

## QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 913

Asked on 14 June 2011

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

### QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise the number of field staff engaged in Queensland in the fire ant field program since commencement (reported by year)?

### ANSWER:

These figures represent all budgeted staff, at the beginning of each financial year, involved in the detection and eradication of fire ants since the commencement of the program in 2000-01.

The National Red Imported Fire Ant Eradication Program is funded through a national cost sharing agreement. The projected expenditure on the National Red Imported Fire Ant Eradication Program to 30 June 2011 is \$236 million.

2000–01	437
2001–02	406
2002–03	626
2003–04	442
2004–05	435
2005–06	372
2006–07	154
2007–08	150
2008–09	112
2009–10	153
2010–11	191

At the end of 2001 there was 61 000 hectares that was deemed to be infested, in 2010-11 there has been a total of 560 hectares of infestation detected. This is a massive reduction in the amount of infested area and therefore the number of staff working on the eradication program is proportional to the area field staff are required to cover. The program has also become more streamlined over time.