

07 November 2022

Gary Hedge

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Tēnā koe Gary

Thank you for your Official Information Act request to the Department of Conservation, received on 07 October 2022.

Your questions and our responses are listed below:

*1. How many DOC huts still use coal as a fuel source?*

27 of our huts still use coal out of the approximately 950 huts in the network.

*2. How much coal has been supplied to DOC huts so far in 2022?*

24.9 tonnes of coal has been supplied to heat the huts in 2022.

*3. Where is this coal sourced from? Is it NZ coal or from offshore.*

All the coal that we have supplied to heat the 27 huts has come from New Zealand.

*4. How many helicopter hours if any have been flown to deliver coal to DOC huts.*

10.4 hours of helicopter time was used to supply coal to the 27 huts. Coal and firewood are flown to serviced huts for health and safety reasons. This is particularly necessary in the cold winter months when trampers can turn up after dark in cold conditions and need ready access to dry fuel.

We plan to move to firewood, or other low carbon alternatives, as part of our transition to a low carbon conservation management operating model. Existing multi-fuel burners that burn coal can also burn wood, so wood and other lower carbon alternatives are likely to replace coal to heat these huts. Longer term, we plan to investigate additional sustainable ways to heat huts.

Please note that this letter (with your personal details removed) and enclosed documents may be published on the Department's website.



Nāku noa, nā

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

Darryl Lew  
Director, Planning and Services  
Department of Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*