

Question on Notice
No. 520
Asked on 6 April 2011

MR WELLINGTON asked the Premier and Minister for Reconstruction (MS BLIGH)—

With reference to land purchased in the Mary Valley by the State Government for the past proposed Traveston Crossing Dam—

What action is the government taking to make sure these properties are not becoming potential bush fire risks in coming months when the current rains stop?

ANSWER:

The Government has a number of strategies to mitigate risks from potential bushfires in the Mary Valley land owned by the Coordinator-General.

Firstly, the Government has clauses in their lease terms which require lessees, many of whom are former owners, to take all reasonable and practical measures so as to not cause or contribute to a risk (such as fire) impacting upon public health or the environment. Lessees are obliged to keep properties reasonably clean and tidy, including with regards to combustible matter and are required to adequately insure premises. Furthermore, lessees are prohibited from burning off vegetation other than in accordance with an authorisation issued by a local fire board.

Secondly, the Government has engaged local Mary Valley real estate agents to manage all properties including those which are residential tenancies with regard to compliance with Part 9A, Division 5A of the *Fire and Rescue Service Act 1990*. These local agents periodically inspect properties for risks and seek approval to engage contractors to undertake any necessary slashing or other measures to mitigate risks to buildings and improvements.

Thirdly, the Coordinator-General's staff are preparing a fire management plan in conjunction with the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service for the Mary Valley properties where the obligation to maintain the land rests with the Coordinator-General.