

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

**WRITTEN QUESTION**

Ms Purick to Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services.

**Bushfires Council Brigades**

1. How many fire fighting volunteers were sent to the recent bush and wild fires in Central Australia. How many were from Bushfire Council brigades and which ones.
2. What the total cost to accommodate these volunteers in Alice Springs and Tennant Creek hotel/motels.
3. What was the total cost of Travel Allowance (TA) paid to all of the volunteers.
4. What other groups were involved in providing volunteers to help fight the fires, how many people and from what group.
5. How much equipment from Bushfire Council brigades was moved from their base unit to fight the fires and at what cost.
6. What helicopter surveillance work was undertaken during the period of fighting the fires and at what cost.
7. Was a de briefing session held after the fires for volunteers if so, provide details. If not, why not.

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**ANSWER**

1. (a) 198.  
(b) 37. They were from Alice Springs Volunteer Bushfire Brigade, Tennant Creek Volunteer Bushfire Brigade, Bushfires NT Volunteer Training Brigade, Cox Peninsula and Elizabeth Valley Volunteer Bushfire Brigades.
2. \$82 430. This figure includes accommodation costs for SA Country Fire Service volunteers and paid staff.
3. TA is not paid to volunteers.

4. NT Fire and Rescue Service; SA Country Fire Service; Department of Natural Resources, Environment, the Arts and Sport; Department of the Chief Minister; Department of Justice; Department of Children and Families; Department of Lands and Planning; Power and Water Corporation, Department of Housing, Local Government and Regional Services; Department of Business and Employment; Arid Zone Research Institute; Inkerreke rangers; Central Land Council rangers; Alice Springs NT Emergency Services volunteer members.
5. Three grass fire units deployed from Batchelor. Cost: \$3000. Two banks of hand-held radios and VHF radio sets still in Alice.
6. Helicopters used at Ambalindum Station, Alparra, Cattle Water Pass and Claravale. Total cost of helicopters (\$192, 711) includes water-bombing at more than 20 additional locations.
7. Debriefings always occur after major events. Several operational debriefs have occurred so far including two by BFNT (Orange Creek incident of Sept 2011 and Alice Springs incident).