

Question on Notice

No. 18

Asked on 4 February 2020

MR A PERRETT ASKED MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND FISHERIES (HON M FURNER)—

QUESTION:

With reference to animal welfare in Queensland— Will the Minister outline the number of (a) prosecutions for animal welfare offences, (b) individuals charged with animal welfare offences, (c) offences involving livestock and (d) animals confiscated or temporarily seized as a result of animal welfare concerns (reported separately for 2015 to 2019)?

ANSWER:

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to providing high standards of welfare for animals in Queensland. The *Animal Care and Protection Act 2001* (ACPA) is the principal legislation that regulates the welfare of animals in Queensland. One of the purposes of ACPA is to provide standards of care that achieve an appropriate balance between the welfare of animals and interests of persons whose livelihood is dependent on animals. ACPA is administered by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF), and jointly enforced with the RSPCA.

Where appropriate, DAF will work with people to ensure the welfare standards for animals can be met. Where this is not possible, stronger action such as the seizure of animals and prosecution for breach of animal welfare standards are options under ACPA.

The Queensland Government has recently committed funding of \$4.7 million to ensure the DAF can implement the recommendations from the Inquiry into animal cruelty in the management of retired Thoroughbred and Standardbred horses in Queensland (the Martin Inquiry) including developing new codes of practice to ensure horses are treated humanely at slaughtering facilities and in their transport to those facilities.

The funding will also provide enhanced training for animal welfare inspectors and enhanced compliance monitoring, investigation and reporting.

In response to all parts of the question, I can provide the following information:

(a) prosecutions for animal welfare offences

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Prosecutions	33	38	55	115	79

(b) individuals charged with animal welfare offences

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Individuals charged	73	78	97	224	172

(c) offences involving livestock

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Offences involving livestock	12	7	7	22	18

(d) animals (livestock) confiscated or temporarily seized as a result of animal welfare concerns

Year	N. Seizures	Animal Type	Number of animals seized
2015	23	Cattle	2
		Goats	6
		Horse	11
		Pig	5
		Sheep	3
2016	9	Cattle	0
		Goats	3
		Horse	7
		Pig	0
		Sheep	1
2017	29	Cattle	1
		Goats	12
		Horse	24
		Pig	7
		Sheep	2
2018	38	Cattle	4
		Goats	24
		Horse	34
		Pig	18
		Sheep	6
2019	33	Cattle	15
		Goats	28
		Horse	120
		Pig	17
		Sheep	0