

**QUESTION ON NOTICE**  
**No. 547**  
**Asked on 19 May 2004**

**MR HORAN** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Fisheries (Mr Palaszczuk)—

**QUESTION:**

With reference to the FarmBis Program and the 23 January 2004 announcement that “the program’s designated funds have now been allocated to approved training activities”—

- (1) Will he confirm that at the end of April 2004 there was still about \$4.5m not paid out from the \$30m allocation for the FarmBis Program in Queensland between 2001 and 2004?
- (2) When and how will this funding be allocated?
- (3) How much of the \$30m allocated to FarmBis in Queensland between 2001 and 2004 was used for administration costs overall and for the Queensland Rural Adjustment Authority’s administration costs specifically?

**ANSWER:**

FarmBis II has operated in accordance with the Commonwealth/State agreement.

- (1) As at 30 April 2004, \$4,810,235 was held for training already approved, but not yet undertaken. As agreed under the program’s Commonwealth/State agreement, final payments for approved training can be made as the training is undertaken, until 31 December 2004.
- (2) This funding is already allocated for training that primary producers intend to undertake in the remainder of the current program. The uptake of this training is monitored weekly by the Queensland Rural Adjustment Authority (QRAA) and where training is not proceeding, funds are reallocated to further applications, which are considered in order of date of receipt. This is to ensure the maximum utilisation of training funds. I am advised the Commonwealth/State agreement requires that training grants comprise at least 78% of total program expenditure, but the actual expenditure on training grants in Queensland is 80%.
- (3) The Commonwealth/State agreement stipulates that the program’s administrative expenditure should not exceed 10% of total expenditure. In Queensland, 0.82% of funding was allocated to the State Planning Group, and 9.18% was allocated to the Queensland Rural Adjustment Authority. The actual expenditure has been a lesser amount.

Queensland has performed very well in complying with FarmBis administration expenditure benchmarks set out in the Commonwealth/State agreement. The table below shows Queensland’s performance against the agreed allocation of funds.

<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Commonwealth/State agreed benchmark</b>	<b>Actual expenditure in Qld</b>
Administration expenditure	Not to exceed 10%	9.25% for QRAA 0.50% for the State Planning Group
Communication expenditure	Not to exceed 1%	0.53%
Co-ordination	Not to exceed 11%	7.48% allocated to direct regional coordination services 2.33% for the Office of the State Coordinator