

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No.528

asked on Wednesday, 19 May 2004

MRS E CUNNINGHAM ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES, MINES AND ENERGY (MR ROBERTSON)—

QUESTION:

Since the passage of the *Vegetation Management Act*, what processes have been put in place to allow access to compensation by landowners and when will access commence?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Government is providing \$150 million to help landholders to adapt and adjust to the new vegetation management laws. The most significant element of this package is \$130 million to provide structural adjustment to landholders.

Structural adjustment package has been developed in consultation with the Queensland Rural Adjustment Authority (QRAA) which has had extensive experience in the development and delivery of such packages.

Landholders will be required to provide evidence that the new vegetation management framework significantly impacts on their viability. Up to \$100,000 may be provided to those landholders to undertake specific projects to improve their viability. In addition, funding will be provided for the voluntary purchase of properties that are considered completely unviable as a result of the legislation.

The structural adjustment package is being finalised, and landholders will be able to apply as of 1 July 2004.

In addition to the structural adjustment package, \$12 million is available for incentives, and \$8 million is available for best management practice. The incentives package is being delivered through regional groups, and a tender for this delivery role in southern Queensland closes in early June.

The Government is currently negotiating with Agforce and Queensland Farmers Federation concerning the delivery of the best management practice package.
