



**STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY**

**JEREMY HANSON CSC MLA (CHAIR), MARISA PATERSON MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), JO CLAY MLA**

**Inquiry into referred 2019–20 Annual and Financial Reports and Budget Estimates 2020-21**  
**ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

---

Asked by Mr Jeremy Hanson MLA: To ask the Minister for Police and Emergency Services:

In relation to: **Emergency Services Omnibus Question**

Ref EBT 1 Emergency Services

1. How many FTE fire fighters and rescue officers (using the same definition for each year) have been employed by ACT Government in each of the financial years from 2009-10 to 2019-20?
2. How many hectares of back burns were conducted in each of the financial years from 2009-10 to 2019-20?
3. How many actual individual back burns were conducted in each of the financial years from 2009-10 to 2019-20?
4. Outside the City boundaries, for each method of landscape scale removal of combustible vegetation (other than backburns) how much vegetation (in tonnes, area or other measure) has been removed in each of the financial years from 2009-10 to 2019-20?
5. When was RAFT formed?
6. How many staff are engaged in the Remote Area Firefighting Team (RAFT)?
7. What are the capabilities of the RAFT?
8. How are they trained?
9. What is the budget for RAFT?
10. Does the RAFT team have designated aerial entry points to remote locations within Namadgi NP?
11. How are these designate locations maintained?
12. Are they maintained for helicopter landing access?
13. Can you provide a map of the designated sites?



# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

## FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

JACS No. 89

### STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

JEREMY HANSON CSC MLA (CHAIR), MARISA PATERSON MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), JO CLAY MLA

Mick Gentleman MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

1. Information on the number of firefighters employed by ACT Fire and Rescue as at 30 June for each of the past 10 years is publicly available through the Justice and Community Safety Directorate Annual Reports.
- 2-3. The number of hectares treated by the 330 prescribed burns ("back burning" is a fire suppression technique and not a land management practice) that were completed between 2009-10 and 2019-20 was 33,544 Ha. of land managed by the Parks and Conservation Service (PCS) and Transport Canberra and City Services, noting that this does not include rural lands that may have been treated by the ACT Rural Fire Service (ACTRFS).

Refer to the table in question 4 for yearly breakdown of number of area burnt.

These figures do not differentiate between urban and non-urban areas of Canberra. Due to the nature of our city with park lands and reserves intertwined with the urban fabric, fire management activities are conducted throughout the Territory.

4. The area of land subject to treatment by other fuel management measures each year is included below:

Type	Measure	09-10	10-11	11-12	12-13	13-14	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20
Prescribed Burns	Number	21	35	47	15	42	33	49	17	37	25	9
Prescribed Burns	Hectares	3423	1440	2978	196	781	5328	6663	606	1723	5103	5303
Slashing Ha	Hectares	6507	7562	8055	8018	7922	5611	5511	4733	4512	4502	4282
Physical Removal	Hectares	456	553	384	140	56	310	397	542	226	424	156
Chemical	Hectares	0	50	797	60	18	114	149	154	127	150	123
Grazing	Hectares	4532	7441	7309	7001	6541	6028	6044	6041	5659	5667	5213
Vegetation Control	Kilometre	23	26	162	22	213	677	224	25	24	17	175

Notes: Treated ha = 173,621, treated km = 1,588

5. Remote Area Firefighting Teams (RAFT) have always been an operations aspect of the ACTRFS. It was formalised in 2010 with the purchase of individual and team equipment.
6. The following is a breakdown of the number of staff engaged in RAFT:
  - 49 ACT Rural Fire Service volunteers
  - 12 ACT Parks and Conservation Service paid staff
  - 1 ACT Rural Fire Service paid staff
7. RAFT members are able to work more than 45 minutes away from support or guaranteed means of extraction. Their expertise is in dry fire-fighting techniques which may or may not be supported by aircraft. They are self-sufficient and are able to stay out overnight if required. They have particular skills in insertion by helicopter either by hover entry/exit or by winching.



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

**JACS No. 89**

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY**

**JEREMY HANSON CSC MLA (CHAIR), MARISA PATERSON MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), JO CLAY MLA**

8. RAFT members must submit to arduous fitness testing on a yearly basis. RAFT members are drawn from the volunteers who are qualified to minimum Advanced Firefighter standard. They are trained to operate in remote environments as well as in helicopter insertions. RAFT members will also have a mix of additional qualifications such as crew leaders, advanced chainsaw operations and remote area first aid. RAFT members are required to participate in training and exercises.
9. Funds for RAFT are incorporated into the overall ACTRFS operational budget.
10. RAFT teams can use a range of insertion methods to access remote areas including; walking from a road, being inserted by a helicopter in a grassy area and walking, being winched through the tree canopy or into a clearing, performing a hover exit at a rock ledge, or landing at a designated helipad. PCS maintains maps and digital information on the location of these entry points, though as noted there are insertion methods that do not rely on a designated location.
- 11-12. Periodic inspections are made to assess the condition of remote helipads and if required maintenance is carried out. PCS staff are dropped off at the helipad either by landing the aircraft, performing a hover exit or winching and the pads are cleared using power tools to remove shrubs and trees that might be encroaching on the landing area or approach and departure paths.
14. The attached map shows the designated helipads within Namadgi National Park as well as the grassy areas from which RAFT crews may walk to the location of a fire. Numerous other potential insertion sites such as natural rock outcrops and hover exit or winching locations are not shown.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety

