reach out.
>
> Many thanks,

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Tim

Tim Whittaker
Director
Media, Communication and Online
Queensland Fire and Emergency Services

M: Personal info **4hr:** 07 3635 3310
E tim.whittaker@qfes.qld.gov.au
M Emergency Services Complex, Kedron, Level 1, C Block (Mail Cluster 3.2)
<image001.png>

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Date : 5/12/2020 2:09:14 PM
From : "BUCKLEY Andrew"
To : "DAVIDSON Brent"
Subject : Re: Fraser island wildlife rescue efforts statement for print

Approved

Sent from my iPhone

On 5 Dec 2020, at 1:58 pm, DAVIDSON Brent <Brent.Davidson@des.qld.gov.au> wrote:

Hi Andrew, would you mind having a look at the below for your endorsement. Info has been sourced by Neil. It's for CM enquiry below.

QPWS has already established a recovery cell embedded within the Incident Management Team.

It is focussed on assessments of natural environmental and cultural values, and tourism recovery including risk assessments and reopening the island 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 IMT permits the team to access.

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 the IMT.

December 14 is not a a set date for any matter as the situation is still very dynamic. That date is simply indicative of one incidence of when advice to campers will be updated. This is happening on a rolling basis and when new advice is required.

Finally, rangers are keeping an eye on and assisting with any wildlife matters and we have trained rangers on the island to assist if needed.

Cultural and dingo health checks have also been completed by representatives of the Butchulla people.

Brent Davidson
Media Manager
Personal inform

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Date : 2/12/2020 4:26:11 PM
From : "Media DES"
To : "Ethan Clissold" , "DAVIDSON Brent"
Cc : "Tim Whittaker" , "Hayley Gillespie" , "Chantelle Rule" , "Brad Gardner"
Subject : RE: FYI -QFES Media Response to Courier Mail
Attachment : image002.png;image004.png;image006.png;image001.png;image007.png;

Thanks for letting us know Ethan.

Ben Tracey
Principal Media Officer
Media Unit I 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
Chat with me on Teams!
Visit the Environment Media Centre
Visit us on Twitter

From: Ethan Clissold <Ethan.Clissold@qfes.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 2 December 2020 4:23 PM
To: DAVIDSON Brent; Media DES
Cc: Tim Whittaker; Hayley Gillespie; Chantelle Rule; Brad Gardner
Subject: FYI -QFES Media Response to Courier Mail

Hi Brent,

FYI - Please see below the response for Chris Clarke at the Courier Mail regarding the Premier's decision to call for an IGEM enquiry. They have also requested the latest statistics on the number of personnel, vehicles and aircraft working on the fire today.

Please let me know if you have any questions. We will send this back to Chris shortly.

Question:

Can I please receive a statement about whether QFES supports the Premier's decision to call for an inquiry into the Fraser Island bushfire? Also, do you have information available at this stage about how many personnel, trucks and aircraft have been used today on the island?

Response:

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (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.

There are currently 87 personnel and 36 vehicles from QFES, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) and the Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation working on K'gari (Fraser Island), with nine aircraft available to provide support.

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
E ethan.clissold@qfes.qld.gov.au
M Emergency Services Complex, Kedron, Level 1, C Block (Mail Cluster 3.2)

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Date : 27/11/2020 3:36:13 PM
From : "DAVIDSON Brent"
To : "CAMBOURN Neil" , "Media DES" , "KLAASSEN Ben" , "LOSADA Vanessa" , "MCARTHUR Donna" , "STRYBOS Stacey" , "OCONNOR Emma"
Cc : "CUBIS Mick" , "BARRACLOUGH Emma" , "HEAD Damien"
Subject : RE: K'gari (Fraser Island) key messages
Attachment : image002.png;image004.png;image005.png;

Hi all
Sorry Neil/Ben, I had just sent these through to you too. I just wanted to query the line about all tours being cancelled until further notice & add the below if okay:

- Bookings from tomorrow and onwards will be cancelled until further notice, and campers will be notified with refunds provided.
- If you have a camping or vehicle access permit booked to visit K'gari and are not able to access the island, you will receive a full refund.
- Permit holders are also able to manage their booking any time via www.qld.gov.au/camping.

From: CAMBOURN Neil <Neil.Cambourn@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 27 November 2020 3:31 PM
To: Media DES; DAVIDSON Brent; KLAASSEN Ben; LOSADA Vanessa; MCARTHUR Donna; STRYBOS Stacey; OCONNOR Emma
Cc: CUBIS Mick; BARRACLOUGH Emma; HEAD Damien
Subject: FW: K'gari (Fraser Island) key messages
Hi Brent and all, just through from Mick as distributed by IMT. Can we check our language aligns please?
Mick once we have settled on consistent wording you should be good to do the park alerts. There's a draft Media release on its way up that we will check.

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

From: CUBIS Mick <Mick.Cubis@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 27 November 2020 3:26 PM
To: CAMBOURN Neil; BARRACLOUGH Emma
Cc: HEAD Damien
Subject: FW: K'gari (Fraser Island) key messages
Hi Neil and Emma,
Messaging from the IMT attached. Emma, I suggest we draft Park alerts in accordance with this.
Neil, do we need to get wording for park alerts approved before posting?
thanks

Mick Cubis
Regional Director, Coastal and Islands Region
GBRMCI | QPWS & Partnerships
Department of Environment and Science
P: 07 54471137 M: Personal Info
240 Moorindil Street, Tewantin
Qld 4565
mick.cubis@des.qld.gov.au

From: Madolyn Peters <Madolyn.Peters@qfes.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 27 November 2020 3:13 PM
To: CUBIS Mick; James Haig
Cc: DARGUSCH Marc
Subject: K'gari (Fraser Island) key messages
Good afternoon,
Please see key messages attached.
Kind regards,

Madolyn Peters
Media Officer
Media, Communication and Online
Queensland Fire and Emergency Services
P: 07 3635 2963 **24hr:** 07 3635 3310
E: madolyn.peters@qfes.qld.gov.au
M: Emergency Services Complex, Kedron, Level 1, C Block (Mail Cluster 3.2)

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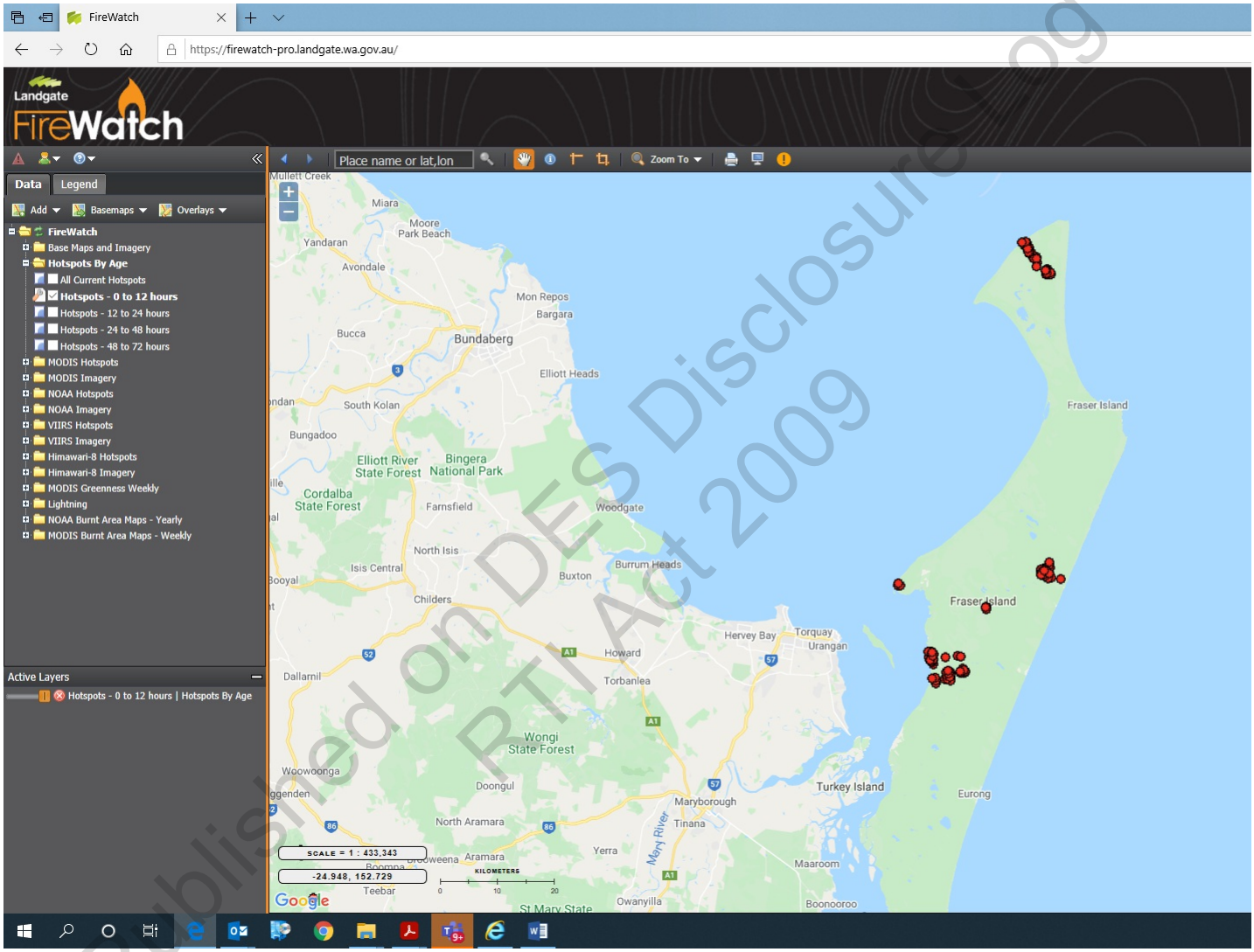
Date : 27/11/2020 5:34:32 PM
From : "KLAASSEN Ben"
To : "MERRICK Jamie" , "TRACEY Alena" , "DLO DES" , "Hannah Jackson"
Cc : "DAVIDSON Brent"
Subject : RE: K'Gari fire update 27 November 2020
Attachment : image001.png;image005.png;image009.jpg;image002.png;image004.png;image008.jpg;image012.png;

Hi all

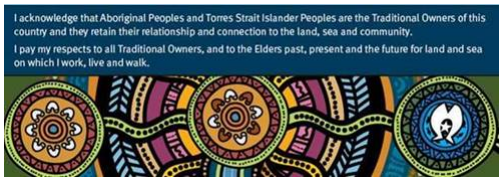
Latest update:

- 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 [redacted] | E ben.klaassen@des.qld.gov.au
Level 5, 400 George St, Brisbane QLD 4000
PO Box 15187, CITY EAST QLD 4002
Queensland Government



