

**Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee  
Government Question on Notice**

**No. 1**

**Asked on 27 September 2012**

Question asked of the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (MR MCVEIGH)–

I refer to 5 – 4 of the Service Delivery Statements. Would the Minister advise the steps being taken under his leadership to re-structure and re-focus the Department to again deliver frontline services that Queensland primary producers need and deserve?

**ANSWER:**

Under my leadership, we have established a new standalone department with the frontline and support services that will deliver on the Government's priorities while meeting the budget savings.

We are revitalising our frontline service by recruiting talented people to positions in known biosecurity risk areas to boost the already high level of professional expertise to prepare for, detect and respond to incidents.

My department is recruiting 15 new frontline officers to work in regional parts of the state. These officers include three cattle tick inspectors, five wild dog officers, three crop protection officers, two weed and pest animal officers, a horticulture officer for Bundaberg and a Fisheries Extension Officer based in Ayr.

The positions are also intended to enhance Biosecurity Queensland's capacity to work with industry, regional communities and local government.

We have introduced savings strategies aimed at reducing the cost of running the department and administering and promoting complicated legislation and policies.

Services that did not produce significant increases in productivity, or were not supported by industry, were reduced, especially if those services could be offered by the private sector or other government and research organisations.

We are working with producers and staff to identify ways that government can assist industry double food production, such as the Land Audit and Agriculture Strategy. Our regulatory effort is about simplifying the legislation we administer and reducing the red tape that inhibits productivity for the sector.

**Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee**  
**Government Question on Notice**

**No. 2**

**Asked on 27 September 2012**

Question asked of the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (MR MCVEIGH)–

I refer to 5 – 4 of the Service Delivery Statements. Would the Minister please outline what actual steps he has taken to bolster frontline biosecurity services in regional Queensland?

**ANSWER:**

The standalone Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry was established as part of the first 100 days action plan of the Newman Government.

The 15 new frontline officers I promised as part of this commitment to agriculture are all in the process of being appointed. These officers include three cattle tick inspectors, five wild dog officers, three crop protection officers, two weed and pest animal officers, a horticulture officer for Bundaberg and a Fisheries Extension Officer based in Ayr.

The officers will be located at Gatton, Longreach, Roma, Charleville, Blackall, Warwick, Nambour, Beaudesert, Kingaroy, Emerald, St George, Mareeba, Charters Towers, Bundaberg and Ayr.

The new Cattle Tick Inspectors will improve the effectiveness of the tick line and work as part of a state-wide team to provide information to producers about cattle tick management, investigate breaches and respond to tick outbreaks.

The Wild Dog officers will work with landholders, local councils and others groups to advise on, coordinate and assist with wild dog control efforts.

The Crop Protection Officers will focus on plant disease surveillance, plant pests and chemical residue and spray drift issues. One officer will also focus on locust management and another on the maintenance of certifications for interstate trade.

The banana industry and the dry tropics region of North Queensland will benefit from the additional Weed and Pest Animal Officers that will work closely with existing staff, local governments and landholders. The officer at Mareeba will also focus on yellow sigatoka control.

Market issues, including red tape reduction, will be the focus of the Horticulture Officer at Bundaberg that will enhance existing research and extension capacity in the area.

The Fisheries Extension Officer will deliver extension and provide a direct service to the North Queensland Fishing Industry.

These officers will significantly strengthen the Department's capacity to manage cattle ticks, wild dogs, weeds and pest animals. They will also boost support to horticulture, crop protection and fishing industry resource management.

In addition, there has been a major restructure of Biosecurity Queensland's resources with a simplified management structure and less focus on administrative and support functions and greater focus on providing better client services. The new structure within Biosecurity Queensland will see nearly 90 percent of staff directly involved in the operations, science and customer service functions.

**Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee  
Government Question on Notice**

**No. 3**

**Asked on 27 September 2012**

Question asked of the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (MR MCVEIGH)–

I refer to 5 – 3 of the Service Delivery Statements. Can the Minister outline what steps are being taken by his new stand-alone Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry to identify additional agricultural land to help support the LNP Government's program to double food production in Queensland by 2040?

**ANSWER:**

Work on the Agriculture Land Audit is well underway. A dedicated team within the Department is preparing information and maps about existing productive agricultural land, areas with development potential and the main factors that might limit development.

Regionally-based government experts are checking the draft findings of the Audit to confirm accuracy of mapping and information, and to provide a local perspective.

The Audit will identify important agricultural land to work out where agriculture can occur based on the soils, slope and rainfall, and where agricultural activities may be economically viable with access to labour and markets.

As agriculture is a diverse industry, the Audit includes specific information about cropping, grazing, intensive animals, dairy, forestry, cane and horticulture.

I have instructed the Department that I wish to complete the Audit as soon as possible, and the Darling Downs and Central Queensland parts will be available for release early in 2013.

