

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 1305

asked on Thursday, 20 September 2018

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the regulation of Queensland's coal seam gas (CSG) industry—

Will the Minister advise (a) in relation to CSG operations, from 2015 to 2018 (reported separately by year) the (i) overall number of complaints made to the regulator or government, (ii) overall number of complaints substantiated and acted upon by the regulator or government, (b) sum total of fines handed to operators and (c) overall tally per CSG operator of enforcement infringements?

ANSWER:

The information provided below relates to complaints received, and compliance and enforcement action taken by the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy as the regulator. Information has been broken down between aspects relating to tenure compliance (e.g. land access) and safety and health.

(a) (i) Complaints made to the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy regarding coal seam gas operations were:

- i 2015-16: 58
58 tenure
0 safety and health
- ii 2016-17: 74
71 tenure
3 safety and health
- iii 2017-18: 27
26 tenure
1 safety and health

All complaints received were assessed and followed up with appropriate action by departmental officers.

(ii) Complaints about coal seam gas operations substantiated and acted upon using the broad suite of tools available to departmental officers were:

- i 2015-16: 12
12 tenure
0 safety and health
- ii 2016-17: 14
12 tenure
2 safety and health
- iii 2017-18: 7
6 tenure
1 safety and health

- (b) The sum total of fines handed to coal seam gas operators by the department for the specified periods was \$489,980.
- (c) The overall tally per coal seam gas operator of enforcement infringements for the specified period was 89
 - i 2015-16:
21 Safety and health
0 tenure
 - ii 2016-17:
37 safety and health
0 tenure
 - iii 2017-18:
31 safety and health
0 tenure

It is important to note that the safety and health-related enforcement infringements listed above are not complaint driven, but rather relate to non-compliances identified by proactive compliance or from incident notifications received from operators or contractors.

Information regarding enforcement infringements by coal seam gas operators is not available as the safety and health framework applies to individual operators, such as drilling contractors or individuals undertaking work on behalf of coal seam gas operators. This means that the data cannot be categorised by coal seam gas operator.