

Answers to Questions taken on notice by Forestry Corporation of NSW

1. The Hon. PENNY SHARPE: We know that the Chief Scientist has indicated it is not just about habitat when it comes to koalas, it is fire, drought, climate change, pests and predators, be that wild dogs or people's domesticated dogs. Can you provide information to the Committee since 2011 how many pest and firefighting officers you have through State Forest to deal generally with these issues? Take that on notice if you need to.

Answer:

Forestry Corporation's enterprise agreement requires all staff to be available for firefighting and casual and on-call firefighters are also engaged each year to bolster firefighting capability. The number of staff involved in active firefighting depends on a range of factors including the severity of the fire season. The figure below is the number of staff involved in active firefighting and does not include staff who provide administrative, logistics and other support during firefighting. An accurate figures for 2013 is not available due to the introduction of a new payroll system that year.

Year	Staff involved in firefighting
2011	752
2012	583
2013	Not available
2014	584
2015	521
2016	504
2017	498
2018	531
2019	527 (as at 29 August)

A break down of staff involved in pest control by year is not available. Across the State around 75 staff are involved in pest control, not including contractors engaged to carry out baiting programs.

2. The Hon. PENNY SHARPE: The Chief Scientist made recommendations about identifying the target areas for dog control. What specifically are you doing about that?

Answer:

Forestry Corporation of NSW (Forestry Corporation) works in line with collaborative Wild Dog Management Plans, which are coordinated on a regional basis by Local Land Services (LLS) with the contribution of local public and private land managers including Forestry Corporation, the National Parks and Wildlife Service and local landholder representatives. The plans address both conservation and control objectives and are approved by the LLS.

As well as strategic bating, aerial baiting and trapping projects, Forestry Corporation responds to emerging issues and uses the full suite of available techniques to manage wild dogs. Working cooperatively increases the effectiveness of activities and Forestry Corporation is committed to this cooperative approach.