

QUESTION ON NOTICE
No. 129
Asked on Tuesday, 20 February 2007

MR WELLINGTON asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Fisheries (MR MULHERIN)-

QUESTION:

With reference to the banana disease “Bunchy Top”—

- (1) Over the past 12 month and six month periods, how many inspections have been undertaken on the Sunshine Coast for the banana disease “Bunchy Top”?
- (2) How many staff have been engaged in these inspections?

ANSWER:

- (1) Over the past 12 months, 1 February 2006 to 21 February 2007 in excess of 220 non-commercial (residential and peri-urban) properties and 15 commercial banana properties have been surveyed for ‘Banana Bunchy Top Virus’ (BBTV) infected plants on the Sunshine Coast region. Of these properties, 52 non-commercial properties and 7 commercial properties have been inspected in the last six months.

The bulk of these inspections have been in the Nambour, Mooloolah, Buderim, Bli Bli and Coastal Hinterland areas.

- (2) Three staff have been engaged in these activities. These Biosecurity staff integrate BBTV surveillance activities into their normal surveillance project work for other target pests and diseases affecting citrus, mango, banana and RIFA. They also respond within 24 hours to all reports of suspected BBTV infections in banana plants.