

Question on Notice

No. 1725

Asked on 15 November 2018

MR A PERRETT ASKED MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND FISHERIES (HON M FURNER)—

QUESTION:

With reference to Biosecurity Queensland's operations—

Will the Minister outline (reported yearly from 2015 to present) the number of (a) frontline biosecurity officers (FTE), (b) biosecurity inspections completed yearly, (c) infringement notices issued and (d) fines and total revenue collected from this process?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question. Given the nature of biosecurity work, staffing levels fluctuate constantly. It is essential that BQ's workforce is flexible to enable rapid response to the needs of industry and other stakeholders. To provide a response that best reflects staff numbers in Biosecurity Queensland, the following figures are therefore based on the average number of staff across the whole year.

- (a) The average number of full time equivalent (FTE) frontline and frontline support biosecurity staff 2015/16 to 2017/18 were:
 - a) 504.6 in 2015/2016;
 - b) 500.7 in 2016/2017;
 - c) 502.5 in 2017/2018; and
 - d) 512.7 in the six months since June this year.
- (b) Biosecurity Queensland has conducted various types of inspections for a range of purposes since 2015. Information in relation to inspections has been recorded in various ways over that time. Extracting these records would divert staff from critical tasks.
- (c) and (d) Biosecurity Queensland did not issue any infringement notices for the financial years 2015/16 to 2017/18, so there are no corresponding fines or revenue collected from this process.