

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 719

asked on Tuesday, 12 June 2018

MR D LAST ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES, MINES AND ENERGY (HON DR A LYNHAM)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the Rural Water Use Efficiency program that assists Queensland irrigators and farmers to manage water use—

Will the Minister advise (a) what funding has been allocated to the current round of grants and (b) whether the Minister will guarantee that funding to this important program will continue after the current round of grants?

ANSWER:

The Palaszczuk Government has been and will continue to be supportive of the sustainable use of Queensland's water and energy resources.

- (a) The government has supported Queensland irrigator groups through the Rural Water Use Efficiency for Irrigation Futures Program which will provide funding of \$2.2 million for water efficiency projects for the 2017–18 financial year.
- (b) I have asked the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy to ensure there are appropriate programs continuing to ensure these producer groups are supported in the immediate future. Under this revised program, it is expected that a minimum of \$1.55 million will be provided over three years to support water efficiency technical expertise, and to support producer groups and farmers to apply for funding as follows:
 - capacity to bid for up to \$4.5 million under the Natural Resources Investment Program Innovation Fund
 - capacity to bid for Australian Government Smart Farm Grant Funds which are available until 2023.

I have also asked that the department consider both water and energy efficiency gains in scoping this initiative as, in farming, these are intricately linked.