

Question on Notice

No. 54

Asked on 5 February 2020

MS A LEAHY ASKED MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND FISHERIES (HON M FURNER)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the Drought Assistance Scheme and the Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate— Will the Minister advise for 2017-18 to 2019-20 to date (a) how many applications have been received and how many have been rejected (reported separately by financial year) and (b) what were the reasons for rejection (reported separately)?

ANSWER:

The table below identifies the number of Drought Relief Assistance Scheme (DRAS) freight subsidy and Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate (EWIR) applications received and the number of applications rejected by each financial year.

Financial Year	Number of Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate applications received	Number of freight subsidy applications received	Total Number of Drought Relief Assistance Scheme applications received
2017/2018	277	2 398	2 675
2018/2019	754	4 088	4 842
2019/2020 (as at 31/01/2020)	535	4 466	5 001
Total	1 566	10 952	12 518

The table below identifies the number of DRAS freight subsidy and EWIR applications rejected by each financial year.

Financial Year	Number of freight subsidy applications rejected	Number of Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate applications rejected	Total Number of Drought Relief Assistance Scheme applications rejected
2017/2018	83	14	97
2018/2019	198	28	226
2019/2020 (as at 31/01/2020)	144	23	167
Total	425	65	490

The table below itemises the rejection reason for DRAS applications by each financial year.

Rejection Reason	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020 (as at 31/01/2020)	Total
Application form not completed fully	7	8	7	22
Duplicate submission	2	2	2	6
Items claimed excessive to requirements			1	1
Incomplete / Insignificant supporting documentation submitted	19	81	58	158
Introduced stock to a drought declared property	6	5	11	22
Items purchased/carted not eligible under the scheme	3	2	8	13
Applicant not a primary producer		8	10	18
Application withdrawn by the applicant			9	9
Application submitted outside of the six month timeframe	25	29	17	71
Emergency animal welfare issue not identified	2	5	1	8
Not drought declared	18	39	9	66
Reached the maximum amount payable on previous claims	6	21	17	44
Items not paid by applicant	6	22	12	40
Under minimum payment	3	4	5	12
Total	97	226	167	490

When processing DRAS applications, the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) staff will process and pay a proportion of an application if incomplete or insignificant documentation has been provided. DAF staff also help producers complete the application form and, within reason, source the correct documentation.