Date : 20/10/2020 10:32:34 AM
From : "CAMBOURN Neil"
To : "James Haig"
Subject : FW: FMP/tactics for Duling CZ Wildfire
Attachment : image001.png;image002.png;image003.png;image004.png;image005.png;image006.png;image007.png;image009.png;

Hi James, as discussed, the interactions are in the email below re the K'gari fire.
Our guys are getting unwarranted pressure from local officer Andrew Marnie to back burn around Orchid Beach township in conditions that are prescribed in the BOM advice received from QFES as "Backburning is not advised/ extremely risky".
As per our discussion, should there be any risk to Orchid Beach life or property this matter needs to be led by QFES as the State's lead for fire where it threatens life and property.
The fact that QFES have advised they don't want to lead this fire, we assume that life and property is not currently under threat and we will continue to work as the Incident Control to attempt to manage the bushfire in the landscape.

The advice on the water bombing aircraft being deployed to assist this morning, and your offer to provide the predictive modelling to our IC is appreciated thanks.

Thanks, Regards Neil

Queensland Government

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

From: CUBIS Mick <Mick.Cubis@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 20 October 2020 9:45 AM
To: CAMBOURN Neil
Cc: HEAD Damien; DARGUSCH Marc
Subject: FW: FMP/tactics for Duling CZ Wildfire

Neil,

QFES response fyi.

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

From: DARGUSCH Marc <Marc.Dargusch@des.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 20 October 2020 9:39 AM
To: CUBIS Mick
Subject: FW: FMP/tactics for Duling CZ Wildfire

Mick – post latest request to 'stop lighting'. A chronology relating to the tactics decision for Tuesday 20Oct2020 sits below:

9.09am Call from Mick Cubis – okay to start light-up due to 'life and property issue' as unable to get onto ED/ADG.
9.12am I rang James Kuskie (QPWS-IC) to 'start lighting' and work with QFES to undertake as per joint plan.
9.13am I rang for Andrew Marnie (QFES) but he was on another call. Left msg to call me.
9.17am Call from Mick Cubis – stop lighting advice from ADG, unless QFES take ownership of fire effort.
9.18am Andrew Marnie (QFES) rang back - I let him know we needed to stop light-up and the only option to continue with light-up tactic today was for QFES to take control of the fire.
9.20am I rang James Kuskie as IC to 'stop lighting'.
9.22am Andrew Marnie (QFES) rang back again – QFES will definitely not be taking control of the fire and he asked for contact point for ADG so that his hierarchy could interact at level. He also asked for information about who was who in line management and where our ADG sat within the system.

Andrew has requested QPWS stance be put in writing.

Regards, Marc

Queensland Government

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: DARGUSCH Marc
Sent: Tuesday, 20 October 2020 9:07 AM
To: CUBIS Mick
Subject: RE: FMP/tactics for Duling CZ Wildfire

Hi Mick –anything I can do to assist in getting timely decision ?

Ta, M

From: DARGUSCH Marc
Sent: Tuesday, 20 October 2020 8:22 AM
To: CUBIS Mick
Subject: RE: FMP/tactics for Duling CZ Wildfire

Mick – Just had call from Andrew Marnie. He has approval from QFES side (Peter Hollier) to backburn behind the Orchid Beach township ASAP on the basis of protecting life and property. They want to commence at 9am.

I'll call you.

Regards, Marc

From: DARGUSCH Marc
Sent: Tuesday, 20 October 2020 8:02 AM
To: CUBIS Mick
Subject: FW: FMP/tactics for Duling CZ Wildfire

Hiya – wildfire factors have changed overnight. The fire has advanced significantly to the east across K'gari (nearly to Corroboree Beach) which exposes Orchid Beach to the southerly wind change (refer hotspot maps at bottom of email).

Anyways – I've talked with Andrew Marnie (QFES) and he is currently packaging up things from his side which I will send through. It is highly likely that QFES will want to burn due to threat to life and property.

Talk more soon.

Regards, Marc

From: DARGUSCH Marc

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Sent: Tuesday, 20 October 2020 7:38 AM
To: LAVENDER Sven; KUSKIE James
Cc: YETMAN Brendon; DARGUSCH Anthony
Subject: FW: FMP/tactics for Duling CZ Wildfire

Guys – just flagging that there is currently ***no approval*** to put fire into the Duling CZ wildfire.

I've spoken with Andrew Marnie (QFES) and we both acknowledged that we need both organisations (QFES/QPWS) to give nod to backburning at Exec level prior to light-up as some of the factors that drive the need to backburn are diametrically opposed:

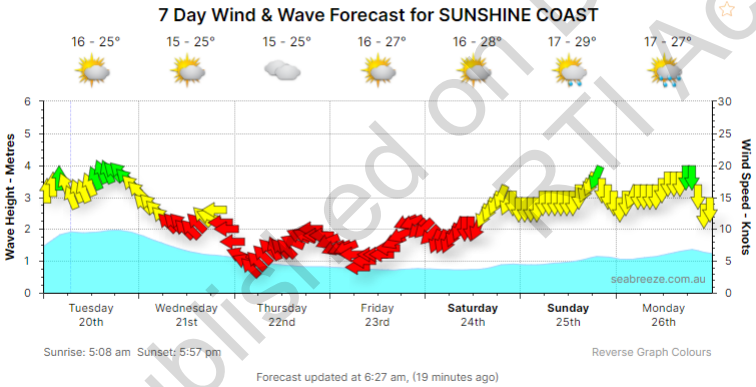
The case for no backburning includes:

Choose Wildfire or HRB
Wildfire Behaviour Guidance

3 Day Look Ahead - Daily Peak Wildfire Behaviour Guidance in the Vicinity of
FRASER ISLAND in NORTH COAST Region, MARYBOROUGH Rural Area assuming Heath & Shrubland Fuel

Monday, 19 October 2020	With a forecast peak daily fireline intensity of 8566kW/m in Heath using the Advanced Heath rate of spread model, Direct Attack on the head fire is potentially UNSAFE / backburning is potentially RISKY. Fire behaviour is likely to be a highly vigorous, rapidly spreading surface fire with an estimated peak daily forward rate of spread of 1764m/hr, exhibiting regular torching (or passive crown fire, with possible periodic crowning). Heath fuels are more resistant to changes in humidity and may continue to burn overnight and in high humidity. Heath is also a threshold fuel, which means it may not carry vigorous fire until the wind reaches a threshold, and then it can rapidly intensify and spread.
Tuesday, 20 October 2020	With a forecast peak daily fireline intensity of 10428kW/m in Heath using the Advanced Heath rate of spread model, Direct Attack on the head fire is UNSAFE / backburning is NOT ADVISED/EXTREMELY RISKY. Fire behaviour is likely to be a dangerous, extremely vigorous, very rapidly spreading surface fire with an estimated peak daily forward rate of spread of 2147m/hr, with the potential for active and long period crowning. Heath fuels are more resistant to changes in humidity and may continue to burn overnight and in high humidity. Heath is also a threshold fuel, which means it may not carry vigorous fire until the wind reaches a threshold, and then it can rapidly intensify and spread.
Wednesday, 21 October 2020	With a forecast peak daily fireline intensity of 8593kW/m in Heath using the Advanced Heath rate of spread model, Direct Attack on the head fire is potentially UNSAFE / backburning is potentially RISKY. Fire behaviour is likely to be a highly vigorous, rapidly spreading surface fire with an estimated peak daily forward rate of spread of 1769m/hr, exhibiting regular torching (or passive crown fire, with possible periodic crowning). Heath fuels are more resistant to changes in humidity and may continue to burn overnight and in high humidity. Heath is also a threshold fuel, which means it may not carry vigorous fire until the wind reaches a threshold, and then it can rapidly intensify and spread.

Sunshine Coast Weather Forecast



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FORECAST RADARS & MAPS WARNINGS DAM LEVELS CLIMATE

Updated at 06:40 EST

22.0°C ↑ Feels like 22.4 °C

Dew Point 17.4 °C
Gusts 13km/h
Relative Humidity 75%
Pressure 1015.2hPa
Wind S 11km/h
Rainfall 0.0mm

HERVEY BAY MARYBOROUGH BUNDABERG LADY ELLIOT ISLAND

Clearing shower 17 °C 27 °C 40% < 1mm

Orchid Beach for Tuesday

Partly cloudy. Slight chance of a shower, most likely in the late morning and afternoon. The chance of a thunderstorm from late this morning. Winds NE/SE 15 to 20 km/h becoming light in the morning then becoming E/NE 15 to 25 km/h in the middle of the day. Daytime maximum temperatures around 30.

