

ENVIRONMENT — NORTHCLIFFE BUSHFIRES

4062. Mr C.J. Tallentire to the Minister for Environment:

I refer to the recent Northcliffe fires and ask does the Minister have mapping showing prescribed burns in the area of the recent burns:

- (a) done in the last 5 to 10 years;
- (b) done in the last 10 to 15 years;
- (c) done in the last 15 to 20 years; and
- (d) is this mapping publicly available, and if not, why not?

Mr A.P. Jacob replied:

(a)–(c) Historical records held by the Department of Parks and Wildlife do not always provide specific distinction between prescribed burns and bushfires. That is particularly the case for the longer timeframes sought by the Member.

The tabled map [See Tabled Paper No. 2988] therefore shows fuel ages in the vicinity of the O’Sullivan (Northcliffe) fire, whether due to prescribed burning or bushfire. The fuel ages depicted are:

- 0-10 years;
- 11-15 years;
- 16-20 years; and
- older than 20 years.

The data were current at 16 January 2015, less than two weeks before the fire started.

(d) Fuel age data are not routinely made available on the Department of Parks and Wildlife website. However, general fuel age information or interpretation related to specific queries can be provided upon request.