

Question on Notice

No. 121

Asked on 14 February 2019

MR J LISTER ASKED DEPUTY PREMIER, TREASURER AND MINISTER FOR ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PARTNERSHIPS (HON J TRAD)—

QUESTION:

Will the Treasurer advise how many businesses have paid payroll tax for each year from 2014-15 to 2017-18 (reported separately in table format, by number of businesses in each region, total annual value and by financial year)?

ANSWER:

Queensland has a very competitive payroll tax regime. Queensland's overall rate of payroll tax, 4.75 per cent, is one of the lowest in the country and the exemption threshold, \$1.1 million, is one of the highest among mainland states.

The value of payroll tax collections has increased by an average of just 1.1 per cent per year between 2014-15 and 2017-18, slower than the rate of total tax revenue growth over the same period.

The 24,140 Queensland businesses paying payroll tax in 2017-18 represented just 5.4 per cent of the 448,725 businesses operating in Queensland at the end of the 2017-18 financial year (total available from Australian Bureau of Statistics, Count of Australian Businesses, cat. no. 8165.0).

The figures in Table 1 below are based on payroll tax annual return data for financial years 2014-15 to 2017-18 as at 21 February 2019. Payroll tax has been categorised into Regional Action Plan (RAP) regions based on the address of the employer.

I note that the previous LNP Government reneged on its commitment to raise the payroll tax threshold, deferring it for two years in the 2013-14 Budget.

Table 1: Queensland payroll tax and number of businesses by RAP region¹

	2014-15		2015-16		2016-17		2017-18	
RAP region ²	Number of businesses	Value (\$ million)	Number of businesses	Value (\$ million)	Number of businesses	Value (\$ million)	Number of businesses	Value (\$ million)
Brisbane	7,513	1,834	7,585	1,786	7,717	1,749	7,704	1,844
Darling Downs	706	91	683	87	686	90	712	98
Far North	575	68	577	71	610	72	600	75
Fitzroy	471	94	445	85	437	79	446	83
Gold Coast	1,615	166	1,743	181	1,790	197	1,840	215
Ipswich	608	109	629	110	624	113	637	121
Logan	978	98	977	100	1,017	105	1,032	114
Mackay	496	77	483	76	480	76	531	88
Outback	139	22	139	19	136	21	145	24
Sunshine Coast	1,444	131	1,517	138	1,599	147	1,638	161
Townsville	472	53	463	55	462	57	467	61
Wide Bay	405	29	429	31	425	34	455	38
Other ³	7,313	1,048	7,505	991	7,729	973	7,933	1,025
Total⁴	22,735	3,821	23,175	3,731	23,711	3,712	24,140	3,949

Notes:

1. Payroll tax is subject to change.
2. Figures are reported by mapping postcodes to RAP region correspondence tables. In some instances, postcodes may not be accurately apportioned to their respective regions due to the quality of the coding indices.
3. 'Other' represents regions outside of Queensland and postcodes which do not correspond to a RAP region.
4. Figures may not add due to rounding.