The Audit will provide information that may be used for a range of purposes, such as planning, research, industry development and expanded production.

The Audit report should help focus on the important questions about doubling food production by 2040. To achieve this ambitious target, we must take a strategic approach to resource availability, growth in productivity and value and reduce production costs.

The report that results from the Audit will be the first time that information about existing and possible agricultural development will be provided on a consistent, state-wide basis. This will be important to informing a strategy for doubling food production.

**Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee  
Government Question on Notice**

**No. 4**

**Asked on 27 September 2012**

Question asked of the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (MR MCVEIGH)–

I refer to SDS 5 – 4 of the Service Delivery Statements. Can the Minister advise how the Government is assisting primary producers in the Flinders and Gilbert River regions to diversify their grazing operations to include irrigated agriculture?

**ANSWER:**

The North Queensland Irrigated Agriculture Strategy (NQIAS) is a joint Australian and Queensland Government project to realise the potential of development in Northern Australia, focusing on the Flinders and Gilbert Rivers. A good deal of work has already been done on the irrigation potential of these rivers.

The Queensland Government is investing \$3 million into practical, on-ground support for commercial agricultural development on these rivers. It is working with CSIRO to ensure the latest science is readily available to maximise the prospects for success, and avoid the mistakes that sometimes occurred in southern irrigation schemes.

Agriculture is one of the four pillars of the Queensland economy. The Newman Government has an Agriculture Strategy that underpins its goal to double food production in Queensland by 2040.

The Queensland Government has redefined its role in the NQIAS so it is consistent with these goals. Instead of the field trials proposed by my predecessor, the Queensland Government is working with regional champions and local stakeholders to focus on common-sense ways to get commercial irrigation on local properties actually happening, for the economic benefit of local communities.

The Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, the Honourable Andrew Cripps MP, has called for tenders from those wishing to obtain a water licence from all the water that is currently available under the Water Resource Plan. This consists of 80 000 ML of water in the Flinders River and 15, 000 ML of water in the Gilbert River.

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) is directly supporting producers through the tender process and the development of their applications.

The banning of live exports by the Gillard Federal Government was a wake-up call to local producers to look at ways to diversify their businesses. The majority of proponents are experienced pastoralists, but have limited experience in cropping.

DAFF will continue to support producers by helping them source expertise during the development of their irrigation infrastructure, decisions on the crops to plant and associated agronomic advice, as well as keeping the producers up to date with the latest results from CSIRO trials.

**Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee  
Government Question on Notice**

**No. 5**

**Asked on 27 September 2012**

Question asked of the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (MR MCVEIGH)–

I refer to SDS 5 – 3 of the Service Delivery Statements. Can the Minister advise how the Government is working to ensure the long-term sustainability of Queensland fisheries and in particular the inshore net fishery?

**ANSWER:**

The Queensland Government will ensure the long-term sustainability of Queensland's commercial and recreational fisheries through ongoing monitoring of fish stocks, effective management and review of regulations.

In particular, the long-term sustainability of the inshore net fishery will be largely addressed through our election commitment to invest \$9 million to help restore the health and well-being of our fisheries to buyback commercial netting licences. Fisheries Queensland, within the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, is overseeing the implementation of the voluntary buyback while QRAA will administer the payments.

To be eligible for participation in the buyback, commercial fishers will need to surrender a commercial fishing boat licence and either an N1 or N2 netting symbol. Preference will also be given to commercial fishers who also offer a C1 crabbing symbol.

The buyback will consist of a number of rounds, with the first round to concentrate on the East Coast fishery and commence in November this year. Subsequent rounds for all Queensland waters will be undertaken in 2013. This voluntary buyback is expected to have a positive outcome for recreational fishers through reduced competition for our fisheries resources. Impacts on species of conservation interest such as turtles and dugongs will also be reduced due to less nets being used in our waters.

In addition, \$1 million will be used to conduct a state-wide recreational fishing survey in 2013-14. The survey will identify current trends and the value of recreational fishing throughout Queensland and build upon information collected from previous surveys. Some of these funds will also be allocated to enhance regional in-field monitoring of important recreational fishing areas from 2013-14.

**Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee  
Government Question on Notice**

**No. 6**

**Asked on 27 September 2012**

Question asked of the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (MR MCVEIGH)–

I refer to SDS 5 - 4 of the Service Delivery Statements. Can the Minister detail how his government is developing better disease diagnostic systems for the Queensland chicken egg industry?

**ANSWER:**

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) is developing better poultry disease diagnostic systems through research, development and delivery activities.

Agri-Science Queensland in collaboration with the Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation (QAAFI) is presently undertaking R&D to develop improved diagnostic applications to control coccidiosis and fowl cholera.

