

Question on Notice

No. 1249

Asked on 28 October 2022

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the success of the Fair Go Dairy project in finally breaking the \$1/L milk barrier, now rising to \$1.50/L, and the increased awareness required to ensure a fair go for the dairy industry— Will the Minister commit to a further \$750,000 investment over three years to fund awareness campaigns to consumers, in partnership with Dairy processors, to consolidate and constantly maintain the gains made so far to Queensland's dairy industry?

ANSWER:

The Palaszczuk Government acknowledges the role the Fair Go Logo marketing program played in raising awareness of the value of Queensland produced milk. The Government welcomed the commitment made by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) to enforce the Dairy Code of Conduct. The Code has strengthened the negotiating position of dairy farmers in their securing of milk supply contracts and improved the conditions in which contracts are administered. The market has responded positively with contracted farm gate milk prices significantly improved in 2022.

The market is responding well on average in terms of farm gate milk prices. The Palaszczuk Government will continue to monitor the situation, particularly given recent industry concerns raised about elevated input costs which will place additional pressures on operational margins for many producers.

Although there is no additional funding for this initiative, the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) continues to invest in research, development, and extension support for the dairy sector through the jointly operated DAF - University of Queensland Gatton Research Dairy facility. DAF's dairy research and development is focussed on delivering low risk, high production forage systems to improve the profitability of the dairy industry. Outcomes from this work have been delivered to producers through regional workshops, discussion groups, news articles and other publications, as well through open day stakeholder engagements held at Gatton Research Dairy.