

ON-FARM EMERGENCY WATER INFRASTRUCTURE REBATE SCHEME

1293. Hon RICK MAZZA to the minister representing the Minister for Water:

I refer to an article in the *Countryman* of 5 November 2020 titled “Farmers left high and dry in rebates stand-off” and to the federal government’s \$50 million on-farm emergency water infrastructure rebate scheme being matched dollar for dollar with state funding. What contribution will the state make in order to access the dollar-for-dollar rebate scheme?

Hon ALANNAH MacTIERNAN replied:

I thank the member for the question. I am sure the member has not put in an application for funding! The following information has been provided by the Minister for Water.

The state has budgeted \$6.7 million for 2020–21 to support our response to ongoing water deficiencies. This includes \$3.85 million for carting of non-potable stock water and the provision of new and upgraded community water supplies for farmers, as well as \$2.85 million to enable carting of potable water to meet additional demand on town water supplies from farmers accessing supplies for stock and spray water.

The federal government has not been clear on any matching funding requirements and announced the extension of the scheme after this government’s 2020–21 budget had already been formulated. However, the McGowan government considers its investment of \$6.7 million in 2020–21 more than demonstrates its commitment to supporting farmers impacted by climate change and addresses any matching funding criteria. The state will immediately recommence the processing of new and previously received applications once the federal government allocates additional funding to Western Australia to extend the existing scheme in 2020–21.