Poultry coccidiosis is caused by *Eimeria* spp. Vaccines and diagnostic tests for identifying the different species causing the disease have already been developed by DAFF. A current \$330,000 Poultry Cooperative Research Centre (CRC), DAFF and QAAFI project is developing DNA based markers to screen bird faeces as a non-invasive, rapid and relatively cheap method for detecting and monitoring *Eimeria* species and strain differences in order to improve the protection of the current vaccine.

Fowl cholera is a major disease of the free range egg industry. QAAFI/DAFF research scientists have developed capacities to identify the causative agent (*Pasteurella multocida*) by rapid molecular methods and then type the isolates. The typing helps producers identify possible sources of the disease (to improve biosecurity) and to guide vaccination programs. Current on-going research (co-funded by the Poultry CRC) is focussed on improvement of the typing methods to provide more rapid and more specific guidance on vaccination programs.

Biosecurity Queensland has recently established PCR based molecular assays to deliver more rapid diagnosis for six poultry pathogens, the best known of which are Avian Influenza Virus and Newcastle Disease Virus.

**Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee**  
**Government Question on Notice**

**No. 7**

**Asked on 27 September 2012**

Question asked of the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (MR MCVEIGH)–

I refer to 5 - 4 of the Service Delivery Statements. Can the Minister provide details on how his standalone Department is supporting Queensland cattle producers with improved forage oat varieties to help them finish cattle to slaughter weights sooner and enhance profitability.

**ANSWER:**

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) invests in a forage oat breeding project based at Leslie Research Centre in Toowoomba. The objective of the project is the release of improved forage oat varieties with high forage yield, durable resistance to leaf rust, late maturity and rapid re-growth.

Queensland cattle producers benefit from this project through access to superior new varieties which will increase the size of the feed base available to them, and improve the profitability of farming enterprises reliant on forage oats for fattening cattle during the winter months.

Forage oat varieties with better and more durable resistance to leaf rust will improve the reliability and security of dryland grazing for cattle producers using forage oats as the main feed base during early autumn and spring. Leaf rust is the most serious disease of forage oats, reducing forage yield, quality and palatability.

Forage oats is the preferred winter forage crop in sub-tropical Australia and an important feed source for the beef cattle industry in central and southern Queensland and northern New South Wales.

The area planted to forage oats each season is estimated at 500,000 hectares and the crop is planted by an estimated 4,350 growers each year. The value of the liveweight gain produced from this feed source by the beef cattle industry each year alone is estimated at \$250M. Forage oat is also an important feed source for the dairy cattle and sheep industries.

A long-term partnership between the breeding program and the seed company Heritage Seeds ensures the rapid delivery of new varieties to the marketplace, and maximises the benefits of the new varieties for forage oat growers and Queensland cattle producers.



**Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee  
Government Question on Notice**

**No. 8**

**Asked on 27 September 2012**

Question asked of the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (MR MCVEIGH)–

I refer to 5 - 20 of the Service Delivery Statements. Can the Minister advise what improvements and upgrades are being undertaken at Brian Pastures research station, and how this will assist the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry to better focus its efforts to improve long-term productivity for Queensland cattle producers.

**ANSWER:**

As part of a significant investment into the Beef industry, infrastructure and equipment upgrades are being finalised in 2012-13 at the recently purchased Spyglass Beef Research Facility at Charters Towers and Brian Pastures Research Facility at Gayndah.

Up to \$500,000 has been allocated for Brian Pastures for upgrades to existing animal trial pens in the cattle yards, fencing, heavy plant and equipment and refurbishment of buildings.

Brian Pastures is part of a network of new and established beef research facilities across the State. Together with Brian Pastures these are the Spyglass Beef Research Facility at Charters Towers, the Centre for Advanced Animal Sciences at Gatton, the EcoSciences Precinct at Boggo Road and the Health and Food Sciences Precinct at Coopers Plains.

The development of these facilities assists the key areas of beef research, development and extension that are:

- improving animal reproduction, growth and market suitability;
- improving the feedbase through high forage production and grazing land management;
- improving the use of remote technologies; and
- improving systems integration focusing on people, enterprises and business resilience through increased adoption of best management practices.

**Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee**  
**Government Question on Notice**

**No. 9**

**Asked on 27 September 2012**

Question asked of the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (MR MCVEIGH)–

I refer to SDS 5 - 4 of Service Delivery Statements. Can the Minister advise how he is helping promote and expand the operations of apiary industry in Queensland and through them agriculture and horticultural generally, specifically through renewed access to State-owned forests for beekeepers?

**ANSWER:**

The Queensland Government is working with the apiary industry on a range of measures to provide beekeepers with greater access to State-owned native forest areas on a secure basis.

