

**Question on Notice**

**No. 1084**

**Asked on 5 September 2018**

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

**QUESTION:**

Will the Minister advise what action the government is taking in relation to white spot disease in Moreton Bay?

**ANSWER:**

I thank the Member for the question.

In support of Queensland demonstrating national proof of freedom from white spot disease, surveillance sampling in Moreton Bay was conducted on 13, 14 and 16 August 2018. 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 for testing.

The Palaszczuk Government continues to work with commercial fishers, bait prawns and marine worm harvesters affected by the declaration of the movement control area that covers Moreton Bay. Further work will commence shortly on evaluating the presence and distribution of white spot syndrome virus in commercially harvested marine worms from Moreton Bay used as bait. This information may assist in developing future treatment strategies for these worms and, if successful, allow restricted trade to resume to interstate bait outlets.

The Palaszczuk Government is also working with those prawn farms that intend to recommence production on the Logan River this coming season to ensure they meet their general biosecurity obligations. This includes providing specialist biosecurity advice, undertaking additional surveillance sampling in the Logan River and sampling of prawns on-farm throughout the production cycle.