



Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2022-2023

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Asked by Mr Milligan MLA:

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

In relation to: Bushfire Preparedness

Question Lodgement Date: 20/11/2023

- (1) Minister, can you provide an overview of the ESA's latest triage protocol/priorities list?
- (a) Does the ACT have a triage system in place?
 - (b) What is the triage priorities list in order of priority?
 - (i) Where can a person access this information on the website?
 - (c) Where is the flood/storm/fuel/energy/SARs /Hendra type plans and updates?
 - (i) Where can a person access this information on the website?

MICK GENTLEMAN: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

- (1) (a)-(b) In line with the *Emergencies Act 2004*, when prioritising or triaging responses to emergency incidents, including bushfires, the ACT Emergency Services Agency (ESA) considers, in priority order, the threat to life, property, and the environment. Several factors are considered in determining the appropriate resources to respond to bushfires including, but not limited to, the:
- impact on the community
 - location and geography of the fire
 - weather conditions
 - accessibility for firefighters or aviation resources.
- (1)(c) The ACT Emergency Plan is the primary plan that addresses the prevention, preparation, response, and recovery arrangements within the ACT, and is available as a Notifiable Instrument on the [ACT Legislation Register](#).

The ACT Government also has plans and arrangements for dealing with a broad range of potential hazards, such as bushfire, flood, storm and biosecurity.

While these Hazard Specific Sub Plans are not currently available publicly, consideration is being given to publishing these plans on the ACT Government website.

There are some plans that will not be made public as they are not the property of the ACT Government, for instance private sector emergency plans, or they contain security sensitive information.

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

Signature:



Date: 11/12/2023

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