

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 455

Asked on 15 April 2008

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

QUESTION:

How will the recently opened Queensland Crop Development Facility at Redlands assist Queensland primary producers?

ANSWER:

This new glasshouse facility at the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (DPI&F's) Redlands Research Station is a joint project between DPI&F, the Queensland University of Technology and the University of Queensland with additional funding from the Queensland Smart State Initiative.

These collaborating institutions will use the new facilities to develop new varieties of tropical/subtropical fruit and vegetables, sugarcane, grain, pulses and fodder crops to competently boost Queensland's growing agricultural sector.

The Queensland Crop Development Facility will deliver more than \$1 billion worth of economic benefits for Queensland in its first 15 years, based on the value of the projects being undertaken using the glasshouses.

The complex will support a new generation of tropical, subtropical and molecular farming for many decades to come.

The five glasshouses can accommodate all crop species, even trees, and can replicate specific environments using computer-controlled temperature settings.

DPI&F has already had discussions with prominent agricultural companies regarding the use of these facilities and the CSIRO division of Plant Industry is a new possible partner expressing interest.