

Date : 25/11/2020 4:47:44 PM

From : "HEAD Damien"

To : "HARRIS Leigh" , "Media DES"

Subject : FW: Duling update_20201125_1700

Attachment : Situational analysis_Strategy_Alt1_fire line map.PNG;SMEAC Duling WF_20201125_1700.docx;Incident Action Plan_20201125.docx;image001.png;image004.jpg;image002.png;

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

Sent: Wednesday, 25 November 2020 4:35 PM

To: Nalder.MariaJ@police.qld.gov.au; Fitzpatrick.ShaneB@police.qld.gov.au; Mahon.ChrisM@police.qld.gov.au;

Clowes.AnthonyJ@police.qld.gov.au; Brendan.Guy@frasercoast.qld.gov.au; GRANT Andrea; YETMAN Brendon; HARVEY Peter; SEELEITHER Jamie; EMBREY Teena; LAWTON Colin; HEAD Damien; CAMBOURN Neil; KLAASSEN Ben; Corro QPWS gbrmci CIR

Cc: CUBIS Mick; CONNOR Nathan

Subject: Duling update_20201125_1700

Hello all – the latest from the IMT.

Regards, Marc



Marc Dargusch

Principal Ranger – Great Sandy Area

Coastal and Islands Region | QPWS and Partnerships

Department of Environment and Science

M **Personal**

P 07 54869960

Level 6, 12 on First Avenue, Maroochydore 4558

www.des.qld.gov.au

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

From: CONNOR Nathan <Nathan.Connor@des.qld.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 25 November 2020 4:23 PM

To: Peter.Hollier@qfes.qld.gov.au; DARGUSCH Marc; CUBIS Mick; MCLAUGHLIN Marty; SPINKS Troy

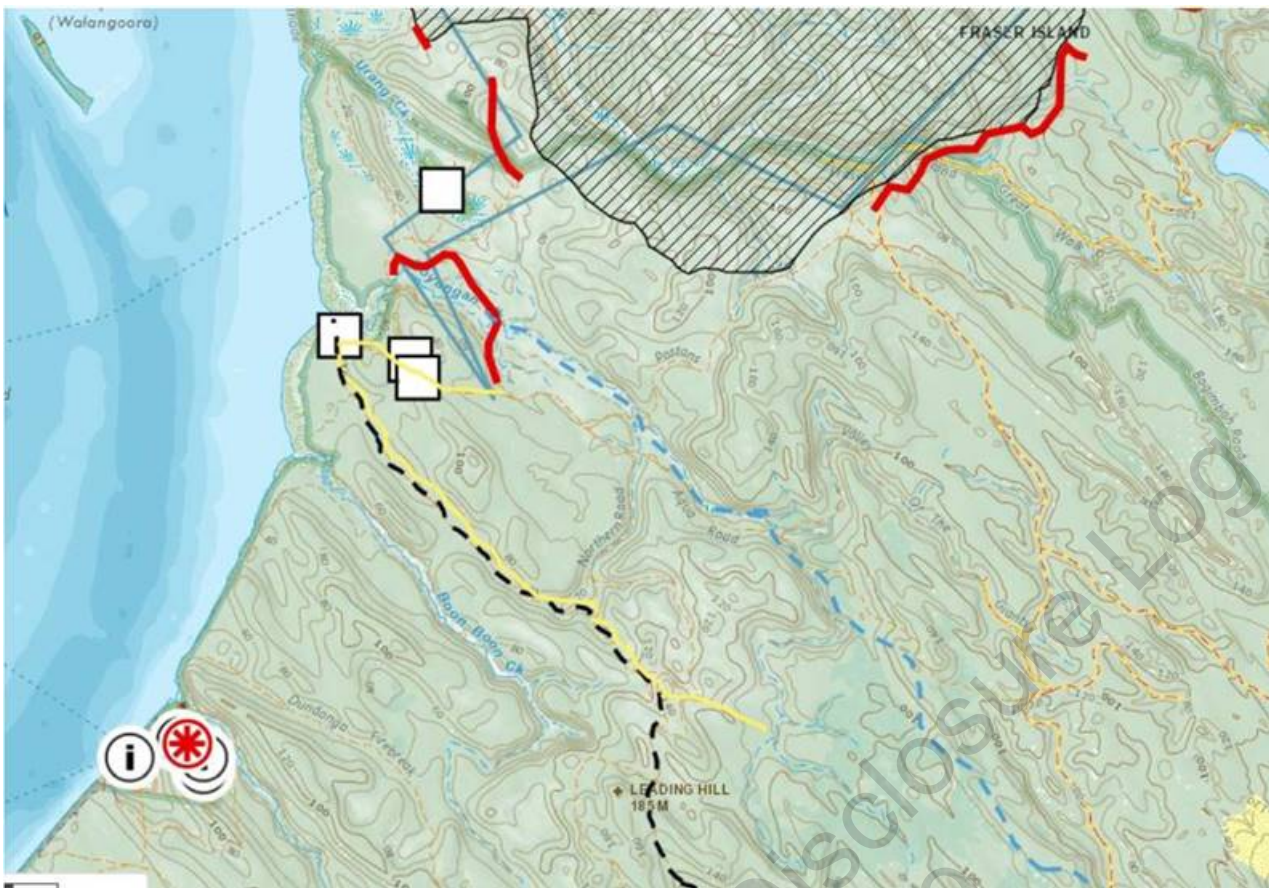
Cc: Brittany Hewson

Subject: Duling update_20201125_1700

Hi Peter and all,

Please note the following updates for Duling Fire;

- Burn out operations to commence (ground operations only) from far northern extent of Smith-Poyungun firebreak in SE direction through to wet area at upper reaches of Poyungun Creek – yellow line on 1st snip.
- Please note that aerial ignition is not required tonight owing to last light issues and visitor management to east. We will look to employ aerial ignition strategy as per attached tomorrow conditions pending – these docs will be updated accordingly.
- Please also see attached Alternative 1 fireline map and Situation Analysis options doc. These will be updated for tomorrow morning.
- We will also provide fall back options for your information tomorrow am.



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

Personal



FIRE OPERATIONS BRIEFING

- This form provides a standardised format for operational briefings, provides prompts for inclusion, and is to be retained as a record of the briefing.
- SMEACS element inclusions can be modified to suit local factors.
- It can be used as an Incident Action Plan for smaller incidents with the addition of a fire incident map, more detailed Mission and Execution elements, and Incident Structure / Communications chart.

INCIDENT

NAME: Duling WF

DATE: 25/11/2020

TIME: 1400

GROUP BEING BRIEFED:

Is this an Incident Action Plan: ☐ yes ☒ no : Fire Incident Map Provided: ☒ yes ☐ no

State reason – if 'no' for Fire Incident Map:

Incident Structure / Communications Chart Provided: ☐ yes ☐ no

PREPARED FOR OPERATIONAL PERIOD

From:

To:

Prepared by:

SITUATION e.g.

- Current fire activity
- Threats & impact time
- Weather forecast
- Resources

Fire is burning in the north near Sandy Cape, around Cathedral Beach and Happy Valley. The fire continues to burn in the south of the island.

1600 29 56% 19km/h NNE wind is forecast to continue

MISSION – Objective

- S** - Is it *specific*
- M** - Can progress be *measured*
- A** - Is it *achievable*
- R** - Is it *relevant* to the situation
- T** - What is the *timeframe*

To keep fire to the north of the Cornwall Rd and Smith – Poyungun fire break.

Current operations to focus on Smith Poyungun fire break – commencing late afternoon 25/11 – ground ops only. See attached map.

EXECUTION e.g.

