

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD — ANIMAL WELFARE ACT 2002

494. Hon SAMANTHA ROWE to the Minister for Agriculture and Food:

- (1) How many staff in the Department of Agriculture and Food are currently authorised to conduct investigations under the Animal Welfare Act?
- (2) For the 2013–14 financial year, and 2014–15 to date —
 - (a) how many investigations into breaches of the Animal Welfare Act did department staff undertake;
 - (b) how many prosecutions under the Animal Welfare Act did the department or the State Solicitor’s Office, on its behalf, commence;
 - (c) how many prosecutions were successful; and
 - (d) how many prosecutions were unsuccessful?

Hon KEN BASTON replied:

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

- (1) There are 17 members of staff at DAFWA who are appointed under the Animal Welfare Act 2002 as general inspectors, and four as scientific inspectors. All have powers to investigate offences under the act.
- (2) In relation to breaches or potential breaches of the act —
 - (a) A total of 131 investigations were undertaken in 2013–14, and 123 in 2014–15 to date.
 - (b) Zero prosecutions were commenced in 2013–14, and three in 2014–15 to date.
 - (c) One successful prosecution in 2014–15 to date.
 - (d) One unsuccessful prosecution for 2014–15 to date.