Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee
Answers to questions on notice
Environment portfolio

Question No: 78

Hearing: Additional Estimates

Outcome: Agency

Programme: Bureau of Meteorology

Topic: Bushfires this season

Hansard Page: 9

Question Date: 24 February 2014

Question Type: Spoken

Senator Urquhart asked:

Senator URQUHART: Can you tell me the total area that has been affected by bushfires so far this season?
Dr Vertessy: I do not know the answer to that.
Dr Canterford: We would have to take that on notice. We would have to check with our fire agencies.
Senator URQUHART: Sure. But you can provide that if you take it on notice?
Dr Canterford: My colleague has just suggested that they may have information on their website, but I can source that for you if you like.
Senator URQUHART: That would be great.
Dr Vertessy: It is not something that we would normally track and report on, but we are happy to look it up for you

Answer:

The Bureau of Meteorology (the Bureau) does not maintain data on the extent of bushfires. Data on areas burnt by bushfires is collected by state agencies in each jurisdiction. The Bureau has compiled the list below based on information published on various state agency websites showing areas burnt for the larger fires during the 2013-14 southern fire season.

Fire	Vic	SA	NSW	TAS	QLD	WA
Goongerrah East Gippsland	165721					
Club Terrace East Gippsland	8063					
Timbarra East Gippsland	2883					
Dargo, Gippsland	1878					
Northern Grampians	55100					
Wyperfeld, Murray-Sunset NP	109000					
Lake Burberry, Tas				2500		
Parkerville, WA						386
Bangor (Flinders Ranges, SA)		35000				
Ngarkat Cons Park SA		90000				
Greater Blue Mountains, NSW			65000			
Gawler Ranges SA		10000				
TOTAL	**342645**	**135000**	**65000**	**2500**	**0**	**386**

All measurements in the table are shown in hectares