

Wanda Kropp

From: SOC Admin
Sent: Saturday, 28 October 2023 6:58 AM
To: QFES Commissioner Staff Officer; John Cawcutt; Michael Wassing; Andrew Richards; Cathy Knapp; Robin Boniwell
Subject: Ministerial Preparedness Briefing
Attachments: 20231028 Ministerial Preparedness Brief 0700hr.pdf

Good morning

Please find attached Ministerial Preparedness Briefing.

Kind regards,

Carl

SOC Admin

State Operations Centre, State Operational Coordination Branch

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services

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QFES acknowledges and recognises Traditional Owners as custodians of the lands where we work together with the communities of Queensland. We pay our respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ancestors of these lands, their spirits and their legacy.



Ministerial Preparedness Briefing (Bushfire)

Prepared by SOC State Coordinator: Simon Evans – Saturday, 28 October 2023

Key Media Messages

- QFES crews have responded to more than 420 vegetation fires this week.
- Conditions are expected to remain hot, dry and windy with areas of MODERATE and HIGH Fire Danger forecast.
- Bushfire warnings remain in place for several fires, and communities have been doing a great job in following these.
- An application for interstate and international assistance has been made with the National Resource Sharing Centre, with Incident Management and frontline firefighters requested to give our local crews a much-needed rest.
- Our crews are working around the clock to keep their communities safe, and I thank employers who have released volunteer firefighters to allow them to undertake lifesaving activities.
- Warnings can change quickly, and the community is asked to stay up-to-date with the latest information on our website and social media.
- Fire bans are currently in place for large parts of the state. People can head to the QFES website to check if a fire ban is in place for their local government area.

Situation

- Fire Danger Rating (FDR) of MODERATE and HIGH are forecast today and tomorrow across much of the state.
- Conditions are expected to remain hot, dry and windy, with maximum temperatures above average, tending well above average inland in central and southern districts.
- Extensive media messaging will occur regarding community awareness of risk and preparations.
- There are multiple warnings and fire bans currently in place across the state.
- Multiple dwellings have been impacted and continue to be under threat in the community of Tara. Damage Assessments have commenced and will continue in areas where safe to do so.
- The South Western Region is currently experiencing significant fires across the region, including Tara.
- Crews are continuing work to strengthen containment lines.

South Western Region Situation

Carnarvon complex

- Incident was transferred from South Western to Central Region at 1700 hrs, 27 October 2023. Fire restrictions in place from Midnight 23 October, extended to Midnight Friday 03 November 2023.

Millmerran (Cypress Gardens)

- Hand over to landholders and local scrubby creek RFB who will continue to patrol.

Tara

- Large vegetation fire with significant community impact. 14,000 hectares, some containment.

- Fire still burning now burning to NE after SW wind change, this is pushing fire towards Kogan township. Potential for multiple dwellings to be under threat. Multiple warnings in place.

Halliford

- A Not Safe to Return –Emergency Warning is in place for residents in parts of Halliford.
- Fire continuing to escalate. 800ha vegetation fire burning in Forestry. Multiple air assets on scene. Fire travelling in a Northerly direction. Crews, heavy plant, aircraft and equipment from QLD Gas Company supporting operations.

Moonie

- A Prepare to Leave – Watch and Act warning is in place for parts of Moonie due to an uncontained fire burning near the Moonie township.
- 3000ha vegetation fire continuing to escalate. Multiple air assets on scene including one drop utilising the Large Air Tanker (LAT).

Texas

- Texas township no longer in isolation – Mains power, water and sewerage, and Communications Restored. Essential Energy have connected Power back to the town through a Back Feed. Council has a generator on the Town Water Supply which will remain in place throughout weekend.

Central Region Situation

Carnarvon

- A Prepare to Leave – Watch and Act warning is in place for Carnarvon Gorge, Buckland and Rewan.
- This is due to a large and dangerous fire burning in the Carnarvon National Park and Bandana State Forest.

Lowmead

- A large, fast-moving grass fire is burning at Lowmead, near Miriam Vale.
- A Leave Immediately – Emergency Warning is in place for Lowmead (near Miriam Vale).
- Aircraft carried out water bombing activities yesterday to assist crews on the ground and heavy machinery, these activities will continue throughout today.
- This fire has burnt more than 9,000 hectares.

North Coast Region Situation

Durong (near Kingaroy)

- A Stay Informed – Advice Warning is in place for residents in Durong after a Leave Immediately – Emergency warning was issued yesterday afternoon.
- More than 3,000 hectares have been burnt so far and crews worked hard throughout the night to contain the blaze.

