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Fire and Emergency New Zealand
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Alan Thompson
By email: fyi-request-22715-5877ed5b@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Alan

Information Request – Rural Fire Cost Breakdowns

I refer to your official information request dated 8 May 2023 asking for a breakdown of costs for the following 8 incidents:

1.	F3330301	Hamner Springs	Date	30/09/2021	Area	0.0 ha	Total cost	\$54,816
2.	F3368370	Woodhill Forest	Date	27/11/2021	Area	28.4 ha	Total cost	\$160,719
3.	F3397261	Glendu Bay	Date	09/01/2022	Area	239.3 ha	Total cost	\$375,877
4.	F3406059	Trentham	Date	22/01/2022	Area	15.6 ha	Total cost	\$125,898
5.	F3411657	Lake Ohia	Date	31/01/2022	Area	0.002 ha	Total cost	\$329,272
6.	F3423463	Lake Ohia	Date	14/02/2022	Area	0.25 ha	Total cost	\$335,836
7.	F3424362	Aranga	Date	15/02/2022	Area	10.1 ha	Total cost	\$524,440
8.	F3434370	Tongario FP	Date	03/03/2022	Area	14.1 ha	Total cost	\$150,533

You also asked that we clarify what the area of the fire for incident F3330301 in Hamner Springs was.

Your request has been assessed in accordance with the provisions of the Official Information Act (OIA). Please find enclosed the cost breakdowns of each of the incidents you indicated. Please note that it is possible that total costs may increase as additional invoices are received. The invoices represent the additional cost we incur beyond our fixed cost of maintaining a response capability.

Regarding the area of the Hamner Springs fire, the incident documents a controlled burn undertaken by Carbon Forest Services that Fire and Emergency New Zealand had assisted in preparing a burn plan for and was also present for, to provide advice for the light up.

The burn escaped several times from small areas of the burn boundaries, but conditions were safe for burning to continue. The operation was then carefully monitored to apportion the bulk of the costs to the Forest company and only strict suppression costs were attributed to the incident. The total escaped area was around 10-15 ha. The total burnt area was 250-270 ha.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa nā



Ethan Fett
Acting Manager, Information Requests

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