

PUBLIC SECTOR RECRUITMENT FREEZE —
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE AND FOOD'S COMMENTS

264. Hon ADELE FARINA to the Minister for Agriculture and Food:

I refer to vacant positions in the Department of Agriculture and Food and the Treasurer's answer to question without notice 140 in the other place yesterday that he had approved some exemptions and "made decisions that avoid any risk to biosecurity".

- (1) How many exemptions have been approved for the department, and for each exemption, what is the position title and where is the position located?
- (2) How many exemptions have been applied for and are yet to be approved?
- (3) For each exemption in (2) —
 - (a) when was it lodged;
 - (b) what is the position title; and
 - (c) where is the position located?
- (4) What are these new decisions that the minister and the Treasurer have made to avoid any risk to biosecurity?

Hon KEN BASTON replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) Three exemption applications have been successful. Of these three applications, one was only partially approved. It requested approval of a chief veterinary officer and various veterinary officers. However, only the chief veterinary officer was approved. For application 1, the position title is chief veterinary officer and is located in various locations throughout the state. For application 2, the position title is research and development officers and they are located in various locations throughout the state. For application 3, there are various position titles—research and development officers, technical officer and casual assistants—and they are located in various locations throughout the state.
- (2) There were 55 positions requested for exemption in the submission, of which 48 positions have been approved, with the remainder not approved.
- (3)
 - (a) The exemptions were lodged on 11 February 2016.
 - (b) The position titles are veterinary officers and the chief veterinary officer; Grains Research and Development Corporation—research and development officers and various; and research and development officers, technical officer and casual assistants.
 - (c) The positions are located in various locations throughout the state.
- (4) To appoint a new chief veterinary officer to manage animal welfare and biosecurity risks. In addition, short-term contract veterinarians will be engaged as required.