

Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services
The Honourable Neil Roberts
20/10/2010

Unusual weather conditions prompts Fire Danger Period cancellation

Unusually heavy rainfall combined with an early start to the storm and cyclone season has prompted the cancellation of the Queensland Fire Danger Period from this Friday.

Emergency Services Minister Neil Roberts said after two months of the declaration, the main threat of fire season had passed.

"Queensland Fire and Rescue Service (QFRS) declared the Fire Danger Period on August 29 following last year's horror fire season which saw thousands of bushfires devastate parts of the state," he said.

"Thankfully this year we have had a reduced fire threat; the vegetation is far less dry and the drought index is much more favourable. Those factors, combined with the current La Nina weather pattern bringing wetter conditions, have led to the QFRS Commissioner Lee Johnson declaring that the Fire Danger Period is no longer required."

Minister Roberts said the Fire Danger Period was intended to remain in place until January 2, 2011 or until the enhanced threat of bushfire had passed and that the public had adhered to fire restrictions very well.

"We did see a high level of acceptance of the restrictive measures that were in place under the fire danger period which included the requirement to have a permit for most outdoor fires," he said.

"I thank Queenslanders for doing their part during this time to keep our state largely unaffected by bushfire."

QFRS Acting Assistant Commissioner of Rural Operations Paul Adcock said the success of the Fire Danger Period had been encouraging.

"This was the first year we implemented a fire danger period and the community support has given the QFRS confidence to consider making this standard practice in years to come to further reduce bushfire risk," he said.

Mr Adcock said while the main threat for bushfire had passed it was important that residents remain prepared for the possibility of bushfire.

"While much of the state is quite wet at the moment there are still some areas that could experience fire and it is important to remember that we are still technically in the fire season," he said.

"Preparing for bushfire takes months if it is done properly and there are still steps we can all take to make sure we are ready for the weeks to come as well as next season.

"I urge anyone who hasn't already done so to visit the rural fire website and download a bushfire survival plan so that you and your family will know what to do if you are faced with a bushfire."

More information on bushfire preparation can be found at: www.ruralfire.qld.gov.au

Media contact: Minister's office - (07) 3239 0199 or 0419 786 114; DCS Media - (07) 3247 8186