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

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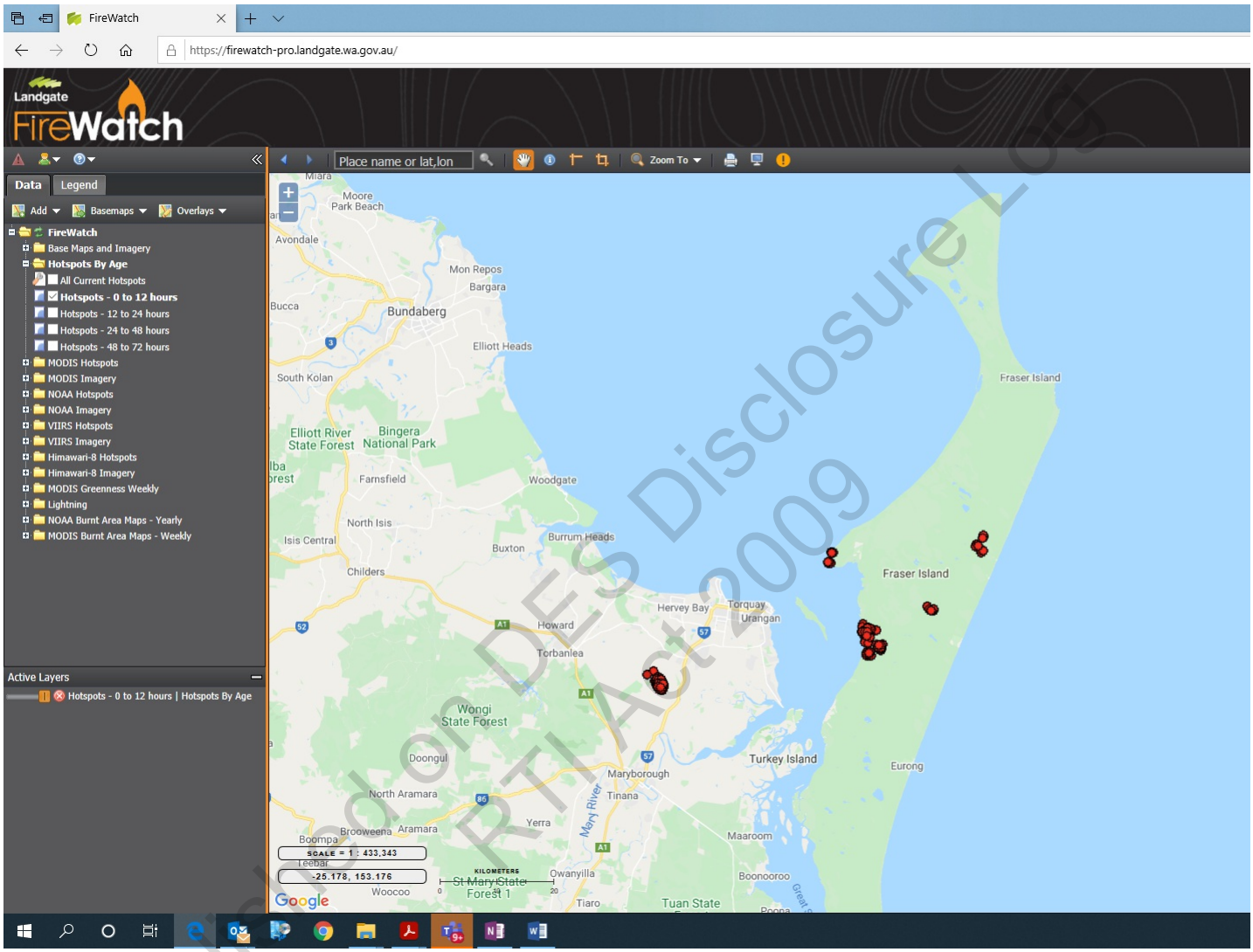
Current update as follows:

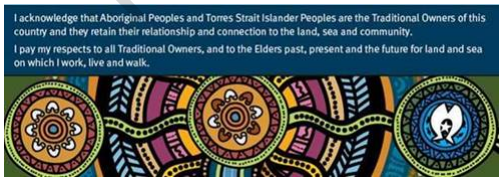
- The fire remains active in the southern and northern sectors.
- Southern fire is north of the Poyungan/Smith fire break (4.6 klms north of Kingfisher resort). The strategy is to contain the fire at this break.
- No further backburning possible overnight (due to conditions).
- Southern fire is holding 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 [redacted] 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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Date : 13/12/2020 12:48:17 PM
From : "BUCKLEY Andrew"
To : "DAVIDSON Brent"
Cc : "KLAASSEN Ben" , "GRANT Andrea" , "CAMBOURN Neil"
Subject : Re: K'gari reopening
Attachment : image003.png;image006.jpg;image007.png;

Brent
Nathan is going to provide some feedback also I think we need to highlight right up front that the reopening commences on Tuesday the 15 but otherwise looking great
Cheers Buck

Sent from my iPhone

On 13 Dec 2020, at 12:12 pm, DAVIDSON Brent <Brent.Davidson@des.qld.gov.au> wrote:

Thanks Ben. This is the latest version of the MR which has been circulated to be checked for factual accuracy to ensure it aligns with final plan ticked off by IMT.

From: KLAASSEN Ben <Ben.Klaassen@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Sunday, 13 December 2020 12:05 PM
To: DAVIDSON Brent
Cc: GRANT Andrea; BUCKLEY Andrew; CAMBOURN Neil
Subject: FW: K'gari reopening

Hi Brent

FYI which aligns with your advice.

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

Regards
Ben

<image003.png>

Ben Klaassen

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

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

<image006.jpg>

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

Ben & Andrea

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

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

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

Cheers

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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

<11122020 - DRAFT MR - Camping re-opening on K'gari v6.docx>

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Date : 14/12/2020 4:37:03 PM
From : "HEAD Damien"
To : "DAVIDSON Brent"
Subject : RE: K'Gari Status Update Monday 14/12/2020
Attachment : image001.png;image003.png;image005.png;image008.jpg;image004.png;image007.png;

Below some changes to make it a little clearer.

Damien

From: DAVIDSON Brent <Brent.Davidson@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 14 December 2020 4:29 PM
To: BUCKLEY Andrew; MERRICK Jamie
Cc: HEAD Damien; KLAASSEN Ben; GRANT Andrea
Subject: RE: K'Gari Status Update Monday 14/12/2020

Hi everyone

Are you happy if we do a quick update to the release as per below sitrip?

Media release

Update: Tourists to return to K'gari following bushfire

December 14, 2020

Further areas of K'gari – such as campgrounds and popular sites – have been assessed for hazards and will be reopened tomorrow along with previously announced areas.

The following will be open from tomorrow:

- Vehicle access along the eastern beach. This will allow visitors to travel to K'gari's townships, resorts, private accommodation and island businesses.
- Kingfisher Bay Resort and Village, Lake McKenzie, Pile Valley, Central Station, Wanggoolba Creek and Eurong. However, the only Eastern Beach access to ~~and from the eastern beach to~~ the above sites is via Eurong (or Dilli Village in the south) The Wanggoolba creek to Eurong Road is open giving access to the River Heads/Wanggoolba Creek barge service.
- Lake Birrabeen and Lake Boomanjin remain accessible from both the Dilli Village and Eurong eastern beach access tracks ~~(southern lakes circuit from Central Station through to Dilli Village adjacent to the Eastern Beach)~~.
- Lake Wabby walking track and toilet facilities from the eastern beach.
- The Champagne Pools (Middle Rocks) and associated carparks and toilet facilities.
- Wathumba Creek via the Wathumba-Orchid Beach track.

The following additional camping areas will also be open to visitors:

- Beach camping zones 1,2 & 3.
- Dundubara campground.
- Beach Camp Zones 6, 7 & 8.

Visitors who have booked a camp site in an area that continues to be closed beyond tomorrow will be given a refund. To request a refund please log into your account at www.qld.gov.au/camping.

Other camping opportunities and popular visitor destinations including walking tracks will progressively be reopened following hazard assessments and completion of any essential maintenance works.

Visitors should exercise caution at all times when travelling in fire effects areas on the island and observe all signage, barriers and directions from rangers and do not enter closed areas.

~~Commercial tour operators and other permit or agreement holders are not permitted to enter closed areas.~~

QPWS staff have worked hard alongside the Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, 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 during the closure, however public safety is always the top priority.

Cheers

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Brent

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

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Visit the Environment Media Centre
Visit us on Twitter

From: BUCKLEY Andrew <Andrew.Buckley@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 14 December 2020 4:20 PM
To: MERRICK Jamie
Cc: KLAASSEN Ben; ABURN Mark; HARRIS Leigh; CAMBOURN Neil; CUBIS Mick; DARGUSCH Marc; CONNOR Nathan; HEAD Damien; Media DES; SEELEITHER Jamie
Subject: K'Gari Status Update Monday 14/12/2020

DG
Please find below our initial report happy for feedback on level of detail and content for future versions. We will look to add some more intel on recovery actions in next report.

Cheers Buck

K'Gari Status Update Monday 14/12/2020

- Control has been returned to QPWS by QFES on Sunday 13/12/2020 under conditions that the fire has been contained and deescalated to a Level One incident..
- QFES made that decision on the following basis:
  - 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).
  - The fire has been contained as per the above.
  - The fire has been extensively patrolled by both vehicle where accessible and by aircraft where not with potential hot spots actively suppressed.
  - 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).
  - 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.
  - The current forecast conditions at the time of handover include further widespread significant rain in excess of 40mm in coming days.
  - 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).

Fire Management Actions:

- Management of this fire will now require a vigilant patrolling regime and continue monitoring patrols in East and West sectors. Extinguish fire when detected through integrated aerial and ground resources however active suppression is unlikely in the next few days given the predicted weather conditions.
- Whilst QFES is transitioning control of this fire to QPWS it will continue to provide active support as a partner and will continue to:
  - QFES NCR will provide a dedicated Liaison Officer in the QPWS Coordination Centre for up to 7 Days after transfer of bushfire.
  - 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.
  - 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
  - The local Rural Fire Brigades based on Fraser Island will also be available to support bushfire fighting operations should they be required.
  - QFES will provide access to any of its mapping and other data relevant to the management of this fire upon request by QPWS.
  - QFES will continue to positively consider any further requests from QPWS for capabilities which QFES holds which QPWS does not.

Recovery and Reopening – Open to visitors

- Restrictions have been lifted for new visitors to K'gari as of Tuesday 15 December 2020. Crews have been tasked with a risk assessment of QPWS visitor nodes and infrastructure. Assessment of inland roads and visitor nodes within burnt area will be assessed and opened in a prioritised and progressive way depending on identified impacts and timeframes for making safe. Local Disaster Management Group and Butchella first nations communities are both being kept informed and consulted on an ongoing

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basis.

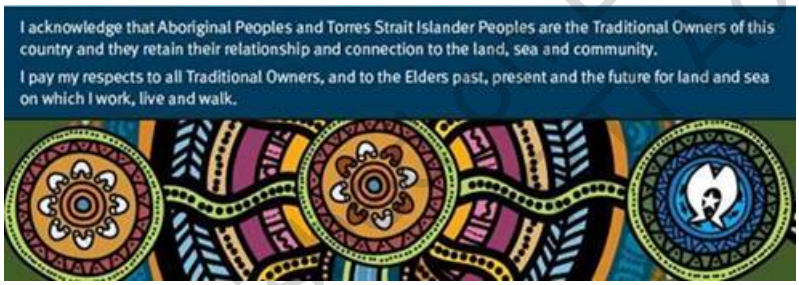
- From 15 December 2020 visitors will have access to:
    - Beach access along the eastern beach. This will allow visitors to travel to K'gari's townships, resorts, private accommodation and island businesses.
    - Kingfisher Bay Resort and Village, Lake McKenzie, Pile Valley, Central Station, Wanggoolba Creek and Eurong. With note:
        - the only access to/from the eastern beach to the above sites is via Eurong (or Dilli Village in the south).
        - the Wanggoolba creek to Eurong Road is open giving access to the River Heads/Wanggoolba Creek barge service.
    - Lake Birrabeen, Lake Boomanjin through to Dilli Village (southern lakes circuit from Central Station through to Dilli Village adjacent to the Eastern Beach).
    - Lake Wabby walking track and toilet facilities.
    - The Champagne Pools (Middle Rocks) and associated carparks and toilet facilities.
    - Wathumba Creek via the Wathumba-Orchid Beach track.