- Strategy, tactics
- Tasks allocated
- Trigger points

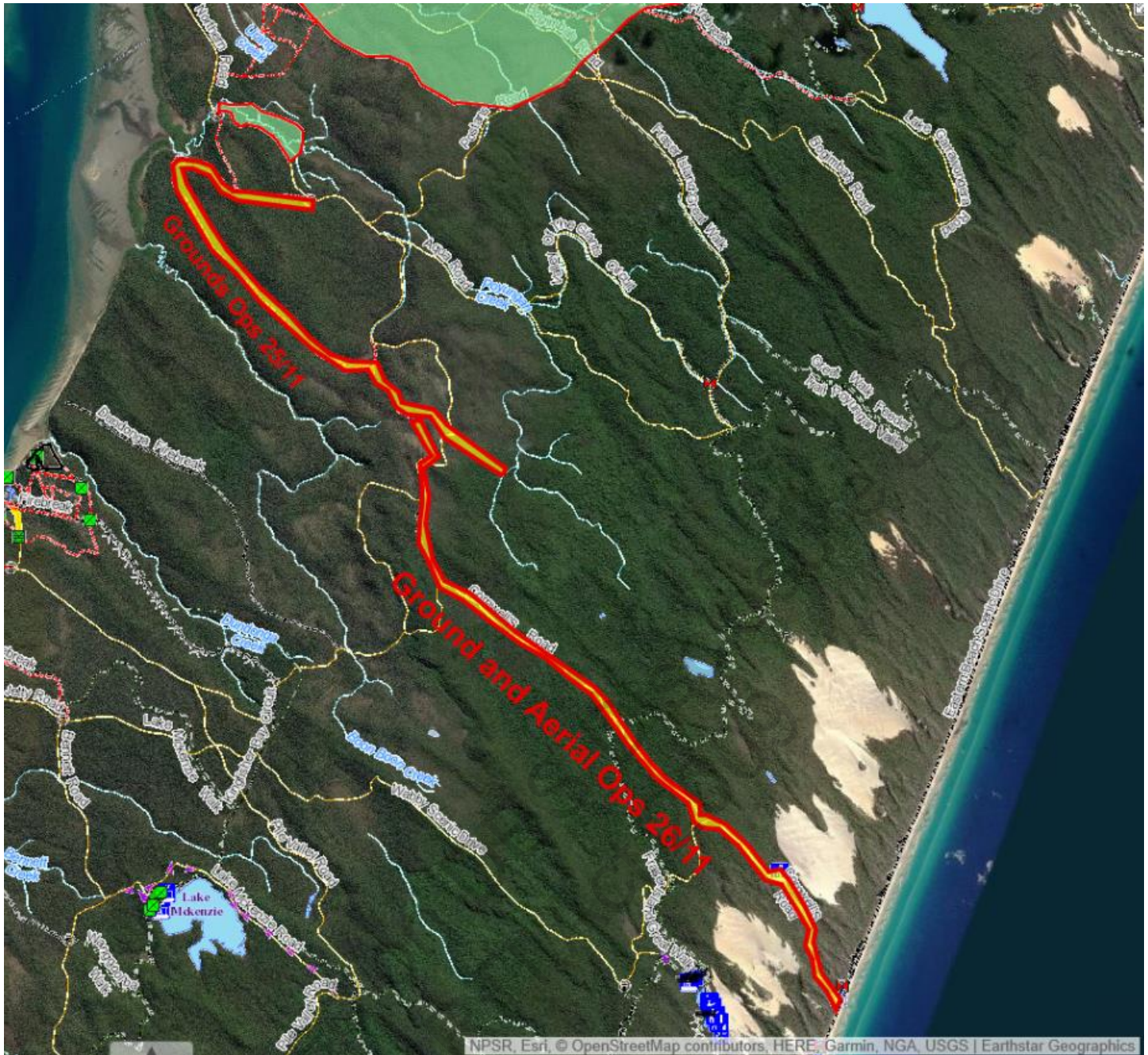
Southern sector (KBRV) – Sector leader Anthony Dargusch (AD)

- Fire EAST of the Postan's Rd as per QFES aerial intel.
- QPWS and BAC crews have progressed 350m. Fire flared in the swamp creek area adjacent to Postans camp and is heading easterly.
- 6-7 drops of Heli attack as of Sitrep on Postans area as requested by SL. Air ops advise it's looking good so far. Barry Semple and Garry are air ops on Fire SX18.
- Logistics occurring for mulching plant and equipment for Cornwalls Break Road predicted to arrive by 14:00 to as outlined to assist in mitigating fire crossing the track. Dustyn Currie as Cultural advisor.
- Road closures are occurring for Poyungan, Happy Valley and northern rd nth of Cornwalls break road sections.
- Deployed crews as per attached.

Eastern sector (Happy Valley/K'gari/Cathedrals) – Sector leader Scott Buttsworth (SB)

- 1 Crew monitoring Cathedral Beach and reporting back.

	North Sector (Sandy Cape) – Sector leader Sven Lavender (SL) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire at Sandy Cape estimated by air observers yesterday to be ~1km from the western fire 05:00 start – ignition behind houses in small block between houses and garage within precinct. • Have advised they are lighting off the hill top infrastructure down ridge and is going slow and steady. • The western and eastern breaks will be assessed tomorrow for spot lighting attempts and feasibility. • Nothing of concern at this stage.
ADMINISTRATION e.g. - Support and logistics - Crew shift / roster arrangements - Water sources, food and fuel	IMT located at Rainbow beach including QFES support and FBAN. QFES also supplied Comm's van. Shift register currently being updated.
COMMAND e.g. - Command structure - Control points - Comms channels - Call signs - Sitrep instructions	IMT established at Rainbow Beach IC Nathan Connor Call sign Duling Control Divisional Cmd at Dundubara base Linda Behrendorff VHF 413 QFES support officers on site being rotated this afternoon – Michael Koch QPS assistance on island Scott Buttsworth/Alexis/BAC Racheal Killer
SAFETY e.g. - Key safety issues - Local safety zones - Fall back options - Emergency response procedures	Road closures in the area in the anticipated fire Camp ground closures from Camp Zone 2 to 5 with campers to leave by 26/11/20 All Sector Commanders to ensure adherence to LACES. Park Alerts issued for visitors in or near proposed burn area. Camp ground management currently underway. Note Camp Zone 8&9 reopened 24/11/20
Other - Media implications - Ask for questions - Confirm understanding	Media – DES media can contact QFES media for imagery



