

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 808

Asked on 14 June 2018

MR P WEIR asked the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries (HON M FURNER)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the government's promised \$1m to support Queensland's chickpea and pulses industry with low-interest loans for silo construction, research development and extension—

Will the Minister advise the amount that has been allocated/spent to date and to how many individual beneficiaries?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries will be receiving \$500 000 in 2018-19 and \$500 000 in 2019-20 (\$1 million over two years) for research, development and extension to address knowledge gaps in pulse crop storage to support the rapidly expanding chickpea and pulses industry.

The research will enable the development of best management practices for stored pulses, ensuring the delivery of high quality pulses to market. The research, development and extension will include:

- a. fumigation strategies to manage pulse silo pests
- b. silo aeration protocols to manage stored pulse quality on-farm
- c. hygiene protocols to reduce pest populations around storage facilities
- d. pest monitoring to provide knowledge on pest-by-commodity interactions.

As the money for this initiative was announced in the recent 2018-19 Queensland State Budget, spending will commence in 2018-19 and 2019-20 respectively.