

**QUESTION ON NOTICE**  
**No. 609**  
**Asked on Friday, 21 April 2006**

**MR HORAN** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Fisheries (MR MULHERIN)-

**QUESTION:**

With reference to the recent external review of his Department's funding commitment to BSES Limited—

Is he satisfied with BSES' current strategic plan and will he give a commitment to at the very least maintain Government funding for BSES at its current level of \$3.8m per year?

**ANSWER:**

I support BSES Limited's current strategic plan covering the years 2006-2009.

The Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (DPI&F) plans to commit \$3.8m to BSES Limited in 2006-07.

DPI&F is currently preparing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with BSES Limited for the three years from 2006-07 onwards, which will contain a funding commitment. This commitment is in keeping with the recommendation of an external review conducted late last year, which recognised the importance of creating stability in the funding arrangement between DPI&F and BSES Limited.

DPI&F's total expenditure on sugar research, development and extension in 2005-06 is over \$5.5m and a similar level of total expenditure will occur in 2006-07.

The areas within BSES Limited's Strategic Plan that DPI&F is particularly targeting are:

- developing technologies to improve gross margins, productivity, sustainability and supply security; and
- delivering tailored solutions to increase adoption of R&D by different customers in different regions.