Southern area map showing Happy Valley and Kingfisher Bay, with fire edge as at 1500

Incident (use as Sector Plan if needed)	*Action Plan Authorised by IC (signed): Nathan Connor..... Time 0900..... hrs. Date 25/11/20 for Shift hrs to hrs Sitreps at hrs				Incident Name: Duling Bushfire	Update No: 1
	*Situation Report Prepared by: IMT at 0800 hrs. Date 25/11/20 . *delete box not applicable				Location: Fraser Island	

S	Situation Summary (location, fuels, current status, predicted behaviour, values at risk, impact time, closures. Add map, Form ICS 6 Structure and Comms Plan. Add QPWS FA Web Report if appropriate.) WINDS = Consistently E to E/SE for > 30 hours both at 10m and 1000m so gusts should be relatively congruent with wind direction RH =Daytime RH > 50% Night time around 90% This weather supports the proposed burning operations
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Weather	hrs	temp°C	RH%	wind km/h	wind dir.	FROS	Flame ht.	Spotting	Losses (Area burnt, Losses/injuries/damage, Closures)
25-Nov-20	07:59	26.6	65.2	12.6	158.4	132	1.5	94	Nil TBC
25-Nov-20	08:59	27.8	60.1	14.6	156.8	176	1.9	245	
25-Nov-20	09:59	28	57.1	18.7	154.8	226	2.3	419	
25-Nov-20	10:59	28.5	54.4	20	153.8	264	2.6	551	
25-Nov-20	11:59	28.7	54.1	22.8	151	297	4.7	662	
25-Nov-20	12:59	28.3	55.4	25.6	144.9	309	4.8	704	
25-Nov-20	01:59	28	57.4	26.8	136.8	298	4.7	665	
25-Nov-20	02:59	26.9	60.8	26.7	132.7	254	4.2	515	
25-Nov-20	03:59	26.2	64.5	25	131.1	206	3.7	349	
25-Nov-20	04:59	25.2	68.2	25.2	133	176	3.3	247	
25-Nov-20	05:59	24	71.9	23.7	135.8	141	2.8	127	
25-Nov-20	06:59	23.2	75.9	23	134	117	2.5	43	
25-Nov-20	07:59	22.5	84.2	22.4	131.8	84	2.0	0	
25-Nov-20	08:59	22.1	87.4	21.1	130.6	71	1.8	0	
25-Nov-20	09:59	21.9	88.4	20	129	65	1.7	0	
25-Nov-20	10:59	21.7	89.5	18.2	127.5	59	1.5	0	
25-Nov-20	11:59	21.2	91.7	27.6	132.3	75	0.9	0	
26-Nov-20	12:59	20.9	84.7	24.5	128	84	0.9	0	
26-Nov-20	01:59	20.5	86.1	24.1	129	78	0.9	0	
26-Nov-20	02:59	20.4	87.2	25.6	130.2	79	0.9	0	
26-Nov-20	03:59	20.3	85.6	23	131.3	76	0.9	0	
26-Nov-20	04:59	20.4	84	22.2	131.2	78	0.9	0	
26-Nov-20	05:59	21.8	82.1	22.9	131	90	1.0	0	
26-Nov-20	06:59	24.7	63.5	21.7	131	180	1.8	261	
26-Nov-20	07:59	26.1	57.1	25.9	131	273	2.5	581	

M	Incident Objectives (from ICS 2) Protect life and property on K'Gari (Fraser Island)							
E	Division/Sector Name	Progress so far	Work to be done (Can it be done?)	Resources Allocated				
	Strategies/tactics (ICS 3)			resource name	people	fire units	other vehicles	Plant / other (type)
	Contain fire north of Cornwells/Smith Poyungan firebreak. Fireline preparation to be completed by 1700 25/11. Integrated burn out operations to commence on falling hazard (late in the day/early evening) with ground operations to be conducted in concert with aerial core ignition north of Cornwells break and south of head fire. Crews to be retained at Happy Valley community for monitoring and protection. Cultural burning asset protection operation to be carried out at Significant cultural in morning.	Contractor currently working on strengthening Cornwells/Smith Poyungun break.	Procurement of tentative aerial resource bookings as conducted yesterday. This includes 2 aerial platfors – 1 x incendiary and 1 x aerial suppression support. Visitor management to be completed prior to aerial burn commencement north of Cornwells road.	4 x Light attack	8	4	1 x Rotary incendiary	1 x positrak
			Total					
S	Critical Issues (Warnings, alerts, resource needs) All visitors to be confirmed as vacated the proposed burn area prior to ignition. Ground based burn out operations to commence on smith-poyungun firebreak to be commenced as early as practicable to take advantage of conducive conditions.							

