

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 168

asked on Tuesday, 18 February 2020

MR M HART ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES, MINES AND ENERGY (HON DR A LYNHAM)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister outline the following in relation to the Energy Savers Plus Program Extension (a) how many of the promised 200 free audits have been conducted on Queensland agricultural businesses, (b) how many agricultural businesses have applied for 50 per cent co-contribution after these audits, (c) how many agricultural businesses have successfully received the 50 per cent co-contribution and (d) the total in funding that has been paid out through the 50 per cent co-contribution?

ANSWER:

The Energy Savers Plus Program Extension is an initiative under the Affordable Energy Plan that provides for up to 200 agricultural businesses to receive free customised energy audits, as well as cash co-contributions to help realise energy savings. The Queensland Government will match dollar for dollar funding up to \$20,000 for each participating farmer to implement energy improvements.

The Queensland Farmers' Federation was selected through an open tender process to deliver the energy audits on behalf of the Queensland Government.

To date, the Queensland Farmers' Federation has completed 114 energy audits and is continuing to undertake further audits. Many of these farmers will be carefully considering the audit results before applying for funding.

As at 16 March 2020, 29 farms had applied for funding and 27 farms had been approved to access over \$450,000 to undertake energy efficiency upgrades and reduce their energy costs. Farmers have up to 12 months to implement the audit recommendations but, so far, eight farmers have implemented and received their co-contribution. These eight farmers have received over \$85,000 in financial assistance.