

## QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 22

asked on 23 February 2021

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**MR S ANDREW** ASKED THE MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND MANUFACTURING AND MINISTER FOR WATER (HON G BUTCHER)—

QUESTION:

With reference to a recent meeting I attended with PV Water, canegrowers and other interested parties concerning water pricing and farmers having to dip into their superannuation to cover costs at the end of the Harvest season—

Will the Minister meet with growers to discuss water prices before the industry suffers further and growers in this vital export industry fold from increased 40 per cent water and power prices that will play a hand in forcing a major sugar mill closure if not attended?

ANSWER:

The Palaszczuk Government has invested heavily in measures to make water more affordable for irrigators. As part of the 2020–21 State Budget, the government has committed a further \$81.6 million over the next three-year period in continued support for Queensland's irrigation sector.

Following existing COVID-19 water price relief measures including freezing water prices and absorbing dam safety costs, the Government will reduce irrigator water charges for Queensland irrigators, delivering a 50 per cent reduction in water charges for fruit and vegetable growers and a 15 per cent reduction for all other irrigators for the next three years from 2021–22 to 2023–24.

All meeting requests received are considered but my office is not aware of the particular request referred to by the Honourable Member. I have already met with AgForce, Growcom, the Queensland Farmers' Federation and other industry stakeholders on these matters.

Questions relating to electricity prices should be directed to the Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen.