

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 819

Asked on 25 May 2011

MR CRIPPS asked the Minister for Agriculture, Food and Regional Economies (MR MULHERIN)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise how many additional extension officers servicing agriculture have been recruited and employed in the last financial year (reported by region and industry)?

ANSWER:

Queensland's agriculture industries receive critical and valuable support through this government, and will continue to benefit from more than \$310 million allocated to support agriculture, food and regional economies in this year's State Budget. In 2011-12, more than \$110 million will be invested in agribusiness research and development to continue to drive productivity and innovation within the sector.

Four extension officers have been appointed over the past financial year. Two have been appointed in North region, one servicing livestock industries while the other is servicing the fishing industry. Two have been appointed in South region, one servicing the vegetable industry and one servicing cropping industries.

The appointment of a further five extension officers is currently being processed and is expected to be completed in the current financial year. Four of these officers will be servicing livestock industries, two in North region and two in Central region, while the fifth will be servicing cropping industries and based in South region.

These will be in addition to the existing 272 extension officers employed to specifically service our agriculture industries, along with the further administrative and research staff employed within DEEDI across Queensland. Further, another \$1.5 million has been committed to provide for industry recovery officers to assist the primary production and tourism sectors following the recent flood and cyclone events.