Date : 24/11/2020 1:34:22 PM

From : "CAMBOURN Neil"

To : "KLAASSEN Ben" , "HEAD Damien" , "SPINKS Troy" , "HARRIS Leigh"

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

Attachment :

201124_DulingWildfire_IMT_Structure_A3.pdf;image001.jpg;image002.jpg;image003.png;image005.png;image006.png;image008.png;

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



Neil Cambourn

Assistant Director-General

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships

Department of Environment and Science

P 07 3199 7518 M **Personal**

Level 5, 400 George Street, Brisbane QLD 4000

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

Sent: Tuesday, 24 November 2020 1:32 PM

To: HEAD Damien; CUBIS Mick; CAMBOURN Neil

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

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

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

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

Some fire predictions are contained below.

Regards, Marc



Marc Dargusch

Principal Ranger – Great Sandy Area

Coastal and Islands Region | QPWS and Partnerships

Department of Environment and Science

M **Personal** P 07 54869960

Level 6, 12 on First Avenue, Maroochydore 4558

www.des.qld.gov.au

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

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

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

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



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



Fire Spread to 0100hrs 25th Nov 2020

Assumptions used to develop this prediction:

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



John Atkinson

Senior Project Officer

Fire Team | Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service

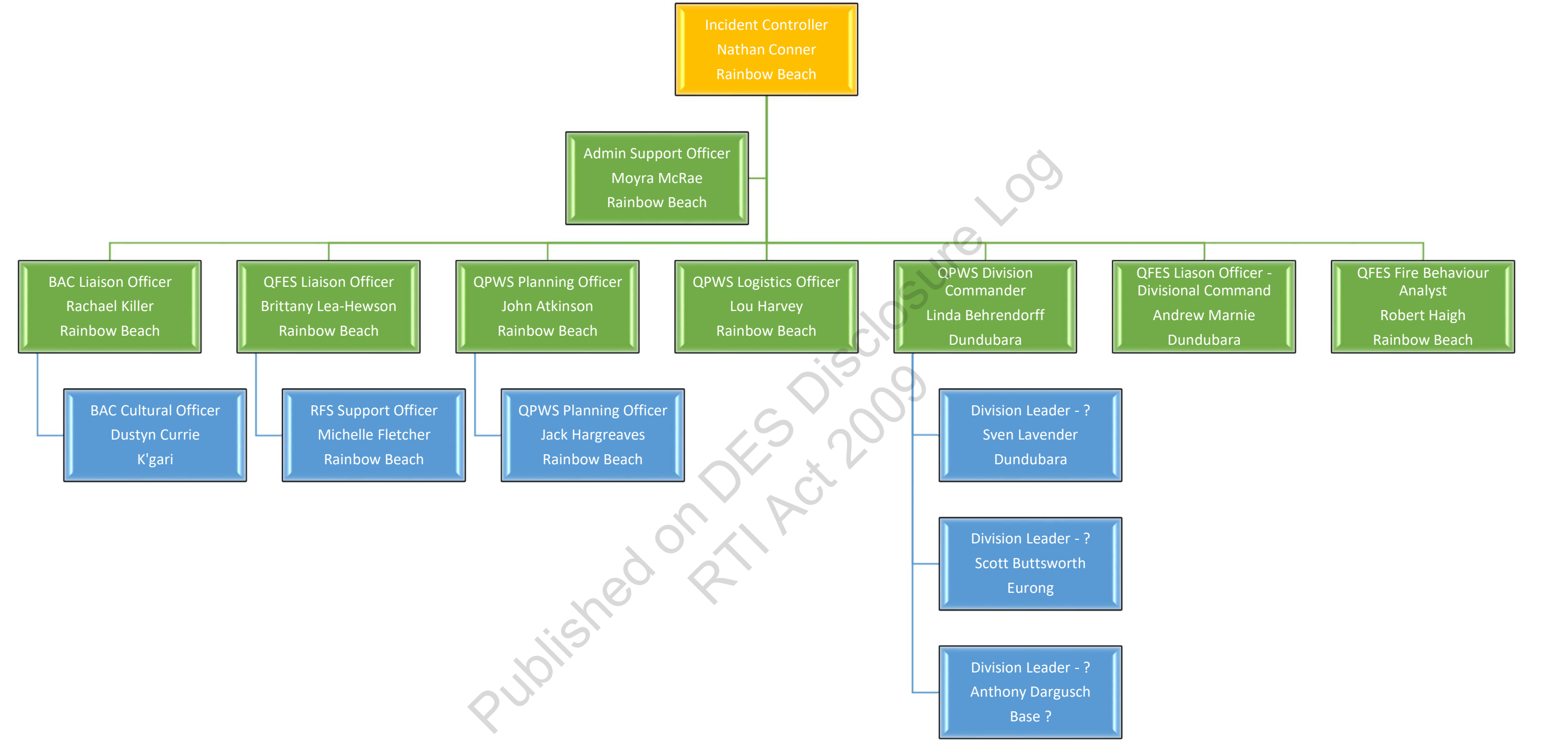
Department of Environment and Science

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

Level 5 | 44 Nelsen Street | Mackay

Published on DES Disclosure Log
RTI Act 2009

Incident Management Team - Duling Wildfire, Kgari



Date : 26/11/2020 9:09:33 AM
From : "HEAD Damien"
To : "HARRIS Leigh"
Subject : FW: K'gari camping_zones 2-7 CLOSED due to wildfire
Attachment : image002.jpg;