North Burnett Area

- Several fires are currently burning in the North Burnett Area, with A Prepare to Leave – Watch and Act Warning in place for Campbell Creek, Ginoondan, and Byrnestown (Near Gayndah). This warning is in place for a fire at Ban Ban.

Northern Region Situation

Mt Isa

- There are two uncontained fires burning in vicinity of Mount Isa. Calton Hills fire is burning 25km to the North-West of Mount Isa to the north of the Barkly Highway. West Leichardt fire is burning 13km to the East of Mount Isa, on both sides of the Barkly Highway.
- A Stay Informed – Advice Warning is in place for Breakaway and Gunpowder (Mount Isa), while Lake Moondarra (Mt Isa) has been downgraded to a Not Safe to Return – Watch and Act Warning.

Far Northern Situation

Tolga – Cherry Creek Road

- Fire started at the end of Cherry Creek Rd, approx. 200 hectares. 3 properties in the area are considered potential threats. Crews have provided structural protection with back burning and waterbombing.

South Eastern Region Situation

Fernvale (Banks Creek)

- 70ha grassfire burning in largely inaccessible country. Dozer constructed containment lines NW & Eastern side to the river.

Undullah

- Fire has been burning for some time (24.10.23). Crews have been monitoring however the fire has now come out of the mountain and is accessible. Fire has jumped Undullah Road. Strengthening containment lines. Unaware of any other structures under threat monitoring. Organising a team to assist with back burning operation at 16:00 today.

QFES Preparedness

- The QFES State Operations Centre (SOC) is stood up and has provided advanced information and intelligence to the QFES Regions and Media unit to ensure suitable preparedness levels.
- The SOC is continuing to liaise with Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) regarding the FDR and providing briefs to all Regions.
- South Western Region, South Eastern Region, North Coast and Central Region are currently at Bushfire Preparedness Level (BPL) 3. Brisbane Region is at BPL 3.
- The BPL is used by QFES to provide an alert notification for the level of preparedness of firefighters and resources required on that day.
- The South Western Regional Operations Centre (ROC) is currently at Stand Up and resourced accordingly. Far Northern, North Coast and Central Regions are at Lean Forward. All other ROCs are at Alert level.
- Aircraft are currently on standby in the event they are required (see below – Resources capability).
- The SDCC (Watch Desk) also directly shares the BoM warning advice with key local, district and state disaster management stakeholders and as such they have shared information regarding the current warnings.
- Local councils in high-risk locations have been engaged and well briefed as have QPS, QPWS and other key partners.
- An application for interstate and international assistance has been made with the National Resource Sharing Centre, with Incident Management and frontline firefighters requested to give our local crews a much-needed rest.

Warnings

Current Warnings (as at 0600 hrs 28 October 2023)

Source: [Current bushfire warnings and incidents | Queensland Fire and Emergency Services \(qfes.qld.gov.au\)](https://www.qfes.qld.gov.au/current-bushfire-warnings-and-incidents)

- **Emergency Warning**

- LEAVE IMMEDIATELY - Lowmead and Colosseum (near Miriam Vale) - fire as at 2:01am Saturday, 28 October 2023
- LEAVE IMMEDIATELY - Tara and Wieambilla - Multiple Warnings - fire as at 12:50am Saturday, 28 October 2023
- LEAVE IMMEDIATELY - The Gums and Tara - Multiple Warnings - fire as at 12:51am Saturday, 28 October 2023

- **Watch & Act Warning**

- PREPARE TO LEAVE - Condamine and Condamine State Forest - Multiple Warnings - fire as at 12:54am Saturday, 28 October 2023
- PREPARE TO LEAVE - Carnarvon Gorge, Buckland and Rewan - fire as at 11:34pm Friday, 27 October 2023
- PREPARE TO LEAVE - Campbell Creek, Ginoondan, Byrnestown (near Gayndah) - Multiple Warnings - fire as at 10:17pm Friday, 27 October 2023
- PREPARE TO LEAVE - Moonie (near Dalby) - fire as at 7:12pm Friday, 27 October 2023
- PREPARE TO LEAVE - Kogan and Wieambilla - Multiple Warnings - fire as at 6:57pm Friday, 27 October 2023
- 4x NOT SAFE TO RETURN

- **Advice Warning**

- 2 x Advice - Return with Caution warnings
- 9 x Advice - Stay informed Warnings
- 17 x Advice - Avoid Smoke Warnings

Resources capability

Surge Resources

- 1 x Surge Fleet from State to SWR

Deployments

- 136 QFES staff deployed to South Western and Far Northern Regions.

