

Question on Notice

No. 831

Asked on Thursday, 15 June 2023

MR S O'CONNOR ASKED THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF, MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND MINISTER FOR MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS (HON L LINARD)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the Reef protection regulations—

Will the Minister provide all FTE filled positions in compliance roles (reported separately by month (or nearest reporting period) and region) since the implementation of the current Act?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

The Department of Environment and Science's reef compliance program has been one of the activities under the Queensland Reef Water Quality Program and commenced during the 2015-16 financial year.

Since the strengthened Reef protection regulations under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* came into effect on 1 December 2019, the department has restructured the compliance program to implement compliance activities for the newly regulated commodities and regions.

The strengthened Reef protection regulations have had a phased commencement in different reef regions and for different commodities over three years for sugarcane and banana producers and beef cattle grazing farms in the Wet Tropics, Burdekin, Mackay Whitsunday, Fitzroy, and Burnett Mary regions.

The full-time equivalents (FTEs) dedicated to the compliance program have been increasing over time to reflect the changes to the regulated commodities and regions. Compliance officers are dispersed across the office locations of Cairns, Townsville, Mackay, Rockhampton and Brisbane in order to service the different reef regions. The department is continuing to undertake recruitment for suitable officers to undertake agricultural compliance.

There are currently 30.35 FTEs appointed in the compliance program and recruitment is ongoing. The number of filled FTEs in each office location by month since December 2019 reported below is based on data from the Aurion human resources and payroll software used by the department.

The database assigns filled positions to an office location; however, there will be circumstances where the compliance officer may be working from another office location in any given month due to operational demands or backfilling short term vacancies or to accommodate flexible work arrangements.

In December 2019, there were 4 compliance officers in Cairns, 3.6 compliance officers in Townsville and 5 compliance officers in Mackay.

In January 2020, there was 2.6 compliance officers in Cairns, 3.8 compliance officers in Townsville and 3.5 compliance officers in Mackay.

In February 2020, there were 3 compliance officers in Cairns, 2.8 compliance officers in Townsville and 3 compliance officers in Mackay.

In March 2020, there were 3 compliance officers in Cairns, 2.8 compliance officers in Townsville and 2 compliance officers in Mackay.

In April 2020, there were 3 compliance officers in Cairns, 2.8 compliance officers in Townsville and 1 compliance officer in Mackay.

In May 2020, there were 3 compliance officers in Cairns, 1.8 compliance officers in Townsville and 1 compliance officer in Mackay.

In June 2020, there were 3 compliance officers in Cairns, 1.8 compliance officers in Townsville and 1 compliance officer in Mackay.

In July 2020, there were 2 compliance officers in Cairns and 1 compliance officer in Mackay.

In August 2020, there were 2 compliance officers in Cairns and 1 compliance officer in Mackay.

In September 2020, there were 2 compliance officers in Cairns and 1 compliance officer in Mackay.

In October 2020, there were 2 compliance officers in Cairns and 1 compliance officer in Mackay.

In November 2020, there were 2 compliance officers in Cairns and 1 compliance officer in Mackay.

In December 2020, there were 2 compliance officers in Cairns and 1 compliance officer in Mackay.

In January 2021, there were 2.6 compliance officers in Cairns and 1 compliance officer in Mackay.

In February 2021, there were 2 compliance officers in Cairns.

In March 2021, there were 2 compliance officers in Cairns.

In April 2021, there were 2 compliance officers in Cairns.

In May 2021, there were 2 compliance officers in Cairns, 1 compliance officer in Mackay.

In June 2021, there were 4 compliance officers in Cairns, 2 compliance officers in Townsville and 3 compliance officers in Mackay.

In July 2021, there were 4 compliance officers in Cairns, 3 compliance officers in Townsville and 3 compliance officers in Mackay.

In August 2021, there were 4 compliance officers in Cairns, 3 compliance officers in Townsville and 3 compliance officers in Mackay.

