

BORDER PROTECTION OFFICERS, FUNDING

1572. Hon MURRAY CRIDDLE to the Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries:

- (1) How many border protection officers are funded, using federal funds, by the State Government through the Department of Agriculture?
- (2) How many employees does this entail?
- (3) Is this a clear indication that the real loss of employees to the Department of Agriculture is greater than 155 over the past two financial years?

Hon KIM CHANCE replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) At 7 June, 2002, 174 full-time equivalents were funded by the Commonwealth to deliver Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service programs.
- (2) The total number of AQIS-funded staff is 208, which equates to 174 FTEs, as there are numerous part-time officers.
- (3) From 30 June 2001 to 7 June 2002 the total FTEs employed by the Department of Agriculture declined from 1 705 to 1 620. During that same period AQIS-funded FTEs increased from 122 to 174. Therefore, the number of FTEs funded by sources other than AQIS declined by 137, from 1 583 to 1 446. This decrease reflects changes in state, industry and commonwealth funding and a reduction in the need for casual labour. In answering a similar question, I referred to other reductions in commonwealth-funded positions, particularly the Landcare coordinators, funded by the Natural Heritage Trust.