

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
Questions on Notice
Supplementary Budget Estimates, 24 and 27 October 2017
Agriculture and Water Resources Portfolio

Senate Number	Program. Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard page & hearing date or Written question	Date received
1	ABARES	Senator Sterle	10 year agriculture productivity curve	<p>Senator STERLE: Mr Quinlivan, that's what threw me back. As I said, this department, under previous secretaries and yourself, has been very, very efficient when returning answers to questions taken on notice. That's what threw me out, particularly as the tabling officer had issued the circular No. 1 back in June. We'll put that behind us because that won't happen again. You'll give us far more time to go through it next time. We'll take your word on that; there's no reason why we shouldn't take your word on that. We've seen that the minister only had it for a couple of days and then it was out. As thick as it is, I want to go to one particular graph here on page 21. We have the two lines there—the 10-year agriculture productivity curve and the 10-year market curve, or line. The explanatory note underneath says:</p> <p>Based on actual Australian Bureau of Statistics data for the years 2007–08 to 2015–16, and a forecast for 2016–17. Measured on a value-added basis, and with a trend adjustment in 2007–08 to account for volatility at the beginning of the time period.</p>	11 24/10/17	

				<p>What the hell does that mean?</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan: I will take the technical question on notice and give you an explanation provided by ABARES, who have done this work for us</p>		
2	ABARES	Senator Sterle	2007-08 productivity performance	<p>Mr Quinlivan: I'd have to take on notice what was happening in 2007-08. It was a pretty dry year—remember that's getting towards the end of the—.</p> <p>Senator STERLE: End of the wheat—'weapons for wheat' and all that sort of stuff.</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan: It was getting towards the end of the millennium drought, of course. I'd have to take on notice just what was driving the productivity performance in the first two years of the series.</p> <p>Senator STERLE: They were flattened. You just got over one year—no, two years; 207, sorry. So you will come back to me and tell me what all that gobbledygook actually means. When I first asked you, you mentioned the word 'distorted', which hit me. I can't understand that distortion. As you said, we were at the end of the shocking drought, and yet productivity went through the roof for the first two years, even though we've measured on a value-add basis with a trend adjustment for that.</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan: Any time you see a flat productivity line, Senator, you know it's been smoothed to try and remove the year-on-year distortions, otherwise the line will vary widely.</p> <p>Senator STERLE: I get that, but this is not like a heartbeat; this is a massive jump and some gobbledygook under here that no-one here</p>	11-12 24/10/17	

				<p>understands what the heck it's all about. All of a sudden, zero is 100—anyway.</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan: I think ABARES have not been asked to ppear today, otherwise we could've got an explanation from them. Anyway, we'll give it to you on notice.</p>		
3	ABARES	Senator Roberts	Agricultural industry worth to the Australian economy	<p>Senator ROBERTS: Can you tell us in dollars and GDP percentage terms how much agricultural industry is worth to the Australian economy?</p> <p>Mr I Thompson: I would have to take that on notice. We do have that number. ABARES do have it, but I don't have it off the top of my head. It is a significant number.</p>	122 24/10/17	
4	ABARES	Senator Rice	Impact on cropping industries due to heatwaves	<p>Senator RICE: So totally silent on it as far as you're aware at the moment. Thank you for that. I'd like to ask questions about the September heatwaves that were experienced in northern New South Wales and southern Queensland. Has the department investigated what impact those heatwaves might have had on the region in terms of the impact on cropping industries, livestock and horticultural production?</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan: The answer to that question will be that we have assessed the impact of the warmer and dryer seasonal conditions across quite a bit of the cropping land in Australia. That's done continuously as the winter crop develops. ABARES have, based on that, made one downward adjustment to the forecast crop for this season and have also indicated that they may make a further downward revision to the crop estimates before the harvest is finished, probably</p>	124 24/10/17	

				in the first half of December. We don't have the commodity forecasters from ABARES here. But if you would like a more expansive description of what they did and how they made those adjustments to their crop forecasts, we'd be happy to provide it.		
5	Assurance and Legal Division	Senator McCarthy	Records for FOI requests	<p>Senator McCARTHY: So you'd have a record for requests this year, for example?</p> <p>Ms Linacre: I might have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator McCARTHY: Could you take that on notice. Also, could you take on notice: if you do have a record of requests for this year, could you provide that, please.</p> <p>Ms Linacre: Yes.</p>	17 24/10/17	
6	Assurance and Legal Division	Senator McCarthy	FOI requests	<p>Senator McCARTHY: So you're going to provide me with the number of times the minister's office has asked the department to assist with FOI requests. In terms of the minister's office logging how many FOI requests there are, who would hold that?</p> <p>Ms Linacre: I think that would be a matter for the minister's office, but we can take it on notice.</p>	17 24/10/17	
7	Assurance and Legal Division	Senator McCarthy	FOI requests	<p>Senator McCARTHY: You may want to take this question on notice, because I do understand that the minister's office does conduct the FOI as a separate entity to the department. How many FOI requests did the minister's office receive in 2017?</p> <p>Ms Linacre: I'd have—</p> <p>Senator McCARTHY: Will I just leave that as a question on notice?</p> <p>Ms Linacre: Yes, please.</p>	18 24/10/17	

				Senator McCARTHY: Please take these as well: how many requests have been finalised and how many requests are outstanding.		
8	Assurance and Legal Division	Senator McCarthy	FOI review	<p>Senator McCARTHY: In 2015 the department undertook an FOI review and the department's acting secretary, Phillip Glyde, said independent scrutiny of Agriculture's FOI processing was important. He said:</p> <p>"In light of acknowledged errors we had made in the handling of an FOI request we thought it best to have an independent review of the general handling of requests," he said.</p> <p>"I know it's a lot of money but it's a worthwhile investment given the sensitivities of getting FOI request handling right.</p> <p>"We are a department that doesn't deal with many requests."</p> <p>The review was comparing the department's processes with best practice models within the public service.</p> <p>Mr Glyde's predecessor Paul Grimes was sacked earlier this year after his relationship with Agriculture Minister Barnaby Joyce broke down. So is the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner investigating a deemed refusal by the minister's office?</p> <p>Ms Linacre: I think that that is a matter for the minister's office. I'll have to take that on notice for you, Senator McCarthy.</p> <p>Senator McCARTHY: Will the minister's office be undertaking a review into processes within his office—</p> <p>Senator Ruston: I'll take that on notice.</p>	18-19 24/10/17	

				Senator McCARTHY: as the 2015 matter involved the minister's office, yet it was excluded from the \$80,000 review by the department—you'll take that on notice?		
9	Australian Fisheries Management Authority	Senator Whish-Wilson	Foreign vessels	<p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: Perhaps you could take this on notice, Dr Findlay. You said it's quite common. How often has this been occurring like that—Australian companies using these foreign vessels?</p> <p>Dr Findlay: It would be a number of years, possibly two or three years—I will take the exact date on notice—since we've had a vessel approved under deeming provisions. In terms of discussions about importation and how people go about that, that would probably be half a dozen times a year. And some of those discussions end up in vessels actually being imported and going on to the Australian shipping register, and others don't.</p>	75 24/10/17	
10	Australian Fisheries Management Authority	Senator Whish-Wilson	Dolphins and seals killed as bycatch	<p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: In relation to bycatch of seals and dolphins: your figures for the Gillnet, Hook and Trap Sector of the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery included 32 dolphins in 2016. Could you update us on how many dolphins and seals have been killed as bycatch in 2017, or when—</p> <p>Dr Findlay: I'd like to take it on notice.</p>	78 24/10/17	
11	Australian Fisheries Management Authority	Senator Whish-Wilson	Trigger limits	<p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: They are, yes. Have any trigger limits been recorded by fishing operators in these fishing sectors in 2017?</p> <p>Dr Findlay: In the case of sea lions, we've had one</p>	78 24/10/17	

				trigger reached. There's currently a closure in place. I can give you the exact dates on notice—		
12	Australian Fisheries Management Authority	Senator Whish-Wilson	Zones currently closed	<p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: Is any fishing operator excluded from either sector as a result of animal bycatch?</p> <p>Dr Findlay: In the case of sea lions, everyone is excluded from that zone that's currently closed.</p> <p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: Are you able to provide which zone and which operators to us?</p> <p>Dr Findlay: Sure.</p> <p>Senator WHISH-WILSON: And what proportion of fishing effort is observed and reported in the two fishing sectors?</p> <p>Dr Findlay: Sure. Yes, we can do that. I'm just seeing if I've got the answer to the previous question, in terms of which zone. I probably do have it somewhere in my material, but we'll give it to you on notice.</p>	78 24/10/17	
13	Australian Fisheries Management Authority	Senator Dodson	Ongoing and non-ongoing employees	<p>Senator DODSON: Thank you, Chair. I note from the annual report of the Australian Fisheries Management Authority that you have six Indigenous employees. Can you tell me if they are ongoing employees or non-ongoing employees? I think you say you have 183 employees at various places.</p> <p>Dr Findlay: In terms of the ongoing and non-ongoing split for Indigenous employees, I will probably have to take on notice. I'm sorry; I'd be guessing here today.</p>	79 24/10/17	
14	Australian Fisheries	Senator McCarthy	Indigenous reference group	Senator McCARTHY: Dr Findlay, you mentioned in your earlier answer to Senator Pat Dodson that	80 24/10/17	

