

## **Question on Notice**

**No. 68**

**Asked on 14 February 2024**

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

### **QUESTION:**

With reference to the Fall Armyworm impacting the agricultural industry in Queensland— Will the Minister advise (a) what work the department has been doing into research and control methods for this pest, (b) what conversations have been had with relevant authorities in relation to approvals for chemical control, in an effort for cheaper, approved control alternatives, (c) of any funding allocated to the management of this pest and (d) the number of enquiries to the department about this pest, per year in the last four years?

### **ANSWER:**

The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) currently has a large research program on control methods to address fall armyworm in both broadacre and horticultural crops.

The program led by DAF consists of the following:

- The roll-out and monitoring of a pheromone trapping network since 2020 to understand the potential range of fall armyworm in Queensland and the impact on our cropping systems. Data from this trapping network has led to recommendations around early planting to avoid the risk of fall armyworm infestation during the summer.
- Ongoing development of economic thresholds for sorghum and maize to inform current management decisions for growers, including knowledge on when crops require treatment. This research has been conducted in partnership with the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) and the University of Queensland.
- Extensive research evaluation of insecticides and biopesticides options to inform growers of control methods for fall armyworm.
- Ongoing research into the role of natural enemies (including beneficial insects and parasitoids) to control fall armyworm
- Ongoing research into remote sensing technology to detect fall armyworm infestations
- Ongoing monitoring of insecticide resistance to minimise the risk of resistance development in the Australian fall armyworm population.

DAF's entomologists continue to work with growers to manage the pest by providing insights from the research at industry field days and through industry publications.

DAF's application for the Fawligen® permit was approved by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA).

DAF staff are in regular contact with agrichemical companies in relation to new actives, permits, adjuvants, and registrations. DAF is also evaluating novel spray application strategies to reduce the cost per hectare of fall armyworm control for Queensland growers.

A total of \$4.867 million has been allocated to the management of fall armyworm by the Miles Government, with co-investment of a further \$4.423 from the horticultural and grains industries.

A total of 378 enquires were received by the department's Customer Service Centre since 2020:

- 2020 – 289
- 2021 – 52
- 2022 – 21
- 2023 – 6
- 2024 – 10