



Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2022-2023 **ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Asked by Mr Andrew Braddock MLA:

Reference: Hearing on 23 November 2023, Annual Report of the Justice and Community Safety Directorate

In relation to: Prescribed Burning in ACT Forests

During hearings, you took on notice to provide me with information concerning the area in hectares burned in prescribed burning activities.

To provide clarity on the scope of this request, I would like to refer you to information on areas burned provided to the Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) for the purposes of compiling the National Greenhouse Gas Inventory. As I understand it, shapefiles of areas burned are provided to DCCEEW, and the resulting activity data is published by DCCEEW as part of their activity tables on greenhouseaccounts.climatechange.gov.au – in LULUCF Activity Table 16.

Direct link to LULUCF activity tables:

<https://www.dcceew.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/ageis-activity-table-1990-2021-lulucf.xlsx>

The information on prescribed burning areas that I would like for 2021-22 and 2022-23, and projections for 2023-24, are what would be consistent with this time series of data. Can this please be provided?

Additionally, can you please offer comments on why the area of prescribed burning in the last few years is higher, lower, or around the same as the average of the 2010s?

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

The ACT Parks and Conservation Service completed the following prescribed burns:

- 2021-22 - a total of 1,380 hectares
- 2022-23 - a total of 970 hectares
- 2023-24 - Planned prescribed burns outlined in the [2023-24 Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate Bushfire Operational Plan](#) will cover up to 3,751 hectares, subject to conditions being appropriate for burning.

The average area burnt by prescribed burning in the ACT from 2010-2020 as reported by the Commonwealth was 2201ha. This is more than the average annual total achieved since 2020 primarily because the 2020 bushfires reduced fuels over 82,000ha of Namadgi National Park, and that area has not been subject to burning since.

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

Signature: 

Date: 6/12/2023

By the Minister for Planning and Land Management, Mr Mick Gentleman MLA