	Management Authority			<p>there was an Indigenous reference group. Did you want to table the list of names in that group?</p> <p>Dr Findlay: We can. It's a group hosted by the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation—but I'm sure we can facilitate that list being provided.</p> <p>Senator McCARTHY: That would be good, thank you.</p>		
15	Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicine Authority	Senator Sterle	Credit cards	<p>Senator STERLE: We went to written question No. 100 from the last round of estimates where we sought information from a number of agencies, and all the listed agencies were able to provide answers to all 10 questions, except APVMA, which claimed that to answer questions 2, 3 and 5 would be an inefficient use of resources. So I really want to ask you: why?</p> <p>Dr Parker: Senator, there are a number of components to that answer. The first component is that I'd been in the job about five days at that stage, and I must say to the Senate and to this committee it is not my preference to answer questions in that manner. That clearly slipped through in the first few days, so I apologise for that in the first instance.</p> <p>Senator STERLE: We can kiss and make up and move forward from here.</p> <p>Dr Parker: What I can say is that I will provide answers to those questions in the next two weeks to this committee.</p>	92 24/10/17	
16	Australian Pesticides and Veterinary	Senator Gallagher	Regulatory scientists	<p>Senator GALLAGHER: Were they all experienced regulatory scientists with more than two years of service?</p>	97 24/10/17	

	Medicine Authority			Dr Parker: I would have to take that on notice. I know there are some experienced ones, but there may well be some others		
17	Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicine Authority	Senator Rice	Statutory requirements	<p>Senator RICE: I will continue on with that line of questioning seeing as that's where all our heads are at. You note that the agency has never met its statutory requirements. Both overall and for pesticides, what have been the peak rates, potentially even looking back beyond the years that you've been sharing with us?</p> <p>Dr Parker: I'd have to take that on notice. I have back to March 2016. There's an overall figure for 2015-16, but I couldn't give you, depending on what time frame you want, the accurate peaks and the troughs associated with that.</p> <p>Senator RICE: I'm interested in knowing how that 68 per cent in 2015-16 compared with previous years? Overall, was that fairly middling, or was it lower than usual or higher than usual?</p> <p>Dr Parker: It's very hard to compare, because there was a different way of measuring before those figures. So you're not comparing apples with apples. I can certainly make an effort to give you that on notice without any trouble at all. But at this stage it wouldn't be fair, because they were worked out differently to, say, what it was in 2014. And I don't actually even have the information with me.</p>	98-99 24/10/17	
18	Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicine	Senator Rice	Staff movements	Senator RICE: Right. Moving on to the issue of staff and the staff movements. You mentioned that you've had 11 staff in your small group that have responded to your expression of interest by	99-100 24/10/17	

	Authority			<p>saying that they would like to move at some time in 2018 or early 2018—</p> <p>Dr Parker: No, they'd like to move early.</p> <p>Senator RICE: Early, okay.</p> <p>Dr Parker: That was what the EOI was about: it was early. Just to be clear: I haven't asked all the staff about their intentions about relocation. I intend to do that early next year.</p> <p>Senator RICE: Right. What are the categories of those 11 staff?</p> <p>Dr Parker: I'd have to take that on notice, Senator, but a number of them are senior managers in the organisation.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Senator RICE: Right. How about in terms of the regulatory scientists? Have you got any sense of how many of those?</p> <p>Dr Parker: Again, I'd have to take it on notice to give you an accurate assessment.</p>		
19	Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicine Authority	Senator McKenzie	Model in practice	<p>Senator McKENZIE: Okay. Tracking back—and your staff member may be able to assist—has the model in practice—I mean, PwC, I think, even says it's way less than 40 per cent. I think it's around 20 per cent, half of what it's meant to actually return. But clarify that on notice. Has the model developed in 2012, implemented in 2013, ever delivered the income expected to the APVMA?</p> <p>Dr Parker: Again—</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: Ms Fox?</p> <p>Dr Parker: Again, Senator, if I may answer, I'm happy to take that on notice—</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: No, no. I'm asking Ms Fox.</p>	102 24/10/17	

				<p>She's got a big folder there and I'm sure she's got the figures there. It is budget estimates after all.</p> <p>Ms Fox: I don't believe it has. But we would have to take that on notice. I do have this folder here, but it isn't all about cost recovery, unfortunately.</p>		
20	Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicine Authority	Senator Gallagher	Staffing levels	<p>Senator GALLAGHER: In relation to staffing, before I move off that, can you provide a breakdown of the different levels of staff for your head count of 216?</p> <p>Dr Parker: I'll take it on notice.</p>	105 24/10/17	
21	Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicine Authority	Senator Gallagher	Percentage of pesticides	<p>Senator GALLAGHER: As a percentage of the approvals given by APVMA, what is the percentage that relates to pesticides? How much of your work is related to pesticides approval? What proportion?</p> <p>Dr Parker: I'm not sure I have that figure to hand, but I'm certainly happy to take it on notice and provide you—</p>	106 24/10/17	
22	Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicine Authority	Senator Rice	Building lease	<p>Senator RICE: What's the timing? How long is the expected lease that you'd be entering into?</p> <p>Dr Parker: I'm not sure I've got the time frame for a lease, but I think it would at least be five years and then you would have an option that would sit on top of that. But I'm happy to take that on notice. If it has been decided, I'll give you an answer on notice.</p>	109 24/10/17	
23	Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicine	Senator Carol Brown	Staff conversation with the unions	<p>Senator CAROL BROWN: Do you know whether any of your staff have had conversations with the unions?</p> <p>Dr Parker: I'll have to take it on notice.</p>	111 24/10/17	

24	<p>Authority</p> <p>Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicine Authority</p>	<p>Senator Carol Brown</p>	<p>Staffing policies</p>	<p>Senator CAROL BROWN: Earlier you talked about the fact that you've finalised a staffing policy.</p> <p>Dr Parker: I've finalised two policies that could relate in a staffing sense. The first is the relocation policy, which supports and gives people an indication of what will be covered in their relocation. The second is a retention policy, which talks about trying to maintain staff and staff knowledge in the organisation.</p> <p>Senator CAROL BROWN: Can we have copies of those?</p> <p>Dr Parker: Certainly.</p> <p>Senator CAROL BROWN: Do you have a financial sustainability plan?</p> <p>Dr Parker: It's in development. It will be developed, presented to me and then signed off by the audit committee. There are plans to do that before the end of the year, but it is in development.</p> <p>Senator CAROL BROWN: If we can get those other two policies, that'd be very good.</p> <p>Dr Parker: Certainly.</p>	<p>111 24/10/17</p>	
25	<p>Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicine Authority</p>	<p>Senator Carol Brown</p>	<p>Job advertisements</p>	<p>Senator CAROL BROWN: How many withdrew?</p> <p>Dr Parker: I don't have that number. I don't believe any, but I will take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator CAROL BROWN: Thank you, Dr Parker. How were those positions advertised? Can you take that on notice?</p> <p>Dr Parker: I couldn't tell you everywhere it was done, Senator, but I will take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator CAROL BROWN: Perhaps, I will just go through and say what I want on notice, because</p>	<p>112 24/10/17</p>	

				<p>you probably won't have this information. Of those positions, I want to know whether they were ongoing or non-ongoing. You've already given me a breakdown of those positions, thank you. Were any of the applicants from overseas?</p> <p>Dr Parker: Yes.</p> <p>Senator CAROL BROWN: How many?</p> <p>Dr Parker: Again, I would have to take it on notice. I don't know the exact number who were from overseas.</p>		
26	Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicine Authority	Senator Sterle	Staffing	<p>In regard to the establishment of two new Deputy CEO positions as interim CEO:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Please confirm whether these are permanent ongoing positions within the APVMA? b. How long have the APVMA had vacant SES level positions within the APVMA's SES cap? c. What is the ratio of SES to non-SES staff at the APVMA? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. How does this compare with the ratio at the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources? ii. How does this compare with the APS average? d. What are the additional annual financial costs of the two new Deputy CEO positions for the APVMA? 	Written	
27	Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicine Authority	Senator Sterle	Sales reports	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The final product sales reported on the APVMA's website for the 2015/2016 financial year indicate that pesticide products accounted for 76.82% of product sales, compared with just 23.18% for veterinary medicines. Can you provide a breakdown in 	Written	

				<p>terms of percentage of the APVMA's income during the 2015/16 and 2016/17 financial years for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Fees by: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Pesticide products ii. Veterinary medicine products iii. Other b. Levies by: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Pesticide products ii. Veterinary medicine products iii. Other c. Other income <p>2. For the same period, provide the number of pesticide applications:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Commenced (by category) b. Completed (by category) <p>3. For the same period, provide the number of veterinary medicine applications:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Commenced (by category) b. Completed (by category) 		
28	Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicine Authority	Senator Sterle	Staffing	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide the official employee separation rate for the 2014/15 financial year? 2. Provide the official employee separation rate for the 2015/16 financial year? 3. Provide the official employee separation rate for the 2016/17 financial year? 4. Provide the breakdown of staff losses and gains by position type for the 2016/17 financial year, excluding those recruited into the health assessment team following the disbanding of the Office of Chemical Safety? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Could you provide a breakdown of the years of experience gained or lost by these 	Written	

				<p>staff movements?</p> <p>5. Please confirm whether staff currently employed with the APVMA that do not wish to relocate to Armidale, and whose position is not suitable for e-working, will be found redundant?</p> <p>6. What is the total number of offers made in the recent bulk recruitment round?</p> <p>a. How many were existing APVMA employees?</p> <p>b. How many are regulatory scientists?</p> <p>c. Of regulatory scientists offered positions, how many years' experience as regulatory scientists do they each have?</p> <p>d. Can you confirm whether it is stipulated in the contracts for new staff members that their position is located in Armidale?</p>		
29	Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicine Authority	Senator Sterle	Official financial reserves	What is the APVMA's official financial reserves policy and how does the APVMA calculate the appropriate reserve level?	Written	
30	Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicine Authority	Senator Sterle	Statutory obligations	<p>1. Has the APVMA ever before stipulated in its business plan an operational performance target of less than 100% of its statutory obligations?</p> <p>2. Is it lawful for the APVMA not to seek to achieve 100% of its statutory obligations regarding timeframe performance?</p>	Written	
31	Australian Wool Innovation	Senator McKenzie	Survey	Senator McKENZIE: Option 2 was sheep genetics managed by MLA alone, option 3 was a breed society model and option 4 was an independent	28-29 24/10/17	

