



Inquiry into annual and financial reports 2024–25

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Ms Deborah Morris MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services

Redirected to: Minister for City and Government Services

Reference: CED

Hearing: 20 November 2025

In relation to: ACT ESA and Bushfire Preparedness

Question received: 2 December 2025

Answer Due: 9 December 2025

- (1) What does residual risk targeting mean in the ACT context.
- (2) Specifically, (a) how is risk defined, and (b) how are life, property and critical infrastructure weighted.

Tara Cheyne: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. Residual risk is the level of risk that remains after all mitigation measures have been implemented to reduce the likelihood and impact of bushfires. The Directorate's target is to maintain the residual risk for Directorate-managed lands between 33 and 47 per cent. This target means fuel reduction treatments on between 3 and 5 per cent of Directorate-managed land annually; this target is sustainable, both operationally and ecologically. A 'residual risk' target is an improvement on other measurements such as 'annual hectares treated' target because it encourages public land managers to strategically prioritise fuel management where it will have the greatest impact on lowering bushfire risk.
2. (a) Risk is defined as the risk to life and property. This is measured by PCS through Phoenix RapidFire software modelling which uses detailed weather, terrain and fuel load information to determine the likelihood of house loss based on bushfire intensity and ember density.

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(b) The risk modelling undertaken by PCS does not assign weighting; the modelling undertaken uses precise asset locations against bushfire/ember intensity as the primary measure of impact. Outside of Residual Risk modelling processes, threat to infrastructure is identified separately and addressed with targeted actions, such as the maintenance of Asset Protection Zones, as outlined in the ACT Bushfire Management Standards.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Environment and Planning

Signature:



Date:

15/12/25

By the Minister for City and Government Services, Ms Tara Cheyne MLA