

QUESTION ON NOTICE
No. 749
Asked on Thursday, 11 May 2006

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

QUESTION:

With reference to his presentation of Innovation Awards during the Beef Australia 2006 event in Rockhampton recently—

What is the importance of innovation in promoting the growth of the beef industry in Queensland?

ANSWER:

The Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (DPI&F) has a very strong focus on innovation, not only in the beef industry, but throughout primary industries.

I had the pleasure of presenting the DPI&F Value Added Award while I was in Rockhampton for the enormously successful Beef 2006.

The award acknowledges the smart, innovative things that Australians are doing in the beef industry.

Innovation plays a vital role in DPI&F's vision of profitable primary industries for Queensland, and it has a very important place in making the Queensland meat and livestock industry more profitable and sustainable.

DPI&F has a long and proud history in research and development.

There is no doubt that the outstanding science and research, development and extension (RD&E) undertaken by DPI&F, not only in the beef industry but also throughout primary industries, has given Queensland the 'edge' in a range of important emerging areas including traceability, genetics and biotechnology.

As part of the commitment to RD&E and innovation, DPI&F is a core partner in the Beef Cooperative Research Centre.

In one of many successful Queensland-led projects, DPI&F scientists are contributing to the development and commercialisation of multiple DNA tests and non-genetic treatments to improve the reproductive performance of the breeding herd.

Results from this innovative project are expected to lead to an improvement of \$46.5 million in the gross annual revenue for the Australian beef industry.