

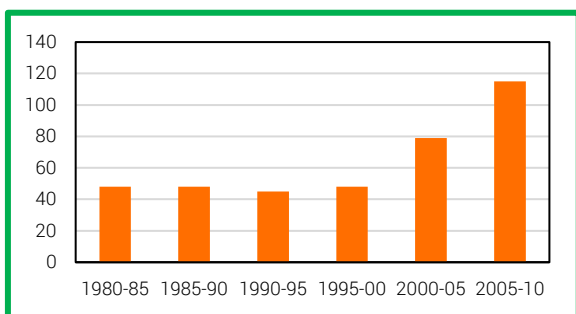
# Protecting Regional Communities by Fighting Remote Wildfires

**The Greens will protect regional communities, remote areas, and wilderness from bushfires by recruiting 30 additional rapid response remote area firefighters.**

In 2019, dry lightning ignited fires within the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. The fires spread, threatening the Central Highlands and Huon Valley for weeks, destroying homes and putting lives at risk.

Those fires burnt 3% of the state, including 96,000ha of the TWWHA, 14% of the state’s tallest trees, and sensitive vegetation - like alpine conifers, rainforest, deciduous beech, sphagnum moss and organic soils.<sup>1,2</sup>

**TWWHA Fires 1980-2010<sup>3</sup>**

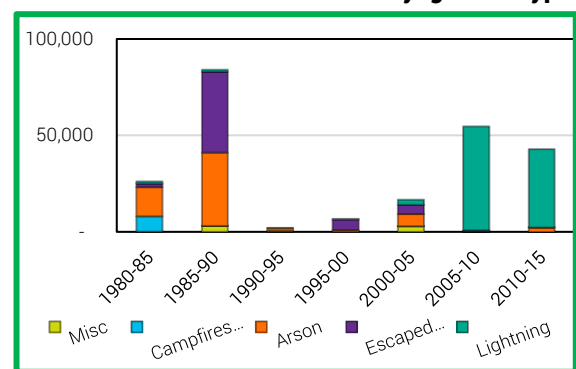


As of 2014, the majority of buttongrass moorland had not been burnt in the previous 50 years.<sup>4</sup> Buttongrass fuel-reduction burn plans have not been properly funded.<sup>5</sup>

The common cause of remote fires has shifted from human-induced to natural events, only made worse by climate change. Public

education won't cut it anymore – Tasmania needs to invest in on-the-ground resources.

**TWWHA Hectares Burned by Ignition Type<sup>6</sup>**



If not fought hard and early, bushfires can grow into unstoppable infernos that can put lives at risk, destroy homes and decimate ancient and irreplaceable wilderness.

**The Greens will invest in 30 additional rapid response remote area firefighters to protect regional communities and wilderness.**

## Budget (\$m)

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Total
3.60	3.67	3.75	3.82	14.84

**FIND ALL OUR POLICIES:** [tasgreensmmps.org/policy/](https://tasgreensmmps.org/policy/)

<sup>1</sup> Parks and Wildlife Service Tasmania, [Fire, flora and fauna](#), 2006.

<sup>2</sup> Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment, [Tasmanian Threatened Native Vegetation Communities](#), 2018.

<sup>3</sup> J Styger, J Marsden-Smedley, and J Kirkpatrick, [Changes in Lightning Fire Incidence in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area](#), 1980–2016, Fire, Vol 1 (3), p. 8.

<sup>4</sup> Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment, [Fire Management in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area](#), Evaluation Report, Nov 2015, p. 12.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid, p. 16.

<sup>6</sup> J Styger, J Marsden-Smedley, and J Kirkpatrick, [Changes in Lightning Fire Incidence in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area](#), 1980–2016, Fire, Vol 1 (3), p. 8.