- From the 15 December 2020 the following camping areas will be open to visitors:
    - Beach camping zones 1,2 & 3.
    - Dundubara campground.
    - Beach Camp Zones 6, 7 & 8.
    - Waddy Point beachfront camping.
    - Waddy Point campground.
    - Wathumba campground.

- Visitors who have booked a camp site in an area that continues to be closed beyond 15 December will be given a refund. Other camping opportunities, popular visitor destinations including walking tracks will progressively reopened following hazard assessments and completion of any essential maintenance works. Visitors are being advised to exercise caution at all times when travelling in fire effects areas on the island and observe all signage, barriers and directions from rangers and do not enter closed areas. Commercial tour operators and other permit or agreement holders are not permitted to enter closed areas.

Queensland Government

Andrew Buckley
Assistant Director-General
Management & Operations
Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships
Department of Environment and Science
M Personal Info E andrew.buckley@des.qld.gov.au
Stage II, Level 3, William McCormack Place, 5b Sheridan Street, Cairns



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Date : 4/12/2020 3:28:26 PM
From : "GRANT Andrea"
To : "DAVIDSON Brent" , "DARGUSCH Marc"
Cc : "TRACEY Ben" , "WATSON Matthew" , "BUCKLEY Andrew"
Subject : RE: K'gari wildfire public messaging
Attachment : image001.png;image002.png;image004.png;image005.png;image007.png;

Hi Marc. I can't stress enough how well we have been working with QFES media. I took a call from them at 9pm last night and another at 6.30 this morning so they definitely know how to contact us.

From: DAVIDSON Brent <Brent.Davidson@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 4 December 2020 2:58 PM
To: DARGUSCH Marc
Cc: TRACEY Ben; WATSON Matthew; GRANT Andrea; BUCKLEY Andrew
Subject: RE: K'gari wildfire public messaging

Hi Marc

As discussed also in the ops meeting - just confirming I've spoken with my QFES colleagues & we're all looped in on this issue. Messaging around wanting to get people back onto the island as quickly as possible is well reflected in our talking points and we will keep liaising with QFES as things keep progressing. Thank you for the document. We will keep everyone in the loop. We work very very close with QFES Media and I guarantee we will be saying the same thing. We have extensive messaging going out on Twitter & our @QldParkAlerts account has recently been updated to allow for better real-time information to be shared & we have been sharing a LOT of information recently. This will be the perfect outlet – in addition to mainstream media – to feed all the recovery/opening messaging through.

Cheers

Brent

Queensland Government

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

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Visit the Environment Media Centre
Visit us on Twitter

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

Queensland Government

Marc Dargusch
Principal Ranger – Great Sandy Area
Coastal and Islands Region | QPWS and Partnerships
Department of Environment and Science
M Personal info **P** 07 54869960
Level 6, 12 on First Avenue, Maroochydore 4558
www.des.qld.gov.au

I give my respect to the traditional and custodial Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Elders and Owners of

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Date : 1/12/2020 3:24:39 PM
From : "KLAASSEN Ben"
To : "DAVIDSON Brent"
Subject : RE: List of questions for fact checking/endorsement
Attachment : image001.png;image002.png;image003.jpg;image004.png;image006.jpg;image007.png;image008.png;image010.png;

Thanks Brent

If you can send me the final I will give it one last review but looking good.

Ben

Ben Klaassen
Deputy Director-General
Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships
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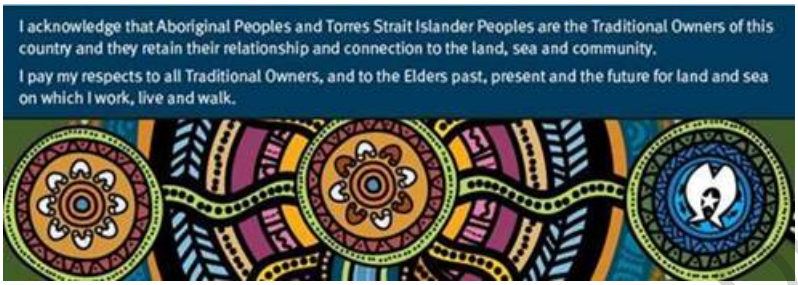

From: DAVIDSON Brent <Brent.Davidson@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 1 December 2020 3:13 PM
To: BUCKLEY Andrew; KLAASSEN Ben; HEAD Damien
Cc: GRANT Andrea; CAMBOURN Neil; DARGUSCH Marc; Media DES
Subject: RE: List of questions for fact checking/endorsement

Thanks very much Andrew. Ben, are you happy to endorse if we make those changes?
Still hoping to get the burn dates and numbers to finalise though.

From: BUCKLEY Andrew <Andrew.Buckley@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 1 December 2020 3:10 PM
To: DAVIDSON Brent; KLAASSEN Ben; HEAD Damien
Cc: GRANT Andrea; CAMBOURN Neil; DARGUSCH Marc
Subject: RE: List of questions for fact checking/endorsement

Brent
A few suggestions below also the previous media response from earlier today had some useful changes by Ben which we should repeat in the answers below.

Cheers buck

From: DAVIDSON Brent <Brent.Davidson@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 1 December 2020 2:50 PM
To: KLAASSEN Ben; HEAD Damien; BUCKLEY Andrew
Cc: GRANT Andrea; CAMBOURN Neil; DARGUSCH Marc
Subject: RE: List of questions for fact checking/endorsement

Thanks Ben. I've greatly reduced the yellow now as bits & pieces are coming together. I think we need to say how many ha were done in each of those four burns and when they occurred. Is it hard to pull? The percentage figure I want to check as well that it's still around what we're saying. Once we're happy with the below, I'll send to QFES.

Courier-Mail

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

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

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- **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 ~~– above those recommended in the recent Royal Commission –~~ to ensure we have as much opportunity as possible to prevent devastating fires.

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

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

Fraser Coat Chronicle

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

Because K'gari is a sand island and doesn't hold moisture 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 46 per cent of the island is within the burn perimeter.

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

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QPWS made use of a large aerial tanker (LAT) several times before QFES took management of the fire.
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 naturallthere 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? Ie 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 onK'gari (Fraser Island), with planned burnsaveraging 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

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more complex to implement.

- **When did the 4 burns occur this year, how much was burned then?**

- **Are QPWS, or any other agency, any closer to identifying the person/s who lit the illegal campfire?**

No

- **Have any fines or charges been laid?**

No.

From: KLAASSEN Ben <Ben.Klaassen@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 1 December 2020 2:36 PM
To: DAVIDSON Brent; HEAD Damien; BUCKLEY Andrew
Cc: GRANT Andrea; CAMBOURN Neil; DARGUSCH Marc
Subject: RE: List of questions for fact checking/endorsement

Hi Brent

At this stage no discussions at senior level with Mayor have occurred so we need to exclude that.

With burn information I think we emphasise the 13,000 is an average over 5 years however this is variable depending on locations. This year the focus was on protection burns for communities of Orchid Beach and Happy Valley which are smaller in size but more complex to implement. Let's not get into specific figures for burns if possible.

Regards
Ben

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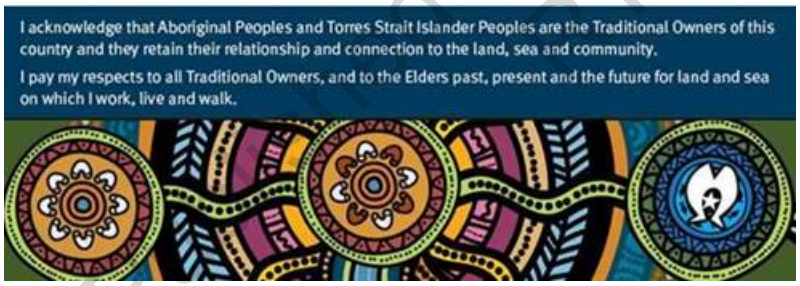

From: DAVIDSON Brent <Brent.Davidson@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 1 December 2020 2:20 PM
To: HEAD Damien; KLAASSEN Ben; BUCKLEY Andrew
Cc: GRANT Andrea; CAMBOURN Neil; DARGUSCH Marc
Subject: RE: List of questions for fact checking/endorsement

Thanks Damien. I assume the figures the ABC has asked (when planned burns were and how much was burned on K'gari) for at the end aren't that easy to pull? I can let the journo know he can't get that by COB? I think Ben said earlier the five per cent was the Victorian Royal Commission, not the recent one – so I'd assume the five per cent is Queensland-wide?

- The Minister mentioned in Parliament today that the more than the "recommended 5% outlined by the Royal Commission" has been burned in mitigation burns. Is that specific to Fraser Island/K'Gari?
- Can you outline the details of the 13,000 ha burns?
- When did the 4 burns occur this year, how much was burned then?

This might be in a Possible Parliamentary Question brief?

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From: HEAD Damien <Damien.Head@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 1 December 2020 2:14 PM
To: DAVIDSON Brent; KLAASSEN Ben; BUCKLEY Andrew
Cc: GRANT Andrea; CAMBOURN Neil; DARGUSCH Marc
Subject: RE: List of questions for fact checking/endorsement

Brent my comments below in read.

Marc may have some further detail on waterbombing efforts to add.

From: DAVIDSON Brent <Brent.Davidson@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 1 December 2020 1:20 PM
To: KLAASSEN Ben; BUCKLEY Andrew; HEAD Damien
Cc: GRANT Andrea
Subject: List of questions for fact checking/endorsement

Hi all

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

Courier-Mail

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

The ability to deploy and the effectiveness of waterbombing is dictated by the prevailing weather conditions, smoke presence, assets under risk and the vegetation types. QPWS made use of a large aerial tanker (LAT) several times when conditions were deemed suitable. A major effort occurred on the November 22. Other aerial waterbombing aircraft where used at a variety of other times throughout the campaign, all with limited success.
QFES have assisted QPWS from the following the first week of the fire's outbreak.

9 Wide Bay

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

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

QPWS has undertaken significant fire mitigation measures on K'Gari including planned burns for asset protection and maintenance on strategic firelines. Despite these endeavours it can not combat the fire inducing effects of prolonged periods of hot, dry and windy weather conditions.

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

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

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

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

Fraser Coat Chronicle

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

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

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

QPWS responded immediately to the wildlife fire, early attempts to conduct backburns within days after the fire commenced

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proved difficult and unsuccessful due to strong dry northerly weather conditions and the highly flammable vegetation types.

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

QPWS has conducted significant fire mitigation on K'Gari, but all the planning in the world cannot prevent fires that were started by an illegal campfire and fuelled by extended periods of dry windy conditions.

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

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

ABC Radio

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

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

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

QPWS made use of a large aerial tanker (LAT) several times before QFES took management of the fire.
It was used when conditions were deemed suitable including on November 22.
[Further information required – QFES checking to see if their flight desk has this info]

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

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

7 News:

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

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

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

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

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

1. **Why did the QPWS allow the fire to continue burning through now – an estimated 40% of the island… are there environmental reasons behind this? Ie 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 and at acceptable intensities.

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

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

Saltwater.

Because K'gari is a sand island and doesn't hold moisture, the environmental impacts of using saltwater to suppress the fire are reduced. Helicopters sourced water from the nearest points which was often the ocean.
Fixed wing aircraft were required to source water from the mainland as the closest suitable location.

ABC News

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

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charges been laid?

No. 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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Date : 13/12/2020 6:19:43 PM
From : "DAVIDSON Brent"
To : "MERRICK Jamie"
Subject : RE: Media release for approval - camp reopening

Thanks DG. I'll progress to MO now.

