

Question on Notice

No. 1707

Asked on 14 November 2018

MR S ANDREW ASKED MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND FISHERIES (HON M FURNER)—

QUESTION:

With reference to Queensland drought—

Will the Minister advise if there is any capacity for the government to implement installing subsidised bladders of molasses to regional Queensland to support drought relief in Central Queensland?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

Through the Drought Relief Assistance Scheme (DRAS), the Palaszczuk Government provides freight subsidy assistance with the movement of fodder, including molasses, to drought declared primary producers.

DRAS does not preference the actual purchase and delivery options for providing fodder for primary producers as individual circumstances will vary.

That said, the Palaszczuk Government has convened industry working groups on fodder availability, identified supply issues, and is well aware that the importation of molasses from Vietnam is being organised by some parties. Producers purchasing and transporting this molasses will potentially be eligible for the DRAS subsidy on the movement of this molasses.

The Primary Industry Productivity Enhancement Scheme, administered by the Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority, offers concessional loans for on farm investments that improve business viability and sustainability. These loans could be used for a range of activities, including the installation of fodder storages.