MISS V BARTON ASKED MINISTER FOR POLICE, FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES AND MINISTER FOR CORRECTIVE SERVICES (HON M RYAN)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise how much was spent on mail services for posting roadside drug samples to laboratories in 2014-15 and 2015-16 (reported separately) and what was the cost per unit sent (reported separately)?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Police Service (QPS) commenced roadside drug testing state-wide in 2015. I am advised that the officers from the QPS transferred 3,178 samples in 2014-15 and a further 10,804 samples in 2015-16.

Delivery of samples to the Government Analyst at Coopers Plains is either in person or by post. Generally, samples from the Brisbane metropolitan area would be lodged in person, whilst elsewhere in the State they would be sent by post. The QPS does not keep central records on the number of samples posted, versus those delivered personally. Postage costs are managed at a station or unit level, not regionally and paid for by corporate card.

There is no standardised cost for the postage of a saliva sample to the Government Analyst at Coopers Plains. The cost per unit posted varies across the state with classification of the parcel by the Australia Post franchisee and the geographic location being the common issues resulting in the variances.

Individually, the saliva evidence kits cost $8.28 (inc GST); and when police require it to be transferred by Australia Post, a further outer package is required costing $17.05 (inc GST).

The QPS advises that to determine actual postage costs (which varies on locality) for samples delivered by post state-wide would require an administrative officer or police officer, at every police station from which samples were posted, to manually audit their monthly reconciliations of corporate cards and petty cash, and search specifically for postage costs relating to those samples. This would be a laborious activity and adversely impact on administrative and operational capacity.