				<p>governance model. Which option did shareholders choose? My understanding is that you surveyed shareholders.</p> <p>Mr McCullough: I'm not aware of that survey. Can you point me to it?</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: Mr Merriman?</p> <p>Mr Merriman: I'm certainly not aware of the survey.</p> <p>Ms Slack-Smith: The survey was conducted a number of years ago.</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: Yes, 2013.</p> <p>Ms Slack-Smith: If we could take that on notice and get the answer to you, that would be fabulous.</p>		
32	Australian Wool Innovation	Senator McKenzie	Annual survey to woolgrowers	<p>Senator McKENZIE: Absolutely. My understanding was that there was overwhelming support for the joint management. What was your response to that outcome? What was AWI's response to that outcome?</p> <p>Mr McCullough: I presume it's the annual survey that we do of all woolgrowers. We survey 1,200 of them every year on a raft of different things. I presume this is the one you're talking about. We will find that and dig it out. Did we have a public response? I think you know the answer to this question, anyway.</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: I'm asking the questions, Mr McCullough. It's your job to answer them.</p> <p>Mr McCullough: I'll have to take that on notice and get back to you.</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: Can you also take on notice why, instead of accepting those survey results from shareholders, AWI chose to do yet another</p>	29 24/10/17	

				survey that gave it more favourable responses in terms of pulling out of funding that project? I want to go to claims of conflict of interest and your letter, Mr Merriman, which you wrote to the participants on 18 October 2017.		
33	Australian Wool Innovation	Senator McKenzie	Qualitative Research Group	<p>Senator McKENZIE: What about the rest of the board, Mr McCullough? How much was this contract with the Qualitative Research Group?</p> <p>Mr McCullough: I'll check that up for you.</p> <p>Ms Slack-Smith: I can get that.</p>	30 24/10/17	
34	Australian Wool Innovation	Senator McKenzie	Conflict of interests	<p>Senator McKENZIE: I'm happy with Mr Merriman's outlining. Have you ever declared a conflict of interest, Mr Merriman, to the board?</p> <p>Mr Merriman: I've declared my interests. I can't recall any time where I've had to leave the room with advice from the company secretary—and company secretaries before Jim. We take advice. No, I think there are a couple of times. I just can't—</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: Just on notice, maybe, if you could.</p>	32 24/10/17	
35	Australian Wool Innovation	Chair	Minutes	<p>CHAIR: Okay. So can I ask, through you, Mr Chairman—and I don't pretend to think that you'll have the minutes of the relevant meetings present: could you supply the committee with the relevant minutes?</p> <p>I imagine, and you correct me at any stage, it shows you as the chair calling on the committee to consider individuals for this role, you explaining some form of process where they can bring the nomination to you or the CEO, and then</p>	37 24/10/17	

				<p>at that stage there's some process that goes on, according to Mr Story, that then comes back with a recommendation to the board, 'Of all these individuals, here are the 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 for you to select from.' Is that an indicative description of the due process?</p> <p>Mr Merriman: We can get you the minutes. It's really there for people to put people forward.</p>		
36	Australian Wool Innovation	Chair	List of proxies	<p>CHAIR: This is the other question. We might best do this on notice. I want you to take on notice providing the committee, confidentially in the first instance if necessary, a list of the proxies. I'm not necessarily interested in who gave the proxies, but who received the proxies.</p> <p>Mr Story: Yes, I can get that. So that's for the last two—</p> <p>CHAIR: So we'll have a list, by number, of who received the proxies?</p> <p>Mr Story: For the last two election cycles are you saying?</p> <p>CHAIR: Yes.</p>	43 24/10/17	
37	Australian Wool Innovation	Chair	Pilots	<p>CHAIR: Eleven pilots, which take how many days?</p> <p>Mr McCullough: I think that's roughly over three months</p> <p>CHAIR: That's not my question. He delivers in the field. Does that take one day, two days, three days, four days?</p> <p>Ms Slack-Smith: I don't have that information with me. We can take it on notice.</p> <p>Mr McCullough: I believe it's one day.</p>	47 24/10/17	
38	Australian Wool Innovation	Chair	Dr Paul Swan paid	<p>CHAIR: How much was he paid per day?</p> <p>Mr McCullough: I'll take this on notice, but he</p>	47 24/10/17	

				was paid in the order of \$220,000.		
39	Australian Wool Innovation	Senator Abetz	SRS breeding program	<p>Senator ABETZ: And how much money is given to that, especially the SRS breeding program?</p> <p>Ms Slack-Smith: We can take that on notice. We've got the total figures, but we can take that on notice</p>	50 24/10/17	
40	Australian Wool Innovation	Chair	Notification of conflict	<p>CHAIR: No-one's said you can't ask the question, I'm just making the observation that I doubt the Chairman would be able to answer your question. But the Chairman's here; he'll decide whether he can answer what someone else's aunt's second-cousin's hairdresser does. It's a matter for him.</p> <p>Mr Merriman: Stuart has some clarification.</p> <p>Mr McCullough: All directors declare their interests on the board. We can take that on notice, to look back through the interests that have been declared of the current board and the previous board, and see whether there was anything else apart from the people that Mr Merriman's talked about.</p>	52 24/10/17	
41	Australian Wool Innovation	Senator Rhiannon	Funding for promoting genetic solution to mulesing	<p>Senator RHIANNON: I did want to ask about that issue of funding. How much funding is AWI putting into promoting the genetic solution to mulesing versus the investment in anaesthetics for mulesing?</p> <p>Mr Merriman: I'll have to defer to Stuart for that.</p> <p>Mr McCullough: I can take that question on notice and give you the precise figure. It's a little hard to distinguish between things that we're doing on the genetic side versus mechanical and chemical treatments to flystrike prevention, but</p>	52 24/10/17	

				we'll take that on notice and give you an answer.		
42	Australian Wool Innovation	Senator McKenzie	Proportionality	Senator McKENZIE: What about proportionality? Mr McCullough: We can take it on notice and give you the proportionality. We spend \$5.7 million a year on this topic.	52 24/10/17	
43	Australian Wool Innovation	Senator Rhiannon	Flystrike prevention	Senator RHIANNON: How do you break that down when you say flystrike prevention? Mr McCullough: We'll take that on notice and give you the proportionality.	52 24/10/17	
44	Australian Wool Innovation	Senator Rhiannon	Breakdown of board members	Senator RHIANNON: Could you take on notice a breakdown of your board members—which ones have a financial interest in the sale of traditional stud breeds which require mulesing? Mr Merriman: The sale of traditional stud breeds—all of those people use sheep, traditional— Senator RHIANNON: Are you saying that all your board members are the traditionalists who go for stud breeds that require mulesing? Mr Merriman: I don't know where they get their sheep from. Senator RHIANNON: That's why I was asking you to take it on notice. I respect that you may not know those details—so we have an understanding of your board members, what their interests are and what their financial interests are. CHAIR: I think you might just need to—with respect, Senator—to particularise that. Is your interest board members who grow sheep who are involved in mulesing? Because, if that's the	52-53 24/10/17	

				<p>case, Mr Merriman has told you that all members on the board who own sheep—he believes—are involved in the practice.</p> <p>Mr Merriman: I presume—I don't know their businesses. But I presume.</p> <p>Senator RHIANNON: That's why I've asked for it to be taken on notice. Mr Merriman, you can take that on notice?</p>		
45	Australian Wool Innovation	Senator Williams	Four weeks payment	<p>Senator WILLIAMS: Then it's four weeks payment for every year worked?</p> <p>Mr McCullough: I will have to check that, but I think that's right, yes.</p>	56 24/10/17	
46	Australian Wool Innovation	Senator Williams	Redundancy	<p>Senator WILLIAMS: Can you just take on notice when it was put in place. To me, in the Public Service—and I'm one of them now, for another 20 months only—I think we get very generous entitlements. We get 15.4 per cent super. So I just wanted to ask that question as to why it is two weeks in the Public Service for each year up to the cap, where it's four weeks with AWI. Also, I had another question on notice: on whose recommendation were the ex gratia payments made to those two retiring employees who took redundancy?</p>	57 24/10/17	
47	Australian Wool Innovation	Senator Leyonhjelm	AWI budget invested in alternatives to mulesing	<p>Senator LEYONHJELM: How much of the AWI's budget is currently invested in alternatives to mulesing?</p> <p>Mr McCullough: We'll take that on notice, but it's about \$4 million per year.</p>	57 24/10/17	
48	Australian Wool	McKenzie	List of organisations	<p>Senator McKENZIE: Could you provide with us a</p>	63	

	Innovation		under AWI's Woolgrowers Industry Consultative Committee	list? Ms Slack-Smith: Yes. We've done that previously but are happy do it again. We've got a copy here we can give you.	24/10/17	
49	Australian Wool Innovation	Chair	Raw data reports	CHAIR: The colleagues have before them some of the raw data reports from the voting. Is there any objection to that being tabled? There being no objection, that will be tabled and attached to <i>Hansard</i> . Mr Story, we're closing now. I'm going to give you a description for the questions on notice. I must admit I haven't been a scholar of this document yet, so, if this satisfies some of my questions on notice, then that's the case. For the last two elections, I need to know—just condensed down—the total number of proxies and the total number of votes cast and I need a breakdown of who held the proxies, by name and number. I'm not interested in whose proxies they were. And I need to know those proxies held by those people, whether they were directed or not directed proxies. To clear the air completely around the chairman, I want a breakdown of the proxies held by the chairman that were directed or not directed. In that case, without knowing who the giver of the proxy is, I need to know where the proxies were directed on the candidate. Mr Story: Yes.	66 24/10/17	
50	Australian Wool Innovation	Senator Rhiannon	AWI funding	1. Please provide the amount of AWI funding spent on: a. Research or other programs to advance the non-mulesing of sheep compared to	Written	

