

Question on Notice

No. 1218

Asked on 4 December 2020

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

QUESTION:

With reference to Australia's Paris Agreement and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)—
Will the Minister (a) advise if the department considers the SDGs when deciding which agricultural projects to fund and not fund and (b) provide a list of the grants and subsidies programs offered to farmers by the department that are not directly related to fostering behaviour change or the implementation of the SDGs?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

In 2017, the Queensland Government committed to a zero-net emissions economy target by 2050. The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) continues to work closely with the Department of Environment and Science and other Government agencies towards this target. The sustainability and long-term profitability of the agriculture and fisheries sectors is a key objective of all programs and projects administered by DAF.

While the targets of international agreements and Federal Government commitments may not be overtly considered in the development and implementation of all Government programs, many of these programs will align with or contribute to the objectives of these commitments.

For example, the concessional loans of the Primary Industries Productivity Enhancement Scheme (PIPES) provide concessional loans to primary producers looking to improve the sustainability of their primary production enterprise.

Further examples would include significant Government programs such as the Reef Water Quality Improvement Plan and the Drought and Climate Adaptation Program. These two programs assist producers to invest in and manage the long term sustainability of their enterprises while at the same time delivering beneficial outcomes for the environment and regional communities.

The Queensland Government administers a very large number of programs that support agriculture and farmers, not all of which are administered by DAF.

Some assistance programs of the Queensland Government are directed at agriculture, and clearly support sustainability or align with the SDGs. The Member can find information on the various grant programs on the Queensland Government Grants Finder website.