NAFC Contracted Aircraft

Toowoomba Airbase (Toowoomba City Aerodrome, Wilsonton QLD)

- 2 x Rotary Wing - Helitaks
- 2 x Rotary Wing - Air Attack Platform
- 2 x Fixed Wing - Single Engine Air Tankers
- 1 x Rotary Wing - Specialist Intelligence Gathering (SIG) Platform

Bundaberg Airbase (Bundaberg Airport, Bundaberg, QLD)

- 1 x Fixed Wing - Large Air Tanker (LAT)
- 1 x Fixed Wing - LAT Air Attack Platform
- 1 x Rotary Wing - Helitak
- 1 x Rotary Wing - Air Attack Platform

Watts Bridge Aerodrome (Cressbrook Caboonbah Rd, Cressbrook QLD)

- 2 x Fixed Wing - Single Engine Air Tanker "FireBoss"

Additional Aircraft on Standby (ready to be tasked as required)

- 26 x aircraft available today

Further briefing

- A further update will be provided as conditions change.

Mapping- Additional Data

Fire Danger Ratings Days

Issued at 4:00 pm EST on Friday 27 October 2023
for the period until midnight EST Friday 3 November 2023.

District	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Peninsula	Moderate 17	Moderate 16	Moderate 15	Moderate 17	Moderate 17	Moderate 15	Moderate 15
Gulf Country	High 35	Moderate 23	Moderate 20	Moderate 22	Moderate 23	High 25	Moderate 23
Northern Goldfields and Upper Flinders	High 26	Moderate 21	Moderate 21	Moderate 22	Moderate 21	Moderate 23	Moderate 21
North Tropical Coast and Tablelands	Moderate 16	Moderate 16	Moderate 17	Moderate 18	Moderate 20	Moderate 16	Moderate 16
Herbert and Lower Burdekin	Moderate 18	Moderate 17	Moderate 17	Moderate 17	Moderate 17	Moderate 16	Moderate 16
Central Coast and Whitsundays	High 25	Moderate 23	Moderate 22	Moderate 22	Moderate 22	Moderate 20	Moderate 20
Capricornia	Moderate 23	Moderate 21	Moderate 21	Moderate 22	High 26	Moderate 21	Moderate 22
Central Highlands and Coalfields	High 26	Moderate 23	Moderate 22	Moderate 23	High 24	Moderate 23	High 24
Central West	High 41	High 28	High 30	High 32	High 32	High 28	High 29
North West	High 37	Moderate 23	High 28	High 31	High 28	High 30	High 24
Channel Country	High 38	High 30	High 36	High 40	High 40	High 33	High 28
Maranoa and Warrego	High 34	Moderate 22	High 30	High 35	High 32	Moderate 20	High 24
Darling Downs and Granite Belt	Moderate 21	Moderate 17	Moderate 23	High 47	Moderate 23	Moderate 21	Moderate 23
Wide Bay and Burnett	Moderate 22	Moderate 18	Moderate 18	High 30	Moderate 21	Moderate 18	Moderate 18
Southeast Coast	Moderate 22	Moderate 18	Moderate 19	High 35	Moderate 18	Moderate 16	Moderate 15

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Code

Fire Danger Ratings (Fire Behaviour Index - FBI)	No Rating (< 12)	Moderate (12-23)	High (24-49)	Extreme (50-99)	Catastrophic (≥ 100)
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Source: [7 Day FDR](#)

Current Bushfire Warnings (as at 0600 hrs 28 October 2023)



Source: [QFES Bushfire Warnings & Incidents](#)

Current Vegetation Fires (as at 0600 hrs 28 October 2023)



Source: [ESCAD Current Incidents Dashboard](#)

Damage Assessments

Completed Damage Assessments 20 October 2023 to 0500hr 28 October 2023

Note, damage assessment figures are subject to change as data is cleansed and verified

Response	Total / Destroyed	Severe	Moderate	Minor
Western Downs Regional Council				
House	35	3		7
Shed	25		2	1
Mobile Property	6			1
Other	4		2	
Infrastructure				
Toowoomba Regional Council				
House	1			1
Shed	4			
Mobile Property	2			
Other	1			1
Infrastructure	Nil			
Whole of State from 1 August 2023				
Note: whole of state includes all completed damage assessments from all fires across the state since 1 August 2023 e.g. includes 1 house destroyed in Gladstone LGA in Deepwater fires.				
House	37	4		10
Shed	36		3	2
Mobile Property	9			1
Other	7	2		1
Infrastructure	Nil			