Fire Danger High

DAM LEVELS

ORCHID BEACH 7 DAY FORECAST

28 DAYS RAINFALL | 12 MONTHS RAINFALL | NEXT 48 HOURS

	TUE Oct 20	WED Oct 21	THU Oct 22	FRI Oct 23	SAT Oct 24	SUN Oct 25	MON Oct 26
Summary	Clearing shower	Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny	Mostly cloudy	Mostly cloudy	Heavy showers
Maximum	27°C	27°C	27°C	28°C	28°C	29°C	28°C
Minimum	17°C	16°C	16°C	17°C	18°C	19°C	19°C
Chance Of Rain	40%	40%	30%	10%	60%	90%	90%
Rain Amount	< 1mm	< 1mm	< 1mm	< 1mm	< 1mm	20-40mm	20-40mm
UV Index	Very High	Very High	Extreme	Extreme	-	-	
Frost Risk	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

	9am	3pm	9am	3pm	9am	3pm	9am	3pm	9am	3pm	9am	3pm	9am	3pm
Wind Speed	18 km/h	25 km/h	15 km/h	20 km/h	12 km/h	15 km/h	13 km/h	18 km/h	19 km/h	20 km/h	21 km/h	22 km/h	14 km/h	18 km/h
Wind Direction	SSE	SE	SE	ESE	E	ENE	ENE	NE	NNE	NNE	N	N	N	NE
Relative Humidity	75%	75%	70%	70%	70%	68%	70%	71%	74%	74%	85%	84%	87%	86%

