

Queensland Health

**2023-24 Annual report
for local government
activities under the
*Food Act 2006***



**Queensland
Government**

2023-24 Annual report for local government activities under the *Food Act 2006*

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An electronic version of this document is available at www.publications.qld.gov.au/dataset/food-safety-documentation-for-local-government-officers.

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Summary

The 2023–24 Annual report for local government activities under the Food Act 2006 provides information on food regulatory activities under the Food Act 2006 (Food Act) undertaken by local governments in Queensland for the 2023–24 financial year.

The Food Act is the primary food safety legislation in Queensland and applies to Queensland food businesses (excluding State food businesses such as public hospitals, state schools and correctional centres). The objectives of the Food Act are to ensure food for sale is safe and suitable for human consumption, to prevent misleading conduct in relation to the sale of food and to apply the *Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code* (the Food Standards Code).

Queensland Health Public Health Units and local governments are responsible for monitoring and enforcing compliance with the Food Act. As such, these agencies are held accountable to the community for exercising powers to ensure that acceptable food safety standards are being achieved by food businesses.

It should also be noted that as Queensland Health is the lead agency in the management of foodborne illness outbreaks, misleading conduct related to the sale of food, and food labelling and compositional requirements, the statistics in this report do not reflect the total number of enforcement actions undertaken annually under the Food Act, only those undertaken by local governments.

In Queensland, local governments are responsible for:

- licensing food businesses
- accrediting food safety programs
- undertaking compliance monitoring activities, and
- enforcing certain offences under the Food Act and chapter 3 of the Food Standards Code.

This involves inspections and enforcement of food safety legislation in retail, manufacturing and food service sectors and extends to complaint investigations relating to food businesses including collaboration with Queensland Health in relation to foodborne illness investigations.

The information regarding food regulatory activities provided to Queensland Health by local governments for the purposes of this report contributes directly to the development and overall administration of the Food Act and informs the status of food safety in Queensland.

Information includes:

- statistical information on annual activities for each local government, and
- analysis of trends for standard parameters.

Individual local government responses for the 2023–24 reporting period are provided in the appendices to this report.

Key findings from the 2023–24 reporting period

- The number of licensed food businesses in Queensland was 32,916, slightly (4%) higher than in the previous reporting period in 2022–23 (31,790 businesses).
- A total of 71 local governments had at least one licensed food business, which is unchanged since the previous reporting period.
- The state-wide percentage of compliance for food businesses to have a food safety supervisor was 93%, slightly lower than the last reporting period (97%).
- The state-wide percentage of licensed food businesses that were compliant with the requirement for them to have an accredited food safety program was 99%, consistent with 2022–23.
- A total of 24,147 routine inspections were conducted in the 2023–24 reporting period for licensed food businesses, that is, inspections were undertaken for approximately three-quarters of licensed food businesses. This is an increase of 8.4% from 2022–23, when 26,363 routine inspections were reported. Note that this does not include re-inspections or complaint-related inspections.
- A total of 5,085 complaints regarding licensed food businesses were received by local governments, representing a 19% increase from 2022–23 (4,281). Inspections (2,765) were conducted for 54% of these food complaints, which is higher than complaint-based inspections reported in 2022–23 (44%). Data relating to complaints against food businesses that do not require a licence, is collected by 47% of local governments. However, three-quarters of these local governments reported that no complaints were received from unlicensed food businesses in this reporting period.
- Contractors were used for 41% (29) of local governments with licensed food businesses. This is a significant increase from 2022–23, where 27% (19) of local governments with licensed food businesses used contractors to perform some food regulation tasks.
- There were approximately 163 employees committed to food regulation for the 2023–24 reporting period, which is approximately one employee per 200 licensed food businesses. This is an 18% decrease from the 2022–23 reporting period (198).
- The number of food businesses that surrendered their licence was 641, 42% more than 2022–23 (453).
- Enforcement activity included 3,445 interventions, including:
 - 2,834 Improvement notices issued
 - 486 Prescribed Infringement Notices issued
 - 94 show cause notices issued
 - 9 licences suspended after a show cause notice
 - 10 licences cancelled after a show cause notice
 - 59 licences immediately suspended
 - 47 prosecutions.

Scope

The local government data is presented by geographical regions defined by the Australian Bureau of Statistics to reflect the location of people and communities. Queensland's population is clustered around the cities and coastlines. Almost half (43%) of the Queensland population lives in the greater Brisbane area (Brisbane, Logan, Moreton Bay and Redland Council areas). Accordingly, there is major variation in the distribution of food businesses, the capacity of local governments and other factors that may limit regional comparisons.

While this report provides activity data on select types of regulatory action undertaken, it does not include a full range of strategies and tools (such as voluntary food safety training and educational/promotional food safety strategies) that regulators may use to assist and engage with food businesses to achieve and maintain compliance with the Food Act.

The data also does not take into account that inspection, complaint and enforcement activity data may include food businesses that do not require a licence.

Targeted compliance and regulatory actions undertaken by local governments are determined by local priorities and are not prescribed by the State. This provides local government with the discretion to target regulatory compliance activities within their boundaries and contributes to the variation in food safety compliance activities between local governments.

Caution should also be applied when comparing local government food regulatory activities. As local governments do not have unlimited time and personnel, it is reasonable that resources are directed to activities that are anticipated to deliver high quality food safety outcomes e.g. providing information to businesses in a language other than English. This may influence the number of inspections that a local government needs to undertake.

The methodology for collecting the data consists of a self-reporting survey that may be subject to misclassification or user error. Whilst care has been taken to clarify potential data discrepancies, some errors may not be easily identified and may therefore remain.

Local governments

In Queensland, there are 77 local governments and one Town Authority (Weipa), which is administered by the mining company Rio Tinto. The Weipa Town Authority acts in the role of a Local Authority, with staff that would normally be associated with a local government. Therefore, for the purposes of this report, Weipa Town Authority is considered as a local government.

A map showing local government boundaries can be found [here](#).

Licensable food businesses

Certain food businesses are required to be licensed by local governments under the Food Act, including:

- food manufacturers (e.g. manufacturers of bakery products)
- food businesses selling unpackaged food by retail (e.g. restaurants or catering businesses)
- non-profit organisations that sell meals on at least twelve occasions in a year (e.g. Meals on Wheels).

Some licensing exemptions apply under the Food Act to food businesses in these general categories, including (but not limited to):

- the sale of pre-packaged food only
- the sale of whole fruit and vegetables or drinks such as tea, coffee, soft drink and alcoholic beverages
- primary producers of eggs, dairy, meat, seafood and certain horticulture products accredited by Safe Food Production Queensland under the *Food Production (Safety) Act 2000*.

Of 8461 licence applications received during the reporting period, 70% (50) of local governments reported that all licence applications received were processed in accordance with legislated requirements, including timeframes.

The number of licensed food businesses in Queensland was 32,916, similar to 2022–23 (31,790 businesses). The number of licensed food businesses has increased steadily over the past seven reporting periods, increasing by approximately 37% since the 2011-12 reporting period (refer to figure 2).