This is possibly generating the angst.

From: CAMBOURN Neil <Neil.Cambourn@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 26 November 2020 6:53 AM
To: CUBIS Mick; DARGUSCH Marc
Cc: HEAD Damien; KLAASSEN Ben
Subject: Re: K'gari camping_zones 2-7 CLOSED due to wildfire

Please have this decision reviewed before implementing at campgrounds to the south in line with my discussions with Marc last night around the fire not penetrating the rainforest to date.

Regards Neil Cambourn

On 26 Nov 2020, at 6:26 am, CAMBOURN Neil <Neil.Cambourn@des.qld.gov.au> wrote:

Please provide the rationale including the modelling that supports this decision Mick. We are at Kedron at 930 with Dg and commissioner and I want to know why we are taking this action so far down the island.

Regards Neil Cambourn

On 26 Nov 2020, at 5:41 am, CUBIS Mick <Mick.Cubis@des.qld.gov.au> wrote:

FYI

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

Begin forwarded message:

From: DARGUSCH Marc <Marc.Dargusch@des.qld.gov.au>
Date: 26 November 2020 at 4:20:01 am AEST
To: CUBIS Mick <Mick.Cubis@des.qld.gov.au>
Subject: K'gari camping_zones 2-7 CLOSED due to wildfire

Hi Mick – the below occurred late yesterday to align with IMT advice on fire tactics/fire movement. It will continue to be actioned today to ensure visitor safety.

There is not sufficient capacity to move these bookings to alternative locations on the island so the areas were closed to further bookings on the system and work is being done to cancel/refund these bookings. Other options may still be available at other zones on K'gari but we won't be able to cater for all. Cooloola/IPRA are still options for campers.

Wanted to get this to you late yesterday but stacks going on in supporting IMT.

Regards, Marc

From: BARRACLOUGH Emma <Emma.Barracclough@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 25 November 2020 4:40 PM
To: HARVEY Louise; DARGUSCH Marc
Cc: BOWMAN Diane; WRIGHT Michelle; MCRAE Moyra; POWLEY Alicia; ATKINSON John; HARGREAVES Jack; CONNOR Nathan
Subject: K'gari camping_zones 2-7 CLOSED

Hi Marc/Lou,

Confirming that K'gari camping zones 2-7 have now been closed in the QPWS booking system until 4th December.

- Notifications have been sent out to all bookings for this period.
- Online booking team have been advised.
- Park Alert has been updated to include these zones.
- Conditions Report will also be updated.

Thanks

Emma

Emma Barraclough
A/Assistant Principal Ranger | Technical Support
Coastal and Islands Region / QPWS & Partnerships
Department of Environment and Science

P **Personal**

Level 6, 12 First Avenue
MAROOCHYDORE QLD 4558



Date : 24/11/2020 2:43:28 PM

From : "SPINKS Troy"

To : "HARRIS Leigh"

Subject : FW: K'Gari Wildfire Mapping 20201124 1400hrs

Attachment : QPWS_A1_20201124_1400_Duling Fire

(K'Gari).pdf;20201124_1400_Duling.gpx;20201124_1400_Duling.kml;image001.png;image002.png;image003.png;image004.png;image007.png;

FYI

Regards,



Troy Spinks

Director, Technical Services

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships | Park Services Branch

Department of Environment and Science

M **Personal info**

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

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

From: MCLAUGHLIN Marty <Marty.McLaughlin@des.qld.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 24 November 2020 2:42 PM

To: SPINKS Troy

Subject: FW: K'Gari Wildfire Mapping 20201124 1400hrs

Kingfisher is potentially the bigger concern



Marty McLaughlin

Manager - Fire & Pest

Technical Services | Park Services

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service & Partnerships

Department of Environment and Science

M **Personal info**

E marty.mclaughlin@des.qld.gov.au

Level 10, Verde Tower, 445 Flinders Street

Townsville QLD 4819

From: HOOLIHAN Dave <Dave.Hoolihan@des.qld.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 24 November 2020 2:39 PM

