

ON-FARM EMERGENCY WATER INFRASTRUCTURE REBATE SCHEME

**1153. Hon COLIN de GRUSSA to the minister representing the Minister for Water:**

I refer to an article in the *Countryman* of 15 October regarding the federal government's on-farm emergency water infrastructure rebate scheme that stated —

Mr Kelly said the State's budget included \$6.7 million to help farmers suffering water deficiency, which would be used to match the federal funding.

- (1) Please identify the line item in the budget that pertains to the \$6.7 million figure the minister mentioned.
- (2) Why is the ABC news today reporting that the government has still not committed to matching the federal government funding?
- (3) When will the state government reopen the scheme for WA farmers and begin processing previously received applications to give support to farmers ahead of summer?

**Hon ALANNAH MacTIERNAN replied:**

I thank the member for the question. The following information has been provided to me by the Minister for Water.

- (1) It is in division 42, Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, page 649, under "Spending Changes", "New Initiatives", rural water deficiency and community water supply, for \$3.850 million to provide for carting non-potable stock water and provision of new and upgraded community water supplies for farmers. Additional money is within the Water Corporation budget, which is not referred to in the budget papers.
- (2) This question is best referred to the ABC.
- (3) The state government did not close the scheme in Western Australia. We have continued to receive and process applications pending further funding from the commonwealth.