

**Question on Notice**

**No. 1553**

**Asked on 31 October 2018**

**MR J MCDONALD** ASKED MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND FISHERIES (HON M FURNER)—

**QUESTION:**

Will the Minister fund the allocation charges for irrigators within the Lockyer and Somerset schemes as a special hardship payment in light of the current drought conditions and no water being available?

**ANSWER:**

The Palaszczuk Government offers a number of assistance measures to help irrigators affected by drought. These include:

- The Drought Relief from Electricity Charges Scheme which provides relief from supply charges on electricity accounts that are used to pump water for farm or irrigation purposes. Financial assistance is available in drought-declared areas or with an Individually Droughted Property declaration. The Lockyer Valley and Somerset Regional Council areas are currently drought-declared and irrigators in those council areas are eligible. Ergon Energy customers seeking relief from electricity supply charges can contact Ergon Energy directly on 13 10 46. Non-Ergon customers are able to apply through the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy.
- Annual water licence fees are automatically waived for Queensland producers whose properties are in drought-declared areas. Affected producers will have been advised of the waiver by letter. Fees for all new water licence applications for stock and domestic water in all drought-declared areas in Queensland will also be waived. This program is administered by the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy.