

PRESCRIBED BURNING — HEALTH IMPACTS

1546. Hon Dr Brad Pettitt to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) Has the Department of Health undertaken or commissioned an assessment of the health impacts of prescribed burning operations?
- (2) In each of the past three years, how many instances of the following have been caused by (i) prescribed burns and (ii) wildfires respectively:
 - (a) deaths;
 - (b) hospital admissions; and
 - (c) Emergency Department attendances?

Hon Sue Ellery replied:

- (1) During 2020–2021, the Department of Health conducted a study on the effects of landscape fires (including both prescribed burns and bush fires) on health service utilisation and published three documents available on the Department of Health website.
- (2) As details of personal exposure to prescribed burns or bushfires are not routinely collected, attributing specific attendances, hospitalisations or deaths to such exposures is not possible with the data available. The studies performed indicated a population level association between landscape fires and health service utilisation.