

## **Question on Notice**

**No. 1248**

**Asked on 28 October 2022**

**MR N DAMETTO** ASKED MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND FISHERIES AND MINISTER FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES (HON M FURNER)—

### **QUESTION:**

With reference to the cost of living continuing to soar as does input costs for Queensland farmers, and the price of agriculture sector necessities like diesel and fertilizer having hit record all-time highs— Will the Minister outline what the State Government is doing to help the banana, sugar cane and beef producers to offset these input costs?

### **ANSWER:**

The Palaszczuk Government recognises the influence input costs can have on the profitability of our farms and other rural businesses. The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) works directly with industry and all levels of government to investigate the impacts of production costs, such as fuel and fertilizer, and other external pressures, including investment in Agtech and renewable energy solutions.

DAF undertakes a broad range of studies and investigations in relation to improving the profitability of not only banana, sugar cane, and beef production, but across all agricultural sectors in Queensland in achieving the goal of being a world leader of high quality, safe and sustainably produced food and fibre products.

DAF extends its research and development capabilities in achieving these goals by partnering with other government agencies and key stakeholders, such as industry bodies, universities, and private companies.

A vital component of DAF's work is its regional presence where staff are working directly with industry to accelerate the adoption of management practices and new technologies that improve business resilience and help alleviate rising input costs.

Additionally, significant investment in biosecurity by DAF reduces the spread and impacts of pests and diseases on our agricultural sector to protect sector productivity and reduce the burden on the sector's bottom line.

Through the \$62 billion Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan, there will be downward pressure on wholesale electricity prices for small businesses, which include many farmers.

DAF is committed to ensuring the best available information is available to support Queensland agribusiness to make well-informed decisions to grow profitable and sustainable businesses and in doing so grow the Queensland economy and create jobs.