

Question on Notice

No. 1171

Asked on 6 September 2018

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

QUESTION:

With reference to Department of Agriculture and Fisheries staff—

Will the Minister advise (a) for the period 1 January 2016 to the present day (i) the overall number of aquaculture inspections undertaken by staff, (ii) the number of ‘confirmed conflicts of interest’ within staff ranks identified by the department, (iii) the number of ‘potential conflicts of interest’ within staff ranks identified by the department and (iv) the number of inspections of Queensland aquaculture businesses undertaken by staff member Mr Steven Brooks and (b) the date upon which the department first became aware that Mr Brooks was operating a private commercial freshwater aquaculture facility (Eureka Aquarium Supplies, ABN 52 624 557 762) while being employed by the department?

ANSWER:

- (a)
 - (i) For the period 1 January 2016 to 9 September 2018 the Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol completed 192 inspections of aquaculture facilities.
 - (ii) As at 17 September 2018, there were 11 confirmed conflict of interest cases registered by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.
 - (iii) As at 17 September 2018, there were 64 potential conflicts of interest registered by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.
 - (iv) Mr Brooks has not undertaken any inspections of aquaculture facilities within the period in question with the exception of his involvement with the white spot disease response in December 2016 and January 2017 on the Logan River.
- b) Mr Brooks has a current registered declaration of interest for his family trust which operates an aquaculture business producing native aquarium fish for the domestic and export market, consistent with the *Declaration of Interests - Public Service Employees (Other than chief executives) (Directive 03/10)*. A management plan is in place to manage any conflict of interest which restricts Mr Brooks’ involvement with aquaculture inspections or assessment of applications. To manage any potential conflicts of interests, Mr Brooks’ involvement is restricted in particular matters and removed from matters relating to inspections and prosecutions concerning aquaculture. Mr Brooks advised the department of his interests when this business was first established in 1998.