				<p>the same relating to mulesed sheep</p> <p>b. Market research or market promotion of non-mulesed sheep compared to the same relating to mulesed sheep</p> <p>2. How many of members of the AWI Board represent non-mulesed sheep businesses compared to representing businesses wishing to move to non-mulesed sheep?</p> <p>3. Current and former Directors of AWI Chick Olsson and Dr Meredith Sheil, have financial interest as inventors of the drug Tri-Solfen, the anaesthetic used on mulesed sheep. They are also owners of the company that developed the drug. What financial interests or royalties have either of these individuals or their families received while Directors of AWI?</p> <p>4. Which other Directors of the AWI Board or their families and associates have financial interest in Tri-Solfen or any other chemical used in the mulesed sheep industry?</p>		
51	Australian Wool Innovation	Senator McKenzie	Stanford	<p>1. Did AWI pay for Stuart McCullough to attend Stanford University in 2013 or at any other time?</p> <p>2. What was the nature of the study Mr McCullough undertook?</p> <p>3. What was the duration of the course undertaken by Mr McCullough?</p> <p>4. Provide the exact dates of Mr McCullough's attendance at Stanford.</p> <p>5. How did this course relate to the business of Australian Wool Innovation?</p> <p>6. What did this course cost?</p> <p>7. Were comparable courses offered at</p>	Written	

				<p>Australian institutions considered?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. If not, why not? b. If so, provide an itemised breakdown of the institutions, the courses considered, the proposed tuition fees, and any other expenses that would have been incurred had Mr McCullough attended there. c. If Australian alternatives to Stanford were considered, state in full the basis for the decision for Mr McCullough's attendance at Stanford. <p>8. Whilst attending at Stanford, did Mr McCullough attend any sessions featuring guest speakers, morning exercises and/or yoga instruction? If so, outline any specific fees or charges associated with these activities (and make clear whether these are included in the total figures provided in answers to questions <i>above</i>).</p> <p>9. Specify any additional period Mr McCullough remained in the USA before or after the period of attendance at Stanford and, if so, the basis of his remuneration during this time.</p> <p>10. Who approved this expenditure?</p> <p>11. Was the decision to incur these expenses ratified by the AWI Board? If not, why not?</p> <p>12. Supply copies of minutes from any AWI Board meeting at which Mr McCullough's study at Stanford University was canvassed.</p> <p>13. Provide an itemised account of all expenses incurred by Mr McCullough that were either paid or reimbursed by AWI, including tuition fees, accommodation, airfares and other transport, meals, educational resources, and</p>		
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				<p>incidental expenses.</p> <p>14. Provide details in full of all other education or training that Mr McCullough has undertaken, at AWI's expense, since the commencement of his employment with the organisation.</p>		
52	Australian Wool Innovation	Senator McKenzie	Courses	<p>With respect to each of Mr McCullough and the Chair, Mr Merriman:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Provide details of all courses undertaken through the Australian Institute of Company Directors; b. Provide details of when these courses were undertaken; c. Provide details of who paid the fees associated with these courses. 	Written	
53	Australian Wool Innovation	Senator McKenzie	AWI directors	<p>For all AWI directors who have held office over the past 10 years:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Provide details of any pre-existing training or qualifications in corporate governance held by each director prior to their ascension as AWI directors; b. Provide details of any training in corporate governance provided to each director by AWI, including course names, dates of completion, the institution offering the course, and associated fees. 	Written	
54	Australian Wool Innovation	Senator McKenzie	AWI management	<p>For senior AWI management employees who are involved in executive-level management but are not AWI directors:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Provide details of any pre-existing training or qualifications in corporate governance held by each employee prior to their recruitment 	Written	

				<p>by AWI;</p> <p>b. Provide details of any training in corporate governance provided to each employee by AWI, including course names, dates of completion, the institution offering the course, and associated fees.</p>		
55	Australian Wool Innovation	Senator McKenzie	AWI Code of Conduct	<p>1. With regard to the AWI Code of Conduct, clause 17.3 states that persons believing that a breach of the code may have occurred should “report it to their manager in the first instance or, if more appropriate, to the CEO.” Evidence on 24 October 2017 shows the Chair admitted breaching S4.4(f) of the Code, and that potential conflicts of interest were established in contravention of sections 5.2(f), 10.1 and 10.2 of the Code.</p> <p>a. What is the process that will be followed by AWI to investigate these matters?</p> <p>b. What is the range of potential actions open to the CEO to take in relation to actual and/or potential breaches of the Code by the Chair?</p> <p>c. How are breaches of the Code consistent with clause 2.5 of the AWI Board Charter, which requires AWI to maintain “an appropriate corporate governance framework and ensuring that it acts...maintaining the highest ethical standards?”</p> <p>2. Explain the process of “self and peer evaluation” required biennially by Clause 2.16 of the AWI Board Charter to “regularly evaluate performance, including directors,”</p>	Written	

				<p>with regard to the AWI Chair, in relation to alleged or admitted breaches of the AWI Code of Conduct.</p> <p>3. AWI directors are bound by Clause 5.2.13 to comply with the AWI Code of Conduct. As the Chair has admitted one breach, and as evidence given on 24 October raises the prospect of others, what action does AWI regard appropriate in the context of the Chair's continued tenure as an AWI director?</p>		
56	Australian Wool Innovation	Senator O'Sullivan	Documents relating to the last two ballots	<p>Can the Australian Wool Innovation (AWI) please produce any and all documents relating to the last two ballots to elect members of the governing Board of the AWI. These documents will include (but not necessarily be limited to) any documents or records that detail:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. the exchange or advance of proxies that will show the date the proxy was issued b. the identity of the person or entity that issued the proxy c. how many proxies applied to that issue d. who the beneficiary of the proxy was e. information that identifies each proxy to determine whether the proxy was directed or undirected f. documents to show to whom the proxy was directed to <p>So as to avoid any confusion, the documents required or the data presented in response to this question, must allow the recipient to be able to cross index all of the categories of information produced above. The documentation or data must allow the recipient to identify the date, the</p>	Written	

				person the proxy was directed to, the recipient of the proxy and whether that particular proxy was directed or undirected.		
57	Australian Wool Innovation	Senator O'Sullivan	Minutes relating to nomination and appointments	Please provide all minutes or excerpts of meetings relating to the nominations and appointments of all Board Committee Members for each of the last two Board elections.	Written	
58	Australian Wool Innovation	Senator O'Sullivan	Board elections	Please provide any and all copies of videos, audios or transcripts of videos or audios from each of the last two Board elections.	Written	
59	Australian Wool Innovation	Senator O'Sullivan	AWIs focus group	Please provide any documents, file notes, audio recordings, relating to interviews of staff and former staff that relate to the inquiry into the AWI's issue to do with the Chairman's viewing of the focus group.	Written	
60	Australian Wool Innovation	Senator O'Sullivan	Board elections	Please provide copies of all correspondence between Link Services, the AWI's Company Secretary and AWI's Chair regarding the status of Board elections for the previous two Board elections.	Written	
61	Australian Wool Innovation	Senator O'Sullivan	Link Services	Does Link Services provide either AWI's Company Secretary and AWI's Chair with running tallies of the votes for each individual Board candidate or just a total of the votes cast?	Written	
62	Australian Wool Innovation	Senator O'Sullivan	Project briefs and contracts	Please provide copies of the project briefs and contracts between AWI and the research companies QRA and Axiom in relation to June 2017 focus group genetics research project,	Written	

				including details of when these were first sighted, and approved or signed off by the CEO and the Board.		
63	Australian Wool Innovation	Senator O'Sullivan	Proxy votes	Please provide the number (including any ballot paper copies if they still exist) of designated and undesignated proxy votes voted for proxies cast by the residing Chairman at the election at which Mr Merriman was elected. Also include details on how all these proxies held by Mr Merriman and his predecessor were cast ie. for which Director candidates.	Written	
64	Australian Wool Innovation	Senator O'Sullivan	AWI Board nomination committee	Please provide all criteria documents provided from AWI Board nomination committee to AWI Board used as a justification for Board nomination committee final judgements of candidates (which forms the basis of its letter to shareholders).	Written	
65	Australian Wool Innovation	Senator O'Sullivan	Constitution changed	When was the Constitution changed to include the replaceable rule S250J of the Corporations Act, meaning the Chair does not have to declare proxies?	Written	
66	Australian Wool Innovation	Senator O'Sullivan	Legal advice	What legal advice was sought to include Clause Section 12.4 – in the Constitution? Please provide a copy of this legal advice.	Written	
67	Biosecurity Animal Division	Senator Ketter	Prawns	I refer the Minister to the answers he gave to my questions during the Senate Estimates hearing on Tuesday 24 October 2017, and I ask in response 1. What genetic records does the government	Written	

				<p>have of past prawn imports?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Will the states be advised on what changes have been made to enhance biosecurity at the border? Are there existing guidelines on when the Minister should be informed that there is a biosecurity intelligence operation underway? 		
68	Biosecurity Plant Division	Senator Ketter	Lucerne hay - China	<p>Senator KETTER: What about lucerne hay? Minister, I think I raised that with your office last year. Some people in Queensland are interested in that.</p> <p>Dr Healy: We have been having discussions with China about lucerne hay. I might see if my colleagues have the most relevant information.</p> <p>Mr Creaser: Lucerne hay has been identified as a priority. We have made a submission to China for lucerne hay, so it's very much in China's hands at this stage.</p> <p>Senator KETTER: When was that submitted?</p> <p>Mr Creaser: I'm not sure of the exact date; I'd have to come back to you on that, but it has been in there for at least a couple of years.</p>	133 24/10/17	
69	Biosecurity Policy and Implementation Division	Senator Rice	Fire Ants	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> What progress has the government made in appointing the promised independent chair to the new steering committee to oversee the fire ant eradication program announced at the July 2017 meeting of agriculture ministers? There was recognition that there was a need to improve governance, transparency and community engagement in the operation of the eradication program. What measures have been put in place so far to address these 	Written	

