

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 508

asked on Thursday, 21 May 2020

MR D LAST ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES, MINES AND ENERGY (HON DR A LYNHAM)—

QUESTION:

With reference to workplace health and safety in Queensland mines—

Will the Minister provide an update in the format of the answer to Question on Notice No. 1045 for 2018-19 and 2019-20 (reported separately by financial year) the (a) number of FTE workplace inspectors allocated to monitoring Queensland mines, (b) overall number of inspections in Queensland mines and (c) number of infringements issued?

ANSWER:

The Palaszczuk Government has, in this term of government, allocated additional funding of \$1.68 million for more mines inspectors. This has taken the Mines Inspectorate to 48 inspectors, the highest number in a decade.

As at 15 June 2020, the Resources Safety and Health Division employed 87 inspectors—48 mines inspectors; 23 petroleum and gas inspectors; and 16 explosives inspectors

(a) Number of FTE workplace inspectors allocated to monitoring Queensland mines per financial year:

Financial year	Number of FTE workplace inspectors
2014-15	46
2015-16	44
2016-17	39
2017-18	42
2018-19	44
2019-20	48*

* as at 15 June 2020

(b) Overall number of inspections in Queensland mines per financial year:

Financial year	Overall number of inspections
2014-15	1545
2015-16	1781
2016-17	1459
2017-18	1376
2018-19	1327
2019-20	1355*

* as at 15 June 2020

(c) The Mines Inspectorate has no powers under legislation to issue infringements; however, a 'directive' or a 'substandard condition or practice' is issued to a mine or quarry to address an identified safety issue or non-compliance. In 2018-19, the Mines Inspectorate conducted the "Campaign for Change", which was focussed on effective guarding, isolation and mobile plant maintenance. A firm stance on these issues resulted in a higher number of substandard condition or practice notices being issued to quarries for that period; however, it is forecast that, at the

end of the 2019-20 period, the total number of directives and substandard condition or practice notices will remain generally steady with last year's figures.

Financial year	Overall number of directives and substandard condition or practices
2014-15	1266
2015-16	1340
2016-17	1545
2017-18	1314
2018-19	1574
2019-20	1298*

* as at 15 June 2020