

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

Question No: 79
Hearing: Additional Estimates
Outcome: Agency
Programme: Bureau of Meteorology
Topic: Bushfires - National Parks
Hansard Page: 10
Question Date: 24 February 2014
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Williams asked:

CHAIR: I have a question on notice, Dr Canterford. If you find the area that was burnt during the summer, could you also include the areas that were national parks?

Dr Vertessy: I can attempt to find that out, certainly.

Answer:

The Bureau of Meteorology (the Bureau) does not maintain data on the extent of bushfires. Data on areas burnt by bushfires, including national parks, are collected by state agencies in each jurisdiction.

The Bureau has compiled the following partial information based on data made available by state agencies and on the Northern Australian Fire Information website: <http://www.firenorth.org.au/nafi2/>. The following significant fires have occurred in national parks since May 2013:

Kakadu National Park (NT) 1.07 million hectares

Keep River National Park (NT) 282,000 hectares

Litchfield National Park (NT) 130,000 hectares

Wyperfeld, Murray Sunset National Park (Vic) 109,000 hectares

Ngarkat Conservation Park, (SA) 90,000 hectares

Snowy River National Park, (Vic) 90,000 of a larger 165,000 hectare fire

Northern Grampians National Park 55,000 hectares

Other fire affected parks include the Blue Mountains (NSW) and the Gawler Ranges (SA) and several other national parks in southeast NSW, Victoria, SA, TAS, WA and QLD.