Currently, there are some 4,600 apiary sites available for use under the *Forestry Act 1959* on State forest throughout Queensland to provide certainty of access to the 100 or so professional beekeepers that operate in Queensland. Sites are used for both honey production and to provide areas for bees to recoup after providing pollinating services for various food and other crops.

Until recently, new sites on State forest in the Western Hardwoods region had been authorised on a temporary basis only in line with the previous government's agenda of locking up State forests.

Under my direction, the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry has now converted these temporary sites to permanent apiary sites on what will now remain as multiple-use State forest.

In addition, the department will continue to co-operate with beekeepers to identify and establish additional State forest sites across Queensland where honey flora and access arrangements are suitable and where beekeeping is compatible with other local land uses.

As a matter of urgency, the government, through the Minister for National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing, is working to review apiary sites impacted by the South East Queensland Forests Agreement and Statewide Forests Process, and to establish arrangements to ensure beekeepers will retain the same level of access to apiary sites as they did prior to those forest transfer processes.

**Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee**  
**Government Question on Notice**

**No. 10**

**Asked on 27 September 2012**

Question asked of the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (MR MCVEIGH)–

I refer to SDS 5 - 3 of Service Delivery Statements. Can the Minister advise what steps are being taken to redress the identified shortage of skilled and semi-skilled farm workers in Queensland?

**ANSWER:**

The Queensland Government is committed to building the workforce planning capacity of Queensland's agricultural industries to address their priority skills needs.

The Government has invested \$500,000 to develop a horticulture workforce plan. This will result in an industry-focused, industry-led and industry-owned plan of attack to address the critical issues of attracting, retaining and developing appropriately skilled workers in Queensland's horticultural production areas.

The Government will also invest \$3 million over the next three years to redress skill shortages by improving training outcomes in conjunction with industry, universities, registered training organisations and schools.

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF), as the current Queensland Agriculture Industry Skills Body, recently undertook a review of current and future agricultural skill needs, as well as a review of the current apprenticeship/traineeship system. Findings from these reviews identified four activities that DAFF will also undertake to improve skilling shortages. These include:

- promote the revised list of traineeships/apprenticeships to employers in agriculture, and work with the Department of Education, Training and Employment (DETE) to promote the uptake of agricultural apprenticeships and traineeships in schools;
- collaborate with registered training organisations to develop 'fit-for-purpose' skill-sets that will help overcome identified skill shortages of farm workers in Queensland;
- influence DETE to increase funding for agriculture apprenticeships and traineeships; and
- implement strategies to improve employment pathways between school, vocational education and training and tertiary sectors within agriculture training.

**Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee**  
**Non-Government Question on Notice**

**No. 1**

**Asked on 27 September 2012**

MS TRAD asked the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (MR MCVEIGH)–

I refer to page 12 of the SDS will the Minister advise (a) on what basis was the service standard of proportion of stakeholders who have a high level of satisfaction with the department's consultative and engagement process set (b) how was it calculated and any changes to its methodology in 2012-13 (c) why is there an estimated 8% decline in high level of satisfaction, and (d) advise what are the 24 proposed consultative and engagement forums to be held with industry and community stakeholders in 2012-13?

**ANSWER:**

- (a) This service standard was developed under the former Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation (DEEDI). Several former-DEEDI service areas contributed to this service area, including the former Science, Agriculture, Food and Regional Services (SAFRS).

The intent of this service standard was to target the quality of consultation and engagement processes by assessing the level of satisfaction that participating stakeholders have with these processes.

The SAFRS target for this service standard in 2011-12 was set as a percentage range of 70-80%. This service standard and target was part of the suite of measures transitioned to the Agriculture and Forestry service area within the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. The Agriculture and Forestry service area has set a single figure target of 75% for this service standard in 2012-13.

For all service standards where the Target/Estimate previously reflected a range of percentages, under DAFF there is now a single specified value.

- (b) Data for this service standard is sourced from a range of survey processes.

Data is converted to a standard set of values (with 1 being 'very poor' to 5 being 'excellent'). The service standard result or 'actual' is calculated as the proportion of results rating 3 or more from the total number of received responses.

There has been no change in the calculation methodology for this service standard in 2012-13.

- (c) For 2012-13 the Target/Estimate for this service standard is 75%. This target is in the same range as the Target/Estimate for 2011-12.
- (d) The Agriculture and Forestry service area has set a Target/Estimate of 24 consultative and engagement forums with industry and community stakeholders for 2012-13. These forums include:

- Ministerial forums that I require in response to emerging events and significant Government commitments;
- Beef Industry Roundtables that I host with Leading Beef Industry participants, one of which will be co-hosted by the Federal Government with Industry and Government stakeholders;
- Horticulture Management Advisory Committee forums to ensure the ongoing growth and prosperity of the Queensland horticulture industry; and
- Forums throughout north and central regions in relation to agricultural strategies, supply chains, best practice and extension to ensure ongoing growth and prosperity of Queensland's Agricultural Industry.
- As Minister, I meet and consult widely with primary producers and industry groups who overwhelmingly support the LNP Government's decision to create a true, standalone Department focussed on frontline services – services that actually deliver the services that farmers need.

