

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD — ELECTION COMMITMENTS — FUNDING

225. Hon Colin de Grussa to the Minister for Agriculture and Food:

I refer to the Food and Beverage Fund election commitment of \$16.7 million, and I ask:

- (a) is any of the \$16.7 million commitment reliant on third party funding;
- (b) if yes to (a), has this funding been secured and what was the quantum of that funding;
- (c) what projects are currently underway as part of the commitment and what has been the expenditure to the end of the 2020–21 financial year;
- (d) what investment and projects are planned for the 2021–22 financial year; and
- (e) how is the funding allocated across the forward estimates?

Hon Alannah MacTiernan replied:

The \$16.7 million Food and Beverage Fund was announced in August 2020 as part of the WA Recovery Plan, hence were commitments funded before the 2021 election. However, the Member's questions regarding funding and delivery are answered below.

- (a) No.
- (b) Not applicable.
- (c)–(d) Programs being delivered with support from the Food and Beverage Fund include:

The Value-Add Investment Grants – Round 1 supported 18 food and beverage manufacturers undertaking capital investment projects to expand their businesses, create jobs and diversify our economy. The level of co-investment for this round was \$132 million and is estimated to create more than 600 local jobs.

The Agrifood and Beverage Voucher scheme – Round 2 supported 74 businesses. This scheme shares the costs with small businesses on a 1:1 basis to access professional services to support their business growth plans.

Support for the Future of Food Conference to be held in Mandurah in September 2021 to support the development of a progressive local food industry.

The Export Pathways Program which aims to build the export capability of Western Australian agribusinesses through small group training and one-on-one mentoring. 10 Western Australian pre-export and early export agribusinesses are participating.

- (e) Remaining funding is allocated as follows:
 - \$5 million in 2021–22
 - \$4.2 million in 2022–23
 - \$4 million in 2023–24