

**QUESTION ON NOTICE**  
**No. 271**  
**Asked on Tuesday 6 March 2007**

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

**QUESTION:**

With reference to the Beattie Government statement on Tuesday, 6 June 2006, "DPI & F Industry Development Allocated \$203 million"—

Will he outline (a) a list of all the programs created and funded with this \$203m and (b) an itemised list of the expenditure to date for each of the programs including the successful applicant and the amount received?

**ANSWER:**

It is not practical, nor would it be reasonable to divert the resources of the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries to identify every itemised list of expenditure to date for each of the programs. If the Member would like to ask for the costs of a specific program, I would be more than happy to provide the information.

The Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries allocated \$203 million in the 2006-07 budget to boost productivity in the sector and develop further markets for primary industries and fisheries.

The key investments and progress made in Industry Development include:

- \$112 million on research and development to increase productivity, build markets, promote flexibility and enhance sustainability of the primary industries sector in Queensland. The research, development and extension programs are providing the following benefits to industries:
  - The intensive animal industries: increased productivity through improved genetic potential, better breeding technologies, faster growth rates, more efficient production systems and improved farm enterprise management.
  - The beef industry: greater investment in genetic solutions for high quality beef products, continuous availability of high nutrient value feed for intensive production systems and better adoption of technology across industry.
  - The grains and pulse industries: increased investment to improve grain supply, particularly for feedgrains, including feedgrains breeding.
  - Research and development in transformational technologies: expanded molecular research and development capacities in subtropical and tropical fruit and exploring the development of an advanced biomaterial research and development capacity within DPI&F.
- \$1.7 million for the FutureCane project, which supports the sugar industry in the adoption of farming systems and business management practices to achieve more profitable and sustainable farms. FutureCane is dovetailing with pre-existing programs and has effective working relationships with the majority of industry organisations. It addresses issues such as economics and diversification.

- An additional \$1 million (\$2 million over two years) for hardwood R&D activities including breeding, pest and disease control and novel wood products to support investment in hardwood plantations in Queensland. DPI&F has formed several important private sector partnerships involving some of the most important hardwood plantation companies currently investing in Queensland. The Department's clonal *Corymbia* hybrids for the subtropics and the elite African Mahogany clones for the tropics are providing a critical difference to investments by the private sector. DPI&F forest health scientists will shortly release an updated version of the field manual for pest and diseases for *Eucalyptus* plantations in New South Wales and Queensland. Primary processing trials have provided valuable information in terms of the ability to process and recover product from plantation-grown material through established processes.
- \$0.5 million to further the Asian Market for Horticulture initiative (AMHI), which is expected to make significant progress in consolidating markets, especially for citrus and mango in China. A group of Queensland citrus growers have established a marketing group called "Q Group" with the assistance of the Queensland Citrus Growers Association and AMHI (DPI&F). The first season of shipments have been valued at \$970,000 and are expected to increase this season. Work is also underway to link mango exporters with key importers to increase mango exports to China for the coming season.
- Re-direction of investment to "revolutionary" R&D (such as agricultural biotechnology, food futures, tropical and subtropical science and advanced materials) to provide the research necessary to underpin the long-term future of the primary industries sector. Three scoping studies to identify investment opportunities in revolutionary R&D covering food futures, tropical and subtropical science and advanced biomaterials have been completed and a fourth covering agricultural biotechnology is being finalised. The findings from the scoping studies will be considered in developing future research projects which reflect the re-balancing of investment to support additional revolutionary R&D.
- An investment of \$1.3 million in the Farm Financial Counselling Service. Farm financial counsellors are experiencing significant demand from producers' affected by drought conditions, Cyclone Larry and industries such as sugar. Year to date, financial counsellors have helped around 820 farm enterprises in Queensland. The Department also contributes \$250,000 per annum to the Australian Government's Rural Financial Counselling Service (RFCS) program in Queensland.