

QUESTION ON NOTICE
No. 722
Asked on Thursday, 12 May 2005

MR FENLON asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Fisheries (MR PALASZCZUK)—

QUESTION:

What steps is his department taking to promote women in primary industries?

ANSWER:

The Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (DPI&F) has a unit dedicated to supporting and promoting the work of women in Queensland's primary industries.

For the past six years, the unit has provided a diverse range of services including electronic newsletters distributed to over 1600 women and men across the state; management of the prestigious national Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation's (RIRDC's) Rural Women's Award; and the Department's own Elaine Brough Award. Other professional development projects include support for women to undertake the Australian Institute of Company Director's training and assistance to attend the annual world conference for rural women in Spain in 2002.

Most recently the unit managed and promoted the second Enterprising Women in Rural Industries Trade Show. Thirty-two women who have established value-added food businesses were given the opportunity to showcase their products to over 800 visitors including the media, chefs, restaurateurs, distributors, wholesalers and government trade and business advisors in Brisbane.

Increasingly women working in primary industries are establishing niche food, fibre and agritourism businesses on-farm and making important contributions to regional economic development in Queensland. The Department is committed to supporting and promoting their work.