Of the 78 local governments, the following seven local governments reported more than 1,000 licensed food businesses, representing 66% (21,651) of licensed food businesses state-wide:

- Brisbane City Council – 7,743
- Gold Coast City Council – 5,846
- Sunshine Coast Regional Council – 2,200
- Moreton Bay Regional Council – 1,985
- Logan City Council – 1,620
- Cairns Regional Council – 1,196
- Townsville City Council – 1,061.

A total of seven local governments reported having no licensed food businesses, unchanged from 2022–23. An additional thirteen local governments reported having less than ten licensed food businesses, one more than in 2022–23.

Food business categorisation

Categorising food businesses can allow local governments to prioritise food safety tasks such as inspection frequencies, which can assist with planning and ensuring that adequate resources are available.

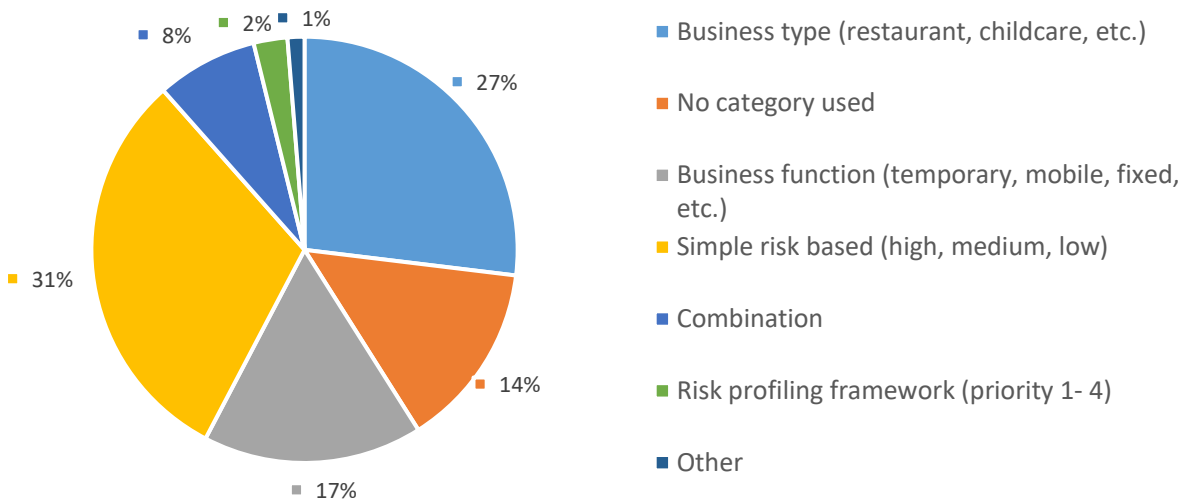
Local governments were asked to specify their primary method of categorising of licensed food businesses, from the following list:

- risk profiling framework (e.g. Priority 1 – Priority 4)
- simple risk based (e.g. high, medium, low)
- business type (e.g. restaurant, childcare etc.)
- business function (e.g. temporary, mobile, fixed etc.)
- business size (e.g. floor size etc.)
- no category used
- other.

Figure 1 shows the rates of food business categorisation reported, which identifies the two most common methods as business type and simple risk-based, consistent with the previous three reporting periods.

Note: The field ‘combination’ represents where local governments specified that more than one categorisation method is used.

Figure 1 Food business categorisation

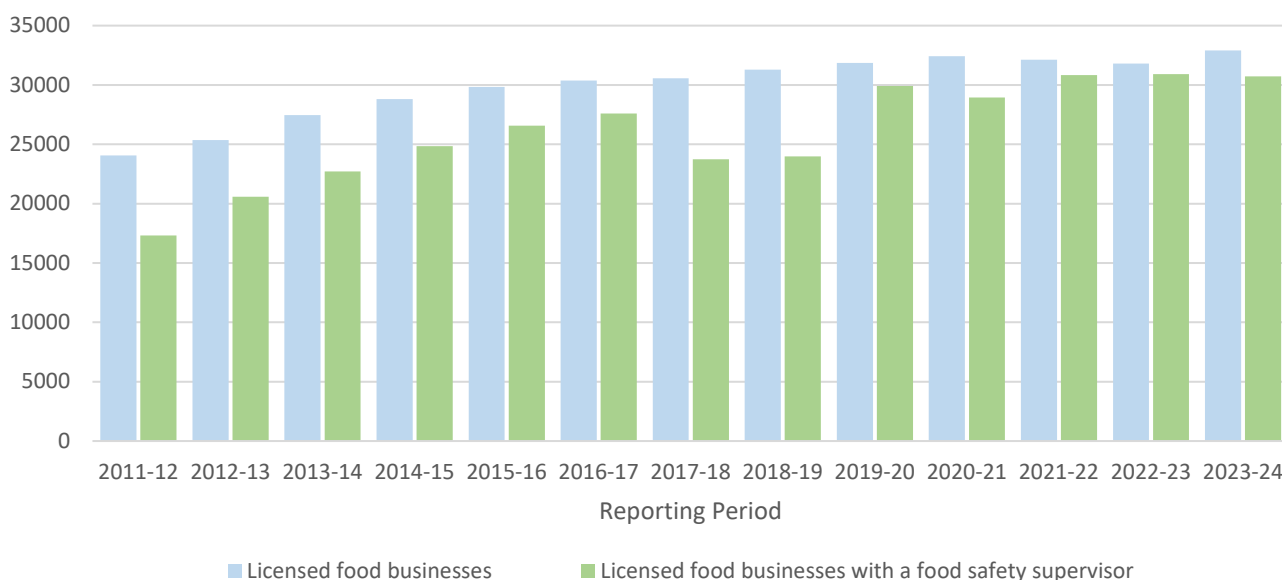


Food safety supervisors

Section 86 of the Food Act requires licensable food businesses to have a nominated food safety supervisor. Food safety supervisors provide an important role in food businesses as they must know how to recognise, prevent and alleviate food safety hazards. They must have skills and knowledge in matters relating to food safety relevant to the food business and have the authority to supervise and give directions about matters relating to food safety to persons who handle food in the food business. Anyone who meets these requirements may be a food safety supervisor, which may include the business owner, the licensee, a manager or employee.

All except two local governments with licensed food businesses reported that food safety supervisor requirements are checked during food business inspections. The food safety supervisor compliance rate has been steadily increasing over time, as shown in Figure 2, however it is slightly lower (93%) than the compliance rate in 2022–23 (97%).

