

QUESTION ON NOTICE
No. 627
Asked on 10 September 2013

MRS CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (MR McVEIGH)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the answer to Question on Notice No. 488 of 2013—

Will the Minister provide a schedule outlining the current situation in relation to compensation claims and payments to commercial fishers affected by flooding, dredging and other port activities in the Gladstone Harbour?

ANSWER:

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) is not the administrator of the Commercial Fisheries Compensation Program. This compensation scheme is run by the Gladstone Ports Corporation for fishers affected by dredging in Gladstone Harbour.

However, DAFF has provided information to 40 fishers in the form of catch history data sheets to assist with their applications for compensation.

Gladstone Ports Corporation has advised that 17 applicants have been made an offer of compensation and 3 have accepted and been paid to the value of \$110,535. The 14 offerees who have not accepted have been notified they must accept the offer by COB Friday 11 October or the offer will lapse. The expected total payout is \$500,000.

The Commercial Fisheries Compensation Program was relaunched for “New Applicants” on Friday 6 September 2013 and will close on Friday 11 October 2013.

Further information on this program can be found on the website:

<http://www.westernbasinportdevelopment.com.au/commercial-fisheries-compensation-program>

Gladstone Ports Corporation has also established the Gladstone Seafood Industry Fund with a budget of \$1.5 million to help facilitate the restoration of the industry.