

QUESTION ON NOTICE
No. 436
Asked on Thursday, 13 March 2008

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

QUESTION:

With reference to Equine Influenza—

- (1) How many surveillance tests were done prior to downgrading zones?
- (2) Is there any surveillance testing planned for each zone prior to the next downgrading?
- (3) What are the current numbers of IPs, SPs and DCPs?
- (4) What was the date of the last positive PCR test in Queensland?

ANSWER:

- (1) Thirteen thousand two hundred and thirty seven (13 237) tests had been done prior to the South east corner of Queensland being reclassified as 'green' on 14 March 2008. I wish to take the opportunity to point out to the Honourable Member that this is NOT a downgrading of zones, but a very significant upgrading of status that has the immediate benefit of allowing movements of horses with very few restrictions throughout the whole of Queensland and interstate.
- (2) Equine Influenza (EI) is a notifiable disease in Queensland. Horses with clinical signs consistent with EI will continue to be sampled and tested as a priority. Clinical surveillance of horses across Queensland will continue to be undertaken by veterinarians during their regular work as part of the EI sentinel practice surveillance program.
- (3) There are no IPs, SPs or DCPs in Queensland.
- (4) The last positive PCR test result in Queensland was on 12 January 2008 in a horse that first showed clinical signs of equine influenza on Christmas Day, 25 December 2007.