

## **Question on Notice**

**No. 309**

**Asked on Wednesday, 20 March 2024**

**MR J LISTER** asked the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities (HON M FURNER)—

### **QUESTION:**

With reference to the Drought Preparedness Grants Scheme (DPGS) administered by QRIDA—

Will the Minister advise if (a) the ATO definition of primary producer is the only definition of primary producer applied by QRIDA in the assessment of grant applications, and if not, why not and (b) they are aware that the military pensions and veterans' entitlements of primary producers who are Australian Navy, Army and Air Force veterans are being applied to disqualify primary producers from DPGS eligibility?

### **ANSWER:**

The Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority (QRIDA) administers the Drought Preparedness Grant (DPG) on behalf of the Queensland Government.

(a) QRIDA does not use the ATO definition of primary producer in the administration of the DPG. The definition of primary producer for eligibility of the DPG is that the applicant:

“spends the majority of the person’s labour on a primary production enterprise; and either—

(A) derives the majority of the person’s income from the primary production enterprise; or

(B) in the opinion of the authority, based on the demonstrated production potential of the primary production enterprise, will eventually derive the majority of the person’s income from the primary production enterprise”

The intent of this definition is to ensure that assistance measures are directed to applicants who could reasonably be considered genuine primary producers. as compared to operations such as hobby farmers or other business types where it could reasonably be presumed that off-farm income or other business operations would support farm investment decisions.

(b) The receipt of the pension or other government benefits, in and of itself, does not preclude an applicant from being assessed as being a primary producer and thus receiving the DPG. QRIDA looks at the totality of the sources of farm business income in assessing whether an applicant would be considered a primary producer.