

Information Sheet

Natural resource management

Fire management mission statement

This information sheet will provide a brief summary of the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service Mission Statement in regards to fire management.

Purpose

Fire is a critical element in the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service's (QPWS) program for managing parks and forests. The QPWS position on fire and key management principles and objectives is outlined below.

Background

Fire has long been an integral part of the Australian landscape. Many of our native plants, animals and communities are dependent on fire to sustain ecological processes and maintain natural balance.

QPWS managed areas include national parks and other protected areas, State forests and timber reserves, and other lands managed for conservation or other purposes. As the largest individual land-holder in Queensland (some 13 million hectares), QPWS has a key role to play in managing fire across the Queensland landscape.

QPWS utilises a comprehensive Fire Management System that sets standards for the preparation and operational aspects of planned burns and wildfire response on parks and forests. In managing fire on parks, forests and other areas of land, QPWS places the highest priority on protecting human life, followed by protecting infrastructure and environmental values.

Mission statement

QPWS recognises the role of fire in the landscape and strives to continuously improve the effectiveness and efficiency of its fire management program in order to remain a professional, accountable, co-ordinated, socially responsible and ecologically sound land manager.

With climate change impacts expected to increase the size, intensity and frequency of wildfires, and result in a longer fire season, the QPWS will maintain a continuous improvement and adaptive approach to its fire management policies, systems and practices.

Key fire management principles

- Human safety must be given priority over all other fire suppression considerations.
- Fire management activities will be planned and conducted taking into account environmental issues and climate change projections across the landscape over time.
- Fire management will be conducted in compliance with relevant occupational health and safety policy and standards.
- Fire management will aim to minimise any potential adverse effects of wildfires.
- Preparedness will cover all activities which can be planned for, or set in place, in anticipation of probable levels of fire danger, recognising the possibility of extreme conditions.

- Management of fire operations will follow the Australasian Inter-service Incident Management System.
- Fire operations will be supervised and monitored by trained and authorised officers and be subject to performance audits.

Key fire management objectives

- Manage and respond to fires effectively in order to minimise risk of the adverse effects of fire on human life, property, environmental and cultural values, and sustainable resource production.
- Undertake fire management practices, including planned burning operations to maintain biodiversity across ecosystems and landscapes and minimise the risk from wildfires to life and property.
- Maintain current fire information, planning and management systems, and up-to-date knowledge of fire practices.
- Respond and adapt to knowledge gained through research, monitoring and experience.
- Adopt a cooperative approach to fire management, assisting other fire agencies, land management authorities, adjoining land holders and Traditional Owners.
- Ensure staff skill sets and equipment capabilities are maintained in accordance with contemporary standards.
- Continually assess and review fire management policies, standards and practices.

In carrying out its fire management responsibilities, QPWS adopts a balanced approach to both the environmental and social aspects of fire management on public land and maintains an appropriate state of preparedness for any wildfire outbreak.

Disclaimer

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Signature

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Date

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