

Question on Notice

No. 897

Asked on 11 June 2019

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the Minister's answer to Question on Notice No. 528 of 2019 wherein the Minister did not detail how many compliance checks detected fire ants each year, by Industry, but instead stated 'Compliance checks are performed to ensure persons are complying with necessary movement controls as opposed to a means of fire ant detection or surveillance'— Will the Minister advise (a) if the answer means that no fire ants have been detected during compliance checks and (b) if fire ants have been detected during compliance checks, the number of compliance checks that resulted in fire ant detections each year (for 2016-17 to 2018-19 to date reported separately by financial year and by industry)?

ANSWER:

On behalf of every government in Australia, the Queensland Government is coordinating a national effort to eradicate fire ants.

Under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*, and Biosecurity Regulation 2016, individuals and organisations whose activities involve the movement or storage of fire ant carriers have a general biosecurity obligation to take all reasonable steps to ensure they do not spread fire ants.

- (a) I can advise that fire ants have been detected during compliance checks.
- (b) Where a new detection of fire ants has occurred during a compliance check, that detection is recorded and combined with detections from all other program activities. These data inform subsequent program activities.

Compliance checks are performed to ensure persons are complying with necessary movement controls as opposed to a means of fire ant detection or surveillance. This means checking that persons are applying adequate risk mitigation measures to allow movement of the fire ant carrier product as outlined in their biosecurity instrument permit, the regulation or as a general biosecurity obligation.