To: WILSON James; BEHRENDORFF Linda; CONNOR Nathan; CIR Fire Team; HARRIS Bluey; BULLEY Graeme; DARGUSCH Anthony; ATKINSON John; MCLAUGHLIN Marty; EDMED Greg; MACDONALD Stirling; DAVIES Matt

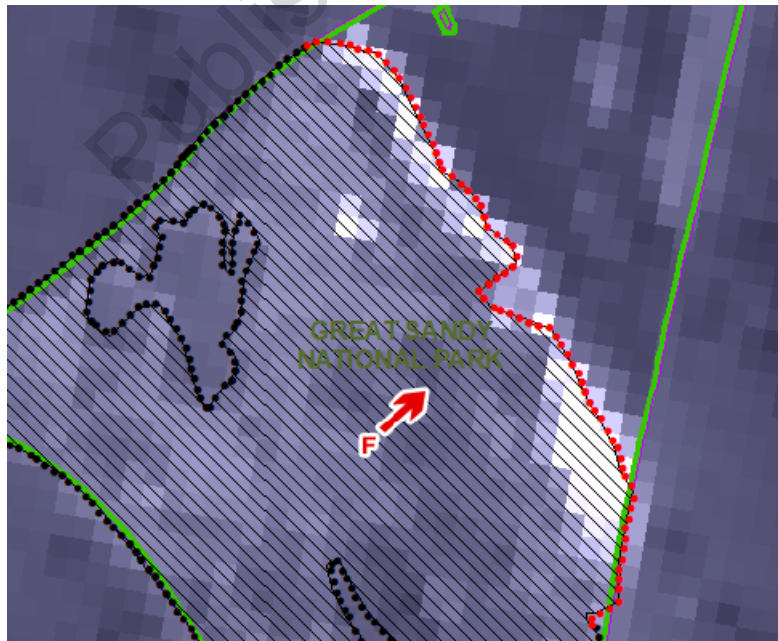
Cc: Spatial Services

Subject: K'Gari Wildfire Mapping 20201124 1400hrs

Good afternoon,

Duling fire updated using latest Mica data and VIIRS imagery from 1:09pm, 20201124

North



South



Dave Hoolihan

Senior Conservation Officer, Spatial Services

Planning, Projects and IT|Park Services|QPWS & Partnerships

Department of Environment and Science

Date : 26/11/2020 12:20:07 PM

From : "SPINKS Troy"

To : "BRITTINGHAM Geoff" , "HARRIS Leigh" , "HEAD Damien" , "NEWMAN James"

Cc : "MCLAUGHLIN Marty" , "SCHWILK Tracey"

Subject : QPWS State Bushfire Summary – Thursday 26/11/2020

Attachment : image001.png;image003.png;

Hello everyone,

Further to yesterday's advice, please note today's summary

Summary

- According to FLAME - there are currently 0 fires **Of Concern**
- The total number of bushfires on QPWS estate has remained the same for the last 24 hours and no planned burns are going.
- The Duling Fire on Kogari remains the primary focus with significant resourcing and support required.
- The Lightline Fire on D'Aguilar Range is within containment lines but fire conditions may test that today.
- The State Fire team will continue liaising with Regions and reassessing the need for the SCC should the situation escalate.

Fire preparedness and activity by Region

		C&I	GBRMP	Northern	Central	South West	South East	Totals
RCC Operating		Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	
Going	Planned Fire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Bushfire	1	0	6	2	6	1	16
Contained	Planned Fire	0	0	1	0	1	0	2
	Bushfire	0	0	1	1	4	8	14
Flame as at 26/11/2020								32

Forecast

- ☐ High FDR is forecast for most of the State today with Very High FDR forecast for Darling Downs and Granite Belt; Central Highlands and Coalfields; Northern Goldfields and Upper Flinders tomorrow [Fire Danger Rating](#)
- ☐ There are QFES fire bans declared for LGA's in North Queensland - Townsville, Charters Towers, Burdekin & Hinchinbrook (23-30/11/20) [Fire-Bans-and-Restrictions](#)
- ☐ There remains no significant rain forecast for the next week across Queensland [Weekly Rainfall Forecast](#)

Regards,



Troy Spinks

Director, Technical Services

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships | Park Services Branch

Department of Environment and Science

M. Personal infor

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

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

Date : 4/12/2020 8:21:04 AM

From : "SPINKS Troy"

To : "CAMBOURN Neil"

Cc : "HARRIS Leigh"

Subject : RE: URGENT: Escalation of Duling K'Gari Fire to Level 3 Incident

Attachment :

image001.png;image013.jpg;image016.jpg;image003.png;image006.png;image008.png;image011.png;image014.png;image015.png;image017.png;

Thanks for sending through Neil, I have passed on to the State Ops Commander as discussed

Regards,



Troy Spinks

Director, Technical Services

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships | Park Services Branch

Department of Environment and Science

M **Personal info**

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

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

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

Sent: Thursday, 3 December 2020 3:43 PM

To: SPINKS Troy

Cc: HARRIS Leigh

Subject: FW: URGENT: Escalation of Duling K'Gari Fire to Level 3 Incident

As discussed Troy.

