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Fire and Emergency New Zealand  
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26 August 2025

Ref: 18821

Tēnā koe

Thank you for your request of 26 July 2025 to Fire and Emergency New Zealand requesting wildfire related information under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA). We copy and respond to each aspect of your request below.

- *I request the following information regarding the advice from Fire and Emergency that "in the last 15 years the occurrence of large damaging wildfires has increased and continues to do so".*
- 1. *For the years 2022/23 and 2023/24, what were the total number of vegetation fires and the area burnt for each of the follow vegetation fire classifications:*
  - (a) *Public/Conservation lands;*
  - (b) *Planted forestry lands;*
  - (c) *All other lands.*

Please find attached, as an **Appendix** to this response, data showing area burnt by wildfire, broken down into land use categories. Please note, Fire and Emergency does not record wildfire data by some of the land use classifications you have provided. The land use categories we use include the following:

- Arable area
  - Forestry area
  - Dairy area
  - Horticulture area
  - Conservation Area
  - Meat/Wool area
2. *What are the metrics and the trigger values of those metrics that FENZ use to classify a vegetation fire as "large"?*

As noted in our reply of 19 August 2025, for the purposes of wildfire season summary reporting, fires that burn 10 hectares or more are classified as significant fires.

3. *What are the numbers of these “large” fires and the total area burnt for each of the last 15 years as advised by FENZ?*

The attached Appendix also shows the number of large fires, and the total area burnt for the last 15 years.

We trust that the information being provided is of assistance. If you require further information, please email [officialinformationrequests@fireandemergency.nz](mailto:officialinformationrequests@fireandemergency.nz)

Please note that because of the identified public interest in the information that you have requested, we intend to publish this response (with your personal details removed) on our website.

Nāku noa, nā



Aidan Saunders  
Manager, Information Requests