Figure 2 Licensed food businesses with a food safety supervisor over time



Food safety programs

Under the Food Act, licensed food businesses are required to have a food safety program (FSP) accredited by their local government if:

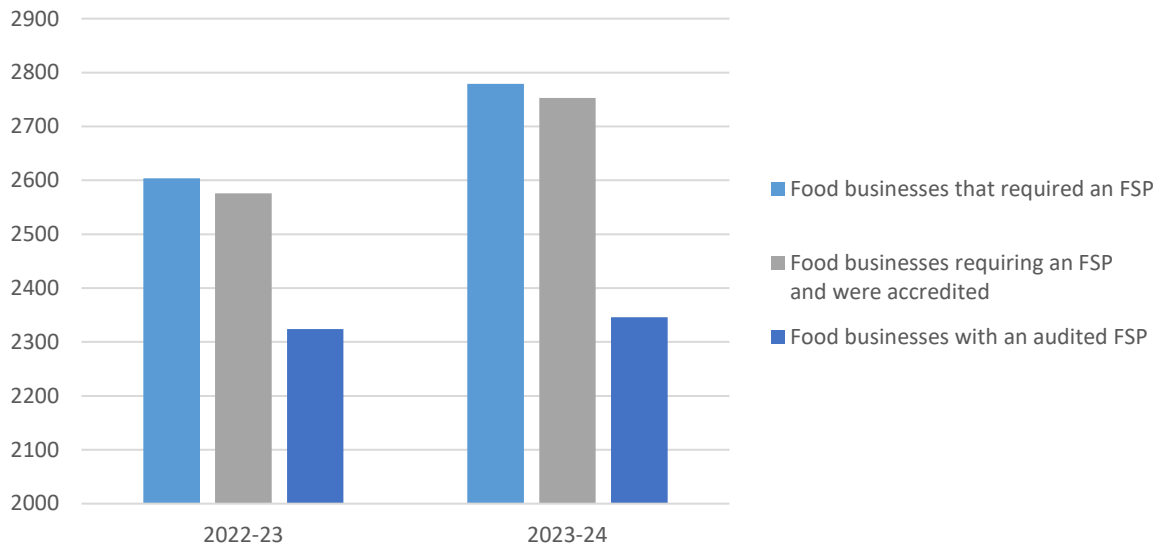
1. the food business involves off-site catering
2. the primary activity of the food business is on-site catering
3. the food business is undertaken as part of the operations of a private hospital
4. the food business is a facility that processes or serves potentially hazardous food to six or more vulnerable persons (e.g. childcare and aged care centres)
5. the food business is a facility whose principal activity is processing ready-for-consumption food that includes potentially hazardous food, for delivery by a delivered meals organisation to six or more persons at a time.

The compliance rate for relevant food businesses to have an accredited FSP has been consistently high at a rate of 99% compliance over the past six reporting periods.

There were 2,779 high-risk food businesses requiring an accredited FSP. The number of accredited FSPs that were audited by an approved auditor during the reporting period was 84% (2346) of the total, similar to 2022-23 (2,324 audited FSPs).

Food businesses' compliance with accreditation and auditing requirements for this reporting period compared to the previous reporting period is shown in figure 3.

Figure 3 Food business compliance with food safety program requirements



Food business inspections

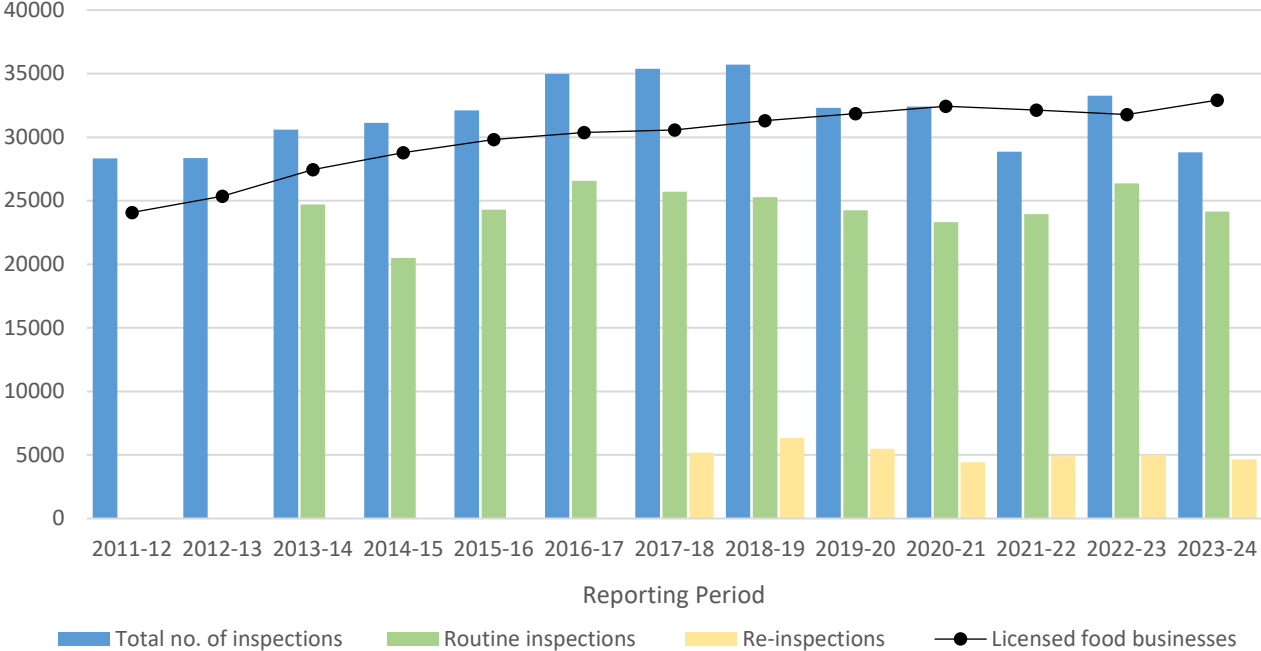
Local governments inspect licensed food businesses to assess compliance with the Food Act, the Food Safety Standards (Chapter 3 of the Food Standards Code) and the licence conditions of the food businesses. The Food Act does not specify the frequency of inspections. Local governments conduct routine inspections based on factors such as the risk category of the food business (e.g. high, medium, or low) and the compliance history of the business. The frequency of inspections may also provide an indication of a local government's capacity to assess compliance of a food business with their legislative requirements under the Food Act.

Inspection categories

Local governments were requested to report on routine inspections and re-inspections. Of the local governments with at least one licensed food business, nine reported that they do not collect data in relation to re-inspections. A total of 24,147 routine inspections and 4,659 re-inspections were undertaken in the 2023-24 reporting period for licensed food businesses, which, in total, is an average of 88 inspections per 100 food businesses annually.

The number of annual inspections undertaken (28,806) decreased by approximately 8% from 31,367 in 2022-23. A representation of the type and number of inspections undertaken annually is provided in Figure 4.

Figure 4 Food business inspection rates over time



Complaints

Local governments receive a variety of complaints from the public regarding unsafe practices at food businesses or regarding food purchased. Some examples of complaints include dirty or unhygienic food premises, undercooked food, poor food handling practices, vermin or animals in a food premises and alleged foodborne illness. The number and type of complaints received can vary greatly.

