

NATIONAL LANDCARE PROGRAM – AGRICULTURE STEWARDSHIP PACKAGE

Question one: How the certification scheme will be audited?

- The development of the biodiversity certification scheme will consider a range of design matters including auditing arrangements.

Question two: How is the certification scheme recognised nationally and internationally?

- The certification scheme is under development. Consideration will be given to existing certification/verification schemes, sustainability frameworks and best management practices internationally and domestically.

Question three: Breakdown of the \$4 million spend

- The allocated funding is \$4 million (excl. GST) to be split over the following financial years: 2019/20 (\$500,000), 2020/21 (\$1,750,000) and 2021/22 (\$1,750,000).

Question four: What process was undertaken by the Minister to determine that the National Farmers Federation was best placed to develop and trial the scheme – including correspondence relating to the program?

- A non-competitive, one-off grant process was utilised to select the National Farmers' Federation to lead the Trial and Scheme.

Question five: Start date for the pilot program

Including: If the program has not yet commenced, I request that the department provide detail as to why a program announced almost 12 months ago has not yet been able to deliver grants to farmers as promised prior to the May election.

- Since the announcement of the pilot the department has been developing options for the implementation of the program.
- The funding profile for the pilot recognised that expenditure would increase over time, given the need to initially establish the program.

Question six: Program guidelines

- Program guidelines will be developed in due course.

Question seven: How many farmers have applied?

- The program has not opened.

Question eight: Project scope, location and electorate

- The department has been developing options for the implementation of the program.

Question nine: How will the pilot program be evaluated and audited?

- Work is progressing on the design elements including evaluation and audit arrangements.