

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee
Answers to questions on notice
Environment portfolio

Question No: 76
Hearing: Additional Estimates
Outcome: Agency
Programme: Bureau of Meteorology
Topic: Forest Fire Danger Index
Hansard Page: 9
Question Date: 24 February 2014
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Pratt asked:

Senator PRATT: I asked about those 16 sites on notice last time and was given a paper which was very interesting and quite useful, but it didn't really highlight what those 16 sites were.

Dr Vertessy: Which ones they were?

Senator PRATT: No.

Dr Vertessy: We can take that on notice.

Senator PRATT: I have asked it on notice previously. An excellent paper was provided, but if you can name those 16 sites. I would expect there to be 16 sites that you would be able to list for me.

Dr Vertessy: Yes. I am happy to provide that.

Answer:

The Bureau of Meteorology (the Bureau) responded to this question following the 18 November 2013 Supplementary Budget Estimates (See question no. 117).

The 16 long-term Bureau operated observing stations, listed in the paper previously provided, from highest to lowest increase in cumulative Forest Fire Danger Index (FFDI) are:

Woomera 689
Mildura 645
Alice Springs 638
Cobar 564
Wagga 439
Rockhampton 343
Adelaide 330
Amberley 317
Melbourne Airport 312
Ceduna 282
Sale 193
Laverton 183
Perth Airport 160
Nowra 153
Mackay 105
Launceston Airport 85

Another eight locations had larger cumulative increases in FFDI than Launceston, but the trends were not statistically significant at the 95 per cent level.