

## QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 676

asked on Wednesday, 24 May 2023

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**MR B HEAD** ASKED THE MINISTER FOR RESOURCES (HON S STEWART)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the Vegetation Management Act and compliance activities undertaken by department officers—

Will the Minister provide (reported separately by year, land use classification and bioregion) since the current Act came into effect the number of (a) properties which have been entered and inspected, (b) producers who have been asked to provide records, (c) warning notices issued, (d) direction notices issued, (e) fines issued and (f) producers who have refused a compliance visit?

ANSWER:

Under the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*, the Department of Resources does not record the land use classifications or bioregion where compliance activities occur.

- (a) The department undertakes annual proactive auditing programs to ensure compliance with the legislation. These audits may be either desktop reviews and/or on-ground field inspections. The total number of audits finalised for 2018-19 was 61; for 2019-20 was 47; for 2020-21 was 42; for 2021-22 was 60; and for 2022-23 to 22 June 2023 was 58 (a total of 268).
- (b) The department does not maintain records on the number of producers who have been asked to provide records.
- (c) The number of non-statutory written warnings for alleged unauthorised clearing under the vegetation management framework issued for 2018-19 was 17; for 2019-20 was 21; for 2020-21 was 15; for 2021-22 was 22; and for 2022-23 to 22 June 2023 was 18 (a total of 93).
- (d) The vegetation management framework does not provide for directions notices.
- (e) The number of fines including penalty infringement notices (PINs) and fines arising from prosecutions for alleged unauthorised clearing under the vegetation management framework issued for 2018-19 was two prosecutions and eight PINs; for 2019-20 was three prosecutions and 17 PINs; for 2020-21 was two prosecutions and three PINs; for 2021-22 was zero prosecutions and 10 PINs; and for 2022-23 to 22 June 2023 was four prosecutions and four PINs (a total of 11 prosecutions and 42 PINs).
- (f) The department seeks to enter land with consent of the relevant landholder wherever possible; however, it does not maintain records on producers who have refused a compliance visit.