

BUSHFIRES — SOUTH WEST

1490. Hon Dr Brad Pettitt to the parliamentary secretary to the Minister for Environment:

I refer to the South-west forest region as covered by the Forest Management Plan 2014–2023, and the bush fires that occurred in that region over the 2021/22 financial year period. I note that the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions annual report provides this information for the entire state. What percentage and how many of those bush fires were caused by each of the following:

- (a) lightning;
- (b) deliberately lit or arson-caused fires;
- (c) accidental fires;
- (d) escapes from private burns;
- (e) escapes from department burns:
 - (i) with area burnt in each escape;
- (f) other causes; and
- (g) unknown?

Hon Darren West replied:

The following table outlines the number of fires in the three Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) south-west forest regions (Swan, South West and Warren) over the 2021–22 financial year period, their attributed cause and the percentage of bushfires per cause as a proportion of the Statewide percentage as outlined in the DBCA 2021–22 Annual Report.

Bushfire cause	Statewide percentage total (as reported in 2021–22 Annual Report) (%)	Number of fires within the south-west forest region	Percentage of statewide total from within the south-west forest region (%)
(a) Lightning	28.4	61	38
(b) Deliberate or arson-caused fires	34.3	158	81
(c) Accidental	10.9	45	73
(d) Escape from private burns	3.5	13	65
(e) Escape from DBCA prescribed burns	0.2	1 (i) 9.9 hectares	100
(f) Other causes	11	45	67
(g) Unknown	11.7	33	52