				<p>issues?</p> <p>3. What is the source of funding for the red fire ant eradication program (provide a breakdown from each source). If some funding is coming from the National Landcare program, will this be at the expense of conservation and natural resource management programs?</p>		
70	Biosecurity Policy and Implementation Division	Senator Rice	NEBRA	<p>1. What is the process and timeframe for government consideration of the review?</p> <p>2. What is the federal government position on each of the review recommendations?</p> <p>3. Given that transparency is one of the principles identified for improvement by the review, can you provide a full list of the 28 incursions where NEBRA was considered for activation?</p> <p>4. While five incursions triggered a response, can you provide reasons why no further action was taken for each of the 23 incursions where a response under NEBRA was not triggered?</p>	Written	
71	Biosecurity Policy and Implementation Division	Senator Rice	Independent biosecurity review	<p>1. What is the timing of the state, territory and federal government consideration of the review and finalisation of a new intergovernmental agreement?</p> <p>2. Will the federal government support recommendation 34 which supports raising funds for the currently underfunded areas of biosecurity from risk creators via a \$10 levy increase on incoming shipping containers, a \$5 increase on incoming air cargo and a \$5 increase of the passenger movement charge?</p>	Written	

				<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Does the government agree with the review that environmental biosecurity is an important area of attention and there is a need to create a new Chief Community and Environmental Biosecurity Officer in the department of environment and a new Community and Environment Committee of the national biosecurity committee (Recommendations 9, 10)? 4. What other review recommendations does the federal government support? 		
72	Biosecurity Policy and Implementation Division	Senator Rice	Norfolk Island Myrtle rust	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Can the Department update me on actions taken since Budget Estimates in regards to Myrtle Rust on Norfolk Island? 2. Are there any plans to conduct an eradication program? 3. What engagement has now been undertaken with the Norfolk Island Community? 	Written	
73	Compliance Division	Senator Sterle	Serana	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What has been the cost to the Department of conducting Operation Fides from 2013 to this date? 2. What legal costs have been billed to the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources in relation to legal action taken against the company Serana as at 30 June 2017? 3. Have any further costs been billed since 30 June in relation to this matter? 4. What are the estimates of the legal costs of the trial concluded on 28 September 2017 including cost of pre-trial proceedings? 5. Given Serana has been acquitted of charges 	Written	

				<p>brought by the Department, on what basis is the Department now claiming that there are further possible charges against the company?</p> <p>6. When are these other charges expected to be brought?</p> <p>7. Why have these charges not already been brought after 4.5 years of investigation?</p>		
74	Corporate Strategy and Governance Division	Senator Abetz	Vote on the enterprise agreement	<p>Senator ABETZ: And can you confirm that it was presented to all employees before the vote on the enterprise agreement as part of the negotiations, but deliberately not in the enterprise agreement?</p> <p>Ms Briscoe: We'll take that second part on notice.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Can you take both parts on notice?</p> <p>Ms Briscoe: Yes.</p>	6 24/10/17	
75	Corporate Strategy and Governance Division	Senator Abetz	Emails address supplied to the union	<p>Senator ABETZ: Yes. Putting things up and down on notice boards won't cost the taxpayer anything extra. Can I ask about email addresses of workers? Are they supplied to the union?</p> <p>Mr N Mason: I'd have to take that particular question on notice. I don't believe so, but delegates would have access to our internal email system, so are you talking about our staff or are you talking about the CPSU, the union themselves?</p>	7 24/10/17	
76	Corporate Strategy and Governance Division	Senator Sterle	Time the annual report was tabled	<p>Senator STERLE: What time did you table it yesterday?</p> <p>Mr N Mason: I'd have to confirm the exact time, but I believe it was just after 3 pm.</p>	10 24/10/17	

77	Corporate Strategy and Governance Division	Senator McCarthy	FOI briefings	Senator McCARTHY: And when did that briefing take place? Ms Linacre: I'd have to take that on notice.	17-18 24/10/17	
78	Corporate Strategy and Governance Division	Senator McCarthy	Ministerial staff	Senator McCARTHY: When did Diana Hallam leave the minister's office? Ms Linacre: I'd have to take that on notice, sorry.	18 24/10/17	
79	Corporate Strategy and Governance Division	Senator McCarthy	Ministerial staff	Senator McCARTHY: Who has replaced her as the minister's chief of staff? Senator Ruston: Currently, Simon Price has taken the role of chief of staff in the senior minister's office. Senator McCARTHY: In a permanent position? Mr Quinlivan: No, I think he refers to himself as acting chief of staff. Senator Ruston: We'll confirm that for you over the break.	18 24/10/17	
80	Corporate Strategy and Governance Division	Senator Sterle	Access to ministers diary	Senator STERLE: Thank you for that, Minister. Just to quell the 'oh, yeah, she'll be right', I still would ask, through you, Minister, if the minister could FOI his diary to prove beyond doubt that that was the case for him and, of course, the friends who are in the photo. Senator Ruston: Okay. I'm certainly quite happy to take that back to the minister's office—to provide evidentiary proof that he was in Brisbane. Senator STERLE: Thank you.	21 24/10/17	
81	Corporate Strategy and Governance Division	Senator Sterle	FOI of ministers diary	Senator STERLE: I will just ask the minister: have we had any response from the minister's office with regard to the FOI of his diary for that time that I raised earlier on this morning in relation to	104 24/10/17	

				<p>the Facebook photo?</p> <p>Senator Ruston: I have been in communication with the minister's office today. As you would be aware, it's not government practice to provide diaries of ministers. But the minister's office has advised that they will provide whatever documentation that they can find to demonstrate that the event to which you are asking about was actually in Brisbane and to demonstrate that the minister was not in Rockhampton during that time.</p> <p>Senator STERLE: Thanks, Minister. I'll wait for that.</p>		
82	Corporate Strategy and Governance Division	Senator Abetz	Consultation and representation protocol	<p>Reference is made to the Consultation and Representation Protocol (hereinafter called "the Protocol").</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. a. Is the Protocol an agreement between the Department and the CPSU? <li style="padding-left: 2em;">b. If so, why were its contents not provided to the APSC for appraisal prior to tabling a final position to staff as required Para.9 of the Workplace Bargaining Policy 2015? 2. a. Does the term 'employee representatives' in the section "Paid time" refer only to union representatives? <li style="padding-left: 2em;">b. If not, how do other employees obtain the status of "employee representative" to the satisfaction of the Department and Union? 3. a. Has the Department undertaken any costings to the Department in foregone employee working hours, absence for training and use of facilities? 	Written	

				<p>b. If so, what is the total cost?</p> <p>c. If not, why not?</p> <p>4. a. Why will the CPSU be given access to “All Staff” in the circumstances outlined in “Use of Facilities” sub para (c)?</p> <p>b. How does this protect employees that have specifically opted out (Attachment A) sub para (e)?</p> <p>5. Is the “request” referred to in (f) Orientation to be exercised by the Union of employees?</p> <p>a. How does “the right to address” referred to in Attachment A (h) dovetail with (e) exercising a right to opt out?</p> <p>b. Which right prevails, and why?</p>		
83	Corporate Strategy and Governance Division	Senator Abetz	Messages to all staff	Please provide the messages (if any) sent to staff (on the most recent occasions) of Christmas/New Year, Easter and Ramadan by the Secretary of the Department at the relevant time.	Written	
84	Corporate Strategy and Governance Division	Senator Abetz	Enterprise Agreement negotiations	In the most recent Enterprise Agreement negotiations, was/were any side-agreement/s, protocol/s, arrangement/s, agreement/s entered into? If so, please provide a copy.	Written	
85	Corporate Strategy and Governance Division	Senator McAllister	Face to face interactions	Does any part of your agency/department have a service delivery function, or which has face to face interactions with the public? If yes: 1. Do you provide staff with training on how to deal with client aggression or customers experiencing mental illness? 2. Please provide the dates and locations that	Written	

				<p>training has been run over the last 5 years.</p> <p>3. How many of your staff have received this training? How many in the last 2 years?</p> <p>4. Who provides this training?</p>		
86	Exports Division	Senator Rhiannon	Donkeys	<p>1. Has the government yet considered a live trade in donkeys for slaughter?</p> <p>2. If yes, what animal welfare risk assessment has the government undertaken for a live trade in donkeys for slaughter?</p> <p>3. What permissions would be required for an exporter to trade live donkeys?</p> <p>4. Is the government currently or considering supporting trade in donkey skins with China?</p> <p>5. Is it currently permissible to trade donkey skins from either wild or farmed donkeys in? What permissions are required?</p> <p>6. Considering the unique temperament of the donkey, different to other livestock, has the government had any consultation with donkey welfare specialists regarding</p> <p>a. A live trade in donkeys or developing donkey farming , or</p> <p>b. Expanding a trade in skins from feral donkeys?</p> <p>7. Has the Department consulted with either of the Donkey Sanctuary or Brooke – the international animal welfare charity working to improve the lives of working horses, donkeys, mules and the people who depend on them?</p> <p>8. Many countries have already banned the selling of donkeys including Ethiopia and Niger. Tanzania and Botswana have banned</p>	Written	

				<p>the export of donkey skins. Will the Australian Government consider banning the import of ejiao or any donkey skin products given the animal welfare risks associated with it?</p> <p>9. Donkey products from China may present health risks to Australian consumers as well as mislabelling issues that contravene Australian Consumer Law. Is the department aware of any government investigations into the health implications of consuming ejiao products which are already widely available in Australia, and the risks that they may be presenting to consumers here?</p>		
87	Exports Division	Senator Rhiannon	Kangaroo exports	<p>1. In February 2016 Estimates I was advised that there were five establishments registered to produce kangaroo meat for human consumption: Southern Game Meat; Game Meat Processing; North Queensland Game Meats; and two businesses owned by Macro Investments:</p> <p>a. Please advise of any changes to this advice, including the names of any new establishments registered to produce kangaroo meat for human consumption.</p> <p>2. Please provide the same details for establishments registered to produce other kangaroo products.</p>	Written	
88	Exports Division	Senator Rhiannon	Kangaroo contamination	<p>1. I have previously been advised that kangaroo meat for human consumption is not tested for zoonotic diseases such as Toxoplasma gondii or Salmonella and that this is not a requirement for any importing country. Is this</p>	Written	