From: MERRICK Jamie <Jamie.Merrick@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Sunday, 13 December 2020 6:09 PM
To: DAVIDSON Brent
Subject: Re: Media release for approval - camp reopening

Approved

Sent from my iPhone

On 13 Dec 2020, at 5:07 pm, DAVIDSON Brent <Brent.Davidson@des.qld.gov.au> wrote:

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

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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 viaPark 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.

<image002.png>
Brent Davidson
Media Manager
Media Unit | Corporate Communications
Department of Environment and Science

<image003.png>
Chat with me on teams **M** Personal Info
E brent.davidson@des.qld.gov.au
Visit the Environment Media Centre
<image004.png>
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<14122020 - DRAFT TO MO - Camping re-opening on K'gari.docx>

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Date : 11/12/2020 7:12:21 AM
From : "QFES Media"
Subject : RE: QFES talking points - K'gari (Fraser Island) 6am Friday 11/12
Attachment : QFES talking points - Fri 11 Dec 6am.docx;image001.jpg;

Following on from our previous email, please note that the provision of this version of the talking points is the last scheduled distribution for this event.

QFES Media will coordinate any further messaging as required in response to direct interview requests.

Kind regards,

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

From: QFES Media
Sent: Friday, 11 December 2020 6:02 AM
Subject: QFES talking points - K'gari (Fraser Island) 6am Friday 11/12

Good morning.

Updated talking points for the K�gari (Fraser Island) fire are attached. These are current as at 6am Friday 11 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 30 bushfires burning statewide.
- Heightened fire danger will begin to ease across large parts of Queensland this weekend.
- 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.
- Favourable conditions and rainfall in recent days have significantly slowed the fire and allowed crews to bolster firefighting efforts.
- These mild conditions are expected to continue over the weekend and into next week as a coastal low forms over South East Queensland which may produce more rain.
- Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) and Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) crews will continue working to contain the fire as well as protecting culturally significant assets alongside our Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation (BAC) partners.
- Significant resources are deployed to this fire, with more than 50 personnel (QFES, QPWS and BAC) in 30 vehicles on the island yesterday (December 10).
- Yesterday's waterbombing operations used 14 aircraft. 17 in total are on standby, including the Large Air Tanker (LAT).
- 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.
- The fire has moved very little. 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 may affect the island and mainland. Anyone affected should close windows and doors, keep their medication close by and drive to the conditions.

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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:

- Recovery preparations for K'gari are well advanced, led by QPWS and BAC. Plans are being developed to re-open all Island communities as soon as is safe to do so. The local disaster management group is working cohesively and are maintaining the common objective of fast tracking the recovery operations.
- 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 30 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.

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Date : 13/12/2020 12:46:34 PM
From : "BUCKLEY Andrew"
To : "CONNOR Nathan"
Cc : "CAMBOURN Neil" , "KLAASSEN Ben" , "WATSON Matthew" , "DAVIDSON Brent" , "HARRIS Leigh"
Subject : Re: QFES to QPWS transfer of control_Duling Bushfire_20201213_1200hrs

Thanks Nathan great work your feedback on proposed media release is most welcomed

Cheers Buck

Sent from my iPhone

On 13 Dec 2020, at 12:29 pm, CONNOR Nathan <Nathan.Connor@des.qld.gov.au> wrote:

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 inf

<201213 Signed Transition.pdf>
<IF-00-17-00-SMEACS-Fraser Island_20201213.docx>
<QPWS K'gari Re Opening_FINAL_20201213.docx>

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Date : 1/12/2020 2:08:54 PM
From : "Tim Whittaker"
To : "DAVIDSON Brent" , "Chantelle Rule"
Cc : "QFES Media"
Subject : RE: QPWS generic response
Attachment : image001.png;image005.png;image006.png;image007.png;

Hey Brent,

My only comment on the below is that I don't feel it is necessary to call us out as lead agency in the highlighted part. Technically this is only since Friday, and it is starting to get into the weeds on operation if that makes sense? None of our talking points refer to a lead agency.

Cheers mate,

Tim

From: DAVIDSON Brent <Brent.Davidson@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 1 December 2020 1:59 PM
To: Chantelle Rule <Chantelle.Rule@qfes.qld.gov.au>
Cc: QFES Media <QFES.Media@qfes.qld.gov.au>; Tim Whittaker <Tim.Whittaker@qfes.qld.gov.au>
Subject: QPWS generic response

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 to 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 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

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

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Date : 26/11/2020 3:31:33 PM
From : "Chantelle Rule"
To : "DAVIDSON Brent"
Subject : RE: QPWS key messages
Attachment : image001.png;image006.png;image008.png;image005.png;image007.png;image009.png;

Hi Brent,

Thanks for these. We will incorporate them into our talking points. Are you aware of discussions for our two agencies to work off the same set of key messages? I believe this was discussed at Director level and has been supported by DPC.

Also, our approach for any media requests will be that we facilitate them jointly with QPWS as much as possible. I know you mentioned Mike Cubis, are there any other spokespeople up there that our media officers should link in with?

We will make sure you are kept across all updates and we will send you the talking points prior to distribution. We will incorporate all of the below messages into the document we are preparing for tomorrow morning but if you have any others you would like us to include, please send them through.

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: Thursday, 26 November 2020 12:27 PM
To: Chantelle Rule <Chantelle.Rule@qfes.qld.gov.au>
Subject: QPWS key messages

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

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E brent.davidson@des.qld.gov.au
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Date : 17/11/2020 2:50:51 PM
From : "DAVIDSON Brent"
To : "HEAD Damien"
Subject : RE: Query
Attachment : image001.png;image004.png;image005.png;image006.png;image007.jpg;

Says it was from 13 November. I'm okay with that unless you've got more recent ones.

https://www.dropbox.com/home/K'gari%20wild%20fire

From: HEAD Damien <Damien.Head@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 17 November 2020 2:47 PM
To: Media DES
Subject: RE: Query

Looks like near two weeks old looking at the file information.

From: Media DES <Media@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 17 November 2020 2:35 PM
To: HEAD Damien
Subject: FW: Query

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

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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

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Date : 2/12/2020 10:16:14 AM
From : "Hayley Gillespie"
To : "DAVIDSON Brent" , "Chantelle Rule" , "Tim Whittaker"
Cc : "QFES Media" , "GRANT Andrea" , "Ethan Clissold" , "Brad Gardner"
Subject : RE: Response re Butchulla negotiations
Attachment : image005.png;image006.png;image007.png;image008.png;image009.png;

Thanks Brent

Hayley Gillespie
Executive Manager, Media
Queensland Fire and Emergency Services
P: 07 3635 3320 **M:** Personal info **24hr:** 07 3635 3310
E hayley.gillespie@qfes.qld.gov.au

From: DAVIDSON Brent <Brent.Davidson@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 2 December 2020 9:35 AM
To: Chantelle Rule <Chantelle.Rule@qfes.qld.gov.au>; Hayley Gillespie <Hayley.Gillespie@qfes.qld.gov.au>; Tim Whittaker <Tim.Whittaker@qfes.qld.gov.au>
Cc: QFES Media <QFES.Media@qfes.qld.gov.au>; GRANT Andrea <Andrea.Grant@des.qld.gov.au>
Subject: Response re Butchulla negotiations

Hi all

FYI this is what we intend to go back to the Fraser Coast Chronicle with pending any feedback from our MO.

Media statement

K[?]gari fire

December 2 2020

Enquiry from Carlie Walker, Fraser Coast Chronicle:

Has there been consultation with the Butchulla people regarding using water from water sources on the island?

QPWS has been engaged with the Butchulla Aborignal Corporation since the beginning of the fire.

Biosecurity and cultural reasons restrict water-bombing helicopters from accessing the island[?]s pristine freshwater lakes.

This prevents pest fish, insects, seeds or pest plant species potentially being transferred from a farm dam via water-bombing buckets, which could be catastrophic to the island[?]s natural ecological balance.

However, helicopters have sourced water from other sources.

ENDS

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

Cheers

Brent

Brent Davidson
Media Manager
Media Unit | Corporate Communications
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Date : 1/12/2020 2:51:27 PM
From : "Chantelle Rule"
To : "DAVIDSON Brent"
Subject : RE: Size of K'gari
Attachment : image005.png;image007.png;image009.png;image001.png;image002.png;image003.png;

Thanks Brent,

Sorry, I have been away from my desk for a while, just getting back to emails now. The stat in our flash brief says 50% of the island has been burnt so we will incorporate this into our talking points.

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 12:50 PM
To: Chantelle Rule <Chantelle.Rule@qfes.qld.gov.au>
Cc: QFES Media <QFES.Media@qfes.qld.gov.au>
Subject: Size of K'gari

Hi Chantelle
As discussed, we've been using 165,000 hectares.
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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Date : 4/12/2020 5:17:01 PM
From : "Chantelle Rule"
To : "GRANT Andrea" , "DAVIDSON Brent" , "Media DES"
Cc : "Tim Whittaker" , "Hayley Gillespie"
Subject : RE: Talking points - 4 Dec
Attachment : QFES talking points - Sat 5 Dec 6am.docx;image001.png;image003.png;

Good afternoon Andrea and Brent,

Please find attached talking points to be distributed at 0600hrs 5 Dec for your visibility. These have been endorsed by the North Coast Region Operations Centre. The details in red will be checked against further incoming correspondence overnight to ensure consistency of messaging with other briefing material.

If you would like us to make any changes, please include QFES Media in your reply and we will incorporate ahead of distribution.

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

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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 (change to 'today' if you get projected stats overnight), 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.

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- 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 19 times during this incident to establish containment lines. It made four drops yesterday (Friday) and is continuing operations today.

- 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.

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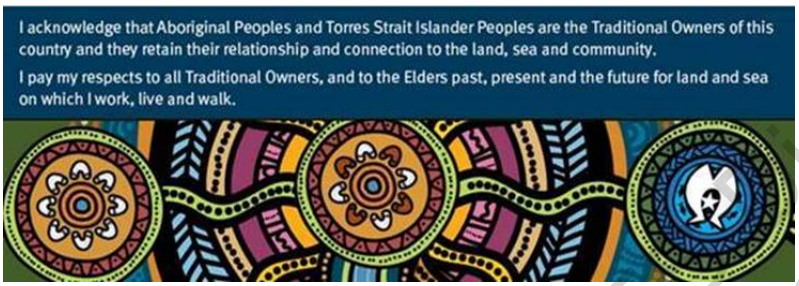
Date : 13/12/2020 2:12:58 PM
From : "KLAASSEN Ben"
To : "WATSON Matthew"
Cc : "DAVIDSON Brent"
Subject : RE: Talking points: K'gari reopening
Attachment : image001.png;image004.png;image005.jpg;image006.png;image007.png;

Thanks Matt

I will be available for whatever we need to do.

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



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From: WATSON Matthew <Matthew.Watson@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Sunday, 13 December 2020 12:55 PM
To: BUCKLEY Andrew; CONNOR Nathan; KLAASSEN Ben; CAMBOURN Neil
Cc: DAVIDSON Brent; HARRIS Leigh; Media DES; HEAD Damien
Subject: Talking points: K'gari reopening

Hi all,
In preparation for the reopening, I have drafted talking points.
Are they okay to progress?
If we issue an embargoed media release this afternoon, I will need someone to record audio grabs.
They will also need to be prepared to conduct further interviews as we will get TV, radio programs requests tomorrow.
Call if I can help further.
Cheers

In great news for Christmas and New Years Eve, tourist accommodation providers on K'gari-can welcome guests again.

It is now safe to allow vehicle access along the eastern beach, allowing visitors to access K'gari's townships from Tuesday morning.

