

Question on Notice

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| Portfolio: | Outdoor Recreation |
| Witness: | Secretary, Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions |
| Committee Member: | Beverly McArthur |
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Relevant text:

Bev McARTHUR: Okay. Minister, the government also stated that additional Aboriginal heritage officers will deliver a stronger on-ground presence to enhance protection of cultural heritage sites.

How many Aboriginal heritage officers are employed at the moment? Would Ms Jones have an idea?

Steve DIMOPOULOS: Actually I might throw to –

Beth JONES: Mrs McArthur, in terms of this year there were some Aboriginal cultural heritage officers attending onsite with a number of GMA staff who were doing patrols across the duck season.

Bev McARTHUR: How many?

Beth JONES: I would need to take that figure on notice.

Bev McARTHUR: Take it on notice; that is fine. How many additional officers will you be hiring?

Rachaele MAY: We will be looking, Mrs McArthur, in the new financial year, ahead of next season, at increasing the number of authorised officers across GMA and working with the First Peoples state relations team in DPC, who do the Aboriginal cultural heritage compliance, to look at cross-authorisations and also employing an additional five staff.

Bev McARTHUR: How many Indigenous officers will you be hiring additionally?

Rachaele MAY: We would hope to be able to advertise those positions as Indigenous positions, so we will see how that recruitment goes.

Bev McARTHUR: But you do not have a figure of how many you are looking for?

Rachaele MAY: We are looking to create five new positions.

Bev McARTHUR: Five. Okay. Thank you.

Answer:

In the lead up to, and during the 2024 duck season, the GMA was supported by staff with a deep understanding of cultural sites of significance through the DPC First People's State Relations Team.

The Department of Premier and Cabinet employs around 20 officers authorised under the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2006*. Additional Aboriginal Heritage Officers are employed by Registered Aboriginal Parties.