This compares with the former Government that buried the former DPI and its staff in a homogenised super department – which lacked any clear goals and leadership, happy to waste scarce resources on PR and spin and programs with no real outcomes that actually helped farmers.

DAFF, under the LNP, is being restructured to focus strongly on production – to help Queensland farmers' double production by 2040.

**Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee  
Non-Government Question on Notice**

**No. 2**

**Asked on 27 September 2012**

MS TRAD asked the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (MR MCVEIGH)–

I refer to page 84 of Budget Paper 2 and page 9 of the SDS. Will the Minister advise (a) how many positions (broken down by permanent, temporary, casual and contract) have been abolished since 26 March 2012 in the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and statutory bodies under the Minister's authority, listed by job title, salary level and location and/or departmental region, (b) what number of FTEs have been allocated to the four service areas of the department in 2011-12 estimated actual and by region compared with the 2012-13 estimated again by service area and region.

**ANSWER:**

(a) The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry SDS staffing table estimates a reduction of 409 Full-time Equivalent (FTE) staff during 2012-13. The specific positions to be reduced across the department in 2012-13 have yet to be finalised as the department works with staff and stakeholders to transition services.

There have been a total of 37 positions abolished in the department between 26 March 2012 and 30 June 2012. These are summarised below and detailed in the attached Appendix in list form:

Abolished positions between 26 March and 30 June 2012				
Business Area	Position status			Grand Total
	Permanent	Temporary	Casual	
Agri-Science Queensland	2		25	27
Biosecurity Queensland			1	1
Corporate		9		9
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>37</b>

Note:

- Figures do not include positions where staff have separated but positions are yet to be abolished.
- Figures do not include positions that have been identified as surplus, but employees have not yet left the department.
- As DAFF staff are aligned across a number of payroll systems, further positions may be identified and abolished as part of the payroll systems migration process.

In the SDS Staffing Table (page 9), there is a reduction of 273 Full-time equivalents (FTEs) between the 2011-12 Estimated Actual budget and the 2011-12 Adjusted Budget. This reduction includes the positions abolished above, as well as Voluntary Separation Program exits, redundancies, contract terminations, retirements and resignations that occurred prior to 26 March 2012.

There have been no positions abolished within the statutory bodies under the Minister's authority since 26 March 2012:

- Safe Food Production Queensland (SFPQ) – Nil positions have been abolished and SFPQ is operating with three vacancies.

- Queensland Rural Adjustment Authority (QRAA) – Nil positions have been abolished. QRAA will continue to review employment arrangements to ensure appropriate staffing resources are available to meet flexible workloads associated with programs being administered.
- Australian Agricultural College Corporation (AACC) – Nil positions have been abolished.

(b) The 2011-12 estimated actual number of FTEs allocated to the four service areas of the department (as at 29 June 2012) is 2,357 FTEs, of which 1,855 (almost 80% of the total FTEs) are located in the regions.

The 2012-13 estimate of FTEs allocated to the four service areas of the department is 1,948 FTEs, which includes a proportional estimate of 1,542 FTEs located in the regions.

<b>2011-12 Estimated actual FTEs by service area and region</b>						
<b>Sum of Full Time Equivalent (FTE)</b>	<b>Number of FTEs</b>					<b>Grand Total</b>
	<b>Brisbane CBD</b>	<b>South East</b>	<b>South</b>	<b>Central</b>	<b>North</b>	
Agriculture And Food	131	69	125	62	63	450
Agri-Science Queensland	76	331	244	54	138	843
Biosecurity Queensland	175	335	101	29	140	780
Fisheries Queensland	118	58	15	23	70	284
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>793</b>	<b>485</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>2357</b>

<b>2012-13 Estimated FTEs by service area and region</b>						
<b>Sum of Full Time Equivalent (FTE)</b>	<b>Number of FTEs</b>					<b>Grand Total</b>
	<b>Brisbane CBD</b>	<b>South East</b>	<b>South</b>	<b>Central</b>	<b>North</b>	
Agriculture And Food	103	55	99	49	50	356
Agri-Science Queensland	67	288	212	47	120	734
Biosecurity Queensland	142	272	82	24	112	632
Fisheries Queensland	94	46	12	18	56	226
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>406</b>	<b>661</b>	<b>405</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>1948</b>

**Note:**

- Figures above include proportionate corporate allocation across the service areas but do not include corporate staff aligned to DAFF who provide services to other departments as part of the Corporate Partnership.
- The 2012-13 estimated regional FTEs are based on the current proportion of staff in the regions.

