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Media Release – Burning questions on K'gari fire

Despite the report on the K'gari (Fraser Island) bushfires being due on the Minister's desk over a week ago, there are still questions the government is refusing to answer according to Shadow Minister for Fire and Emergency Services, Dale Last.

A recent question in parliament saw just a quarter of the information requested provided and Mr Last said, given the timing of the response and the due date of the report, the government is either withholding information or hasn't asked the right questions.

"The terms of reference for the K'gari Bushfire Review clearly states the report was due on March 30th," Mr Last said. "Yet, a week later, Minister Ryan either can't or won't advise information like how many personnel were involved in fighting the fire."

"We know that 34 aircraft were engaged in fighting the fire but that's all the information that the government would provide. To say, effectively, that the information about personnel is too hard to get a week after the due date for lodgement of the Inquiry Report, indicates either a cover-up or incompetence on the Minister's part."

Mr Last said Minister Ryan was again "*burying his head in the sand*" and called for the IGEM's report to be publicly released as a matter of urgency.

"Minister Ryan is again hiding from the facts, just as he has done on crime," Mr Last said. "His actions are an insult to the paid and volunteer firefighters that fought this fire."

"Why would a Minister refuse to provide information on the number of people involved in such a major event?"

"We know there are some serious questions to be answered regarding the emergency response to this bushfire and Queenslanders deserve to know the truth."

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Sources: <https://www.igem.qld.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-12/K%27gari%20Bushfire%20Review%20-%20Terms%20of%20Reference.pdf>
<https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/documents/tableOffice/questionsAnswers/2021/142-2021.pdf>