

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 989

asked on Thursday, 23 August 2018

MR T NICHOLLS ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES, MINES AND ENERGY (HON DR A LYNHAM)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise (a) the overall staffing allocation in the Coal Seam Gas (CSG) Compliance Unit and (b) how many of the following were actioned for both 2016-17 and 2017-18 (reported separately) - (i) complaints received, (ii) complaints actioned and (iii) disciplinary action taken against CSG operators (reported separately by company)?

ANSWER:

- (a) The overall staffing allocation in the Coal Seam Gas Compliance Unit is 26.4 full-time employees.
- (b) Complaints statistics from 2013-2018 are listed in the table below.

Year	(i) Complaints Received	(ii) Actioned	(iii) Disciplinary action taken
2013 Jan-Dec*	55	55	0
2014 Jan-Jun*	43	43	0
2014-15	78	78	0
2015-16	52	52	0
2016-17	71	71	0
2017-18	26	26	0

* Note that reporting for 2013 and 2014 was undertaken on a calendar year basis.

While no formal disciplinary action was taken against coal seam gas companies, the Coal Seam Gas Compliance Unit utilised a range of mechanisms, such as 'reminder of obligation' letters or informal warnings where minor and low-risk compliance issues were identified.

Many of the compliance issues identified were matters of compliance with environmental conditions which are referred to the Department of Environment and Science for appropriate action.