				<p>still currently the case?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Is it still the case that all countries importing kangaroo meat rely on Australian pre-export contaminant testing? Please advise where and how this has changed. 3. What are all the kangaroo borne contaminants or diseases tested in pre-exported kangaroo meat? 4. Which specific countries, including individual countries within the EU, have raised concerns about contamination in kangaroo meat since January 2015? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. What are the details of those concerns including the contaminants found? 5. Is it still the case that it can be up to 14 days before kangaroos shot in the field are delivered to abattoirs in Australia? 6. Is this 2 week limit applicable to kangaroos used from both human and non-human consumption? 7. How old can kangaroo meat be by the time it is consumed in overseas markets: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. For human consumption? b. For non-human consumption? 8. What sort of processed edible products use kangaroo for human consumption? 9. Is the use of kangaroo in processed food labelled as such, for example in salami? 10. What sort of products use kangaroo for non-human consumption apart from pet-food? 11. Are kangaroo carcasses and products still allowed to be doused in Acetic Acid in Australian processing plants? 		
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89	Exports Divisions	Senator Rhiannon	Kangaroo exports	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Please provide an updated list of all the countries currently importing kangaroo products and those considering importation of kangaroo products. 2. Please provide the most current export data for <u>all</u> kangaroo products from October 2015 to current including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. By country b. By quantity/volume/weight c. By export commodity classification d. By gross or unit value for each kangaroo product 	Written	
90	Exports Divisions	Senator Rhiannon	Kangaroo exports	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Please provide in an <u>excel spreadsheet or other manipulable spreadsheet</u> the data for the export of all kangaroo products for each financial year from 2012-13 to the present, including for each kangaroo product classification: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. quantity (weight or quantity) b. Value c. Recipient country (and port if possible) d. Kangaroo product (commodity classification codes): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2089011 Fresh, chilled or frozen meat and edible meat offal of kangaroo • 2109950 Meat and edible meat offal of kangaroo, salted, in brine, dried or smoked (incl. edible flours and meals of meat or meat offal) • 5119920 Kangaroo and wallaby meat, 	Written	

				<p>unfit for human consumption</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 41039020 Raw hides and skins of kangaroo, fresh, or salted, dried, limed, pickled or otherwise preserved, but not tanned, parchment-dressed or further prepared, whether or not dehaired or split • 41139020 Leather, of kangaroo, further prepared after tanning or crusting (incl. parchment-dressed leather), without hair on, whether or not split (excl. chamois leather, patent leather, patent laminated leather and metallised leather) 		
91	Farm support Division	Senator Smith	Novation of leases	<p>Senator SMITH: Neither am I. What are the legal and policy reasons that the Deputy Prime Minister cites in his letter to the Western Australia minister inhibiting the novation of leases?</p> <p>Mr Hutchison: I'll take that on notice because it may well go to the heart of legal advice that the Commonwealth received in its considerations of establishing a Regional Investment Corporation.</p> <p>Senator SMITH: In the letter from the Deputy Prime Minister it says, 'My department has advised the novation of any loans approved by Western Australia in 2017-18 to the RIC would be impractical due to a range of legal, policy and cost reasons.' What would those legal reasons be?</p>	116 24/10/17	

				Mr Hutchison: As you can see from the clause you have read from the Deputy Prime Minister's letter, that goes to legal advice. I'd like to take that on notice before taking decision as to whether speak about it in more detail here in the committee.		
92	Farm Support Division	Senator McCarthy	Election commitment	Senator McCARTHY: Was the election commitment approved by cabinet prior to the election being called? Senator Ruston: I'm going to have to take that on notice. As you'd be aware, I'm not in cabinet.	120 24/10/17	
93	Farm Support Division	Senator Sterle	Regional Investment Corporation budget	Senator STERLE: Did he correct it? It was \$4.5 billion and now it's \$4 billion, and you've explained why. Did the minister go out and correct it? Senator Ruston: I'll check with the minister's office on that.	120 24/10/17	
94	Farm Support Division	Senator McCarthy	Regional Investment Corporation	Senator McCARTHY: What about lending to farms with viability issues? Senator Ruston: The point that's probably worth making here is that currently this loan or loan facility is being operated within the department. What we're proposing to do is transfer that operation over to the Regional Investment Corporation. So, in answer to your question, no, I haven't had that issue raised with me, but it may well have been raised with the minister. I'm more than happy to raise that with his office to get you an answer. Senator McCARTHY: Would you like to take that on notice?	121 24/10/17	

				Senator Ruston: Yes, of course.		
95	Farm Support Division	Senator McCarthy	Concerns within the report	<p>Senator McCARTHY: Mr Hutchison, you just mentioned there that you're also looking at some of the major concerns. What is one of the concerns that stood out to you in the report that you've had to put together?</p> <p>Mr Hutchison: I don't have a record of those meetings with me, so I will need to take that on notice. I must say the report we are preparing for the RIC board, given we've been talking to a number of commercial institutions, does have a degree of commercially sensitive material in it—or I expect it will once it is complete. So I would like to take that question on notice so that I can make sure I can equip myself properly against those responsibilities to manage that information sensibly.</p> <p>Senator McCARTHY: If you could, thank you.</p>	122 24/10/17	
96	Farm Support Division	Senator Rice	Regional Investment Corporation	<p>Senator RICE: I will continue with the Regional Investment Corporation, as I threatened, Minister Ruston, when we were discussing this in Senate last week! Minister Ruston indicated in the Senate last week that the decision to locate the head office of the Regional Investment Corporation in Orange was a decision of the government and not based on advice from the department. I'm interested in when the department first learnt of the decision to locate the headquarters of the Regional Investment Corporation in Orange?</p> <p>Mr Williamson: I'd have to take the exact date on notice, but I think it was in April. I will check that</p>	124 24/10/17	

				<p>and come back to you.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Senator RICE: Did you provide any advice at all to the government about the potential location of the headquarters of the RIC?</p> <p>Mr Williamson: Again, I'll take that on notice and double-check but I think the answer is no.</p>		
97	Farm Support Division	Senator McCarthy	Report provided to the Regional Investment Corporation's board	<p>Mr Hutchison: On the market analysis material that we discussed before the break, Senator, that will culminate in a report that is provided to the Regional Investment Corporation's board to assist them in determining the best path forward for them to deliver the loans product.</p> <p>Senator McCARTHY: So that information has definitely gone to the minister, or is it being provided for the minister?</p> <p>Mr Hutchison: No. It will be material provided to the board.</p> <p>Senator McCARTHY: Just to the board?</p> <p>Mr Hutchison: That's right.</p> <p>Senator McCARTHY: Are you able to table any compiled information?</p> <p>Mr Hutchison: For the reasons I mentioned before the break, I would hesitate to commit to table anything in the committee here, without going back and reviewing the information. As I said, I don't have the information arising from those consultations with me, Senator. They are obviously going to contain material that is, I would expect, commercially sensitive, given some of the details of the discussions we will have had with commercial lenders. But I'm happy to take that on notice as to what we can provide.</p>	127 24/10/17	

				<p>Senator McCARTHY: You will come back to us on what you can provide the committee?</p> <p>Mr Hutchison: Absolutely.</p>		
98	Farm Support Division	Senator McCarthy	Discussion of Regional Investment Corporation at the Agriculture Ministers' Forum	<p>Senator McCARTHY: On 26 July 2017, at the Agriculture Ministers' Forum, farm support initiatives were discussed, including the farm household allowance and the establishment of the Regional Investment Corporation. Can you detail what aspects of the establishment of the RIC were discussed at the forum which you chaired?</p> <p>Senator Ruston: Which forum's this?</p> <p>Mr Williamson: That was the meeting of agricultural ministers.</p> <p>Senator Ruston: Now you're testing my memory.</p> <p>Mr Williamson: I could probably assist because I think it was me giving an update to the ministers on the government's election commitment: where the process was up to, what was envisaged for the RIC—those sorts of things. It was much the same information that you're already aware of or has been discussed recently.</p> <p>Senator McCARTHY: Is there any extra information that you'd like to table, Mr Williamson?</p> <p>Mr Williamson: From the briefing to the agriculture ministers? Not that I can think of. I'm happy to take it on notice, but it was really just a couple of minutes on: here's where it's up to.</p> <p>Senator McCARTHY: Take it on notice and see what you may have there. Is the department then concerned that, due to the late introduction of the bill, there may not be sufficient time to</p>	127 24/10/17	

				establish the RIC so it can be up and functioning by 1 July next year?		
99	Farm Support Division	Senator McCarthy	Brief to minster regarding the location of Regional Investment Corporation	<p>Senator McCARTHY: Mr Williamson, did the department provide a brief for the minister on any information about comparing differences between Orange and the other towns listed?</p> <p>Mr Williamson: No, we traversed some of this ground with Senator Rice earlier.</p> <p>Senator McCARTHY: Yes. I missed some of that.</p>	129 24/10/17	
100	Farm Support Division	Chair	Take up of re-stocking	<p>CHAIR: What about restocking? Was it \$100 million that was allocated for low-cost loans for the purposes of restocking?</p> <p>Mr Hutchison: That was part of an earlier scheme under the Drought Recovery Concessional Loans Scheme. There were funds available for replanting and restocking.</p> <p>CHAIR: Has there been a take-up of that or has there—</p> <p>Mr Hutchison: I'd have to take that on notice given that the scheme operated some 18 months to two years ago. I would have to go back and check those figures.</p>	137 24/10/17	
101	Farm Support Division	Senator Sterle	Leadership in Agricultural Industries Fund	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many applicants applied for the funding? 2. Provide a list of all applicants. 3. When were the applicants announced? 4. How was the announcement made? 5. What date did the Minister sign off on the successful applicants? 6. What date were unsuccessful applicants notified? 7. What date were the successful applicants 	Written	

