

Question on Notice

No. 670

Asked on 26 May 2021

MRS D FRECKLINGTON ASKED MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND FISHERIES AND MINISTER FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES (HON M FURNER)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the On-farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate— Will the Minister confirm (a) how many applications from primary producers in the Nanango Electorate did not receive the 25 percent federal government portion, (b) will these applicants be prioritised to receive the remaining portion and (c) the expected timeframe for payment?

ANSWER:

The On-Farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate (EWIR) has recently been re-activated.

While Queensland's EWIR program is needs-based and Queensland funding meets demand, receipt of assistance under the Federal Government On-Farm EWIR is on a 'first in, first served' basis and is subject to the availability of funding from the Federal Government.

When the first iteration of the Federal Government On-Farm EWIR expenditure was exhausted previously in 2015, over 2,000 subsequent applications from Queensland primary producers did not receive a Federal Government payment, while they still received a rebate of up to 50 per cent from the ongoing Queensland Government EWIR. This happened again in 2020, although the Federal Government this time has agreed to back date payments to when the funds were last exhausted in 2020.

Within a week of the announcement on 20 May 2021, any primary producer who had previously received a rebate from the Queensland Government EWIR, but did not receive a Federal top up since April, 2020, or had lodged a claim for the Federal On-Farm EWIR, but the funds had been exhausted, would have received their eligible On-Farm EWIR payment in their bank accounts.

The database for the Drought Relief Assistance Scheme does not provide for reporting by electorate areas. However, for the four Local Government Areas (LGAs) that cover the Nanango electorate, there were 110 applications that did not originally receive a Federal Government On-Farm EWIR payment since April 2020 due to the funds being exhausted. All of these applications subsequently received their On-Farm EWIR payment after the announcement. The table below shows the figures for the four LGAs and the total amount for Queensland.

On-Farm EWIR Top ups for applications received from 9/4/2020 to 20/5/21		
	\$ Value On-Farm EWIR	No of applications
Gympie	\$64,471.68	26
Somerset	\$40,500.77	11
South Burnett	\$111,927.23	33
Toowoomba	\$108,665.67	40
Queensland Total	\$1,688,672.82	448