

Question on Notice

No. 557

Asked on 26 May 2022

MR M HART ASKED MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND FISHERIES AND MINISTER FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES (HON M FURNER)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the Biosecurity Queensland Ministerial Advisory Council (BQMAC)— Will the Minister advise (a) the dates of the BQMAC meetings since June 2019, (b) the recommendations from the last BQMAC meeting and (c) how many of these recommendations have been accepted and implemented?

ANSWER:

The Biosecurity Queensland Ministerial Advisory Council (BQMAC) met on: 29 January 2020; 31 March 2020; 9 July 2020; 22 September 2020; 24 February 2021; 12 April 2021; 2 July 2021; 24 September 2021 and 10 June 2022.

At the 10 June 2022 meeting, BQMAC:

- noted the effectiveness of investing in biosecurity prevention and preparedness;
- provided advice on the BQMAC Terms of Reference (TOR) which are due for review;
- noted that there was an imminent threat of foot and mouth disease (FMD), lumpy skin disease (LSD) and African swine fever (ASF) spreading to Queensland and an outbreak would have significant economic and social impacts, especially in rural areas, over an extended period. It concluded there was potential for multiple concurrent resource-hungry emergency responses that would quickly require activation of Queensland's disaster management framework; and
- agreed that Biosecurity Queensland's response readiness had been enhanced by important capability building over recent years.

BQMAC recommended that the Minister:

- ensure there is a continuation of appropriate planning for the increased likelihood of an emergency animal disease event in Queensland including awareness across Government that:
 - there is potential for concurrent events that could be long lasting and require significant mobilisation of personnel on a whole-of-Government basis; and
 - support may be required for industries, regions and communities experiencing prolonged social and economic impacts;
- consider an all-hazards approach to biosecurity threats, including the potential for multiple serious plant biosecurity emergencies and invasive pests and weeds of national significance; and
- prioritise investment in prevention and preparedness to meet the threat posed by emergency animal diseases across a broader range of industries, and for plant biosecurity emergencies and invasive pests and weeds.

All recommendations have been accepted.