

Mr JUSTIN FIELD: It would be fair for me to say—maybe you can concur—that there have been more infringement notices, more investigations, more penalties, and I think you even have some prosecutions underway, which is an escalation on the historical norm.

JACQUELEINE MOORE: I haven't got the figures for the historical norm.

Mr JUSTIN FIELD: Could you provide those? I know it is on the public record. Perhaps this will be a feature of a report that might come from this Committee. It would be good for us to get that sense.

The Hon. MICK VEITCH: How far back do you want to go?

Mr JUSTIN FIELD: Probably just the past five years, which gives us a bit of a window either side of the fires. How many prosecutions are currently underway?

JACQUELEINE MOORE: We basically have the 10 charges before the court in three separate matters. I think they are Wild Cattle Creek, Dampier and Tomerong. In two of those matters, Forestry Corp has pleaded guilty to some of those charges and sentencing has occurred. [Disorder] are reserved. In the third one, Forestry Corp has pleaded not guilty and a hearing has been set down for December this year.

Mr JUSTIN FIELD: There are a number of other investigations that are ongoing. They have not been concluded. Some of them go back quite some time now, don't they?

JACQUELEINE MOORE: That's correct, yes.

Mr JUSTIN FIELD: Can you give us a sense of how many ongoing investigations there are?

JACQUELEINE MOORE: I think there are around 15 current investigations on foot.

Mr JUSTIN FIELD: Against Forestry Corporation. How many different State forests would that apply to?

JACQUELEINE MOORE: I couldn't tell you the number of State forests. I would have to take that on notice unless you know, Jackie.

JACKIE MILES: No, we'll take it on notice.

Response:

There are 15 investigations into Forestry Corporation of NSW, which apply to 12 different State Forests and Western Land Leases.

The EPA report on all Crown forestry investigations, this can be viewed on the [Register of Forestry Investigations](#) web page.

The inquiry into the long-term sustainability and future of the timber and forest products industry

Question taken on notice

Mr JUSTIN FIELD: How many of those with that history of dedicated forestry experience are part of the 350 authorised officers who are currently doing this work within the EPA? Do you know? Do you have any sense of it? I am happy for you to take that on notice.

Response:

The EPA's authorised officers maintain expertise in environmental regulation across the range of legislation administered by the EPA. Individual operations officers hold capabilities required to effectively respond to a broad range of environmental issues, and they are supported by technical and subject matter experts to ensure robust regulatory decision making. The EPA has expertise in ecology, water science, soil science, spatial science and forestry operations.

The EPA's functional structure allows the EPA to mobilise staff to respond to issues of need, including forestry matters.