

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Sloan to the Minister for Agribusiness and Aquaculture:

Campaign to attract melon pickers

Background:

The Northern Territory Government has announced a \$745,000 campaign to attract 200 melon pickers to relocate from interstate to work for five weeks between mid-April and mid-July.

Questions:

- 1. Please provide a detailed breakdown on how the \$745,000 will be spent?**

The NT Government launched a \$745,000 campaign to support the Territory's \$70 million melon industry and assist farmers to have the workforce they need to pick more than 75,000 tonnes of valuable produce this season.

The NT Government is partnering with NT Farmers to recruit up to 200 workers to travel to the NT from across the nation to support the melon industry.

The total budget for the Territory Harvest program could be up to \$745,000 but will depend on take-up:

- Up to \$200,000 is available for a business support package, which will give businesses access to \$1,000 per worker, for up to 200 workers.
- Up to \$480,000 is available for a loyalty bonus to help businesses retain workers. The bonus of \$200 per week will be made available for people that work a minimum of 30 hours per week, for at least 5 weeks between 12 April and 12 July 2021.
- Up to \$65,000 is available to market and advertise the roles. A variety of roles will be available, including picking, packing, sorting and logistics.

The NT Government is also providing an "in-kind" contributions of up to 50% of a secondment of an NT Government staff member to provide administrative support for the Territory Harvest program.

2. How many fruit pickers were employed through the Territory Jobs Hub in the 2020 season?

This level of granularity is not available.

Did this meet expectations?

Yes.

3. Are there any other job opportunities for fruit pickers after the melon picking season is over?

Yes, there are various commodities that the Northern Territory produce.