## Appendix

Position Description	Position Status	Pay Scale Group	Location
Laboratory Technician	Permanent	TO3	Coopers Plains
Project Officer	Permanent	AO3	Gympie
Scientific Assistant	Casual	OO2	Toowoomba
Senior Horticulturalist	Casual	PO4	Bowen R.S.
Technical Officer	Casual	TO2	St Lucia
Farm Hand	Casual	OO2	Biloela
Technical Officer	Casual	TO2	Eagle Farm
Farmhand	Casual	OO2	Biloela
Farmhand	Casual	OO2	Biloela R.S.
Farm Hand	Casual	OO2	Biloela R.S.
Farm Hand	Casual	OO2	Biloela R.S.
Farm Hand	Casual	OO2	Biloela R.S.
Farm Hand	Casual	OO2	Biloela R.S.
Senior Plant Breeder	Casual	PO4	Hermitage R.S
Scientific Assistant	Casual	OO2	Hermitage R.S
Scientific Assistant	Casual	OO2	Hermitage R.S
Scientific Assistant	Casual	OO2	Biloela R.S.
Scientific Assistant	Casual	OO2	Hermitage R.S
Scientific Assistant	Casual	OO2	Warwick
Technical Officer	Casual	TO2	Dutton Park
Scientific Assistant	Casual	OO2	Toowoomba
Air Quality Assessor	Casual	OO2	Toowoomba
Air Quality Assessor	Casual	OO2	Toowoomba
Scientific Assistant	Casual	OO4	Toowoomba
Entomologist	Casual	PO6	Toowoomba
Research Scientist	Casual	PO2	Toowoomba
Pasture Agronomist	Casual	PO4	Toowoomba
Customer Service Officer	Casual	AO3	Brisbane
Senior Project Communications Officer	Temporary	AO6	Brisbane
Principal Information Officer - Strategy	Temporary	AO7	Brisbane
Project Support Officer	Temporary	AO3	Brisbane
Information Specialist (Digital)	Temporary	AO5	Brisbane
Principal Policy Officer	Temporary	AO7	Brisbane
Project Officer (Ri&Ip)	Temporary	AO6	Brisbane
Project Manager	Temporary	AO8	Brisbane
Web Developer	Temporary	AO7	Brisbane
Senior Web Projects Officer Web Services	Temporary	AO7	Brisbane



**Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee  
Non-Government Question on Notice**

**No. 3**

**Asked on 27 September 2012**

MS TRAD asked the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (MR MCVEIGH)–

I refer to page 84 of Budget Paper 2 and page 9 of the SDS and ask the Minister to provide information in list format of every work unit, branch and/or division that has been abolished within his department, and statutory bodies under his authority, and the number of staff positions contained within each abolished work area, as part of the process of developing the 2012-13 State Budget?

**ANSWER:**

Because of the totally unsustainable debt left by the previous Bligh-Fraser Labor government of \$65 billion, the LNP Newman Government has been forced to find savings across government.

In the new, standalone Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry all program areas and spending priorities have been reviewed.

With consultation and input from key stakeholder groups we have made common sense changes that retain and bolster essential programs for Queensland primary industry producers to help them increase production.

Other, non-essential and lower-priority programs have been reduced or ceased and unrealistic and un-funded undertakings from the previous government, notably the Townsville vet lab moving to JCU, have been dropped with animal disease testing to be centralised at the Coopers Plain lab.

Services such as 'Wormbuster' that are available commercially have ceased.

In a leaner and far more focussed Department, as of 23 September 2012, no work units, branches or divisions have been abolished in DAFF or statutory bodies.

**Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee  
Non-Government Question on Notice**

**No. 4**

**Asked on 27 September 2012**

MS TRAD asked the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (MR MCVEIGH)–

I refer to page 6 of the SDS and expenses for the Agri-Science Queensland service. What is the latest value estimate for the gross value of production for the sugar, horticulture, beef, grains, life-style horticulture and seafood industries respectively? What is the estimated Queensland Government expense for research and development for each of these industries in 2012-13 reported separately?

**ANSWER:**

The latest estimates of the 2011-12 gross value of production of key agricultural industries are:

- Sugar - \$1.15 billion
- Horticulture - \$2.36 billion
- Beef - \$3.24 billion
- Grains - \$0.76 billion
- Cotton - \$0.93 billion
- Lifestyle horticulture \$1.14 billion
- Seafood (comprising fisheries and aquaculture) - \$0.35 billion.

The 2012-13 budget for agricultural RD&E has not yet been finalised. However, it is expected to total approximately \$100 million.

**Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee**  
**Non-Government Question on Notice**

**No. 5**

**Asked on 27 September 2012**

MS TRAD asked the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (MR MCVEIGH)–

I refer to page 6 of the SDS and the estimated expenditure for Biosecurity Queensland. How much of this sum will be allocated separately to plant and animal industry preparedness activities, plant and animal response activities and technical support for these two industry groupings?