A total of 41 local governments reported that targeted timeframes are established and risk-rated to respond to or investigate complaints.

Local governments were requested to provide the total number of complaints about food businesses that they received during the reporting period. They were not asked to categorise these complaints due to the complexities associated with varying data collection methodologies within individual local governments.

Since 2018-19, complaints received annually about food businesses have been steadily increasing (Figure 4). During this reporting period, 5085 complaints were received, which is an increase of approximately 19% from 2022-23 (4,281).

Data relating to complaints against food businesses that do not require a licence is collected by 47% (37) of local governments, however only nine reported having received such complaints.

Complaint-related inspections

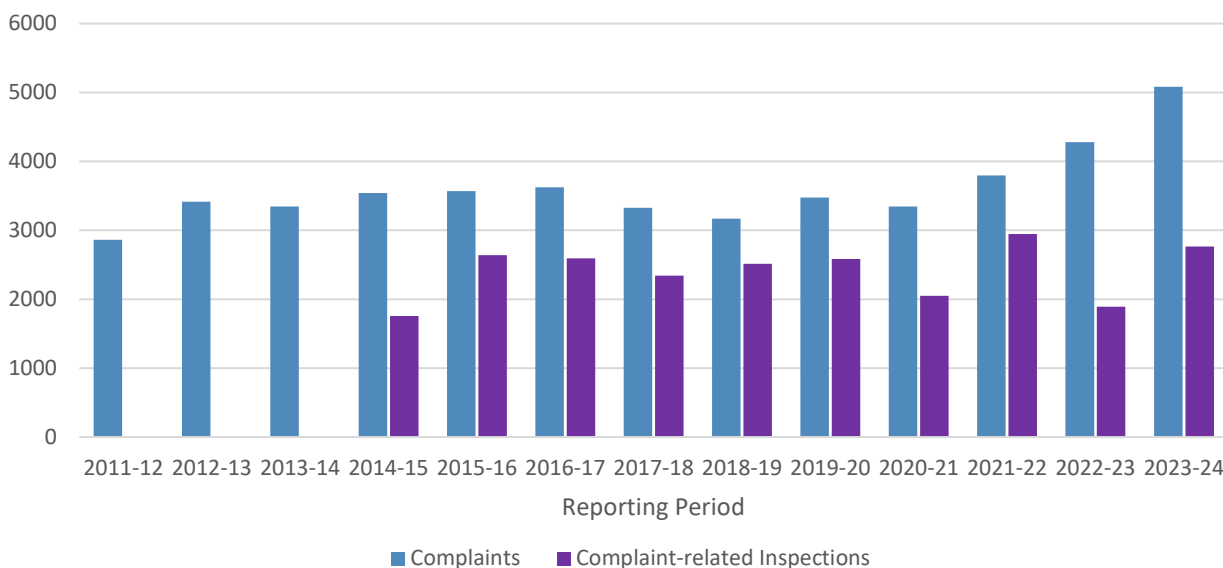
The number of complaint-related inspections undertaken compared with the number of complaints received provides an indication of whether complaints are being investigated via food business inspections.

For this reporting period, inspections (2,765) were undertaken for 54% of food complaints, an increase from the inspection rate of 44% in 2022–23.

A total of 44 local governments reported that data is collected relating to compliance of initial complaint-based inspections. For these local governments, the compliance rate was approximately 20%.

The number of complaints per 100 food businesses and the inspection rate for complaints over time is shown in Figure 5, noting that complaint-related inspection data for the reporting periods prior to 2014–15 is unavailable. Compliance rate is not displayed in this figure, as this data is not available for all local governments.

Figure 5 Number of food complaints and complaint-related inspections over time

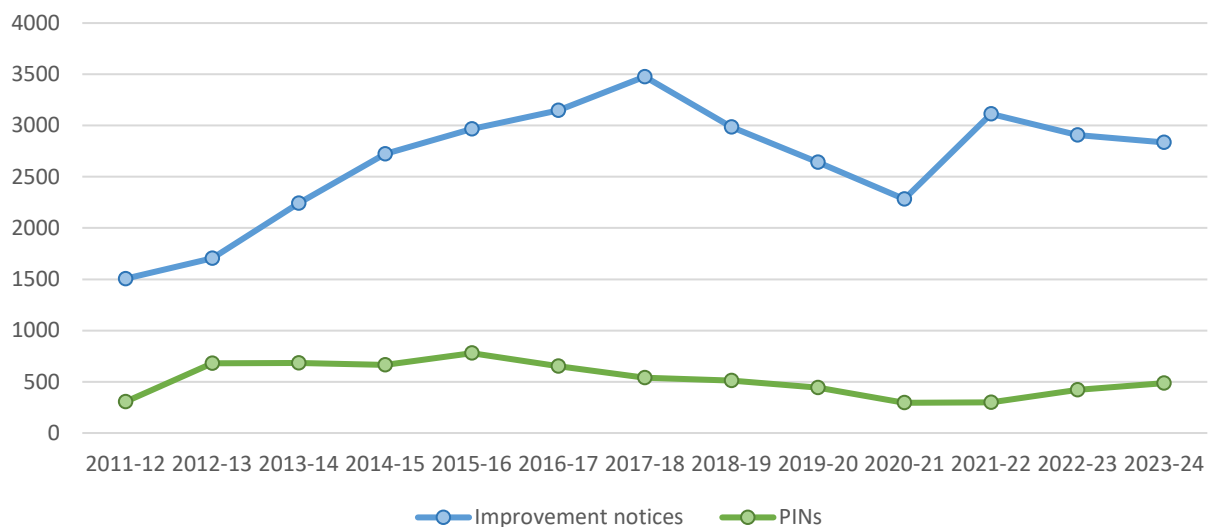


Enforcement activities

The Food Act provides a suite of enforcement options. The enforcement action taken by a local government should be graduated and proportionate to the severity of the non-compliance observed and any history of non-compliance. When considering enforcement data, it is important to note that in addition to enforcement actions, local governments use non-punitive actions such as education to assist food businesses achieve or maintain compliance with the Food Act. This report does not capture information from local governments in relation to other strategies used.

Consistent with previous years, the main type of enforcement activity undertaken by local governments was the issuing of improvement notices, followed by PINs as the second most common enforcement tool, as represented in Figure 6.

Figure 6 Annual trend in the number of Improvement Notices and PINs issued



Improvement notices

Improvement notices are utilised by local governments to address a variety of non-compliances within a food business. This may include issues such as the need to remedy cleaning, maintenance or structural contraventions or unsafe food handling practices. Improvement notices must provide food businesses with a reasonable timeframe to remedy any stated non-compliance.

Improvement notices remain the most utilised method of enforcement. The number of improvement notices issued in this reporting period (2,834) is similar to 2022–23 (2,908).

