



**National Headquarters**  
Fire and Emergency New Zealand  
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26 September 2025

Ref: 19427



Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 20 September 2025 to Fire and Emergency New Zealand requesting the following information:

- *...was wondering if you have an estimate on the cost to the Fire Service, of past fires that have occurred at Cape Palliser in the area from the Cape Palliser Lighthouse to the Stonewall Scenic Reserve (including the reserve). It is my understanding there have been multiple fires over the years from camping fires. The most notable one in the 1990's where several hundred acres burned, to the most recent one where 30 acres (or hectares burnt).*

You followed up on 21 and 24 September 2025, asking to receive the costs of these fires from 2006 to the present, and where the fire started. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), and our response is provided below.

Please find attached, as an **Appendix** to this response, a table detailing all fires recorded as occurring within the area indicated, including information about their location.

Regarding the total costs of these fires, Fire and Emergency is funded to be ready and able to respond as and when its services are required. On that basis, we do not record costs to a level of detail that apportion costs to incidents we have attended. However, the **Appendix** also contains a table which shows additional costs incurred against incident F3175822, excluding GST. They represent the additional cost we incur beyond our fixed cost of maintaining a response capability.

Please note that “*External firefighting services*” are those resources that are not owned or, in the case of people, are not employed by Fire and Emergency. They may include forestry company or Department of Conservation personnel, and operators of heavy equipment such as diggers, bulldozers, water tankers, etc.

We do not hold any other costs in relation to these fires. For this reason, we are partially refusing this aspect of your request under section 18(e) of the OIA, as the document alleged to contain the requested information does not exist.

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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Saunders'.

Aidan Saunders  
Manager, Information Requests