**ANSWER:**

Biosecurity Queensland is at the front line in protecting Queensland's primary industries from significant pests and diseases.

For animal activities: approximately \$1.219 million will be put towards preparedness including preparing for emergency responses such as Hendra virus; \$1.176 million towards response activities currently primarily around responding to tick incursions; \$1.354 million in technical support by our front line veterinarians; \$8.371 million for our front line inspectors; and \$10.340 million for our laboratory staff, to ensure key services are delivered to producers.

For plant activities: In 2012-13, \$1.433 million has been allocated to preparedness activities such as response planning, risk analysis and risk assessment, and stakeholder education and awareness; \$1.885 million has been allocated to plant pest and disease response activities including responses to incursions of Asian honey bee, myrtle rust, cocoa pod borer and exotic fruit fly in the Torres Strait; \$0.980 million has been allocated to technical support activities such as plant pest and disease diagnostics and provision of specialist scientific advice; and \$4.646 million has been allocated to front line operational activities such as inspections, investigations and surveillance.

**Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee**  
**Non-Government Question on Notice**

**No. 6**

**Asked on 27 September 2012**

MS TRAD asked the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (MR MCVEIGH)–

I refer to page 12 of the SDS. What performance indicators have been developed to ensure that the Government is on track to deliver on its commitment to double agriculture production by 2040 and how the government's investment in RD&E has directly contributed to this growth?

**ANSWER:**

Under the LNP Government, agriculture is one of the four pillars of the Queensland economy.

We have set an ambitious target to double agriculture production by 2040 to meet growing global demand for food, fibre and other products, and return agriculture as one of the four pillars of the Queensland economy.

Our progress in achieving this target will be monitored through the "Prospects for Queensland Primary Industries" report for Queensland. This report examines gross value of production forecasts for each of Queensland's major commodities, as well as forecasts for first-round processing activities.

The main edition of 'Prospects' contains initial forecasts for the financial year and is due to be released in October to allow the inclusion of figures from Winter crops. Subsequent editions of the 'Prospects update' will continue to be 6 monthly.

To support the growth of agriculture in Queensland we are investing an additional \$7.6 million in research, development and extension initiatives to build on our strengths and capitalise on emerging opportunities.

We are investing \$3 million in rebuilding research and development capacity of the new stand-alone Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

We recently signed the Memorandum of Understanding with BSES Limited to provide \$4.6 million in funding for targeted sugar industry research to increase yield, productivity, efficiency, sustainability and diversification opportunities.

In addition, we are continuing our investments in the Spyglass Research Centre near Charters Towers, which is set to become Australia's premier beef research facility.

A further \$4.8 million will be invested in emerging tropical pulses research through the Queensland University of Technology to position Queensland as a leading exporter to Asia and provide developing countries with a source of cost-effective protein.

These major investments in research, development and extension will support the long term growth of efficient, innovative and profitable agriculture in Queensland which will in turn contribute to our target to double production by 2040.

**Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee  
Non-Government Question on Notice**

**No. 7**

**Asked on 27 September 2012**

MS TRAD asked the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (MR MCVEIGH)–

I refer to table 5.4 on page 88 of Budget Paper 2, which shows a decrease in current grants funding by the Queensland Government in 2012-13. Will the Minister list all grant funding allocations that have been cut by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and statutory bodies under the Minister's authority for non-government and community organisations and projects (including businesses and local government) in the 2012-13 State Budget, listed in the same format as used by the Health Minister in response to Question on Notice 445?

**ANSWER:**

The previous Bligh-Fraser Labor government left Queenslanders with an unsustainable debt of \$65 billion. The LNP Newman Government has been forced to find savings across government to get Queensland back on track.

As part of the financial and structural changes the government is making to the public sector, the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry has realised cost savings in grant funding allocations which are no longer consistent with the government's priorities. The Department will continue to work with community and industry groups to find alternative ways in which support can be provided.

The list of grant funding allocations which have been subject to cost saving measures are as follows:

Organisation	Project	2012-2013 (\$ excl GST)	End Date
Contestable grant program, which was cancelled before applications were assessed.	Food Innovation and Productivity Incentive grant program.	\$1.250 million	30 June 2014
Primary producers	Drought Relief Assistance Scheme	\$1 million	Ongoing
AgForce	AgForward Coal Seam Gas Landholder Support Initiative	\$0.636 million	Grant ceasing as at 30 June 2012 Program completion 30 June 2013
Fisheries Research and Development Corporation	Queensland government contribution to the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation	\$0.375 million	Grant ceasing as at 30 June 2012
Fish Stocking Groups	Recreational Fishing Enhancement Program for freshwater fingerlings	\$0.133 million	Grant ceasing as at 30 June 2012
Queensland Seafood Industry Association	Operating expenses for engagement and consultation with the commercial fishing sector.	\$0.125 million	Grant ceasing as at 30 June 2012
Sunfish Queensland	Operating expenses for engagement and consultation with the recreational fishing	\$0.213 million	Grant ceasing as at

	sector and Kids Fishing Clinics		30 June 2012
Australian National Sportfishing Association	Contribution towards \$400,000 fish tagging program.	\$0.055 million	Grant ceasing as at 30 June 2012

**Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee**  
**Non-Government Question on Notice**

**No. 8**

**Asked on 27 September 2012**

MR KNUTH asked the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (MR MCVEIGH)–

Can the Minister provide a detailed report on the cost associated with relocating the Townsville Biosecurity Sciences Lab to Coopers Plains comparative to the cost of retaining and upgrading the existing Oonoonba Facility?

**ANSWER:**

As the member would be aware, the Oonoonba site was sold by the former Bligh-Fraser Labor Government.

The former Labor government did give an undertaking to re-locate the vet lab at Oonoonba to a site at James Cook University. However there was no budget allocation made. There was no money, nor was there a plan to retain and upgrade the existing Oonoonba facility.

The site occupied by the Oonoonba Veterinary Faculty is owned by the Urban Land Development Authority and was purchased for residential development.

Local government approval for an upgraded laboratory facility in a developing residential area would be unlikely to get approval and has not therefore been estimated.

Estimates for relocating the functions of the Tropical and Aquatic Animal Health Laboratory at Oonoonba to Coopers Plains, including staff and equipment is \$200,000.

There is space available for laboratory upgrades at Coopers Plains. Formal estimates are yet to be made however it is expected to be less than \$2 million.

**Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee  
Non-Government Question on Notice**

**No. 9**

**Asked on 27 September 2012**

MR KNUTH asked the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (MR MCVEIGH)—

Can the Minister advise on increases to the Far North Queensland Biosecurity operational budget to account for the considerable costs associated with freighting live samples to the Coopers Plains facility or does the State Government intend to pass these cost increases on to primary producers in Far North Queensland?

**ANSWER:**

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry will provide ongoing support to producers and livestock industries in north Queensland. This will include providing, at no cost, front line veterinary support for significant disease incidents including in-field collection of samples, dispatch and laboratory testing.

For other diagnostic testing, the government provides a comprehensive veterinary disease diagnostic service to the livestock industries of Queensland at no charge to the submitter. The cost of transport of these specimens to the laboratory for testing is the responsibility of the submitter as part of the shared contribution for enhancing and maintaining the health of Queensland's livestock industries.



**Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee**  
**Non-Government Question on Notice**

**No. 10**

**Asked on 27 September 2012**

MR KNUTH asked the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (MR MCVEIGH)–

The Tropical Weeds Research Centre in Charters Towers has been closed and the Minister has publicly stated that positions were made redundant 'due to the completion of projects'.

Can the Minister advise what projects were completed at the Tropical Weeds Research Centre and provide the publications or outcomes resulting from vital research being conducted by sacked research staff?

**ANSWER:**

The Tropical Weeds Research Centre in Charters Towers has not been closed.

To achieve Government budget savings and deliver more frontline services, investment in invasive pest research has been reduced. A number of invasive pest scientists and support staff are being retained at the Centre to enable research to continue.

In total, five staff from the Centre have been offered voluntary redundancies and are likely to be leaving over the coming months. Two of the officers provide research support, two are weed scientists and one is a pest animal scientist.

Two long term research studies on the declared weeds, bellyache bush and yellow oleander were recently completed.

The bellyache bush work has been published in nine science articles and a National Bellyache Bush Management Manual. Two remaining aspects are being finalised for publication. This research has proved highly beneficial for those managing this recently declared Weed of National Significance.

Key findings of the yellow oleander research will be incorporated into information fact sheets prior to the departure of staff.

One long term weed study is ongoing, with a proportion of the work now complete. A revised sampling strategy will enable completion of the remaining work using reduced resources. The findings will be incorporated into weed management guides and fact sheets as they become available.

The pest animal scientist has been investigating feral pig impacts in northern Queensland and ways to improve their management. This work is largely completed with findings published in several scientific papers and a Dry Tropics Feral Pig Best Practice Management Manual that was compiled in 2011.

Work contributing to an Australian Government project on the effectiveness of pest animal control in protecting vegetation habitats is underway. This work will continue until late January 2013 to meet project commitments.

All future pest animal research will be co-ordinated from the Robert Wicks Pest Animal Research Centre in Toowoomba. Through this Centre, the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry is a participant of the Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre and will continue to access the capacity and expertise of this national network.