

Question on Notice
No. 958
Asked on 27 August 2025

MR R KATTER ASKED MINISTER FOR POLICE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES (HON D PURDIE)—

QUESTION:

With reference to increased reports of cattle theft and the horrific events at Bogie in 2022— Will the Minister commit to increased non-personnel resourcing such as mustering costs and DNA testing, and re-establish a dedicated ‘Stock Squad’ with its own budget?

ANSWER:

I am advised that the Queensland Police Service’s Rural and Stock Crime Squads operate under the Crime and Intelligence Command and comprise ten dedicated units strategically located across the state to respond to rural and stock-related crime. In northern Queensland, these units are based in Mareeba, Cloncurry, Charters Towers, Longreach and Rockhampton. In the southern part of the state, units are located in Toowoomba, Forrest Hill, Charleville, Roma and Kingaroy.

Each unit is led by an Officer in Charge and coordinated by a Detective Senior Sergeant, ensuring consistent oversight and operational effectiveness.

I am further advised each unit maintains its own budget, which is managed locally by the Officer in Charge in consultation with their coordinating Detective Senior Sergeant. For significant operational costs, such as mustering, oversight is provided by the Detective Inspector responsible for the Major and Organised Crime Regional, Rural and Stock Squads portfolio, and the Chief Superintendent of the Crime and Intelligence Command, to ensure appropriate fiscal accountability.

In relation to DNA testing, I am informed that Queensland does not currently have a dedicated facility for the analysis of stock DNA. However, I am advised that investigators maintain a strong working relationship with the New South Wales Department of Primary Industries, which processes DNA samples on behalf of Queensland’s Rural and Stock Crime Squads. I am advised that in the past 12 months, 660 samples have been processed through this arrangement, with associated costs covered by the respective unit budgets.