Beach houses and residential *Airbnb* style accommodation can open for business.

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

Campers don't miss out either with many campgrounds and beach camping zones now available for booking.

This includes:

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

Visitors should be aware that some areas affected by fire or the fire response will remain closed for risk assessments and maintenance.

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

QPWS regrets the inconvenience caused to those whose plans to camp or visit K'gari were impacted by the bushfire, but public safety is always the top priority.

QPWS staff have worked hard alongside Queensland Fire and Emergency Services and the Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation to get the island open to tourists as soon as possible.

People wanting to visit the the island should park alerts or Twitter to keep up-to-date on information such as weather, fire or restrictions.

People who weren't able to get to the island during the closure can get a refund for camping and vehicle access permits by visiting the DES website.

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

M Personal inf 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

Published on DES Disclosure Log
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Date : 13/12/2020 9:36:47 AM
From : "CAMBOURN Neil"
To : "DAVIDSON Brent"
Cc : "KLAASSEN Ben" , "WATSON Matthew" , "BUCKLEY Andrew" , "HEAD Damien" , "HARRIS Leigh" , "CUBIS Mick" , "DARGUSCH Marc"
Subject : Re: Today Show request K'gari reopening
Attachment : Image.jpeg;

Nice work Brent thanks.

Sent from my iPhone

> On 13 Dec 2020, at 9:32 am, DAVIDSON Brent <Brent.Davidson@des.qld.gov.au> wrote:
>
> I was able to kill the story about the park alerts error yesterday - it was difficult but I got there

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Ravaged Fraser set to reopen

AN ANNOUNCEMENT surrounding the potential reopening of fire-scarred Fraser Island is due to be made within days, according to Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service.

Yesterday Queensland Fire and Emergency Services reported a number of fires still burning on the island with an 'advice' level warning still valid.

The reopening to the island would see a limited number of areas open to public access.

A QPWS spokesman said while the final decision was not confirmed, an update should be provided within days.

The potential announcement comes as The Courier-Mail was told the fire situation still hung in the balance, despite the island going through a critical period of containment this week.

"If it cools off and you get a southeasterly, they're saying they might be able to backburn into the fire and reduce the fuel, holding it to the top half of the island," one firefighting source said.

A spokesman from the Bureau of Meteorology said the Island was estimated to have had around 20mm-35mm of rain over the past two days.

Rain is expected each day between today and Wednesday, with the weather bureau issuing flood watch warnings for the island yesterday morning, with minor flooding expected from today.

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Brent Davidson
Media Manager
Personal inform

Date : 13/12/2020 10:49:37 AM
From : "BUCKLEY Andrew"
To : "DAVIDSON Brent"
Cc : "WATSON Matthew" , "CONNOR Nathan" , "KLAASSEN Ben" , "HARRIS Leigh" , "CAMBOURN Neil"
Subject : Re: Transition document for K'gari fire back to QPWS control.
Attachment : image004.png;image005.png;image006.png;

Ok

Sent from my iPhone

On 13 Dec 2020, at 10:32 am, DAVIDSON Brent <Brent.Davidson@des.qld.gov.au> wrote:

QFES are just going to do a social media post about handing back control & we can share instead of a full release

Brent Davidson
Media Manager
Personal informa

From: WATSON Matthew <Matthew.Watson@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Sunday, December 13, 2020 10:27:12 AM
To: BUCKLEY Andrew <Andrew.Buckley@des.qld.gov.au>; CONNOR Nathan <Nathan.Connor@des.qld.gov.au>; KLAASSEN Ben <Ben.Klaassen@des.qld.gov.au>; DAVIDSON Brent <Brent.Davidson@des.qld.gov.au>
Cc: HARRIS Leigh <Leigh.Harris@des.qld.gov.au>; CAMBOURN Neil <Neil.Cambourn@des.qld.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Transition document for K'gari fire back to QPWS control.

Okay, thank you.
I agree with Brent's advice from yesterday to announce the reopening tomorrow.
I can put the today show off.
I am heading to Personal information but will be taking my laptop, phone etc.
Call if anything changes.
Cheers

<image004.png>
Matt Watson

Principal Media Officer
Media Unit | Corporate Communications
Department of Environment and Science
M Personal

<image005.png>
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: BUCKLEY Andrew <Andrew.Buckley@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Sunday, 13 December 2020 10:26 AM
To: WATSON Matthew; CONNOR Nathan; KLAASSEN Ben; DAVIDSON Brent
Cc: HARRIS Leigh; CAMBOURN Neil
Subject: Re: Transition document for K'gari fire back to QPWS control.

Matthew
I believe it is Tuesday for reopening eastern beach access.
Cheers Buck

Get Outlook for iOS

From: WATSON Matthew <Matthew.Watson@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Sunday, December 13, 2020 10:19:32 AM
To: BUCKLEY Andrew <Andrew.Buckley@des.qld.gov.au>; CONNOR Nathan <Nathan.Connor@des.qld.gov.au>; KLAASSEN Ben <Ben.Klaassen@des.qld.gov.au>; DAVIDSON Brent <Brent.Davidson@des.qld.gov.au>
Cc: HARRIS Leigh <Leigh.Harris@des.qld.gov.au>; CAMBOURN Neil <Neil.Cambourn@des.qld.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Transition document for K'gari fire back to QPWS control.

No worries Andrew,
As part of the reopening strategy, will the island be opened tomorrow?

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The Today Show are going to call me about 12pm today to check.
Cheers

<image006.png>
Matt Watson

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

M Personal info
<image005.png>
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: BUCKLEY Andrew <Andrew.Buckley@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Sunday, 13 December 2020 10:12 AM
To: CONNOR Nathan; KLAASSEN Ben; DAVIDSON Brent; WATSON Matthew
Cc: HARRIS Leigh; CAMBOURN Neil
Subject: Re: Transition document for K'gari fire back to QPWS control.

Ben
Based on the information from Nathan it would seem the restrictions to access for Fraser that were enacted were through our processes around visitation and camping. Therefore post IC handover to QPWS&P we will be able to push on with our reopening strategy and media release.

I will give you a call once official handover occurs to Nathan.

Brent / Matthew
If possible you may want to check in with QFES media to see if they want to do something joint about handover which we could include our reopening info?

Cheers Buck

Sent from my iPhone

> On 13 Dec 2020, at 9:47 am, CONNOR Nathan <Nathan.Connor@des.qld.gov.au> wrote:
>
> Hi Leigh and Buck,
>
> As per Neil's instruction to liaise via yourselves for the time being please see link below from Friday the 27th November – the day QFES took control of the fire. The restrictions mentioned here apply to new campers and visitors to the island only. These arrangements remain and as mentioned in the release the public is to keep an eye on the QFES website for fire status update and the QPWS site for closure status.
>
> The regulation of new campers and visitors to the island has been minimal with no compliance of permits outside that of QPWS process. This has been confirmed by QFES IC Matt Inwood and QPS IMT Liaison Officer
>
> To my understanding this is essentially a matter of us adjusting our park status via Park Alerts once formal handover is completed around midday.
>
> Am I on the money here from your perspective?
>
> https://newsroom.psba.qld.gov.au/Content/Local-News/North-Coast/Article/Access-restricted-to-K-gari-Fraser-Island-as-fire-continues-to-impact-island/1017/1057/15740
> pp
>
> **Matthew Inwood** JP
> Inspector
> Area Director
> Caloundra, Rural Fire Service
> **Queensland Fire and Emergency Services**
> **P** 07 5293 4200 **M** Personal info
> _____
> <image002.jpg>P

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From: CAMBOURN Neil <Neil.Cambourn@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Sunday, 13 December 2020 7:20 AM
To: CONNOR Nathan
Cc: BUCKLEY Andrew; CUBIS Mick; HEAD Damien; DARGUSCH Marc; HARRIS Leigh
Subject: Re: Transition document for K'gari fire back to QPWS control.

Thanks Nathan,
It's important for the QFES IC to appreciate that while we have the head of power over the RAM areas to regulate certain activities, enforcing access restrictions to privately held properties on the island is largely outside of our jurisdiction, the private landholdings are not covered by RAM.

For example access restrictions for Kingfisher can not be applied or lifted by QPWS as we have no head of power over their areas. They access directly by and into their own leased areas including their privately held barge landing lease and their Wanggoolba lease and airstrip.

Eurong resort is also accessible by helicopter and has a landing pad and helicopter hangar that we have no powers over.

Also as mentioned, the eastern beach is dedicated road.

For this reason, QPWS has never been able to make the decision to close the whole island, that has always been an LDMG decision using police or other emergency powers.

So the head of power used by QFES to restrict access to the island during the fire emergency, needs to be considered and administered in easing the restrictions as well in my view.

That decision sits with whomever made the call to restrict access, and could also possibly be taken by the LDMG commander.

So the upshot is, applying and removing the restriction on access is not a QPWS power, and we can only open the NP and Rec areas once the restriction is formally revoked.

Sent from my iPhone

> On 12 Dec 2020, at 5:31 pm, CONNOR Nathan <Nathan.Connor@des.qld.gov.au> wrote:
>
> Hi Neil,
>
> IC has confirmed that as is standard practice, the governing agency/authority responsible for the reopening of areas/tracks within their jurisdiction own all matters associated with such decisions.
>
> In accordance with that advice and as confirmed by Marc Dargusch, the Recreation Area Management Act (RAMA) covers the non QPWS areas mentioned below and as such would provide head of power for QPWS to reopen these areas post assessment – noting the inland road is located in non-fire effected country nor is it currently closed.
>
> Fraser Coast Council have indicated a minor role (eastern beach only) in road management previously and also referred to the RAMA as the customary point of truth.
>
> Happy to discuss anytime.
>
> Regards,
>
> Nathan Connor
> Deputy Incident Controller
>
> ---
>
> **From:** KLAASSEN Ben <Ben.Klaassen@des.qld.gov.au>
> **Sent:** Saturday, 12 December 2020 4:03 PM
> **To:** CAMBOURN Neil
> **Cc:** BUCKLEY Andrew; CUBIS Mick; CONNOR Nathan; HEAD Damien; DARGUSCH Marc; HARRIS Leigh
> **Subject:** Re: Transition document for K'gari fire back to QPWS control.
>
> Hi all
>
> The DG has been briefed and noted handover to QPWS tomorrow.
>
> He has asked we follow up one point with current IC noting they have identified QPWS to determine recovery actions.

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That is advice that there is nothing of relevance to non QPWS tenures that should be considered in a decision to reopen the eastern beach or inland road we propose. He considers it important we have that from the current IC to inform our decision noting we are not responsible for those tenures.

He has some edits to the media release he will send to me.

Thanks
Ben

Sent from my iPhone

On 12 Dec 2020, at 2:35 pm, CAMBOURN Neil <Neil.Cambourn@des.qld.gov.au> wrote:

Thanks Andrew and Nathan,
Confirming as Executive Director responsible for QPWS operational management of K'Gari, that I endorse the transition document subject to the noted final adjustment of figures to reflect the conditions at the time of proposed transfer, and accept the transfer of control of the fire **as a level one incident** as per the provisions of the Queensland Bushfire Plan, from QFES IC Matt Inwood to QPWS Deputy IC Nathan Connor from tomorrow Sunday 13 December 2020 under appropriate conditions and timing as mutually agreed by the QFES IC Matt Inwood and QPWS Deputy IC Nathan Connor.

Following formal transfer, Nathan Connor is to assume the formal position as incident controller and establish the necessary QPWS Incident Management Team arrangements appropriate to the current fire situation and future expected conditions and management requirements, and the necessary national park/ recreation area recovery actions.

Regards Neil

<image003.png>
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: BUCKLEY Andrew <Andrew.Buckley@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Saturday, 12 December 2020 1:50 PM
To: KLAASSEN Ben; CAMBOURN Neil; CUBIS Mick
Cc: CONNOR Nathan; HEAD Damien; DARGUSCH Marc; HARRIS Leigh
Subject: Fwd: Transition document for K'gari fire back to QPWS control.

Ben
Please see below and attached i will get Neil to confirm but I believe we are prepared for the handover and a including implementing our reopening strategy and media tomorrow. Seeking your ok for this and for sending to DG for visibility. Is there anything else you want in place for tomorrow let me know.

Cheers Buck

Get Outlook for iOS

From: CONNOR Nathan <Nathan.Connor@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Saturday, December 12, 2020 1:39 pm
To: BUCKLEY Andrew; CUBIS Mick
Cc: HEAD Damien
Subject: FW: Transition document for K'gari fire back to QPWS control.

Hi Buck,

Please see attached transition document for QPWS endorsement as discussed. Transition is scheduled for tomorrow, Sunday the 13th December, conditions permitting. Note QFES endorsement below.

Happy to discuss.

Nathan

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From: james.haig <james.haig@qfes.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Saturday, 12 December 2020 12:13 PM
To: CONNOR Nathan
Cc: Matthew Inwood
Subject: FW: Transition document for K'gari fire back to QPWS control.

Nathan as discussed.

Regards

James

James Haig
Superintendent
Executive Manager Bushfire Mitigation
Office Of Bushfire Mitigation, Rural Fire Service
Queensland Fire and Emergency Services
P 07 3635 3883 **M** Personal info

<image006.jpg>

From: Steve Barber <Steve.Barber@qfes.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Saturday, 12 December 2020 12:08 PM
To: James Haig <James.Haig@qfes.qld.gov.au>
Cc: Matthew Inwood <Matthew.Inwood@qfes.qld.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Transition document for K'gari fire back to QPWS control.

Hi James, as the Commander Regional Operations NCR, I **endorse and approve** the Fraser Island (K'gari) bushfire Transition handover document to QPWS with those minor amendments as discussed.

Kind Regards

Steve Barber AFSM
Assistant Commissioner
Northern Region

<image007.png>
<image008.jpg>

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services

Phone: (07) 47969023
Mobile: Personal in
Email: steve.barber@qfes.qld.gov.au

From: James Haig <James.Haig@qfes.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Saturday, 12 December 2020 11:46 AM
To: Steve Barber <Steve.Barber@qfes.qld.gov.au>
Cc: Matthew Inwood <Matthew.Inwood@qfes.qld.gov.au>
Subject: Transition document for K'gari fire back to QPWS conmtrol.

Sir, please find attached a draft transition document for this fire.

I have run this past QPWS Deputy IC Nathan Connor who is supportive.

I am now seeking your support for this so that we can formally share it with him and he can email it through to his executive to ensure an orderly transfer of the fire sometime tomorrow.

Evidence for the statements in the documents have been verified by the Air Operations lead for air observations, the FBAN for weather related information and Operations for the risk assessments for Happy Valley and the small townships. The risk assessments have been confirmed verbally with the assessing officer (Div Com Ash Dickson) however have not been received physically by ICC Operations due to connectivity issues (photo s and scans too large to send from field). This will be done when the officer achieves connectivity.

As this matter has been considered at the executive level could you either approve yourself or whomever is required to approve and advise back by return email and I will forward to QPWS Nathan Connor as per above? I just do not wish to get ahead of where I should be.

This would be my last task as IC and I will formally transfer control of the incident to Matt

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Ingram upon completion. Matt is aware that he may need to update some figures in the document tomorrow to reflect conditions at the time.

Lastly can I thank you for your support and leadership during this incident. I have certainly appreciated the clear direction of both yourself and Mr McCormack as well as the friendly advice and support and wanted to acknowledge that.

Regards

James

James Haig
Superintendent
Executive Manager Bushfire Mitigation
Office Of Bushfire Mitigation, Rural Fire Service
Queensland Fire and Emergency Services
P 07 3635 3883 **M** Personal info

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Date : 27/11/2020 3:29:01 PM
From : "DAVIDSON Brent"
To : "QFES Media" , "Media DES"
Subject : RE: Updated QFES talking points - K'gari / Fraser Island as at 1500 hours
Attachment : image001.jpg;

We'll get back to you shortly – I'm just querying the line about tour operations – I think it's the permits that will be suspended for tour operators, not necessarily all tourist operation as they can do so in non-national park areas of the island. Also have a few lines about where to go for camp bookings information.

From: QFES Media <QFES.Media@qfes.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 27 November 2020 3:17 PM
To: Media DES; DAVIDSON Brent
Subject: Updated QFES talking points - K'gari / Fraser Island as at 1500 hours
Importance: High

Good Afternoon,
Please find attached updated QFES talking points for your endorsement as at 1500 hours, Friday 27 November.
If you could approve / amend and let me know as soon as possible, that would be brilliant.
Regards,
Dave

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).

Published on DES Disclosure Log
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Date : 1/12/2020 1:34:44 PM
From : "KLAASSEN Ben"
To : "BUCKLEY Andrew" , "DAVIDSON Brent"
Cc : "GRANT Andrea"
Subject : RE: Urgent media response for endorsement - K'gari fire.
Attachment : image001.png;image009.png;image010.png;image004.png;image005.jpg;image006.png;

Hi

My edits included below. Note the recent royal commission did not recommend a target it was the Victorian royal commission back in 2008/9 so have removed that. Also want to emphasise the first response was when it was reported.

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

QPWS has conducted significant fire mitigation onK'gari (Fraser Island), averaging approximately 13,000 hectares for the last five years, to ensure we minimise and prevent wild fires however, all this good work can be brought undone by the actions of those irresponsible person/s who started and then poorly extinguished an illegal campfire which is the suspected cause of this devastating fire.

QPWS responded as soon as the fire was reported on 14 October 2020. The fire has been burning for most of that period in remote and inaccessible parts of the island making containment very challenging.

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

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

The QFES and QPWS Incident Management Team is continuing to monitor and manage the situation.

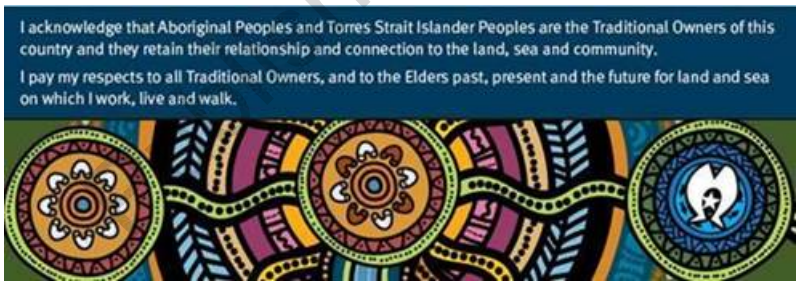
Multiple QPWS crews on the ground each day, working alongside QFES as the lead agency and the Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation.

Anyone with information about the illegal campfire is urged to contact the department. A person who fails to extinguish a campfire properly can face fines of up to $22,019.

Happy to discuss.

Ben

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



From: BUCKLEY Andrew <Andrew.Buckley@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 1 December 2020 1:23 PM
To: DAVIDSON Brent; KLAASSEN Ben
Subject: RE: Urgent media response for endorsement - K'gari fire.

Brent sorry for the delay just some changes/thoughts below what do you think?

Cheers buck

From: DAVIDSON Brent <Brent.Davidson@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 1 December 2020 11:27 AM
To: KLAASSEN Ben; BUCKLEY Andrew

Released on DES Disclosure Log RTI Act 2009

Subject: Urgent media response for endorsement - K'gari fire.
Importance: High

Hi Ben & Andrew (nice to e-meet you)

Andrea & I have put the below together to answer media enquiries we get today about the fire. While we intend to use this for all media enquiries, there may still be some we will need further advice on if they're very specific questions that we feel need answering – but we will try to limit this as much as possible.

We are seeking your endorsement of the below to answer enquiries from the Fraser Coast Chronicle, Seven News and The Guardian.

Kind regards

Brent

From: DAVIDSON Brent <Brent.Davidson@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 1 December 2020 11:20 AM
To: GRANT Andrea
Subject: Statement

What do you reckon?

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

QPWS&P has conducted significant fire mitigation onK'gari (Fraser Island)– even above those recommended in the recent Royal Commission - to ensure we minimise and prevent wild fires however, all this good work can be brought undone by the actions of those irresponsible person/s who started and then poorly extinguished an illegal campfire which is the suspected cause of this devastating fire.

Although the fire has been burning since October 14 for most of that period it is has been in remote and inaccessible parts of the island.

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

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

The QFES and QPWS Incident Management Team is continuing to monitor and manage the situation.

Multiple QPWS crews on the ground each day, working alongside QFES as the lead agency and the Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation.

Anyone with information about the illegal campfire is urged to contact the department. A person who fails to extinguish a campfire properly can face fines of up to $22,019.

Queensland Government

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

Chat with me on teams **M** Personal info
E brent.davidson@des.qld.gov.au
Visit the Environment Media Centre
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Date : 2/12/2020 3:08:53 PM
From : "Ethan Clissold"
To : "DAVIDSON Brent"
Cc : "Tim Whittaker" , "Hayley Gillespie" , "Chantelle Rule" , "Brad Gardner"
Subject : RE: Was LAT used 20 October on K'gari?
Attachment : image001.png;image005.png;image006.png;image007.png;

Hi Brent,

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

Please let me know if you require anything further.

Kind regards,

Ethan Clissold
Media Supervisor
Media, Communication and Online
Queensland Fire and Emergency Services
P: 07 3635 3784 **M:** Personal infor **24hr:** 07 3635 3310

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

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

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

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

20.10.20 1000 JRK Backburning operations paused for the moment but Large air tanker on route to supress 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 I 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

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Date : 2/12/2020 9:34:37 AM
From : "DAVIDSON Brent"
To : "Chantelle Rule" , "Hayley Gillespie" , "Tim Whittaker"
Cc : "QFES Media" , "GRANT Andrea"
Subject : Response re Butchulla negotiations
Attachment : image001.png;image002.png;image003.png;image004.png;

Hi all

FYI this is what we intend to go back to the Fraser Coast Chronicle with pending any feedback from our MO.

Media statement

K'gari fire

December 2 2020

Enquiry from Carlie Walker, Fraser Coast Chronicle:

Has there been consultation with the Butchulla people regarding using water from water sources on the island?

QPWS has been engaged with the Butchulla Aborignal Corporation since the beginning of the fire.

Biosecurity and cultural reasons restrict water-bombing helicopters from accessing the island's pristine freshwater lakes.

This prevents pest fish, insects, seeds or pest plant species potentially being transferred from a farm dam via water-bombing buckets, which could be catastrophic to the island's natural ecological balance.

However, helicopters have sourced water from other sources.

ENDS

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

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
Visit the Environment Media Centre
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Date : 1/12/2020 12:50:05 PM
From : "DAVIDSON Brent"
To : "Chantelle Rule"
Cc : "QFES Media"
Subject : Size of K'gari
Attachment : image001.png;image002.png;image003.png;image004.png;

Hi Chantelle
As discussed, we've been using 165,000 hectares.
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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Date : 1/12/2020 5:53:48 PM
From : "Chantelle Rule"
To : "GRANT Andrea" , "DAVIDSON Brent" , "Media DES"
Cc : "Tim Whittaker" , "Hayley Gillespie" , "Brad Gardner" , "Ethan Clissold"
Subject : Talking points - 2 Dec
Attachment : QFES talking points - Wed 2 Dec 6am.docx;image001.png;image002.png;

Good afternoon Andrea and Brent,

Please find attached talking points to be distributed at 0600hrs 2 Dec for your visibility. These have been endorsed by the ICC at Rainbow Beach and QPWS Media. The details in red will be checked against further incoming correspondence overnight to ensure consistency of messaging with other briefing material.