				<p>notified?</p> <p>8. What date was the departmental website updated?</p>		
102	Finance and Business Support Division	Senator Sterle	Credit cards	<p>Ms Canning: Everyone who has a credit card in the department must undertake mandatory training and must pass the training before they're given their credit card.</p> <p>Senator STERLE: What is that training?</p> <p>Ms Canning: I don't have the details with me here; I'd have to take that on notice.</p>	12 24/10/17	
103	Finance and Business Support Division	Senator Sterle	Credit card transactions	<p>Senator STERLE: You have answered that, Ms Canning. Can you tell us how many credit card holders the 128 purchase related to? What is the 128 purchase?</p> <p>Ms Canning: Transactions.</p> <p>Senator STERLE: Is it? Okay.</p> <p>Ms Canning: Yes. I don't have that information with me. I'd have to take that on notice.</p>	13 24/10/17	
104	Finance and Business Support Division	Senator Sterle	Largest illegitimate or contrary purchase	<p>Senator STERLE: Of the largest illegitimate or contrary purchase—I believe the total was \$1,059.40—could you tell the committee what that purchase was for?</p> <p>Ms Canning: No, I don't have that information with me.</p> <p>Senator STERLE: If it does take a couple of seconds, I'd like to give you that. It's one of those deemed illegitimate ones and it would be interesting for the committee. We've had a bit of experience on this committee on the credit card stuff and we don't argue about this, and it doesn't matter who's in government. It's not that we're</p>	13-14 24/10/17	

				<p>out to trap people, but if there are some things that are not right then we want to see it corrected.</p> <p>Ms Canning: We can get that for you.</p>		
105	Finance and Business Support Division	Senator Sterle	Misuse of credit cards	<p>Senator STERLE: Okay, we will come back to that one. Could you tell us if any cardholders have been multiple offenders of misusing their credit cards for personal use?</p> <p>Ms Canning: In some instances, yes.</p> <p>Senator STERLE: I don't want names, of course, Ms Canning, but can you give us an indication of how many, to what values and how many times they've used them.</p> <p>Ms Canning: I'd have to take that on notice.</p>	14 24/10/17	
106	Finance and Business Support Division	Acting Chair	Credit cards	<p>ACTING CHAIR: Sure. There's a process there, and, as I said very clearly, we're not interested in who those officers are, and I don't want to know that. You have got a process, but I'd like to see if there is the information—as I said, how many, how often, what value and what were the goods purchased? That would give us an indication, too.</p> <p>Ms Canning: We've found recently, for example, that there's an increased breach in relation to Uber. So we do authorise Uber in the department, for example, for departmental transport as an alternative. In the nature of setting up on Uber, you can have a personal account and a work account, and sometimes people are not switching between, so that has been an increase. But I will find out for you.</p> <p>ACTING CHAIR: Yes. And that would be good, and probably how many have lost their credit card</p>	14 24/10/17	

				and for whatever length of time, just so it's all out there and it's available, without names on it. Ms Canning: Yes.		
107	Finance and Business Support Division	Acting chair	Self reporting	ACTING CHAIR: Sure. And there's nothing sinister if it's self-reporting. I know; I've used it, and they have nothing to hide. I understand that. Of the 128 illegitimate—or whatever word we use—how many self-reported? Do you have that figure in front of you, Ms Canning? Ms Canning: No, I'll check that. ACTING CHAIR: If you'd take that on notice, please.	14 24/10/17	
108	Finance and Business Support Division	Senator McAllister	Staffing levels	Please provide as at 30 June 2017: 1. ASL by state 2. Headcount of people employed as a. Labour Hire, b. Contractors, or c. outsourced staff, d. and the value of each of these contracts for the 2016-2017 financial year. 3. The total number of people who have a log in to the departmental IT system, and the breakdown by category of these log-ins (permanent, non-ongoing, casual, labour hire, outsourced, contractors, and any other category that has access to the system). 4. The total number of people who have a security/access pass into your departmental buildings, and the breakdown by category of these pass holders (permanent, non-ongoing, casual, labour hire, outsourced, contractors, and any other relevant category).	Written	

				5. A list of organisations/companies that have staff who can log into your departmental IT system.		
109	Information Services Division	Senator McAllister	Projects with the Digital Transformation Agency	As at 31 October 2017: 1. What projects are you undertaking in conjunction with the Digital Transformation Agency? 2. For each project: a. What criteria are you using for assessing success? b. What is the role of the DTA in the project? c. What is the timeframe for completion?	Written	
110	Meat and Livestock Australia	Senator Sterle	Remuneration package	Senator STERLE: Oh, 208 and 35 part time. Okay. I know who your board are; I've got their names here. I'm just going to ask for a break-down of the remuneration package for the board members, please, Mr Norton. Mr Norton: That's just been changed for the first time in a number of years. I will have to take on notice exactly what it is. It was changed because the board's taken on the two subsidiary boards as well.	70 24/10/17	
111	Meat and Livestock Australia	Senator Sterle	Dr Michele Allan	Senator STERLE: Let's go to Dr Michele Allan Mr Norton: Yes. I will have to take it on notice. I can get it for you	70 24/10/17	
112	Meat and Livestock Australia	Senator Sterle	Party transactions	Senator STERLE: Ms Gorter—that's where I particularly have an interest here. In your annual report of 2015-16, which you don't have near you, under 'related party transactions'—what are related party transactions?	71 24/10/17	

				Mr Norton: We document any related party transactions at a board level for any board director, which I can provide you for every single board member on notice		
113	Meat and Livestock Australia	Senator Sterle	Ms Erin Gorter	<p>Senator STERLE: She has a very impressive CV; there's no argument about that. I think she even won a Rural Woman of the Year award or was a nominee at one stage, so I don't want to tarnish; I just want to clear up what the payment is.</p> <p>Mr Norton: I absolutely can provide in full detail every cent on notice.</p>	72 24/10/17	
114	Meat and Livestock Australia	Senator Sterle	Board fees	<p>Senator STERLE: Okay. I don't know if that \$76,000 is on top of the \$90,000 or not. This is what I'm led to believe. I just need to know what that could be. Hopefully, that information we're waiting for will tell us what that is.</p> <p>Just so I don't confuse everyone, for 2015-16, \$90,544 was paid to Erin Gorter Enterprises, and then a further amount of \$76,000 which I've just discussed, for professional fees. That wouldn't be the board fees, would it?</p> <p>Mr Norton: I don't know. But I can assure you, Senator, that it's very detailed on all fees paid to directors and what they actually do, and any conflicts of interest.</p> <p>Senator STERLE: Good.</p> <p>Mr Norton: I suspect I can have it to you within 30 minutes from the board reports that are produced for each board meeting. Conflicts of interest, and money paid to any entities associated with board members, are declared to the board.</p>	72-73 24/10/17	

				<p>Senator STERLE: Great. That's what I want to hear, but I'm going to continue to ask you all these question while we get it out.</p> <p>Mr Norton: Yes, and I can provide it all on notice.</p>		
115	Meat and Livestock Australia	Senator McKenzie	Geographic location of that 20 per cent	<p>Senator McKENZIE: In terms of MLA's role in reporting saleyard prices, can you talk us through some of the issues?</p> <p>Mr Norton: MLA covers the largest saleyards; we don't cover every single saleyard. Our annual budget, covering the largest saleyards by volume, is around about \$4 million a year.</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: Where, predominantly, are they located?</p> <p>Mr Norton: They're all across Australia. I could provide a list.</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: That'd be great.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: On notice, I would like to have some understanding of the geographic location of that 20 per cent, because I'm betting, by volume, that the further north you go the more reporting gets done, and the saleyards in the south with a higher value per kilo of beast and yet lower numbers through the saleyard don't get the level of reporting.</p> <p>Mr Norton: I understand what you're saying.</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: Could you clarify that for me.</p>	83 24/10/17	
116	Meat and Livestock Australia	Senator Sterle	Ms Gorter remuneration	<p>ACTING CHAIR: Why don't we start with Ms Gorter's remuneration as a board member, please.</p> <p>Mr Norton: \$56,656.30.</p> <p>ACTING CHAIR: I'll go back to your annual report</p>	85 24/10/17	

				<p>of 2015-16. Under Related Party Transactions we've got Ms Gorter receiving—I've got \$90,544 in payment for work provided by Erin Gorter Enterprises. Have you got that?</p> <p>Mr Norton: I've got that, and then I've got this year's updated number.</p> <p>ACTING CHAIR: Let's just stick with 2015-16. Can you tell me the nature or work or services provided for that amount of \$90,000?</p> <p>Mr Norton: I can give you invoice by invoice on notice</p>		
117	Meat and Livestock Australia	Acting Chair	Ms Gorter	<p>ACTING CHAIR: I understand. You can take that on notice and come back and provide the committee with that. So we've established that Ms Gorter was CEO of Evergreen Farming at some stage. She was elected democratically by the majority of levy payers to the board at 2015. That's great. When did she actually step down as the CEO of Evergreen Farming? If you haven't got that, you can take it on notice.</p> <p>Mr Norton: I will provide that as well as when she stood down this year as chair of the WALRC, which is an R&D—</p> <p>ACTING CHAIR: Sure.</p> <p>Mr Norton: I will provide, by invoice, all payments to Erin Gorter and what they were for.</p> <p>ACTING CHAIR: Yes, you'll supply me that. So you'll break up the \$90,000?</p> <p>Mr Norton: In 2015, and 2016-17.</p> <p>ACTING CHAIR: Stay in 2015-16. I may be wrong, but you'll be able to correct me before I move on to the following year. While we're still on 2015-16, I'm led to believe that a further amount of</p>	86 24/10/17	

