

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 134

asked on 9 March 2021

MR J MCDONALD ASKED THE MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND MANUFACTURING AND MINISTER FOR WATER (HON G BUTCHER)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the Lockyer and Somerset water project that will deliver water security for Lockyer's farmers and produce \$209m of additional agricultural output annually with the users of the project raising \$50m—

Will the Minister (a) ensure an application is made to the Federal Government for a contribution to this project and (b) commit necessary funding from the State Government in the 2021-22 State Budget?

ANSWER:

The Lockyer Valley is a key supplier of fruit and vegetables to South East Queensland with significant capacity to produce agricultural goods, provide additional employment and increase its contribution to the state economy.

A \$1.4 million grant from the government's Maturing the Infrastructure Pipeline program was made to the Lockyer Somerset Water Collaborative which supported the preparation of the detailed business case into the Water for the Lockyer proposal.

The Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water is leading a review of the detailed business case prepared by the Lockyer and Somerset Water Collaborative so the Queensland Government can fully consider this proposal.

I have met with members of the Lockyer Valley and Somerset Collaborative, local mayors and irrigators in the Lockyer Valley to discuss the proposal firsthand. I was particularly encouraged to see that local irrigators have provided a commitment of \$50 million in capital towards this \$200 million project and an ongoing commitment to meet the full operational cost of the proposal. I look forward to further discussions with the Federal Government on the potential of the local agricultural industry to build jobs and export outcomes based on this proposal.