If you would like us to make any changes, please include QFES Media in your reply and we will incorporate ahead of distribution.

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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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 75 personnel (QFES, QPWS and BAC) in 30 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.
- There are currently 15 crews located at Kingfisher Bay Resort for property protection and direct fire attack if required.
- 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 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 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.

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- 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 Kingfisher Bay Resort and Village 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).

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Date : 2/12/2020 6:13:39 PM
From : "Ethan Clissold"
To : "GRANT Andrea" , "DAVIDSON Brent" , "Media DES"
Cc : "Tim Whittaker" , "Hayley Gillespie" , "Chantelle Rule" , "Brad Gardner"
Subject : Talking points - 3 Dec
Attachment : QFES talking points - Thu 3 Dec 6am.docx;

Good afternoon Andrea and Brent,

Please find attached talking points to be distributed at 0600hrs 3 Dec for your visibility. These have been endorsed by the ICC at Rainbow Beach and QPWS in the ICC. The details in red will be checked against further incoming correspondence overnight to ensure consistency of messaging with other briefing material.

If you would like us to make any changes, please include QFES Media in your reply and we will incorporate ahead of distribution.

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

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FDR: Thursday – Saturday: 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 82,000 hectares, after starting in the north of the island. This equates to approximately 50% of the island.
- QFES plans to actively attack the fire with water bombing aircraft to reduce the fire's intensity and rate of spread whilst also considering all available opportunities to improve access for ground crews in an effort to contain the fire.
- 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.
- 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.
- Yesterday's operations have successfully steered the head of the fire 2km east of KBRV. QFES will continue to use extensive air and ground resources to slow and stop progression of the fire to the south.
- 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 KBRV, 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.

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- 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, 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.

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- 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).

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.

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Date : 3/12/2020 5:53:22 PM
From : "Chantelle Rule"
To : "GRANT Andrea" , "DAVIDSON Brent" , "Media DES"
Cc : "Tim Whittaker" , "Hayley Gillespie"
Subject : Talking points - 4 Dec
Attachment : QFES talking points - Fri 4 Dec 6am.docx;image001.png;image003.png;

Good afternoon Andrea and Brent,

Please find attached talking points to be distributed at 0600hrs 4 Dec for your visibility. These have been endorsed by the ICC at Rainbow Beach. The details in red will be checked against further incoming correspondence overnight to ensure consistency of messaging with other briefing material.

We have removed background info from the TP�s as they were getting too long but we will include background in the body of the email when we distribute these tomorrow morning (see below).

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).

If you would like us to make any changes, please include QFES Media in your reply and we will incorporate ahead of distribution.

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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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) yesterday (change to 'today' if you get projected stats overnight).
- 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.

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- 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.

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Date : 5/12/2020 3:53:39 PM
From : "Tim Whittaker"
To : "DAVIDSON Brent"
Cc : "QFES Media"
Subject : Talking Points - 5/12
Attachment : QFES talking points - Sun 6 Dec 6am.docx;image001.png;

Hi Brent,

Talking points for tomorrow are attached.

We will have LAT stats update after last light tonight, all other figures have been verified through the ICC.

Any queries or concerns please let us know.

Many thanks,

Tim

Tim Whittaker
Director
Media, Communication and Online
Queensland Fire and Emergency Services

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

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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 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.

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- 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.

- **Three** bushfire community warnings are in place for the Island. A new warning was issued yesterday afternoon that advises people in Happy Valley to **Prepare to Leave**. Other 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).

Commented [TW1]: To be updated COB today

- 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.

Published on DES Disclosure Log
RTI Act 2009

Date : 7/12/2020 5:58:37 PM
From : "Chantelle Rule"
To : "GRANT Andrea" , "DAVIDSON Brent" , "Media DES"
Cc : "Tim Whittaker" , "Hayley Gillespie" , "Brad Gardner" , "Ethan Clissold"
Subject : Talking points - 8 Dec
Attachment : QFES talking points - Tues 8 Dec 6am.docx;image001.png;image003.png;

Good afternoon Andrea and DES,

Please find attached talking points to be distributed at 0600hrs 8 Dec for your visibility. These have been endorsed by the North Coast Region Operations Centre. The details in red will be checked against further incoming correspondence overnight to ensure consistency of messaging with other briefing material.

If you would like us to make any changes, please include QFES Media in your reply and we will incorporate ahead of distribution.

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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Published on DES Disclosure Log
RTI Act 2009

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).

Severe storms

- Severe storms passed through large areas of the state on Monday afternoon. More than 100 requests for assistance were made to the SES by people in the Moreton Bay Regional Council area as a result of these storms.
- SES crews were called to assist with damage to roofs and fallen trees.

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

- The fire grew significantly on Monday and people in Happy Valley, Yidney Rocks and The Oakes are being asked to **LEAVE IMMEDIATELY** if the path is clear to do so.
- There are around of 50 people in the affected area, a number of which are currently assisting with firefighting efforts.
- Two other bushfire community warnings are in place that advise people at Kingfisher Bay Resort and Village to **Prepare to Leave** and people elsewhere on the island to **Stay Informed** of the situation in case conditions deteriorate.
- QFES and QPWS conducted back burning operations around the community of Happy Valley yesterday afternoon. No structures have been impacted at this stage due to significant firefighting on the ground and the assistance of waterbombing operations.
- Significant resources are deployed this fire with more than 90 personnel (QFES, QPWS and BAC) in 38 vehicles and 24 aircraft including the Large Aerial Tanker (LAT), working on K'gari (Fraser Island) yesterday.
- The New South Wales Large Aerial Tanker (LAT) was deployed to assist firefighting efforts yesterday (Monday) and will also be operating in the area today. It has a 15,000-litre capacity and was utilised on the eastern side of the island yesterday to construct a fire break to the north of Happy Valley.
- Both LATs delivered X loads each on Monday to assist in strengthening containment lines.
- The fire has burnt **approximately** 85,000 hectares, after starting in the north of the island. This equates to **more than** 50% of the island.
- 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.

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- 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.

- 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 30 times during the Fraser Island (K'gari) incident to establish containment lines. A second LAT from NSW assisted with firefighting efforts yesterday and will also be operating in the area today.

- 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.

Published on DFS Disclosure Log
RTI Act 2009

Date : 27/11/2020 5:42:13 PM
From : "Chantelle Rule"
To : "DAVIDSON Brent"
Subject : Talking points for 6am Saturday
Attachment : QFES talking points - Sat 28 Nov 6am_.docx;image001.png;image002.png;

Hi Brent,

As discussed, here are the TP's we will issue at 6am tomorrow.

Thanks,
Chantelle.

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

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RTI Act 2009

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.

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- 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.

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).

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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.*

Published on DES Disclosure Log
RTI Act 2009

Date : 8/12/2020 6:45:37 AM
From : "QFES Media"
Subject : UPDATED QFES talking points - Tues 8 Dec
Attachment : QFES talking points - Tues 8 Dec 6am - updated.docx;image001.jpg;

Good morning,

Please find **UPDATED** K&#65533;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).

Severe storms

- Severe storms passed through large areas of the state on Monday afternoon. More than 200 requests for assistance were made to the SES by people in the Moreton Bay Regional Council and Sunshine Coast Council areas as a result of these storms.
- SES crews were called to assist with damage to roofs and fallen trees.

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** of the situation in case conditions deteriorate. **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.
- QFES and QPWS conducted back burning operations around the community of Happy Valley yesterday afternoon. No structures have been impacted at this stage due to significant firefighting on the ground and the assistance of waterbombing operations.
- Significant resources are deployed this fire with more than 90 personnel (QFES, QPWS and BAC) in 38 vehicles and 24 aircraft including the Large Aerial Tanker (LAT), working on K'gari (Fraser Island) yesterday.
- The New South Wales Large Aerial Tanker (LAT) was deployed to assist firefighting efforts yesterday (Monday) and will also be operating in the area today. It has a 15,000-litre capacity and was utilised on the eastern side of the island yesterday to construct a fire break to the north of Happy Valley.
- Both LATs delivered one load each on Monday to assist in strengthening containment lines.
- The fire has burnt **approximately** 85,000 hectares, after starting in the north of the island. This equates to **more than** 50% of the island.

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- 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 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.

- 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. A second LAT from NSW assisted with firefighting efforts yesterday and will also be operating in the area today.

- 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.

Published on DES Disclosure Log
RTI Act 2009

Date : 6/12/2020 5:54:21 PM
From : "Tim Whittaker"
To : "DAVIDSON Brent"
Cc : "QFES Media"
Subject : Updated Talking Points - 7/12
Attachment : QFES talking points - Mon 7 Dec 6am.docx;image001.png;

Afternoon Brent,

See attached updated talking points for tomorrow morning. Items in red are being confirmed overnight in terms of figures for consistency.

Many thanks,

Tim

Tim Whittaker
Director
Media, Communication and Online
Queensland Fire and Emergency Services

M: Personal inf **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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State Overview

- The Fraser Island fire is one of about 45 bushfires burning statewide.
- Heightened fire danger will continue in large parts of Queensland throughout the week, 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 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: Monday – Tuesday: VERY HIGH

- An Emergency Warning was issued on Sunday afternoon for Happy Valley asking people in Happy Valley to **LEAVE IMMEDIATELY** if it is clear to do so. An Emergency Alert Text has also been issued to the affected area.
- There are around of 50 people in the affected area, a number of which are currently assisting with firefighting efforts.
- The fire is travelling in a south easterly direction towards Happy Valley township on Fraser Island. The fire is expected to have a significant **IMPACT** on the community and we are monitoring the situation.
- Significant resources are deployed this fire with more than 90 personnel (QFES, QPWS and BAC) in 38 vehicles and 17 aircraft working on K'gari (Fraser Island) today including the Large Aerial Tanker (LAT).
- The LAT made 3 gel retardant drops yesterday, totalling 30,000 litres, to assist in strengthening containment lines.
- Aerial support has been instrumental in assisting ground crews in reducing the fire's intensity and rate of spread, On Saturday more than 1.32 million litres of water and suppressant was dropped on the fire.
- 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 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.

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- 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.

- 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 to close windows and doors, keep their medication close by and drive to the conditions.

Issues (if asked)

<u>QPWS management:</u>

- 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.

<u>IGEM:</u>

- 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.

<u>LAT use:</u>

- 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 25 times during the Fraser Island (K'gari) incident to establish containment lines. It made four 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.

Published on DES Disclosure Log
RTI Act 2009

Date : 9/12/2020 6:06:40 AM
From : "QFES Media"
Subject : UPDATED talking points for the K'Gari (Fraser Island) fire
Attachment : UPDATED QFES talking points - Wed 9 Dec 6am.docx;image001.jpg;

Good morning,

Please see UPDATED talking points attached which include the current bushfire warning levels for the K&#65533;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 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

- An ADVICE warning has been issued for K'Gari (Fraser Island) asking people to STAY INFORMED of the situation in case conditions deteriorate.
- The Watch and Act warnings for The Oaks and Kingfisher Bay Resort were downgraded last night and included in the above ADVICE message.
- 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 Oakes, 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)

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QPWS management:

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- An IGEM review into this fire has been announced by the Premier.

