

Question on Notice

No. 1004

Asked on Thursday, 23 August 2018

MR D CRISAFULLI ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF, MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND MINISTER FOR THE ARTS (HON L ENOCH)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the National Parks service area description on page 12 of the Department of Environment and Science's Service Delivery Statement—

Will the Minister advise (a) how many rangers are employed in Queensland (in table format, per financial year since 2015, including the ratio of rangers to hectares of national parks) and (b) how many of these rangers are of Indigenous heritage?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for the question.

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) and Queensland Indigenous Land and Sea ranger numbers per financial year since 2015 are detailed in the table below.

Year	No. of rangers *	% Aboriginal rangers or Torres Strait Islander rangers
2014-15	824	13.71%
2015-16	827	14.15%
2016-17	871	15.38%
2017-18	912	18.20%

* Number of rangers is based on headcount.

The 2017/18 ratio of rangers to hectares of National Park is approximately 11,519 hectares per QPWS ranger.

Approximately 18 per cent of QPWS and Land and Sea rangers in Queensland nominate as Aboriginal Peoples or Torres Strait Islander Peoples. This assists the department to foster closer working relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and to promote public awareness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture.

It is voluntary for QPWS rangers to nominate as Aboriginal Peoples or Torres Strait Islander Peoples. Therefore, this figure does not necessarily reflect the total number of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander rangers within QPWS.

Under the Conservation and Sustainability Services service area of the Department of Environment and Science, the Queensland Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger Program supports the employment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander rangers in local communities across Queensland.