

Question on Notice

No. 150

Asked on 26 February 2019

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise what financial assistance the Palaszczuk Government is providing to flood affected graziers in north west Queensland?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

Both the Palaszczuk Government and the Federal Government are providing record assistance to flood affected graziers and communities in North West Queensland.

For graziers, the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) responded to this event by providing additional officers embedded with local councils to assist them with their local landholders, and has established an office in Richmond in addition to the current offices in Cloncurry and Hughenden, to continue to provide higher level support for the extended recovery period.

Working with the Australian Defence Force, Local Councils, AgForce and Rural Aid, DAF facilitated fodder drops for stranded livestock, a carcass disposal program and a subsequent recovery working group that provides ongoing support to those impacted, including on ground assistance to the community.

Financial assistance has been activated under the joint Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements. This includes concessional loans of up to \$250 000 for those impacted by direct damage, concessional loans of up to \$100 000 for those who suffered loss of income without direct damage, and freight subsidies of up to \$5 000 for the movement of recovery materials such as fodder, water and building and fencing materials.

Primary producers in the worst impacted areas have been activated for Category C clean up and recovery grants which, for this event, have been increased to up to \$75 000 with a streamlined assessment and approval process. These grants are administered by the Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority and will be open for six months. These grants can be used for a wide range of clean up and recovery activities, for example, repairing fences, repairing fields, maintaining livestock, clean up and repair and restoration of damaged property and equipment. As at 20 March 2019, over \$20 million has been provided to primary producers for Category C grants.

The Palaszczuk Government is working with the Federal Government to provide additional measures under Category D Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements, which will provide higher levels of assistance to the cattle industry and the broader community to alleviate distress or damage as a result of the exceptional circumstances associated with the North and Far North Queensland Monsoon Trough.