Prescribed infringement notices

Prescribed Infringement Notices (PINs) may only be issued for offences that are prescribed as PIN offences under the *State Penalties Enforcement Regulation 2014*. Only certain offences under the Food Act are prescribed as PIN offences. PINs can be issued when offences pose a moderate threat to human health and safety, or where there are indications of previous, current and ongoing non-compliance, such as failure to comply with a licence condition (section 51(1)) or failure to comply with the Food Standards Code (section 39(1)). The penalty unit values for PINs are relative to the severity of the offence.

While the issuing of PINs remains the second most frequently used type of enforcement activity, the number of PINs issued within the 2023–24 reporting period (486) increased by 15% from 2022–23 (421).

The annual trend in relation to other enforcement activities undertaken by Queensland local governments is shown in Figure 7.

Figure 7 Annual trend in enforcement activities



Suspension and cancellation of a licence

Section 78 of the Food Act allows local governments to suspend or cancel a licence when:

- the licensee is not, or is no longer, a suitable person to hold a licence
- the licensee has not complied with the accredited food safety program and the non-compliance is likely to result in a high risk to public health or safety
- the licence was issued under false or misleading representation.

Licences can be suspended or cancelled following a show cause notice. Local governments can use the show cause notice provisions prior to taking proposed action such as suspending or cancelling the licence.

A total of 94 show cause notices were issued during this reporting period, resulting in nine licence suspensions and ten cancellations.

Licences may be immediately suspended if a ground exists to suspend or cancel the licence and it is necessary to suspend the licence immediately because there is an immediate and serious risk to public health or safety. During this reporting period, there was a total of 59 immediate licence suspensions, 61% (36) of which were issued by Brisbane City Council.

Seizures

An authorised person has the power to seize a thing under the Food Act in certain circumstances, for example as evidence of an offence under the Food Act. A total of two seizures were undertaken in 2023–24, similar to the last three reporting periods.

Prosecutions

Prosecutions are generally initiated if there is a high threat to human health and safety, or if there is a known or expected ongoing non-compliance. Consequently, prosecutions are the least common, most resource-intensive enforcement tool utilised by Local Government.

For this reporting period there were a total of 47 prosecutions, all of which were undertaken by Brisbane City Council.

Voluntary surrender of licence

Examples of when a food business may surrender their licence includes if the business is sold to another person or entity, or if the business ceases to operate. The number of food businesses that surrendered their licence was 641, 42% more than in 2022–23 (453).

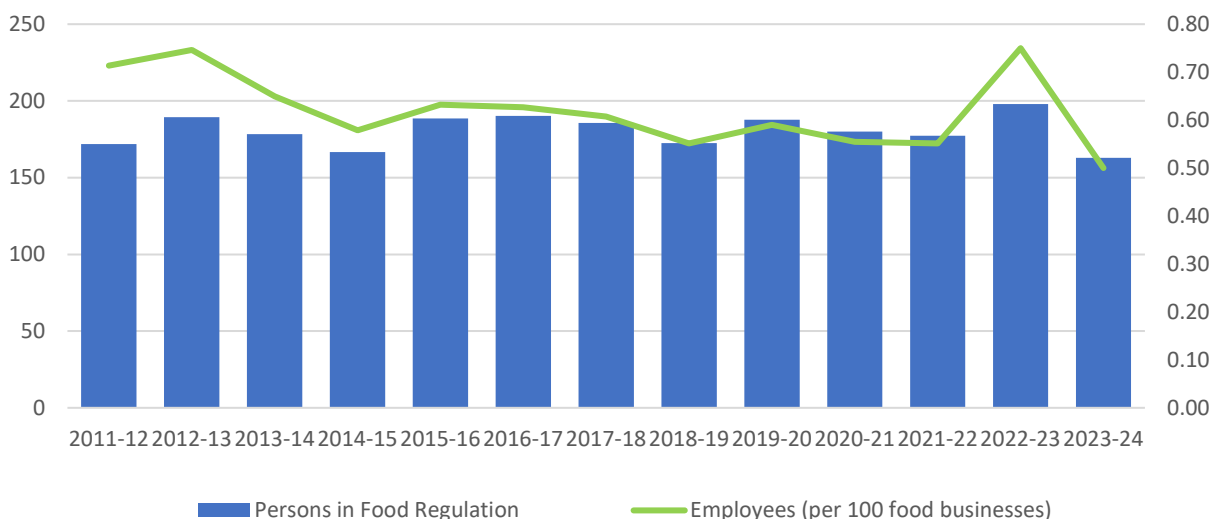
Employees in food regulation

Most local government employees working in food regulation are environmental health officers (EHOs). It is important to note that EHOs are responsible for many areas in addition to food regulation, particularly those in rural and remote locations.

In some rural and remote areas, food regulation is carried out by contract EHOs employed on an as-needs basis. In some of the Indigenous communities, environmental health workers may fulfil this function as part of their duties. To support Aboriginal Shire Councils and to build the skills of environmental health workers, EHOs from local Public Health Units often provide advice on food safety issues and inspecting food businesses operating within the area.

Figure 8 shows the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) employees committed to food regulation for 2023–24 compared to the previous reporting periods. State-wide, there were approximately 163 employees committed to food regulation for the 2023–24 reporting period, which is approximately one employee per 200 licensed food businesses, an 18% decrease from 2022–23 (198).

Figure 8 Employees committed to food regulation



A total of 39% (28) of local governments with licensed food businesses reported that they use contractors. This is a significant increase from 2022–23, where 27% (19) of local governments with licensed food businesses used contractors to perform some food regulation tasks.

Food regulation practices

Maintaining consistency in regulatory practice and enforcement is important, in order to prevent duplication of enforcement action and ensure consistent interpretation and enforcement of the Act.

A total of 71% (56) of local governments reported that a regulatory procedure is in place to ensure consistent enforcement practice and staff assessments are conducted for quality assurance and consistency of regulatory practices for 35% (28) of local governments. This is consistent with reporting for 2022-23.

Local governments have reported that the following strategies are used to ensure consistency of regulatory practices:

- following guidelines and procedures, particularly *Monitoring and Enforcement of the Food Act 2006*
- using inspection proformas and templates for consistency
- team discussions
- regular reporting
- team leader 'spot checks' of inspection reports
- Senior EHO/co-ordinator accompanies officers conducting inspections, on occasion
- small/remote LGs – seek advice and guidance from their local Queensland Health Public Health Unit.

Conclusion

Results presented in this report indicate that local governments are effectively administering their devolved powers under the *Food Act 2006*.

Licensed food businesses continue to have generally high rates of compliance with legislated requirements. The number of licensed food businesses in Queensland was 32,916, similar to 2022–23 (31,790 businesses).

A total of 75% (50) of local governments with at least one licensed food business reported that all licence applications received were processed in accordance with legislated requirements, including timeframes.

A total of 24,147 routine inspections conducted in the 2023–24 reporting period for licensed food businesses means that annual inspections are undertaken for only three-quarters of licensed food businesses, although this does not include re-inspections or complaint-related inspections.

Since 2018-19, complaints received annually about food businesses have been steadily increasing. During this reporting period, 5085 complaints were received, which is an increase of approximately 19% from 2022–23 (4,281). Data relating to complaints against food businesses that do not require a licence is collected by 47% of local governments.

Compared to the previous reporting period, there was a significantly lower number of full-time equivalent employees and a significantly higher number of local governments using contractors committed to food regulation. Generally, contractors are employed for short periods at a time, which limits the capacity of the local government to perform food regulatory functions regularly or in a timely manner (e.g. responding to complaints).

A realistic aspiration of a food regulatory system is to ensure that a food business is subject to the same amount of regulatory scrutiny and enforcement, whether in a major city or a remote area. The key to ensuring consistency is inspection frequency. It is reasonable to anticipate that inspection frequency should be based on risk, including compliance history, with high-risk businesses inspected more regularly than lower risk businesses.

However, inspection data captured in this report does not provide the discrimination necessary to compare regulatory oversight between local governments. To do so requires inspection numbers to be provided for non-licensed food businesses and to be based on a universal definition for risk and a specified frequency for each risk level.

This will require a change in how local governments categorise food businesses. To note, data relating to complaints against food businesses that do not require a licence is collected by only 47% of local governments.

Despite any identified constraints, this report allows local governments to broadly compare their results with those of other local governments with similar remoteness, numbers of licensed food businesses and numbers of persons committed to food regulation.

Further information

For further information in relation to the content of this report, please contact Food Safety Standards and Regulation via email foodsafety@health.qld.gov.au, or phone (07) 3328 9310.

Appendix 1 Local Government responses

Table 1. Licensing & inspections

Local government	Population ¹	Licensed food businesses	Licence applications received	Licence applications processed in accordance with legislative requirements, inc. timeframes	Food businesses with a food safety supervisor	High risk businesses requiring accredited FSP	High risk businesses with an audited accredited FSP	Non-compliance audits required	Non-compliance audits conducted	Routine inspections	Re-inspections	Most inspections required for a single food business	Complaints	Complaint-based inspections	Number of initial complaint-based inspections deemed compliant
Aurukun SC	1,101	6	0	0	6	1	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	-
Balonne SC	4,320	48	8	7	47	2	1	11	7	48	0	2	0	0	-
Banana SC	14,513	129	25	25	126	5	4	0	0	76	21	3	17	12	6
Barcaldine RC	2,849	53	53	53	53	0	0	0	0	27	1	1	1	1	-

¹ 2021 Census data was used to present Local Government area population; obtained from the Australian Bureau of Statistics via www.abs.gov.au/census

Local government	Population ¹	Licensed food businesses	Licence applications received	Licence applications processed in accordance with legislative requirements, inc. timeframes	Food businesses with a food safety supervisor	High risk businesses requiring accredited FSP	High risk businesses with an audited accredited FSP	Non-compliance audits required	Non-compliance audits conducted	Routine inspections	Re-inspections	Most inspections required for a single food business	Complaints	Complaint-based inspections	Number of initial complaint-based inspections deemed compliant
Barcoo SC	308	6	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	6	0	1	0	0	-
Blackall-Tambo RC	1,905	43	2	2	43	3	3	0	0	38	0	1	1	1	-
Boulia SC	458	7	7	7	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brisbane CC	1,242,825	7,743	2,252	1,593	7,203	683	570	0	0	3,213	752	6	1,259	120	40
Bulloo SC	337	18	19	19	19	8	8	0	0	13	0	1	1	0	1
Bundaberg RC	99,215	554	94	94	548	35	35	0	0	529	59	4	54	54	-
Burdekin SC	16,692	120	23	23	120	6	6	0	0	121	58	4	7	9	9
Burke SC	419	7	7	7	7	0	0	3	3	7	3	2	0	0	-
Cairns RC	253,748	1,196	289	222	1,185	93	90	0	0	979	269	7	169	40	15
Carpentaria SC	2,090	24	24	24	12	1	0	0	0	21	0	1	0	0	-
Cassowary Coast RC	29,157	239	239	239	239	13	10	0	1	239	0	4	3	3	-

Local government

	Population ¹	Licensed food businesses	Licence applications received	Licence applications processed in accordance with legislative requirements, inc. timeframes	Food businesses with a food safety supervisor	High risk businesses requiring accredited FSP	High risk businesses with an audited accredited FSP	Non-compliance audits required	Non-compliance audits conducted	Routine inspections	Re-inspections	Most inspections required for a single food business	Complaints	Complaint-based inspections	Number of initial complaint-based inspections deemed compliant
Central Highlands RC	27,836	204	17	16	138	9	7	0	0	29	11	2	23	19	-
Charters Towers RC	11,794	88	2	2	88	2	2	0	0	30	10	3	6	4	-
Cherbourg ASC	1,194	0	2	2	0	2	1	1	1	1	0	2	0	0	-
Cloncurry SC	3,644	20	20	20	20	0	0	1	1	27	0	0	0	0	-
Cook SC	4,511	85	88	85	85	0	0	5	5	130	25	2	6	4	3
Croydon SC	266	4	4	4	4	0	0	0	0	4	0	1	0	0	-
Diamantina SC	266	11	11	11	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
Doomadgee ASC	1,387	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
Douglas SC	12,337	220	11	11	206	13	13	0	0	266	19	3	16	15	-
Etheridge SC	714	11	11	11	11	1	1	0	0	21	5	3	0	0	16
Flinders SC	1,500	12	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0

Local government	Population ¹	Licensed food businesses	Licence applications received	Licence applications processed in accordance with legislative requirements, inc. timeframes	Food businesses with a food safety supervisor	High risk businesses requiring accredited FSP	High risk businesses with an audited accredited FSP	Non-compliance audits required	Non-compliance audits conducted	Routine inspections	Re-inspections	Most inspections required for a single food business	Complaints	Complaint-based inspections	Number of initial complaint-based inspections deemed compliant
Fraser Coast RC	111,032	534	100	100	100	56	17	0	0	252	0	5	74	65	-
Gladstone RC	63,515	319	53	53	201	21	19	0	0	141	10	3	43	28	22
Gold Coast CC	625,087	5,846	1,522	1,444	5,846	500	408	4	4	5,095	1,535	16	755	479	14
Goondiwindi RC	10,310	102	102	102	69	3	2	0	0	57	3	2	2	2	2
Gympie RC	53,242	341	76	72	147	18	16	0	0	77	0	7	25	25	-
Hinchinbrook SC	10,920	77	77	77	77	6	5	0	0	33	9	3	10	8	4
Hope Vale ASC	976	6	6	6	6	1	0	1	1	6	5	1	0	0	0
Ipswich CC	229,208	956	261	247	956	120	119	0	0	1,136	203	6	140	140	-
Isaac RC	22,046	177	22	21	177	2	2	0	0	160	1	5	30	8	5
Kowanyama ASC	1,079	2	2	2	2	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0
Livingstone SC	39,398	230	55	55	211	16	13	0	0	217	52	6	21	11	2