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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.

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Andrew >

iMessage
Sat, 5 Dec, 2:06 pm

Hey, it's Brent from media. Just wanted to let you know there's a media response on your email if you wouldn't mind having a look. It's about wildlife on the island.

Sun, 6 Dec, 2:33 pm

QFES Media just told me an emergency bushfire warning is going out in about 15 minutes for Happy Valley part of the fire. You probably already know but just wanted to let you know just in case.

iMessage

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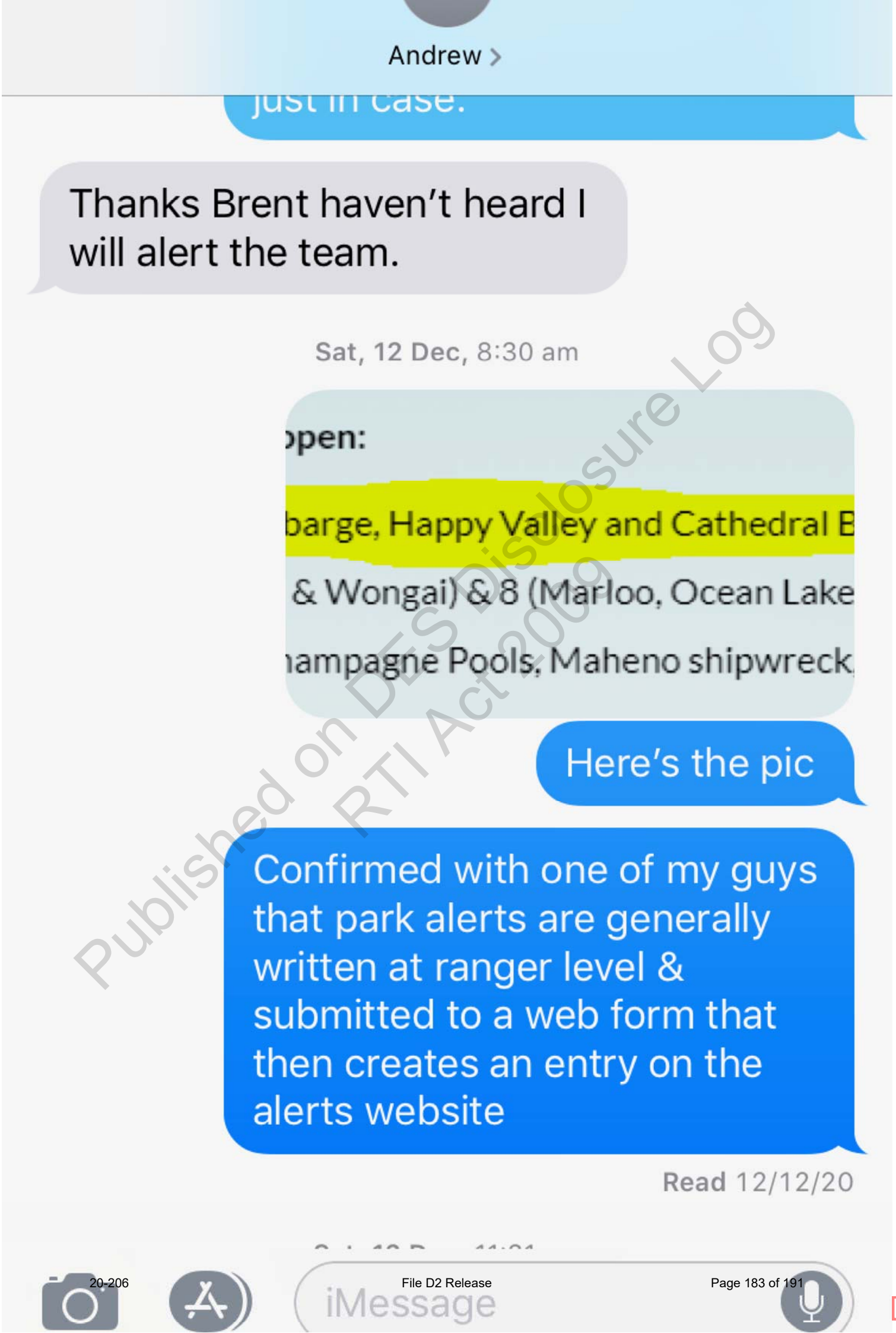

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Ben >

for all media for us.

Text Message
Tue, 1 Dec, 5:34 pm

Mick is tracking down for us

Thank you

QFES coughed up - Nov 9!

Great thanks

Sadly we have two more questions from the CM. One of which alleges they have a source that says we had a chance to put the fire out

Looking now

See email

iMessage

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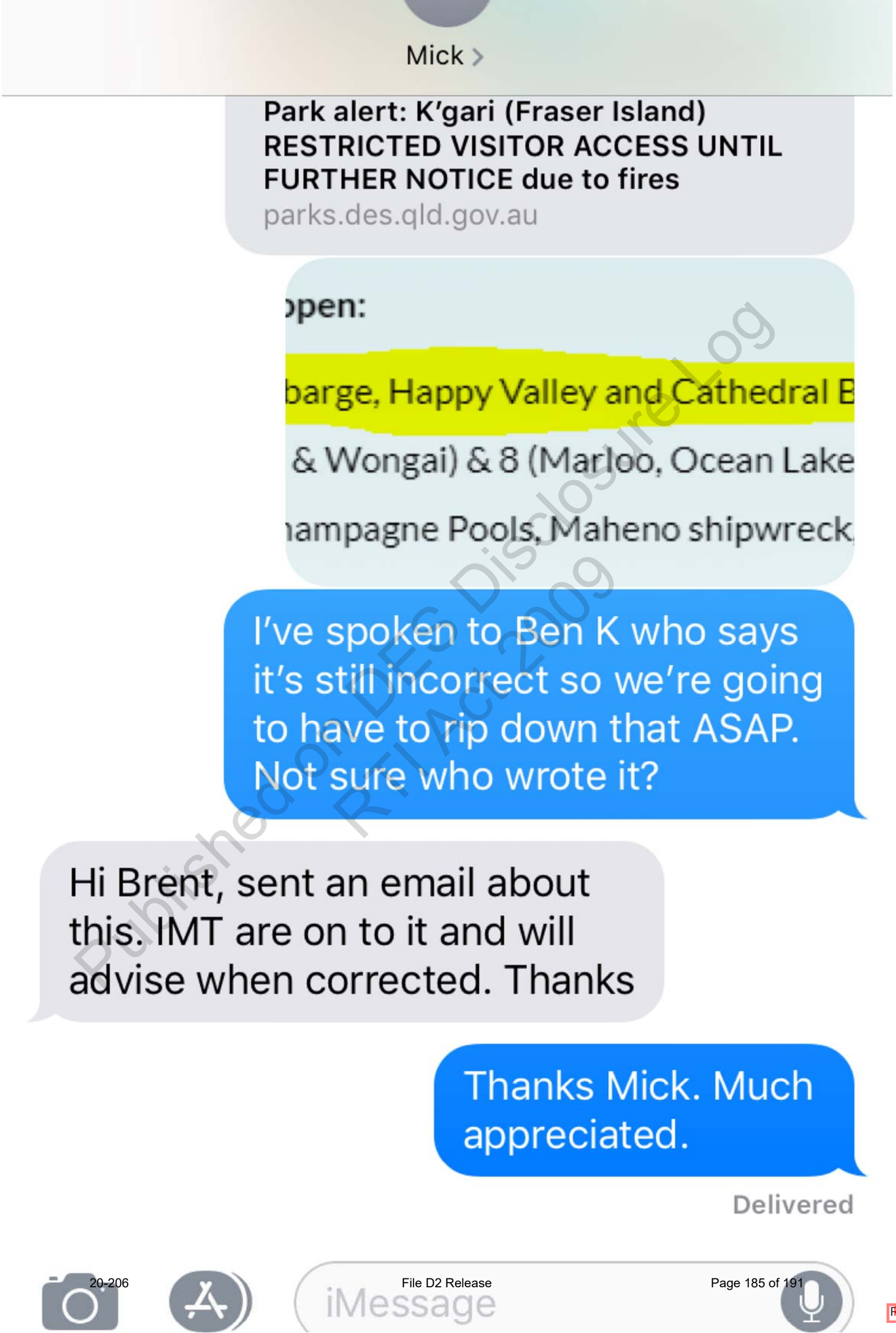

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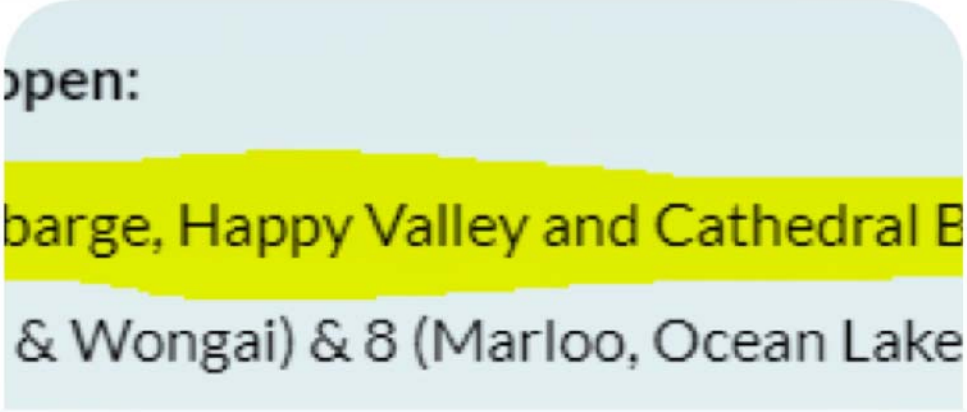
Mick >

iMessage
Sat, 12 Dec, 8:11 am

Mick, Brent from media here. Via QFES, Courier Mail would like confirmation that the following update on the QLD Park Alerts website is correct:

Park alert: K'gari (Fraser Island) RESTRICTED VISITOR ACCESS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE due to fires
parks.des.qld.gov.au



iMessage

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Text Message
Sun, 13 Dec, 10:45 am

You missed a call, but the caller didn't leave a message.

Hi Brent
Nathan from the IMT..can you call when you have a moment for a quick catch up

Sun, 13 Dec, 12:41 pm

Hi Nathan
I've circulated latest draft of release for checking. After reading the final reopening plan you've endorsed it looks like it may need tinkering

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Neil >

Sat, 5 Dec, 1:10 pm

Hi Neil, I've just sent you through an enquiry about a wildlife assessment team for K'Gari for advice

Ok thanks will have a look

Back with you Brent. Feel free to touch base with Leigh for more info if needed.

Thanks Neil

I have a feeling there is a draft recovery plan under development/ floating around. I'm home soon and if I find it I'll pass to you. Manda Page is also talking to Threatened Species commissioner and federal environmental folk on recovery support

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iMessage

NC

Neil >

Ok thanks will have a look

Back with you Brent. Feel free to touch base with Leigh for more info if needed.

Thanks Neil

I have a feeling there is a draft recovery plan under development/ floating around. I'm home soon and if I find it I'll pass to you. Manda Page is also talking to Threatened Species commissioner and federal environmental folk on recovery support.

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NC

Neil >

Sat, 24 Oct, 11:05 am

Hi Neil, Bureau of Meteorology is saying the smoke in Brisbane is from the K'gari fire. I presume everything is going as planned with the controlled burn? Just wanted to check in case I get any media enquiries as a result. Cheers, Brent

Thanks Brent, winds are stronger than anticipated from NW which is what is bringing smoke here and stoking fire a bit more. All is in hand and they are still watching things closely.

Cool, thanks Neil

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