

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE
Question Taken on Notice

Question Number: 6-3

Date: 17/06/2019

From: Mr Gerry Wood

To: Hon. Paul Kirby

Portfolio: Primary Industry & Resources

Agency: Primary Industry & Resources

Subject: Cucumber green mottled mosaic virus subsidised interest rate scheme

QUESTION

Minister, could you please explain what is the cucumber green mottled mosaic virus subsidised interest rate scheme—without an acronym—and is there a budget allocation for it?

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Answer to Question Taken on Notice

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ANSWER

There was a subsidised interest rate scheme for melon growers affected by the cucumber green mottle mosaic virus, CGMMV. It was implemented on 20 February 2015. \$600 000 per year was made available for two financial years, in 2014–15 and 2015–16, to eligible growers who experienced financial hardship as a result of the CGMMV.

The scheme subsidised commercial bank loan interest for up to two years to a maximum loan amount of up to \$1m. Those growers who were eligible for the subsidy, received up to \$60 000 per annum for two years. The scheme opened in April 2015 and seven applications were received with all seven receiving approvals. The closing date for the applications was 29 April 2016 with payments under the scheme finalised by the 30 June 2017. Quarantine restrictions were lifted from the CGMMV affected properties in February 2016 enabling growers to recommence growing and selling cucurbits from their properties.