

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 1970

asked on Wednesday 6 October 2010

MS FARMER ASKED THE MINISTER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABILITY (MS JONES)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister provide details of what programs are being offered by the department to help businesses cut carbon kilos?

ANSWER:

The Department of Environment and Resource Management has a number of programs available to help businesses cut carbon kilos.

The first is ecoBiz which is the department's signature business partnership program. This program helps businesses measure their sustainability, identify opportunities for eco-efficiency and successfully implement change. It is a free program that can lead to recognition of a business's environmental credentials. ecoBiz partners save on average \$70,624 a year and reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by more than 690 tonnes. Since 2004 nearly 700 Queensland businesses have formally applied to join the ecoBiz program in order to achieve partnership status.

Building on the success of the ecoBiz program are the ClimateSmart Business Clusters. This program supports groups of 15 to 20 participants to grow and conduct business in environmentally friendly ways. Businesses are linked through location, industry type or supply chain and are assisted by a Cluster Leader.

The Cluster program is designed to be completed in six to eight months compared to around 18 months to complete the ecoBiz program. Businesses who have participated in the program have identified potential savings of around 30 tonnes in greenhouse gas emissions and financial savings of around \$6,000 per business.

The department's Queensland Water and Energy Sustainable Technology Network also runs a series of networking forums aimed at promoting the awareness and uptake of sustainable technologies and best practice by businesses.

Further assistance is also available to manufacturers from the Queensland Manufacturing Institute and the Department of Employment, Economic development and Innovation's Sustainable Manufacturing program.

I thank the honourable member for being a strong advocate of climate change programs in her electorate.