

Question on Notice

No. 844

Asked on Friday, 14 June 2024

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister provide (reported separately by operational region) (a) the number of Indigenous Land and Sea Rangers employed currently and the number of vacant positions and (b) the number of Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service rangers employed currently and the number of vacant positions?

ANSWER:

- (a) The Queensland Government, through the delivery of the Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger Program, partners with First Nations communities to care for land and sea country, provide jobs and training, and engage future generations in conservation activities.

As at June 2024, there are 204 ranger positions funded in 47 communities across Queensland. These positions are located in the following operational regions: 20 in Great Barrier Reef Marine Coastal and Islands Operations; 162 in Northern Parks and Forests Operations; and 22 in Southern Parks and Forests Operations.

The Indigenous Land and Sea Rangers are employed through local Indigenous organisations, or hosted through a local land management entity. Accordingly, specific vacancy rates are not held by the Department of Environment, Science and Innovation.

- (b) As at 14 June 2024, there were: 243 'active and paid' rangers in Great Barrier Reef Marine Coastal and Islands Operations and 30 vacant permanent ranger positions; 261 'active and paid' rangers in Northern Parks and Forests Operations and 26 vacant permanent ranger positions; 256 'active and paid' rangers in Southern Parks and Forests Operations and 19 vacant permanent ranger positions; and 33 'active and paid' rangers in Wildlife and Threatened Species Operations and 0 vacant permanent ranger positions.

The current tight labour market, low unemployment rate and remote locations of many positions contribute to the reported vacancy rate. Variations in vacancies can also be attributed to fluctuating annual operational requirements, including normal employee lifecycle changes, active recruitment, long term leave, employee movements, secondments and time-limited projects.