Question on Notice

No. 820

Asked on 11 August 2020

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the Hansard of 18 June 2020 showing both the Premier and the Minister speaking about the $12.5m of funding for the agribusiness and food sector to boost Queensland's economic recovery from COVID-19 restrictions— Will the Minister advise how the funds will be applied to (a) bring about the digital transformation of agribusiness and (b) the reinvigoration of agribusiness trade relationships?

ANSWER:

The agribusiness and food sector will play a vital role in Queensland's economic recovery from COVID-19.

The initiatives funded under the $12.5 million Economic Recovery: Strengthening Queensland's Agribusiness and Food Sector plan include:

- $5.5 million for digital transformation in agribusiness
- $5 million for reinvigorating agricultural trade relationships
- $2 million towards agribusiness diversification assistance.

While the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) is currently working with industry on the composition of the funding, a key focus of the initiative is to assist agribusiness and food supply chain participants to recover from COVID-19. The intent is to provide opportunities to test technologies and digital systems that have the potential to increase resilience and responsiveness to future disruptions and allow for industry wide learning, with food safety compliance and biosecurity digital transformation identified as a high priority by key industry representatives.

Boosting agricultural exports into diversified global markets will be a fundamental pillar in building a strong and economically resilient, future Queensland economy as a consequence of trade impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Recognising that current international travel could be restricted for some time to come, the Queensland Government will work with peak agricultural industry bodies, agribusinesses and supply chain stakeholders to strengthen constructive trade relationships; encourage greater diversification into new and existing markets; and secure essential agricultural inputs from overseas.