

Agriculture and Environment Committee

Question Taken on Notice

No. 1

Asked on 21 July 2017

MRS MILLER asked the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Economic Development (HON W BYRNE)—

QUESTION:

I would like to direct my questions to the director-general. Director-General, could you advise how many sexual harassment complaints have been made this year across the portfolio? Could you also advise us whether or not any complainant should be expected to continue working with the perpetrator of the complaint, especially if the perpetrator has admitted the folly in their ways? [Hansard, page 24]

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

Each agency within the Agriculture and Fisheries Portfolio has policies and procedures to address complaints of sexual harassment in the workplace. There were three sexual harassment complaints made across the Agricultural and Fisheries Portfolio during 2016-2017.

Each of these complaints has been or is being addressed according to governing legislation and the applicable agency policies and procedures. Whether any particular complainant in a sexual harassment matter remains working with the alleged perpetrator or not depends entirely on the circumstances of the case. The management action taken in response to these matters is informed by the context in which the allegation arose, the nature of the complaint, the outcome of any investigation and subsequent appropriate and proportionate response to available evidence.

Agriculture and Environment Committee

Question Taken on Notice

No. 2

Asked on 21 July 2017

MR LAST asked the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Economic Development (HON W BYRNE)—

QUESTION:

Can you advise the number of rural supply stores and their locations that are currently selling pre-prepared wild dog baits? [Hansard, page 40]

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

In Queensland, the legislation that allows the use of vertebrate pesticides is primarily the *Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996* administered by Queensland Health.

Queensland Health has recently introduced procedures that allow an individual landholder to apply to Queensland Health to receive an approval to purchase and use commercially available 1080 baits, and the recently released 1080 capsules for use in Canid Pest Ejectors, as well as baits containing the new toxin, PAPP.

Queensland Health has advised the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) that they have written to all retailers who are licensed to sell schedule 7 poisons to advise them of the recent changes that will allow them to supply 1080 manufactured baits or capsules to landholders with a Queensland Health approval.

DAF is aware that Queensland Health has issued individual landholder approvals, but as DAF is not the issuing agency, they do not keep the records on who is currently selling or purchasing wild dog baits. Queensland Health would be the appropriate agency to provide such information.

The choice to supply these products is a business decision for those retailers that are licensed to sell schedule 7 poisons.

Agriculture and Environment Committee

Question Taken on Notice

No. 3

Asked on 21 July 2017

MR LAST asked the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Economic Development (HON W BYRNE)—

QUESTION:

I note in the SDS at page 19 that there have been substantial cuts to grants and subsidies. In fact, there is a reduction from \$32.4 million last year to \$8.5 million this year. Can you outline what initiatives have been cut from that program? [Hansard, page 41]

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

The decrease in the grants and subsidies expense of \$23.9 million between the 2016-17 Budget and 2017-18 Budget includes:

- \$21.3 million reduction in funding held by the department for drought relief assistance. The Government has committed up to \$20 million for the Drought Assistance Package in 2017-18 and these funds are held by Queensland Treasury, and will be released to the department in arrears based on demand for drought assistance.
- \$2.3 million reduction due to the re-classification in the Budget Papers of expenses from grants to supplies and services for payments to community organisations under the pest and weed management program, as part of the Rural Debt Assistance Package.
- \$1.0 million decrease in the capital grants budget associated with the purchase of a grains property in partnership with Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC), due to the realignment of the final milestone payment to 2018-19. The timing of grant payments under contractual arrangements has been realigned to match GRDC's revised milestones. The Government is still committed to providing a total of \$5.5 million to GRDC for the purchase of a research property.

This is partly offset by an increase of:

- \$0.7 million due to additional funding provided in 2017-18 to deliver a grant program aimed at Growing Queensland's Food Exports as part of the Rural Economic Development package.

Agriculture and Environment Committee

Question Taken on Notice

No. 4

Asked on 21 July 2017

MR LAST asked the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Economic Development (HON W BYRNE)—

QUESTION:

Minister, I refer to the SDS at page 32 and the performance statement. Does the department still provide scholarships to the colleges? [Hansard, page 41]

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

Scholarships under the name of DAF for commencement of studies in 2017, provided at the end of 2016, was \$40,000 for LPC and EAC students.