

Question on Notice

No. 1654

Asked on 17 October 2019

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

QUESTION:

With reference to page 17 of the Service Delivery Statement, under Agriculture's 2019-20 service area highlight of 'drought reform' program—

Will the Minister provide the budget allocation for the Drought Assistance Package and Queensland Drought Reform for 2019-20 to 2022-23 (reported separately by year)?

ANSWER:

I refer to my response to Question on Notice No. 1314 from the Member for Gympie, Mr A Perrett MP.

The Palaszczuk Government will continue to offer drought assistance for the duration of the current drought. No currently drought-declared producer, or any producer falling into drought by 30 June 2020, will lose access to any Drought Relief Assistance Scheme (DRAS) subsidies or rebates while this drought lasts.

The Palaszczuk Government has applied the same principles as the former Liberal National Party Government with respect to drought funding.

The Budget for the Drought Assistance Package, including the DRAS freight subsidies and emergency water infrastructure rebates, is budgeted yearly without knowledge of what seasonal conditions in the Forward Estimates will be. Consequently, the Budget allocation for the Drought Assistance Package is revised each year after the outcome of the wet season is known. Actual uptake of DRAS freight subsidies and rebates is, of course, demand based, and the Palaszczuk Government will continue to meet that demand.

I seek to reassure the Member for Coomera that there are no cuts to freight subsidies for those in drought, and the measures in the Drought Assistance Package will remain available to droughted producers.