

Question on Notice

No. 918

Asked on Wednesday, 31 August 2022

MR S O'CONNOR ASKED THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF AND MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND YOUTH AFFAIRS (HON M SCANLON)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the Premier making positive comments in the House on 17 August 2022 regarding Canegrowers and their focus on sustainability—

Will the Minister commit to continuing funding for their Smartcane BMP program beyond when it is scheduled to end in March 2023 to ensure our sugarcane growers are supported to be as sustainable as possible?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

The Palaszczuk Government has invested over \$20 million in industry-led Best Management Practice (BMP) programs under the Queensland Reef Water Quality Program for the sugarcane, banana and horticulture industries. BMP programs are voluntary and delivered by industry bodies to support farmers adopt industry best practice standards that drive farm profitability and improve water quality flowing into the Great Barrier Reef.

Queensland Cane Growers Organisation Ltd, also known as CANEGROWERS, operate the Smartcane BMP program and have received \$14.8 million in funding from the Queensland Government since 2012-13. As of 30 September 2022, 690 sugar cane growers were accredited under the Smartcane BMP program. Accredited growers are recognised under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* as meeting the regulated minimum practice standards.

The next phase of the Queensland Reef Water Quality Program is being finalised and CANEGROWERS will be advised of future funding, once investment decisions have been made.