

WRITTEN RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Average number of inspections

Question by :Ms Colleen Hartland
Directed : Mr Michael Rosier
Asked : 17 July 2017

QUESTION

Ms Hartland – In an average year, how many inspections have you actually done, especially to farms, and out of those inspections, in how many has there been obvious cruelty or neglect? You can take it on notice is you like.

RESPONSE

Mr Rosier – No, that is okay. The number of inspections, I suppose, we would take on notice, In terms of complaints, we can probably talk to it from that perspective.

FURTHER RESPONSE

Agriculture Victoria Officers make approximately 1,500 visits per year to approximately 800 farming premises for the purposes of examining the welfare of animals. These visits are in response to complaints from members of the public and are not a representative sample of the livestock farming sector.

Through these inspections, Agriculture Victoria has established that on approximately 60 per cent of these farming premises, some level of welfare improvement could be made. Agriculture Victoria's risk based approach to compliance results in repeat visits to some of these premises, as resources are directed to areas of greatest impact.

In addition to the 44 prosecutions completed by Agriculture Victoria over the past three years, Agriculture Victoria provides verbal advice and extension material and issues advisory letters and warning letters where welfare issues are detected. Although these compliance outcomes indicate a range in severity of welfare issues detected, they indicate the scalable and proportionate approach taken to improve animal welfare outcomes.

Mr Michael Rosier

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