HERVEY BAY MARYBOROUGH BUNDABERG LADY ELLIOT ISLAND

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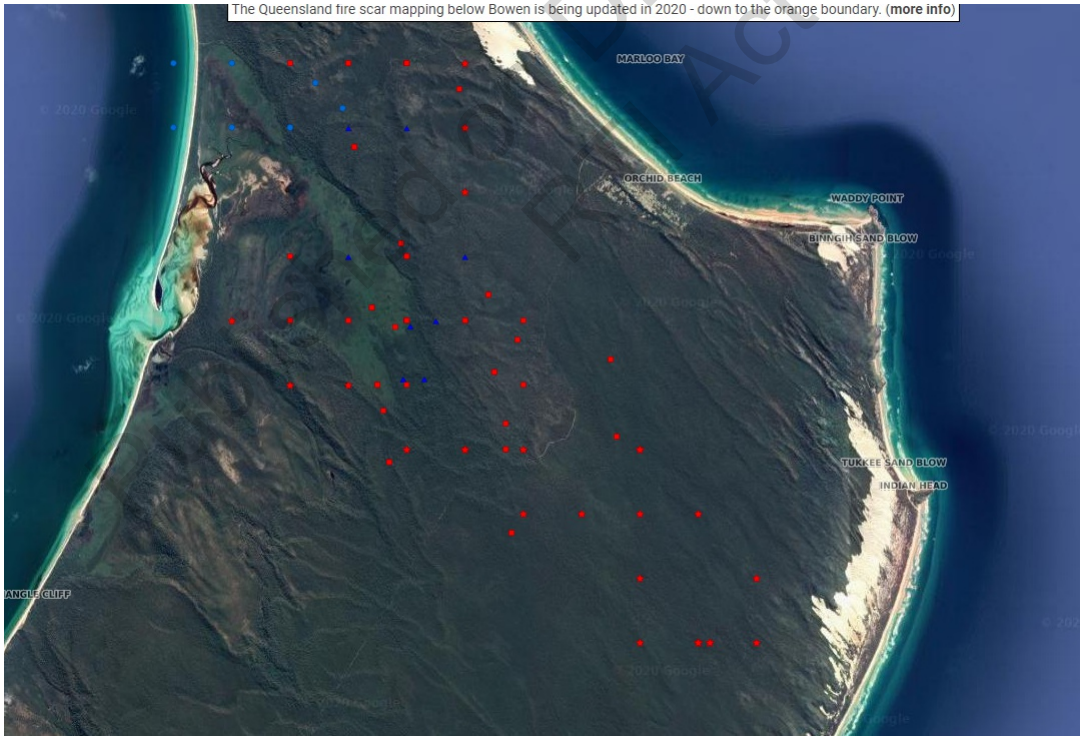
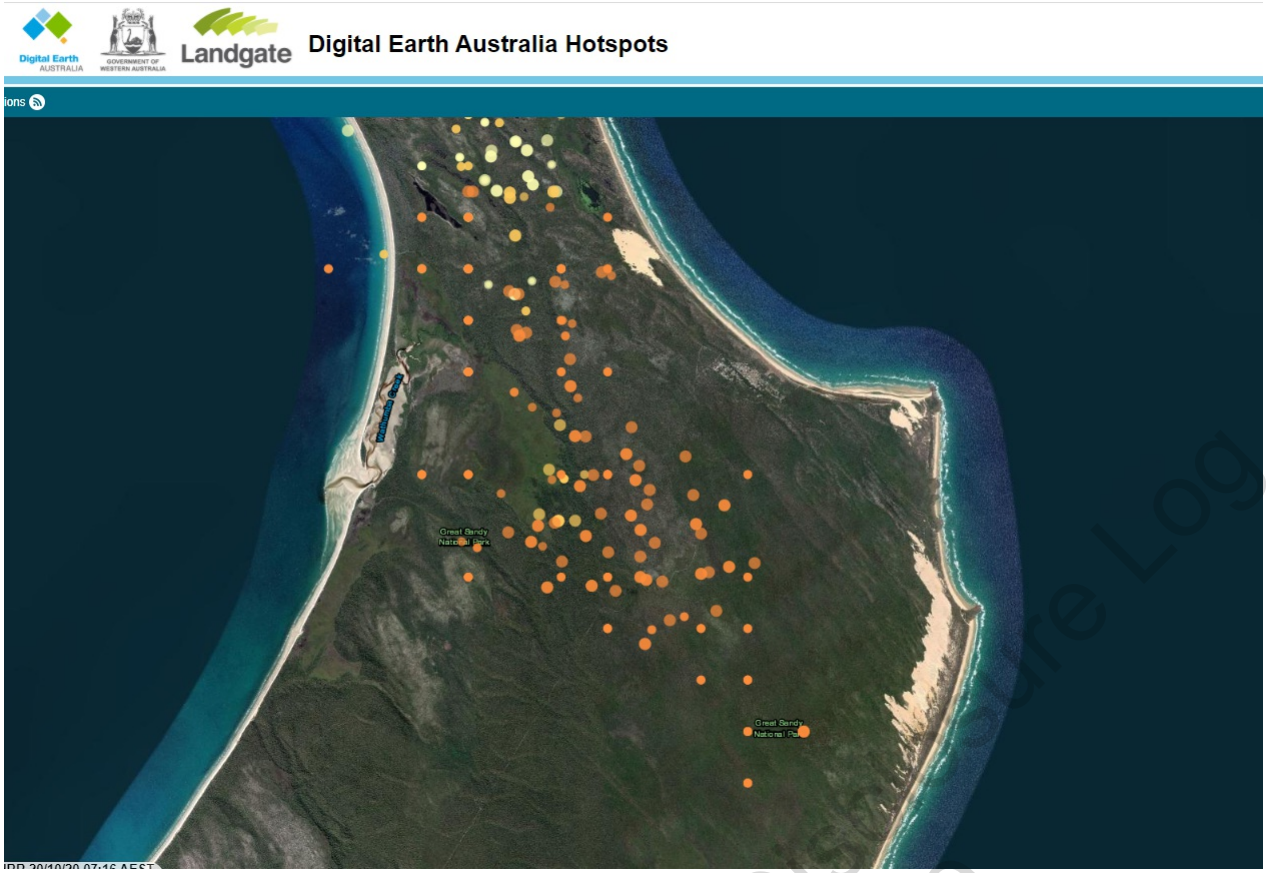
The case for backburning includes:

The fire has advanced significantly overnight ..... towards east coast meaning that there is a real threat to Orchid Beach if winds are from South.





I'll continue to liaise with Andrew and QPWS hierarchy to determine a way forward. Do not put fire in block until this is sorted.

Thanks for continued work. My mobile is on if you need to talk.