I called Nathan on the phone as IC as soon as we received this and he was documenting the transition to James Haig on the log immediately after we spoke.

Ben K went out to Kedron that afternoon to stand up with the Commissioner for a media conference to discuss the transition (just after 3pm). The clip for that media conference is attached in the email above.

Regards 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: CAMBOURN Neil

Sent: Friday, 27 November 2020 12:21 PM

To: HARRIS Leigh; SPINKS Troy; MCLAUGHLIN Marty

Subject: FW: URGENT: Escalation of Duling K'Gari Fire to Level 3 Incident

The formal advice for records gents.

Many thanks, 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: KLAASSEN Ben <Ben.Klaassen@des.qld.gov.au>

Sent: Friday, 27 November 2020 10:43 AM

To: CAMBOURN Neil

Cc: MERRICK Jamie; HEAD Damien

Subject: RE: URGENT: Escalation of Duling K'Gari Fire to Level 3 Incident

Hi Neil

As discussed Mike Wassing has confirmed that QFES will take Incident Control of the fire with James Haig to step in. We have been asked to remain as Deputy IC and I agreed Scott would be available for that.

Thanks

Ben



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

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



From: KLAASSEN Ben
Sent: Thursday, 26 November 2020 6:35 PM
To: CAMBOURN Neil
Cc: MERRICK Jamie; HEAD Damien
Subject: RE: URGENT: Escalation of Duling K'Gari Fire to Level 3 Incident

Hi

I have had a call back from Mike Wassing.

His advice from QFES is that no decision has been made the incident is Level 3 from anyone in the appropriate chain of command. It may be a view at the local level but not signed off at the correct authorisation.

He was happy for it to be discussed at tomorrow's briefing so we get clarity.

As such QPWS remains IC until tomorrow.

Mike also advised he will be doing media tomorrow for Statewide fire update which will include K'Gari fire.

Regards
Ben



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

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



From: CAMBOURN Neil <Neil.Cambourn@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 26 November 2020 3:50 PM
To: KLAASSEN Ben
Subject: FW: URGENT: Escalation of Duling K'Gari Fire to Level 3 Incident

Hi Ben,
Please see below for consideration/ discussion.

Neil



Neil Cambourn

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

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Level 5, 400 George Street, Brisbane QLD 4000

From: SPINKS Troy <Troy.Spinks@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 26 November 2020 3:44 PM
To: CAMBOURN Neil; HEAD Damien
Cc: HARRIS Leigh
Subject: URGENT: Escalation of Duling K'Gari Fire to Level 3 Incident

Neil and Damien,

RECOMMENDATION: The Assistant Director General (or above) formally recommend transfer of control of the Duling Fire on K'gari (Fraser Island) from QPWS to QFES, as it has now been **identified by QFES as a Level 3 incident**

BACKGROUND:

- IC Nathan Connor met with QFES late this morning, and QFES advised that they consider the incident to be a Level 3 but as a landscape fire predominantly on QPWS estate, that QPWS maintains control.
- QFES have provided extra support to the IMT, including a deputy IC to ensure coordination between Departments. Nathan is currently engaged in trying to resolve the issues associated with the expanding IMT, including their operating location.
- Under the Qld Bushfire Plan, QFES is responsible for Level 3 incidents:
"A level 2 incident will also be managed by QPWS unless human life or property is threatened, or the bushfire is likely to progress beyond QPWS managed land, in which case the responsibility for the bushfire will be transferred to QFES (as will a level 3 incident). For level 2 and 3 incidents, QPWS will continue to coordinate with QFES to maintain an effective response."
- The Qld Bushfire Plan doesn't describe 'landscape' fire in roles and responsibilities - it describes fire level and the roles and responsibilities of organisations at the respective level of incident.
- As the matter of hand over to QFES has not progressed at the incident and Regional level it is appropriate to escalate concern that QPWS is still controlling a Level 3 incident beyond the trained capability of QPWS staff and inconsistent with the Qld Bushfire Plan.
- QFES Regional staff have been advised at the Assistant Commissioner level that the Duling Fire is to remain as QPWS control as it is still considered a landscape fire.
- Given this level of direction and engagement within QFES, it is recommended that we (QPWS) engage QFES at this level (Assistant Commissioner) to change the current paradigm of incident control.

For urgent consideration and progression

Regards,



Troy Spinks

Director, Technical Services

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

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