Local government

	Population ¹	Licensed food businesses	Licence applications received	Licence applications processed in accordance with legislative requirements, inc. timeframes	Food businesses with a food safety supervisor	High risk businesses requiring accredited FSP	High risk businesses with an audited accredited FSP	Non-compliance audits required	Non-compliance audits conducted	Routine inspections	Re-inspections	Most inspections required for a single food business	Complaints	Complaint-based inspections	Number of initial complaint-based inspections deemed compliant
Lockhart River ASC	640	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
Lockyer Valley RC	41,101	191	36	36	191	17	17	0	0	85	10	3	15	14	14
Logan CC	345,098	1,620	461	452	1,520	175	170	0	0	2,351	296	4	1,020	855	-
Longreach RC	3,647	39	4	4	39	1	1	0	0	28	1	1	0	0	0
Mackay RC	121,691	653	112	26	615	47	38	2	2	286	65	2	30	72	7
Mapoon ASC	432	2	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	0	0	0
Maranoa RC	12,825	177	16	16	177	8	5	3	3	180	0	4	4	4	4
Mareeba SC	22,858	237	28	28	237	7	7	1	1	189	0	5	62	31	24
McKinlay SC	836	8	0	0	5	6	6	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0
Moreton Bay RC	476,340	1,985	363	283	1,943	242	211	0	0	1,215	209	12	332	332	34
Mornington SC	1,025	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Local government	Population ¹	Licensed food businesses	Licence applications received	Licence applications processed in accordance with legislative requirements, inc. timeframes	Food businesses with a food safety supervisor	High risk businesses requiring accredited FSP	High risk businesses with an audited accredited FSP	Non-compliance audits required	Non-compliance audits conducted	Routine inspections	Re-inspections	Most inspections required for a single food business	Complaints	Complaint-based inspections	Number of initial complaint-based inspections deemed compliant
Mount Isa CC	18,727	129	129	129	129	13	13	0	0	129	7	2	4	4	4
Murweh SC	3,971	45	45	45	45	0	0	0	0	45	0	1	2	2	2
Napranum ASC	883	2	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	6	0	3	0	0	1
Noosa SC	56,298	517	62	62	514	34	34	0	0	504	77	3	64	22	-
North Burnett RC	10,068	89	5	5	75	1	0	8	8	108	50	3	4	3	4
Northern Peninsula Area RC	2,781	14	14	14	2	5	0	0	0	7	0	0	1	1	-
Palm Island ASC	2,098	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
Paroo SC	1,679	28	26	26	26	0	0	0	0	52	3	2	0	0	0
Pormpuraaw ASC	611	3	3	3	2	1	1	0	0	2	0	3	4	2	3
Quilpie SC	698	21	5	5	21	0	0	0	0	21	1	1	0	0	0
Redland CC	159,222	698	151	144	663	78	75	0	0	679	172	5	146	59	21

Local government	Population ¹	Licensed food businesses	Licence applications received	Licence applications processed in accordance with legislative requirements, inc. timeframes	Food businesses with a food safety supervisor	High risk businesses requiring accredited FSP	High risk businesses with an audited accredited FSP	Non-compliance audits required	Non-compliance audits conducted	Routine inspections	Re-inspections	Most inspections required for a single food business	Complaints	Complaint-based inspections	Number of initial complaint-based inspections deemed compliant
Richmond SC	761	10	0	0	10	1	1	0	0	18	0	2	1	1	1
Rockhampton RC	81,968	558	107	106	512	45	39	0	0	535	196	7	62	39	18
Scenic Rim RC	42,984	428	81	81	424	16	14	0	0	73	0	2	24	24	-
Somerset RC	25,057	171	52	52	171	9	9	0	0	129	9	3	13	13	-
South Burnett RC	32,996	225	40	40	225	11	10	2	2	237	76	4	31	31	31
Southern Downs RC	36,290	356	72	72	253	19	15	0	0	167	42	3	29	3	-
Sunshine Coast RC	342,541	2200	459	410	2177	159	76	159	0	1,984	9	3	194	15	10
Tablelands RC	26,244	243	46	46	243	8	7	0	0	192	43	3	9	9	5
Toowoomba RC	173,204	938	181	181	938	117	117	0	0	424	59	2	165	26	-
Torres SC	3,421	41	41	41	21	4	4	0	0	34	7	2	2	1	-
Torres Strait Island RC	4,124	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	-

Local government	Population ¹	Licensed food businesses	Licence applications received	Licence applications processed in accordance with legislative requirements, inc. timeframes	Food businesses with a food safety supervisor	High risk businesses requiring accredited FSP	High risk businesses with an audited accredited FSP	Non-compliance audits required	Non-compliance audits conducted	Routine inspections	Re-inspections	Most inspections required for a single food business	Complaints	Complaint-based inspections	Number of initial complaint-based inspections deemed compliant
Townsville CC	192,768	1,061	232	232	792	100	93	0	0	788	200	6	131	86	40
Weipa TA	4,100	31	21	19	31	0	0	0	0	49	25	3	3	0	-
Western Downs RC	33,843	250	97	97	250	12	12	0	0	265	40	4	32	32	32
Whitsunday RC	37,152	472	82	82	472	13	13	0	0	320	8	3	35	35	-
Winton SC	1,129	26	1	1	26	1	1	0	0	20	0	1	0	0	-
Woorabinda ASC	1,019	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	1	1	1
Wujal Wujal ASC	276	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	2	0	2	0	0	-
Yarrabah ASC	2,505	8	2	2	2	2	2	0	0	15	0	2	1	0	1
Total	5,156,138	32,916	8,459	7,399	30,733	2,779	2,346	202	40	24,147	4,659	Ave. 3	5,085	2,765	562

Table 2. Regulation & enforcement

Local government	Population ²	Licensed food businesses	Authorised persons	Employees committed to food regulation (FTE)	Contractors used in food regulation (FTE)	Improvement notices	Seizures	Prescribed Infringement Notices	Licences surrendered	Licences immediately suspended	Show cause notices issued	Licences suspended after show cause notice	Licences cancelled after show cause notice	Prosecutions
Aurukun SC	1,101	6	0	0	Yes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Balonne SC	4,320	48	2	1	Yes	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Banana SC	14,513	129	2	1	No	8	0	3	0	0	2	0	0	0
Barcaldine RC	2,849	53	2	1	Yes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Barcoo SC	308	6	1	1	No	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blackall-Tambo RC	1,905	43	1	1	No	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Boulia SC	458	7	1	1	No	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brisbane CC	1,242,825	7,743	40	25	No	454	0	195	38	36	48	4	5	47

² 2021 Census data was used to present Local Government area population; obtained from the Australian Bureau of Statistics via www.abs.gov.au/census

