

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 23

Asked on 14 February 2017

MS A LEAHY asked the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Economic Development (HON W BYRNE)—

QUESTION:

With reference to a media statement on 14 June 2016, titled 'Palaszczuk Government looking out for Rural Queensland'—

Will the Minister advise (reported separately) in relation to grants for businesses, including to seek advice on succession planning (a) how many grants to businesses have been made, (b) what is the value of each of the grants and (c) how many grants have been made where clients have been seeking advice on succession planning?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

In order to properly implement the grants mentioned in the question the Queensland Government required consultation with industry and QRAA.

Informed by this consultation the Farm Management Grants program has been broken into two components. One component will support research activities related to crop insurance and other risk management options. The second component provides rebates for primary producers obtaining professional advice.

The crop insurance grants component, which provides grants of up to \$100,000 to organisations to conduct research that will support the development of risk management options such as multi-peril crop insurance has been open to applicants since December 2016. The Queensland Government has to date received one application covering multiple industries under that program.

The Farm Management Grants component provides rebates of up to \$2,500 for eligible professional advice obtained.

These grants will initially be open for professional advice related to succession planning by primary producers and/or relatives looking to take over a primary production enterprise.

QRAA will be administering the Farm Management Grants.

The *Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994* requires that QRAA can only administer financial schemes of assistance that are approved under the *Rural and Regional Adjustment Regulation 2011*.

The regulatory amendments necessary to allow QRAA to administer the grants are in the final stages of development and I am advised that these grants will be open for application by the end of March 2017.