

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 824

Asked on 14 June 2018

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the Minister's grant of \$5m over the next two years for feral dog exclusion in Western and South Western Queensland—

Will the Minister advise if there is any capacity or future plan to extend funding for control measures for feral pests in Central and Northern Queensland given financial loss there due to this issue?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

The grant of \$5 million over two years for wild dog exclusion fencing is not specific to Western and South Western Queensland. It may be utilised to fund exclusion fencing in other areas of Queensland, provided that proposed projects meet the funding guidelines.

This funding will be administered by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, through the Queensland Feral Pest Initiative, which empowers local and regional communities to make innovative improvements in managing the impacts of weeds and pest animals.

Guidelines for each round of funding are recommended to the Department by an Oversight Group comprised of representatives from industry, State and local government. Project applications are later assessed by the Oversight Group against the funding criteria set out in the guidelines.

Funding for exclusion fencing is targeted to assist areas with high wild dog density and evidence of high impacts, and is aimed at returning sheep to rural Queensland, along with jobs across the supply chain.

The Queensland Government intends to release funding of \$7 million in the 2018-19 financial year. Of this funding round, the Palaszczuk Government has committed \$6 million, which includes the \$5 million grant for exclusion fencing, and the Federal Government is contributing \$1 million. In this funding, \$1 million will be specifically directed to other weed and pest animal control programs across Queensland.