



City of **HOBART**

Memorandum: Lord Mayor
Deputy Lord Mayor
Elected Members

Response to Question Without Notice

HAZARD REDUCTION BURNS ON KUNANYI / MOUNT WELLINGTON

Meeting: Parks and Recreation Committee **Meeting date:** 16 January 2020

Raised by: Lord Mayor Councillor Anna Reynolds

Question:

Queries have been received asking why hazard reduction burns have not been undertaken in the vicinity of the pinnacle of kunanyi / Mount Wellington.

Could the Director please advise if these burns are under the jurisdiction of the Tasmania Fire Service and if so could you please advise of their response to why the hazard reduction burns in this vicinity have not been undertaken?

Also, could the Director please advise if there are any other potential methods for hazard reduction?

Response:

The Tasmania Fire Service is not responsible for hazard reduction burning within Wellington Park however it may assist the relevant land manager to conduct a hazard reduction burn if requested to do so.

Hazard reduction burns in Wellington Park should be confined to the dry forest types on the lower slopes of the Park in the Hobart and Glenorchy Council areas. Fuel loads in these locations should generally be maintained at less than 8 tonnes per hectare. The Pinnacle being a low heath, alpine community is unlikely to exceed that figure and therefore will not trigger treatment.

Alpine and sub-alpine communities such as those surrounding the Pinnacle area are relatively fire sensitive and would be damaged by frequent burning. In addition, frequent burning in these areas may adversely affect water quality in the water catchment areas.

The alternative methods for reducing fuel load in a natural environment include manual removal using cut and paint or brush cutting methods which are possible in these alpine and sub-alpine communities if this treatment were deemed necessary.

Grazing using cattle or sheep could also be used but this would normally favour grasslands or herb lands rather than the alpine heath and sub alpine communities of the Pinnacle. The rocky nature of this area would preclude either of these grazers as it is not suited for such animals.

Goats could be used as they are more a browser which allows them to eat a broader range of the alpine heath vegetation. They are also more agile and able to cope with the steep, rocky terrain. Restraining them to a treatment area would be challenging.

Mechanical treatment can also be used to treat vegetation to reduce bushfire risk. However the use of mulchers or slashers would not be possible given the steep and rocky terrain on the Pinnacle.

As signatory to this report, I certify that, pursuant to Section 55(1) of the Local Government Act 1993, I hold no interest, as referred to in Section 49 of the Local Government Act 1993, in matters contained in this report.



Glenn Doyle
DIRECTOR CITY AMENITY

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