

QUESTION ON NOTICE
No. 1472
Asked on Thursday, 9 October 2008

MR HOPPER asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Fisheries (MR MULHERIN)-

QUESTION:

With reference to the operations of fisheries vessels—

- (1) What were the operational costs for fisheries vessels during 2007-08 and projected costs for 2008-09?
- (2) What is the total number of fisheries vessels currently in use and will he provide a breakdown of vessels in use by vessel size and rated engine type?
- (3) What was the total number of intercepts for fisheries vessels in 2007-08 and how many intercepts on average would a fisheries vessel carry out in a year?
- (4) How many days on average did fisheries vessels spend out of service or unused during 2007-08?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol (QBFP) operational budget delivers compliance, enforcement and regulatory activities for Queensland's fisheries.

The QBFP has a fleet of 95 vessels in service, the majority of which are utilised for inshore or estuary work. The QBFP vessels include the larger offshore vessels and centre console rigid hulled inflatable boats and a large number of small vessels between 3 and 4.6 metres in length powered by outboards.

All QBFP vessels were in active service during 2007-08 and all were used to optimum levels of operational capacity to achieve designated targets. The number of inspections outlined in the 2007-08 Ministerial Portfolio Statement was achieved.

The number of inspections per vessel is influenced by numerous factors ranging from individual QBFP vessel specifications, QBFP priorities, routine and targeted patrols to regional areas and local boating and fishing population.

The need for vessel maintenance and crew responsibilities associated with training and preparation of prosecutions and post patrol reports influences the maximum number of sea days annually.