

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 790

asked on Thursday, 24 May 2007

MR RICKUSS ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND WATER AND MINISTER ASSISTING THE PREMIER IN NORTH QUEENSLAND (MR WALLACE)—

QUESTION:

With reference to his answer to Question on Notice No. 326 asked on 7 March 2007 in which he provided details of the \$78,760,355 that has already been provided from the \$150m set aside to assist landholders affected by vegetation management laws—

- (1) Will he provide a detailed breakdown of how much of the balance of the \$150m package has been provided to date in enterprise assistance, exit assistance, the vegetation management incentives program and best management practice programs (each program reported separately and broken down by region)?
- (2) How many of the 699 applications to be assessed from 5 April 2007 for enterprise and exit assistance have been approved and denied to date (reported separately and broken down by region)?
- (3) What will happen to any unspent funds?

ANSWER:

- (1) In the period from 5 April 2007 to 25 May 2007, an additional \$16,736,957 was provided in enterprise assistance to landholders across Queensland and \$1,623,000 was provided for exit assistance. A total of \$1,330,225 was allocated to fund successful tenders under the Environmental Partnerships Scheme which replaced the Vegetation Incentives Scheme. Information on the provision of funds across ABARE Regions in Queensland is outlined in Table 1 below:

Table 1

ABARE* Region	Enterprise assistance	Exit Assistance	Environmental Partnerships Scheme
Cape York and Gulf	\$645,400	\$0	\$0
Central Qld	\$2,601,845	\$0	\$133,968
Charleville/Longreach	\$2,459,555	\$0	\$72,680
Eastern Darling	\$145,000	\$0	\$303,141

Downs			
Maranoa/ Western Downs	\$1,939,400	\$0	\$148,286
North Central Queensland	\$3,911,757	\$0	\$363,647
Northern Qld Coastal – Mackay to Cairns	\$1,200,850	\$0	\$118,200
South West Qld	\$674,180	\$1,623,000	\$0
Southern Qld coastal – Curtis to Moreton	\$2,482,470	\$0	\$78,898
Western Qld	\$676,500	\$0	\$111,405

* Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics

(2) In the period from 5 April 2007 to 25 May 2007, a further 234 applications for financial assistance have been assessed by the Queensland Rural Adjustment Authority. Detailed information on applications for enterprise and exit assistance that have been approved or refused by ABARE region is outlined in Table 2 below.

Table 2

ABARE Region	Enterprise Assistance		Exit Assistance	
	Approved	Refused	Approved	Refused
Cape York and Gulf	6	1	0	0
Central Qld	36	5	0	0
Charleville/ Longreach	33	2	0	0
Eastern Darling Downs	2	4	0	2
Maranoa/ Western Downs	25	3	0	0
North Central Queensland	40	0	0	0
Northern Qld Coastal – Mackay to Cairns	12	1	0	0
South West Qld	7	1	1	0
Southern Qld coastal – Curtis to Moreton	38	8	0	0
Western Qld	7	0	0	0

(3) Based on current approval trends, it is anticipated that the funding available for the enterprise and exit assistance will be fully subscribed. Accordingly, it is not expected that there will be unspent funds from this package.