In September 2021, there were 5 compliance officers in Cairns, 4 compliance officers in Townsville, and 4 compliance officers in Mackay.

In October 2021, there were 4 compliance officers in Cairns, 5 compliance officers in Townsville and 4 compliance officers in Mackay.

In November 2021, there were 3.9 compliance officers in Cairns, 7 compliance officers in Townsville, 5 compliance officers in Mackay and 2 compliance officers in Rockhampton.

In December 2021, there were 3.7 compliance officers in Cairns, 6.65 compliance officers in Townsville, 3 compliance officers in Mackay and 2 compliance officers in Rockhampton.

In January 2022, there were 3.9 compliance officers in Cairns, 7 compliance officers in Townsville, 3 compliance officers in Mackay and 2 compliance officers in Rockhampton.

In February 2022, there were 4.9 compliance officers in Cairns, 6 compliance officers in Townsville, 4 compliance officers in Mackay and 2 compliance officers in Rockhampton.

In March 2022, there were 4.8 compliance officers in Cairns, 6 compliance officers in Townsville, 4 compliance officers in Mackay and 1 compliance officer in Brisbane.

In April 2022, there were 4.9 compliance officers in Cairns, 6 compliance officers in Townsville, 4 compliance officers in Mackay and 1 compliance officer in Rockhampton.

In May 2022, there were 4.7 compliance officers in Cairns, 6 compliance officers in Townsville, 4 compliance officers in Mackay and 3 compliance officers in Rockhampton.

In June 2022, there were 4.9 compliance officers in Cairns, 5 compliance officers in Townsville, 5 compliance officers in Mackay and 3 compliance officers in Rockhampton.

In July 2022, there were 4.9 compliance officers in Cairns, 5.75 compliance officers in Townsville, 5.5 compliance officers in Mackay and 3 compliance officers in Rockhampton.

In August 2022, there were 3.9 compliance officers in Cairns, 6 compliance officers in Townsville, 5.5 compliance officers in Mackay, 3 compliance officers in Rockhampton and 1 compliance officer in Brisbane.

In September 2022, there were 5.7 compliance officers in Cairns, 6 compliance officers in Townsville, 4.5 compliance officers in Mackay and 3 compliance officers in Rockhampton.

In October 2022, there were 2.9 compliance officers in Cairns, 8.5 compliance officers in Townsville, 4 compliance officers in Mackay and 3 compliance officers in Rockhampton.

In November 2022, there were 4.6 compliance officers in Cairns, 9.5 compliance officers in Townsville, 6 compliance officers in Mackay and 2 compliance officers in Rockhampton.

In December 2022, there were 5.6 compliance officers in Cairns, 8.5 compliance officers in Townsville, 6.3 compliance officers in Mackay and 2.65 compliance officers in Rockhampton.

In January 2023, there were 4 compliance officers in Cairns, 9.45 compliance officers in Townsville, 7.85 compliance officers in Mackay and 2 compliance officers in Rockhampton.

In February 2023, there were 6 compliance officers in Cairns, 8.35 compliance officers in Townsville, 8 compliance officers in Mackay, 2 compliance officers in Rockhampton and 1 compliance officer in Brisbane.

In March 2023, there were 6 compliance officers in Cairns, 10.25 compliance officers in Townsville, 8 compliance officers in Mackay, 2 compliance officers in Rockhampton and 1 compliance officer in Brisbane.

In April 2023, there were 6.9 compliance officers in Cairns, 10.5 compliance officers in Townsville, 7.5 compliance officers in Mackay, 2 compliance officers in Rockhampton and 1 compliance officer in Brisbane.

In May 2023, there were 6 compliance officers in Cairns, 10.45 compliance officers in Townsville, 6.95 compliance officers in Mackay, 2 compliance officers in Rockhampton and 1 compliance officer in Brisbane.

In June 2023, there were 7 compliance officers in Cairns, 10.4 compliance officers in Townsville, 7.95 compliance officers in Mackay, 3 compliance officers in Rockhampton and 2 compliance officers in Brisbane.