Regards, Marc

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Date : 28/11/2020 5:17:06 PM
From : "CAMBOURN Neil"
To : "james.haig" , "Gary McCormack" , "HEAD Damien" , "KLAASSEN Ben" , "WATSON Matthew" , "CUBIS Mick"
Cc : "BROOK Scott" , "John Pappas"
Subject : RE: QPWS closures plan for staged closures on Fraser Island central area
Attachment : Duling_WF_CLOSURE_planning_28112020_1200.docx;image002.png;image004.jpg;image001.png;

Thanks James, the strategy is endorsed by QPWS as a sound safety management strategy and we support IC decision to implement and/ or adjust as deemed necessary as conditions evolve.
I have provided some recommendations for consideration in comments in the doc – mainly to be clear about what we are closing (for key messages) to avoid any confusion.
Mick can you please arrange the necessary Park Alerts in line with IMT directions at each stage and seek clearance of wording from IC (again to ensure consistent messaging).

Regards Neil

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: james.haig <james.haig@qfes.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Saturday, 28 November 2020 4:14 PM
To: Gary McCormack; HEAD Damien
Cc: BROOK Scott; CUBIS Mick; CAMBOURN Neil; John Pappas
Subject: QPWS closures plan for staged closures on Fraser Island central area

Please find attached the proposed staged closures for these tracks and campgrounds. These have been prepared by QPWS staff embedded within our joint IMT and approved by Deputy IC Scott Brook. This QPWS process reflects the authorising environment required to implement and the defined responsibilities within the IMT.

I endorse the attached proposals and confirm that they align with overall incident planning and have been informed by fire behaviour predictive modelling and other intelligence within our joint IMT.

I would also reiterate the comments that the tracks are becoming increasingly difficult to traverse and bogging of vehicles is a real issue.

We will reassess stage 2 triggers as new intelligence such as updated weather forecasts and predictive modelling is completed.

Once approved by QPWS as the authorising agency please advise me directly and I will update any public messaging as required.

Regards

James Haig

Incident Controller.

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

Queensland Government

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Fraser island closure planning 28/11/2020 – 15:00 PM

Rainbow Beach IMT - QPWS planning – Jack Hargreaves

NOTE: this plan covers the QPWS run divisions of the Duling W/F only.

IAP Context:

Priority remains the protection of life and property – particularly the communities of KBVR and Happy Valley (under control of Deputy IC Asset Protection).

Fire control lines remain difficult to traverse due to dryness of the sand. Visitor and fire crew welfare is to be considered in all movements around the island.

Control of fire across the landscape is unlikely for the next 5 days (fire weather). Mitigation of impact will be likely best outcome.

Key Fire update points of note;

1. No significant change from yesterday.
2. Closure planning is well advanced and due for IC approval at 12pm today. In short;
    a. Trigger point is the loss of fire across the Smith Poyungan fire control line.
    b. This will trigger closure of Kingfisher Bay Resort and implementation of the park closure plan involving the sweeping of remaining roads and visitor nodes south to Wanggoolba Track.
    c. Full detail in final plan.
3. With pending conditions and all associated complications, fire containment is unlikely for the next five days.
    a. We are focussing upon impact mitigation, rather than high risk containment actions with limited chance of success.
    b. Western Division maintains the fire north of the Smith Poyungan Fire control line.
    c. Eastern Division is planning mitigation actions to reduce impact as the fire moves south along east coast over next five days.
4. We recognise the importance of recovery.
    a. We are using local resources to inspect and prepare suitable sites for re-opening.
    b. We want to enter discussions with QPWS management on Monday about Bushfire Rapid Assessment processes to start informing the impact of the fire.
        i. I suspect that while broadscale, intensity mapping will show the impact to be less than a single fire extent polygon will indicate.
5. We were recently informed of one small structure burned 8km north of KFB. Investigations underway to find out what that was and associated implications.

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STAGE 1: Immediate actions for implementation as of 24:00 28/11/2020

- Close all internal tracks to non-emergency vehicles – leaving the coast. So all tracks heading off the beach and onto the island north of Eurong.
    - This includes closing immediately Lake McKenzie, and all tracks leaving Eurong and Kingfisher to all non-emergency service vehicles.
    - Vehicles currently on these tracks are okay to leave, but no new vehicles to enter this area.
- Wanggoolba to Eurong will REMAIN OPEN under stage 1.
- Central Station Campground – all campers encouraged to leave now but Central Station campground will be closed as of.

