

Question on Notice

No. 455

Asked on 18 April 2024

MR L MILLAR asked the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities (HON M FURNER)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise the number of (a) stock inspectors and (b) large animal vets employed by DAF (reported separately by FTE staff year 2015 to present and the region where they are based)?

ANSWER:

a) Details of the number of Animal Biosecurity and Welfare (AB&W) biosecurity officers (previously known as stock inspectors) employed by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) are outlined below:

- 2015: Central – 12; North – 13; South/SEQ – 31.5; Total – 56.5
- 2016: Central – 12; North – 12; South/SEQ – 28.6 Total – 52.6
- 2017: Central – 13; North – 10; South/SEQ – 28.42; Total – 51.42
- 2018: Central – 12; North – 12; South/SEQ – 27.79; Total – 51.79
- 2019: Central – 12; North – 11.83; South/SEQ – 24.66; Total – 48.49
- 2020: Central – 14; North – 10; South/SEQ – 27.52; Total – 51.52
- 2021: Central – 9; North – 9; South/SEQ – 29.92; Total – 47.92
- 2022: Central – 9; North – 9; South/SEQ – 26.8; Total – 44.8
- 2023: Central – 10; North – 9.6; South/SEQ – 23; Total – 42.6
- 2024: Central – 8; North – 10; South/SEQ – 21.6; Total – 39.6

In addition to the FTEs detailed above, there are currently 12 vacant AB&W biosecurity officers across the state with six in the final stages of recruitment.

b) Details the number of veterinary field officers employed by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) are outlined below:

- 2015: Central – 2; North – 1.6; South/SEQ – 4; Total – 7.6
- 2016: Central – 3; North – 2.6; South/SEQ – 4.4; Total – 10
- 2017: Central – 3; North – 1.6; South/SEQ – 4; Total – 8.6
- 2018: Central – 3; North – 1.6; South/SEQ – 4; Total – 8.6
- 2019: Central – 2; North – 2; South/SEQ – 3.6; Total – 7.6
- 2020: Central – 2.8; North – 1; South/SEQ – 4; Total – 7.8
- 2021: Central – 1.4; North – 2; South/SEQ – 2.7; Total – 6.1
- 2022: Central – 1.3; North – 3; South/SEQ – 2; Total – 6.3
- 2023: Central – 0; North – 4; South/SEQ – 3; Total – 7
- 2024: Central – 0; North – 2; South/SEQ – 3; Total – 5

In addition to the FTEs detailed above, there are currently five vacant veterinary field officer positions which are yet to be filled.