Local government	Population ²	Licensed food businesses	Authorised persons	Employees committed to food regulation (FTE)	Contractors used in food regulation (FTE)	Improvement notices	Seizures	Prescribed Infringement Notices	Licences surrendered	Licences immediately suspended	Show cause notices issued	Licences suspended after show cause notice	Licences cancelled after show cause notice	Prosecutions
Bulloo SC	337	18	2	1	Yes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bundaberg RC	99,215	554	5	2	No	37	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
Burdekin SC	16,692	120	4	1.25	No	6	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
Burke SC	419	7	2	0.25	Yes	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Cairns RC	253,748	1,196	10	7.4	No	36	0	22	0	4	4	0	0	0
Carpentaria SC	2,090	24	0	0.1	Yes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cassowary Coast RC	29,157	239	3	1.5	No	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Central Highlands RC	27,836	204	2	0.4	Yes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Charters Towers RC	11,794	88	1	1	No	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
Cherbourg ASC	1,194	0	0	0.25	Yes	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cloncurry SC	3,644	20	1	0.15	Yes	27	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Cook SC	4,511	85	1	1	No	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Croydon SC	266	4	1	0.1	Yes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Local government	Population ²	Licensed food businesses	Authorised persons	Employees committed to food regulation (FTE)	Contractors used in food regulation (FTE)	Improvement notices	Seizures	Prescribed Infringement Notices	Licences surrendered	Licences immediately suspended	Show cause notices issued	Licences suspended after show cause notice	Licences cancelled after show cause notice	Prosecutions
Diamantina SC	266	11	1	0.1	Yes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Doomadgee ASC	1,387	0	0	0	No	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Douglas SC	12,337	220	2	2	No	5	0	5	41	0	0	0	0	0
Etheridge SC	714	11	0	0.3	Yes	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	0
Flinders SC	1,500	12	0	0.05	No	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fraser Coast RC	111,032	534	6	2.5	No	5	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gladstone RC	63,515	319	2	1.5	No	20	0	2	19	1	4	0	1	0
Gold Coast CC	625,087	5,846	51	19.5	No	1,220	0	135	196	2	15	1	1	0
Goondiwindi RC	10,310	102	1	1	No	27	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gympie RC	53,242	341	13	2	No	100	0	6	0	1	1	1	0	0
Hinchinbrook SC	10,920	77	5	0.2	Yes	0	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	0
Hope Vale ASC	976	6	0.2	0	Yes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ipswich CC	229,208	956	12	5.44	No	45	0	2	0	0	3	0	0	0

Local government	Population ²	Licensed food businesses	Authorised persons	Employees committed to food regulation (FTE)	Contractors used in food regulation (FTE)	Improvement notices	Seizures	Prescribed Infringement Notices	Licences surrendered	Licences immediately suspended	Show cause notices issued	Licences suspended after show cause notice	Licences cancelled after show cause notice	Prosecutions
Isaac RC	22,046	177	1	2	No	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Kowanyama ASC	1,079	2	0	2	No	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Livingstone SC	39,398	230	2	1.2	No	23	0	3	8	3	1	0	0	0
Lockhart River ASC	640	0	0	0	No	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lockyer Valley RC	41,101	191	2	1	Yes	5	0	0	11	0	1	0	0	0
Logan CC	345,098	1620	21	14	No	264	0	8	0	1	2	0	0	0
Longreach RC	3,647	39	1	0.25	Yes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mackay RC	121,691	653	6	4	No	14	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0
Mapoon ASC	432	2	0	0	Yes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maranoa RC	12,825	177	3	1	Yes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mareeba SC	22,858	237	1	0.2	Yes	5	0	4	0	0	1	0	0	0
McKinlay SC	836	8	2	0.01	Yes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Moreton Bay RC	476,340	1,985	11	6.5	Yes	89	0	34	0	5	0	0	0	0

Local government	Population ²	Licensed food businesses	Authorised persons	Employees committed to food regulation (FTE)	Contractors used in food regulation (FTE)	Improvement notices	Seizures	Prescribed Infringement Notices	Licences surrendered	Licences immediately suspended	Show cause notices issued	Licences suspended after show cause notice	Licences cancelled after show cause notice	Prosecutions
Mornington SC	1,025	0	0	0	No	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mount Isa CC	18,727	129	4	4	No	4	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
Murweh SC	3,971	45	0.5	0	Yes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Napranum ASC	883	2	1	0.1	No	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Noosa SC	56,298	517	8	3.5	No	41	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Burnett RC	10,068	89	2	0.75	Yes	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northern Peninsula Area RC	2,781	14	1	1	No	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Palm Island ASC	2,098	0	0	0	No	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Paroo SC	1,679	28	3	0.25	Yes	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Pormpuraaw ASC	611	3	1	0.5	No	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Quilpie SC	698	21	3	0.25	Yes	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
Redland CC	159,222	698	9	6	No	62	0	10	126	2	2	0	0	0

Local government	Population ²	Licensed food businesses	Authorised persons	Employees committed to food regulation (FTE)	Contractors used in food regulation (FTE)	Improvement notices	Seizures	Prescribed Infringement Notices	Licences surrendered	Licences immediately suspended	Show cause notices issued	Licences suspended after show cause notice	Licences cancelled after show cause notice	Prosecutions
Richmond SC	761	10	2	1	Yes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rockhampton RC	81,968	558	8	2.8	No	2	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0
Scenic Rim RC	42,984	428	3	1.5	No	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Somerset RC	25,057	171	3	1	No	5	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
South Burnett RC	32,996	225	2	2	Yes	5	0	0	42	2	2	0	0	0
Southern Downs RC	36,290	356	4	2.5	No	6	0	2	0	0	2	0	1	0
Sunshine Coast RC	342,541	2200	13	6	No	109	0	20	0	0	1	1	0	0
Tablelands RC	26,244	243	2	0.7	No	0	0	0	13	0	0	0	0	0
Toowoomba RC	173,204	938	10	2.5	No	56	0	11	51	0	0	0	0	0
Torres SC	3,421	41	1	0.25	Yes	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Torres Strait Island RC	4,124	0	0	0	No	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Townsville CC	192,768	1,061	12	5	No	127	0	6	61	0	3	0	1	0
Weipa TA	4,100	31	2	0.2	Yes	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Local government	Population ²	Licensed food businesses	Authorised persons	Employees committed to food regulation (FTE)	Contractors used in food regulation (FTE)	Improvement notices	Seizures	Prescribed Infringement Notices	Licences surrendered	Licences immediately suspended	Show cause notices issued	Licences suspended after show cause notice	Licences cancelled after show cause notice	Prosecutions
Western Downs RC	33,843	250	2	0.5	No	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whitsunday RC	37,152	472	3	2	No	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Winton SC	1,129	26	1	2	No	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Woorabinda ASC	1,019	2	1	0.1	No	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wujal Wujal ASC	276	0	3	2	No	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Yarrabah ASC	2,505	8	1	0.25	No	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	5,156,138	32,916	329.7	162.8	Yes - 29	2,834	2	486	641	59	94	9	10	47