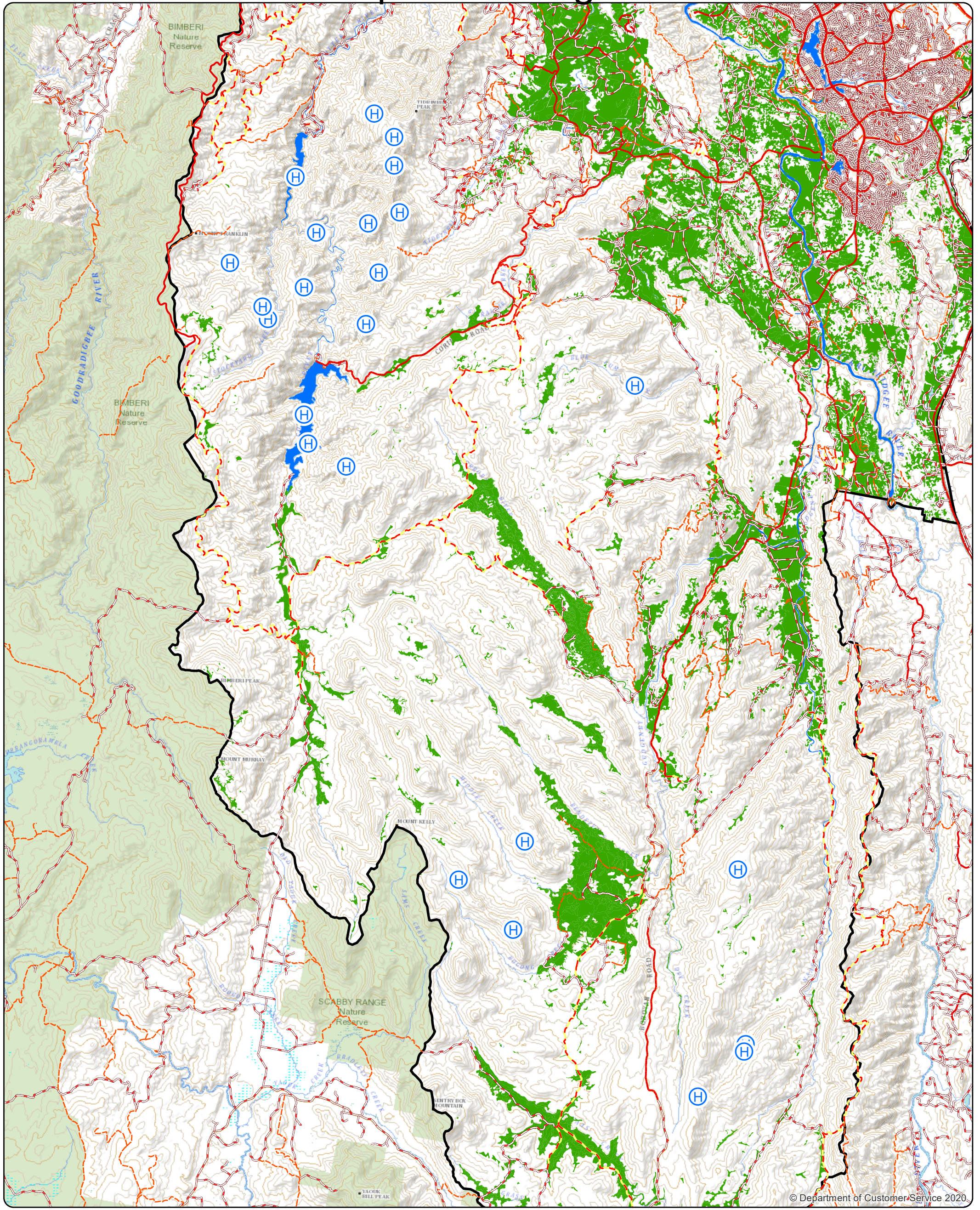
Signature: 

Date: 23/3/2021

By the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Mick Gentleman MLA



# ACT PCS Helicopter Landing sites and areas



© Department of Customer Service 2020

Date: 11/03/2021

1:150,000



0 2,000 4,000 8,000  
Meters

Map Grid of Australia 1994  
Geocentric datum Australia  
© COPYRIGHT Parks and  
Conservation Service ACT 2015  
All Rights Reserved

## Legend

(H) Maintained Helipads

ACT BORDER

Grassland

Articulated Float

Rigid Float

Tanker

Light Unit



**ACT**  
Government



## Disclaimer:

The publisher of and/or contributors to this production accept no responsibility for any injury, loss or damage arising from its use or errors or omissions therein. While all care is taken to ensure a high degree of accuracy users are invited to notify any map discrepancies and should use this map with due care.