

Question on Notice

No. 167

Asked on Tuesday, 18 February 2020

MR D CRISAFULLI ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF, MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND MINISTER FOR THE ARTS (HON L ENOCH)—

QUESTION:

With reference to littering and illegal dumping—

Will the Minister detail (a) the number of littering or illegal dumping reports made to the department and (b) the total amount of penalty infringement notices issued by the department for littering and illegal dumping by each calendar year from 2014 to 2019?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for the question.

As a result of the growth in community awareness of the impacts of litter and illegal dumping and an increased awareness of reporting, the number of litter and illegal dumping reports has grown steadily in recent years, and therefore the number of Penalty Infringement Notices has also increased.

The Palaszczuk Government has promoted a number of initiatives aimed at increasing community awareness of responsible waste management and earlier this year I announced funding of over \$5 million for local councils to tackle illegal dumping. That investment is helping to protect the environment and create local jobs.

The increase in reports in 2019 may be partly attributed to additional public awareness in the second half of 2019 of the dangers of littering in high bushfire risk conditions, with substantial media coverage given to motorists flicking cigarette butts out of car windows and associated information provided about how witnesses could report that activity.

I am advised that less than 1% of penalty infringement notices issued by the Department of Environment and Science (the department) relate to illegal dumping.

In some instances a report does not result in a penalty infringement notice, for example, where the department is unable to proceed due to insufficient or incorrect evidence. Also, I am advised that in some cases infringement notices have been withdrawn because a recipient has elected to have the matter heard in court. In addition, many illegal dumping reports made to the department are referred to the relevant local government for action.

The number of littering or illegal dumping reports made to the department from 2014 to 2019:

Year	Litter reports	Illegal dumping reports
2014	2,830	257
2015	2,791	244
2016	2,992	299
2017	3,300	319
2018	3,536	436
2019	5,063	549

The total amount of penalty infringement notices issued by the department for littering and illegal dumping for 2014 to 2019 is:

Year	Total Number of Penalty Infringement Notices
2014	2,014
2015	2,083
2016	2,195
2017	2,354
2018	2,628
2019	3,719