

**QUESTION ON NOTICE**  
**No. 763**  
**Asked on 18 June 2004**

**MR HOBBS** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Fisheries (Mr Palaszczuk)—

**QUESTION:**

With reference to the Rural Community Partnership Officers which were to be based in Bamaga, Mt Isa, Longreach/Barcaldine and Roma, complementing the established position in Rockhampton—

When will these appointments be finalised and when is it anticipated that staff will commence their important role of working with the respective communities?

**ANSWER:**

I thank the Honourable Member for the question. Following the State election in February 2004 and the establishment of the Department of Communities, responsibility for Rural Community Partnership Officers comes under the portfolio of my colleague the Honourable Warren Pitt MP, Minister for Communities, Disability Services and Seniors and accordingly your question should be directed to Mr Pitt.

The Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries has Rural Partnership Development Officers located in Toowoomba, Charleville, Gympie, Biloela, Mackay and Townsville. Their role is to assist groups of primary producers to improve their profitability by taking advantage of emerging economic opportunities. These officers facilitate the development of strategic, business and marketing plans by groups of primary producers, and then support group members through the implementation of the plans. Their focus is on developing profitable primary industries.