Commented [CN1]: Please be specific about this as North of Eurong in any messaging if visitors can still access southern lakes drive as an alternative to Lake Mackenzie – ie Lake Birrabeen, Boomanjin etc

Commented [CN2]: Incomplete sentence?

Key steps to execute this plan –

- QPWS staff to engage with visitors at Central Station
- Police to work with QPWS to execute closures
- QPWS to organise Park alert system with current information

STAGE 2: The trigger point to initiate stage 2 is the fire crossing the Smith-Poyungan track.

When the trigger point is reached, the following immediate action to commence;

- QFES to manage Kingfisher Bay per arrangement with KBRV management.
- Evacuate/Remove all remaining campers from Central Station (hopefully non left)
- Close from Eurong to Wangoolba Creek Rd North inland tracks on Fraser Island.
- No traversing of the island is to occur to meet ferry bookings – safest exit only.

Commented [CN3]: Provide a little extra clarity here please specifically that it's KBRV and Wanggoolba barge landings, as Hook Point would remain the primary exit route at the moment?

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Risk analysis background supporting decision;

- Significantly degraded track conditions across the island making it difficult to leave central camping area quickly.
- There are key tracks in the area that are one-way only, and currently in a very poor condition.
- Most campers at Central station have large camping set ups and are usually longer-term visitors. This means their camping set ups and/or families which means that they have generally significantly bigger set ups and will require more time to evacuate the area.
- Predictive modelling suggests the fire will take at least 3 days after crossing the Smith-Poyungan Road before it would impact Central Station.
- Vehicle traffic on the internal road network of the island is contributing to their degraded state and is increasing risk to emergency service who will rely on the road network
- There are no key landscape features, fuel type or fire scars to prevent, slow or restrict fire spread beyond the Smith-Poyungan Road
- Some visitors will have ferries booked on the opposite of the island and will attempt to cross the island to keep their booking.
    - This is a risk that needs to be managed with QPS.

Commented [CN4]: Again please be specific to KBRV and Wanggoolba barges ie west coast.

Commented [CN5]: Is it worth checking with sealink (KBRV) if they would consider repositioning their barge to hook point/ inskip if we close access to west coast to assist with moving their bookings off that way and assisting with any further evacuations? There may be some technical permit landing issues with this but I think we can get around that under the circumstances. Let us know if you would like us to qualify that as a possibility.

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Date : 20/10/2020 12:05:02 PM
From : "CAMBOURN Neil"
To : "James Haig"
Cc : "Michael Wassing" , "John Bolger"
Subject : RE: Some intelligence information for Fraser Islnd North End Bushfire
Attachment : image002.png;image003.png;image004.jpg;

Excellent, many thanks James.

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: James Haig <James.Haig@qfes.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 20 October 2020 11:44 AM
To: CAMBOURN Neil
Cc: Michael Wassing; John Bolger
Subject: Some intelligence information for Fraser Islnd North End Bushfire

Hi Neil, please find attached some information on the Fraser Island Fire. To give some clarity the attachments are (in order):

- A Fire Behaviour Snap Report – Fire Behaviour Summary prepared by QFES Predictive Services Unit prepared this morning which covers some of the key fire behaviour parameters. The report runs until Friday.
- A site specific weather forecast from the Bureau of Meteorology from Yesterday but also covering today. I understand an updated forecast has also been requested for preparation today. Please be aware
  That during the conversation with the senior meteorologist at the BoM, PSU was informed that the SE wind change originally forecast for later this morning in the yesterday's forecast arrived early to the fire ground this morning (I understand it may have been by 06:00 but not sure. This is good as it will reduce the westerly spread of the fire towards Orchid Beach.
- A copy of a the fire mapping from QFES mapping system (TOM) from this morning.

Additionally, as discussed over the phone, QFES will be undertaking a Large Air Tanker water drop on the fire this morning in coordination with the ground incident management. This is a regular testing run for the DASH 8 size aircraft based at Bundaberg.

I do not know whether the Incident Control Team has requested a detailed Phoenix fire prediction but, should this be required, it can be done through the QFES liaison in the IMT or direct. Certainly QFES Predictive Services Unit is very happy to support such predictive planning that the IMT requests. I understand that there has been liaison with this unit already on this fire although a full prediction may not have been done, if desired this can be done by IMTs (including QPWS only IMTs) by calling 3635 1808.

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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