

Question on Notice

No. 226

Asked on Thursday, 5 March 2026

MR T SMITH asked the Minister for Primary Industries (HON A PERRETT)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the \$60.9m allocated over five years as part of the Boosting Biosecurity in the Regions funding outlined in the 2025-26 Budget—

Will the Minister advise (a) how much of the funding allocation is intended to be spent on the hiring of 100 new biosecurity officers, (b) what are the other intended allocations for the Boosting Biosecurity in the Regions funding (reported separately by dollar amount) and (c) how much remains in the fund for the 2025-26 Budget?

ANSWER:

The Department of Primary Industries is taking a phased approach to recruitment of the 100 additional officers. Phase one is the engagement of 50 additional officers in 2025-26. This compares to a reduction of 20% in Animal Welfare and Biosecurity Officers during the decade prior.

As outlined in the budget papers, the allocation for the 2025-26 financial year is \$10.738 million. Of this, \$9.066 million is allocated to the engagement of additional biosecurity officers. This funding amount was allocated on the basis of 50 biosecurity officers being engaged for the full financial year.

- a) Of the \$60.9 million funding over 5 years, \$59.262 million is currently allocated for the 100 officers' salaries and associated on costs and operating expenses including allocations for office and housing accommodation, vehicles, travel, IT consumables, general materials.
- b) \$1.672 million in 2025-26 is allocated to preparedness activities across the state. This allocation funds regional initiatives that underpin the work of our frontline biosecurity officers. This funding supports regional projects such as response readiness training and peacetime exercises for local government and industry, regional biosecurity forums, youth biosecurity pathway events, as well as strengthening biosecurity education and awareness at a community level.
- c) As of 28 February 2026, \$2.808 million has been spent of which \$2.508 million relates to the engagement of additional biosecurity officers and \$0.300 million relates to preparedness activities.