

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2014

Agriculture

Question: 1

Division: Agricultural Adaptation and Forestry Division

Topic: Interim Household Allowance

Proof Hansard page: 28 (29/05/2014)

Senator FARRELL asked:

Senator FARRELL: If claims are \$40 million then that is the amount that goes out?

Ms Freeman: Correct, Senator.

Senator FARRELL: Was that for 2013-14?

Ms Freeman: That was for 2013-14, yes.

Senator FARRELL: Do you think we are getting close to that figure? I do not want to pin you down.

Ms Freeman: I would have to take that on notice. There certainly has been considerable up-take of that measure. People are accessing help, and it is good to know that it is working. I would have to take it on notice. My colleague may be able to assist, though.

Answer:

Refer to the response in Question on Notice 3 from Budget Estimates hearings.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2014

Agriculture

Question: 2

Division/Agency: Agricultural Adaptation and Forestry Division

Topic: Farm Finance

Proof Hansard page: 21 (29/05/2014)

Senator STERLE asked:

Senator GALLACHER: Do not assume that I recall questions. I do eight days of this with different jurisdictions and departments, so do not assume that I am going to recall anything.

Mr Tucker: Perhaps not the answers, but certainly the questions. The scheme did open at different times in different jurisdictions. I think it is fair to say, certainly with Queensland and New South Wales—and we can give you those dates in just a moment—and Victoria, that they had existing institutional structures and that enabled us to start in advance with many of the jurisdictions. We had to do quite a lot of work with them to establish the appropriate arrangements and that did take some time.

Senator STERLE: Can I clarify something?

Senator GALLACHER: Absolutely.

Senator STERLE: Chair, just through you, of the applications, the successful ones and whatnot, this is part of the \$420 million concessional loan? It is not the \$280 million drought-specific.

Mr Tucker: Farm finance loans.

Senator STERLE: Thanks, Senator Gallacher.

Mr Tucker: As to questions about dates when the scheme opened in each jurisdiction, we can provide you with those.

Question: 2 (continued)

Answer:

Farm Finance Concessional Loans Scheme opening dates in each jurisdiction

Jurisdiction	Opening date
Victoria	22 July 2013
New South Wales	6 August 2013
Queensland	16 August 2013
South Australia	20 December 2013
Tasmania	13 January 2014
Western Australia	20 January 2014
Northern Territory	24 February 2014

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

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Budget Estimates May 2014

Agriculture

Question: AAF03

Division/Agency: Agricultural Adaptation and Forestry Division

Topic: Interim Farm Household Allowance

Proof Hansard page: 27-28

Senator FARRELL asked:

Ms Freeman: Senator, if I may finish off an answer to a question that you asked in the previous session about how much money had gone out for the interim farm household allowance. I wanted to let you know. The amount that is currently allocated to the program is \$13.6 million for 2013-14. We do not have the actual numbers that have gone out thus far, but we can certainly take that on notice.

Answer:

Interim Farm Household Allowance replaced the Transitional Farm Family Payment on 1 March 2014. Recipients in receipt of Transitional Farm Family Payment on 28 February 2014 automatically transferred to Interim Farm Household Allowance.

The amount of income support which has been paid to farmers under these two programs from 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014 is \$12.5 million. This comprises \$5.0 million for Transitional Farm Family Payment and \$7.5 million for Interim Farm Household Allowance.