

**Question on Notice**

**No. 1069**

**Asked on 4 September 2018**

**MR J MADDEN ASKED MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND FISHERIES (HON M FURNER)—**

**QUESTION:**

Will the Minister advise of the latest results on the white spot disease response testing?

**ANSWER:**

I thank the Member for the question.

I can advise that surveillance sampling in Moreton Bay was conducted on 13, 14 and 16 August 2018 as part of the agreed national proof of freedom program for white spot disease. Approximately 260 samples of prawns and crabs were collected from 54 sites and have been submitted to the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries' Biosecurity Services Laboratory at Coopers Plains for testing. Sampling in the Brisbane and Logan Rivers is scheduled to be completed by late September 2018.

In addition to the formal surveillance program, opportunistic surveillance sampling in the Logan River was undertaken on 2 August 2018. All samples tested negative for white spot syndrome virus (WSSV), the causative agent for white spot disease.

The ongoing east coast surveillance sampling from Caloundra to Cairns as part of the national program is expected to commence in April 2019.

The national Aquatic Consultative Committee on Emergency Animal Diseases will continue to monitor and evaluate the surveillance findings from around Australia as part of the proof of freedom stage of the white spot disease response.