

Question on Notice

No. 139

Asked on 26 February 2019

MRS C MULLEN ASKED MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND FISHERIES (HON M FURNER)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise what assistance has been provided to the Queensland dairy industry?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

In 2017, the Palaszczuk Government announced a funding package of \$960 000 for marketing strategies to help consumers make better-informed decisions when they buy milk. The elements of the package included milk labelling and marketing schemes, capacity building for dairy farmers and small dairy processors and improved data collection on dairy farm performance.

The funding package provides the Queensland Dairyfarmers' Organisation (QDO) with \$550 000 over three years to develop and implement its own labelling and marketing scheme.

The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) has been provided with \$120 000 to encourage increased farmer participation in the Queensland Dairy Accounting Scheme. The Queensland Dairy Accounting Scheme examines the financial and physical aspects of participating dairy farms and provides information to assist Queensland dairy farmers make informed decisions based on business information.

The Department of Employment, Small Business and Training (DESBT) has been provided with \$290 000 to work with the QDO to assist small milk processors and dairy farmers diversify their product range, and better develop their markets with improved branding and marketing.

The Palaszczuk Government's Go Local campaign has expanded to provide support to businesses in the Queensland dairy industry. DESBT facilitated a Queensland Dairy Industry Processor Capability Summit to assist small dairy processors to connect with key distributors and other stakeholders, and participate in a Mentoring for Growth session focussed on strategies for rapid expansion.

During 2019, DESBT is partnering with the QDO and other stakeholders to deliver a capability development program for dairy farmers.

DAF is also assisting dairy farmers through its research, development and extension activities.

The C4 Milk Project focuses on developing and implementing efficient feeding systems that increase profitability on farm. The key aims of this project are to improve the quality of forage consumed by dairy cows, increase the proportion of forage in the diet, test low cost feeding systems and engage with dairy farmers and service providers to increase uptake of improved

feeding systems. DAF is contributing \$1.6 million through in-kind support toward the project in addition to the \$2.2 million allocated by Dairy Australia.