

Question on Notice

No. 1254

Asked on 8 November 2022

MR S BENNETT ASKED MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND MINISTER FOR RACING (HON G GRACE)

QUESTION:

Will the Minister (a) confirm that no Workplace Health and Safety Construction Inspectors are located in Bundaberg and (b) if not, advise (i) where Construction Inspectors who respond to complaints or incidents in Bundaberg are located, (ii) how long the average response to an incident in Bundaberg takes by a Construction Inspector and (iii) why Workplace Health and Safety Construction Inspectors are not based in Bundaberg?

ANSWER:

In relation to part (a), Workplace Health and Safety Queensland (WHSQ) considers the Wide Bay WHSQ workgroup to be a single workgroup with staff based in both the Maryborough and Bundaberg offices.

In relation to part (b) (i), the Wide Bay workgroup has two construction inspectors, both based at the Maryborough office, and these inspectors respond to complaints or incidents in the Bundaberg region. As is often the case in rural areas, industrial inspectors can respond to construction matters, and vice versa as required.

Additionally, there are four WHSQ industrial inspector positions located in the Bundaberg office, and these inspectors can attend to construction related complaints or incidents if required. One of these industrial inspectors based in Bundaberg previously held a construction inspector position within WHSQ and is highly skilled in construction safety matters.

In relation to part (b) (ii), it takes approximately one and a half hours to drive from Maryborough to Bundaberg. This is similar to the time it may take an inspector to attend a complaint or incident in the Brisbane or South East Queensland region.

Since March 2022, there have been eight incidents and 11 complaints in Bundaberg. On the majority of occasions, construction inspectors attended either on the same or following day.

In relation to part (b) (iii), I can advise the Member that the number of incidents and complaints are adequately managed by the WHSQ construction inspectors from Maryborough, or if required the WHSQ industrial inspectors from Bundaberg.