

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE
Question Taken on Notice

Question Number: 7-5

Date: 19/06/2018

From: Mr Gary Higgins

To: Hon. Lauren Moss

Portfolio: Environment & Natural Resources

Agency: Environment & Natural Resources

Subject: Exceptional water usage for bush fires

QUESTION

Could I get some details on the exceptional usage of water amounts relating to bushfires?

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Answer to Question Taken on Notice

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Answer

Water for bushfire operations may be accessed from bores or nearby dams and creeks. Access to groundwater for bushfires from roadside water points utilises Power and Water Corporation infrastructure through the use of Power and Water Corporation card. There are no limits to the volume of water that can be extracted for bushfire operations.

Some of these bores are included under the Power and Water Corporation licence to take water from a bore which also includes extractions from the McMinns and Howard Springs bore fields for reticulated water supply. The maximum entitlement under this licence is 8 420 megalitres per year. Power and Water uses approximately 60% of their licence groundwater entitlement annually. The entitlement recognises access to water for emergency supply purposes. Alternatively, access to groundwater or surface water can be obtained with the permission of individual landowners. The department is currently reviewing Power and Water licences to determine if all the bores are listed on the licence and recognise the need to service bushfires operations.