				<p>\$76,382 was paid to Mrs Gorter for professional fees. Now, do you see a \$76,382 figure on top of the \$90,544 for that same year?</p> <p>Mr Norton: No, we can't find the \$76,000 that you're referring to. Again, I can only tell the Senate, you ask the questions and we will give you the utmost detail around where these numbers came from.</p> <p>ACTING CHAIR: That's great. So you can chase that up for us. And then if you find it and if I've got that figure too low, too high or not existing, you'll be able to correct me.</p>		
118	Meat and Livestock Australia	Acting Chair	Further reimbursement for Ms Gorter	<p>ACTING CHAIR: Yes, that's good. Okay. I'll just go through it anyway. I'm further led to believe a further reimbursement of associated expenses in the amount of \$14,167 was also paid for her role as the WA Meat Research Council coordinator and the WA Livestock Research Council coordinator. So we'll get the details around that.</p> <p>Mr Norton: That's part of the \$90,000.</p> <p>ACTING CHAIR: That payment's part of the \$90,000? So you've got that information there; that's great. So you'll only have to find the other \$76,000—or if that is the other \$76,000.</p> <p>Mr Norton: If you'd like it by director, I can do it by director for the last three years.</p> <p>ACTING CHAIR: I'm interested because I'm wondering where you're coming from. This was raised with me—</p> <p>Mr Norton: I understand. And that's why we actually will provide it by invoice, for any director that you see fit.</p> <p>ACTING CHAIR: Great. And you've already told</p>	86 24/10/17	

				me you'll do the same for 2016-17— Mr Norton: Yes.		
119	Meat and Livestock Australia	Acting Chair	Catering and event management companies	<p>ACTING CHAIR: That's great. That's tremendous. I've got a few more questions that might narrow it down a bit more for you too. If you can answer now, that's great. But if you don't, I accept you'll have to take it on notice. Can MLA provide a list of catering and event management companies contracted to do your events?</p> <p>Mr Norton: Absolutely. Yes.</p> <p>ACTING CHAIR: Do you want to take that on notice, or do you have that now?</p> <p>Mr Norton: No, I don't have that with me. But I will take it on notice for events, absolutely. Most of those, may I say, are just local community groups.</p> <p>ACTING CHAIR: Good.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Senator STERLE: Of course. I understand that. That's great. And have any events organised by MLA been managed by a company called Agvivo and/or Erin Gorter Enterprises?</p> <p>Mr Norton: I'll have to take that on notice.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Senator STERLE: Sure. I'll get to that. I've got one here, Kalgoorlie Innovation Conference, 6 and 7 October 2016, Hampton Hill. The host, the Goldfields Nullarbor Rangelands Biosecurity Association incorporated, That's called GNRBA. The projects manager is Erin Gorter. And RSVPs to Agvivo events. I have got that Agvivo Events and Erin Gorter Enterprises are the same person.</p> <p>Mr Norton: We'll pull out the invoices paid</p>	87 24/10/17	

				<p>around both those events and the entities they were paid to and what services they provided.</p> <p>Senator STERLE: I've got another one I'll get you to chase up, too. And if there are any others you can provide us on top of the beefed up beef or whatever the other one is. The other one is the WA pasture and livestock updates on 1 and 3 August this year. The host was Evergreen Farming and the RSVPs are to Erin Gorter. Can you chase all that up, please.</p>		
120	Meat and Livestock Australia	Senator Gallacher	Conflict of interest	<p>Senator GALLACHER: Are you clarifying the question here? I think you might be making it murkier. Someone is materially benefitting out of a decision to employ someone to provide a service. All that Senator Sterle has pointed to is: how do you manage conflict of interest? In this specific case, where a director has come on to the board and was providing a service prior to it, you'd probably think that that would be something that would require remedial attention and you'd say, 'Okay, you provided a service prior to coming on the board. You're now on the board. We need to tell the board. We need to have a process for dealing with that.' Have you got that?</p> <p>Mr Norton: Absolutely.</p> <p>Senator GALLACHER: Where is it?</p> <p>Mr Norton: I can provide it to you.</p>	89 24/10/17	
121	Meat and Livestock Australia	Chair/Sterle	Conflict of interest	<p>CHAIR: The only comment I would make—and then we'll turn back to you—is that, if they've got a conflict of interest, they're not going about it quite the right way.</p>	90 24/10/17	

				<p>Mr Norton: By declaring?</p> <p>Senator STERLE: Okay, prove it. That's all I'm asking you to do.</p> <p>Mr Norton: We're happy to do so.</p> <p>Senator STERLE: Dish up the paperwork. Let me just say, that's all I want.</p> <p>CHAIR: It's not an unreasonable line of questioning.</p> <p>Mr Norton: No, and we're more than happy to provide it.</p>		
122	Murray-Darling Basin Authority	Gallacher	Water holdings	<p>Senator GALLACHER: On notice could we have the water holdings that are telemetered, by size, obviously. We want to know what's telemetered and what allocation the water holder has. I would hope that telemetering is working at the most efficient end of the business, which is presumably where those who draw the most water are.</p> <p>Ms Colreavy: These are very busy, large schemes.</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan: Before we agree to take that question on notice, I just want to make sure we understand what you're asking for. You're asking for the identification of entitlement holders whose use is measured by telemetric technologies and their actual allocation and use. If I understood you literally, that's what you asked for, which seems like a very big—</p> <p>Senator GALLACHER: I will make it as succinct and as clear as possible. I think the committee would like to know, and I certainly would like to know, that a person's allocation is measured by telemetering and the taxpayer, or whoever wants to have a look, can be sure they're not overusing their allocation; and also that that technology is</p>	41 27/11/17	

				<p>applied—I accept there might be a delay in achieving this—but that it's applied to all users. I would have thought that the bigger users would produce the biggest benefit. So it's pretty straightforward.</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan: It is a very big question, but we will endeavour to provide what we can. You are essentially asking about the compliance performance and use data of pretty much everyone in the basin, but we will do what we can.</p> <p>Senator GALLACHER: We're on track to do that, aren't we, over a decade or so?</p> <p>Mr Glyde: If it would help, Mr James is leading the taskforce in relation to our review. That's one of the terms of reference that the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister have given us—to look into metering. Perhaps he could provide a bit more description—</p> <p>Senator GALLACHER: I'm happy if that comes on notice. Everybody has limited time.</p> <p>CHAIR: The Senator will seek on notice what he wants, and we all know that you need to comply. Am I sensing that this is like a white spot task—a million documents—is it huge? I mean, does this require people dedicated for long periods of time to go and gather bits and bobs wherever it happens to be and put it into form for the Senate?</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan: That's my concern. I think what we'll do is endeavour to scope it and come back with a proposition that will meet the senator's needs. I'm sure he doesn't want a repeat of the white spot experience.</p>		
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123	Murray-Darling Basin Authority	Gallacher	Overall budget	<p>Senator GALLACHER: The question on notice would be: in the overall budget, how much has the MDBA dedicated to compliance and enforcement? I understand you've audited programs that you've paid for and that sort of thing. If the answer is, 'It's not our job; it's someone else's,' then that's the answer.</p> <p>Mr M Thompson: I think Mr Glyde was going to add to that in respect of the authority. Mr Morris was mainly talking about the department and its programs.</p> <p>Mr Glyde: We're happy to take it on notice.</p>	42 27/11/17	
124	Murray-Darling Basin Authority	Senator Gallacher	Compliance and regulatory activities	<p>Mr Glyde: We'll provide the exact expenditure and the number of people we've got devoted to compliance and regulatory activities on notice. But a little bit of context that might help with that response is that we currently have active legal regulatory responsibilities in relation to water trade; that started in 2014. The vast majority of our compliance role kicks in in the middle of 2019, at the moment at which the states have submitted watersharing plans to us, which they need to have done by then, that reflect the reduced diversion limits. That's when our real responsibility kicks in, and we are in the process of building up to that, but we can certainly give you our current level of expenditure on regulatory and compliance activities.</p> <p>Senator GALLACHER: Thank you</p>	43 27/10/17	
125	Murray-Darling Basin Authority	McKenzie	Assumptions	<p>Senator McKENZIE: I've only got limited time. We all know how we got here, so let's give me the assumptions and then we can move to my next</p>	43-44 27/10/17	

				<p>line of questioning.</p> <p>Mr Glyde: That's really the problem. The assumptions are long and the modelling is complex, and behind each of the models there were a lot of assumptions. I'm not trying to be—</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: Can you on notice give me that, please—</p> <p>Mr Glyde: Sure.</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: and not a glib response.</p> <p>Mr Glyde: No.</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: I want—I would love—the details.</p> <p>Mr Glyde: Okay, we will give you details.</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: Make my day on the assumptions.</p> <p>Mr Glyde: But we'll also try and explain the overall system.</p> <p>Senator STERLE: I don't know about that—I think something else might make your day.</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: What would that be?</p> <p>CHAIR: Stop it.</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: What would that be, Sterlo? What are you suggesting?</p> <p>CHAIR: Order! Senator McKenzie, you've got limited time.</p> <p>Mr Glyde: It's probably best if we take that on notice.</p>		
126	Murray-Darling Basin Authority	McKenzie	South Australia water	<p>Senator McKENZIE: So it is two and three gig over the Murray mouth. How much water has South Australia deferred this year to date?</p> <p>Mr Reynolds: I don't have that specific figure in front of me.</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: Could you take that on notice</p>	45 27/10/17	

				then? Mr Reynolds: I can.		
127	Murray-Darling Basin Authority	Hanson-Young	Review	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: I want to go back firstly to your opening statement. You talk about the review that is being undertaken as a result of the allegations and very serious reports of water theft that were outlined in the <i>Four Corners</i> report. What are the terms of reference for that review? Have they been made public?</p> <p>Mr M Thompson: I take your question as about the review being led by the Murray-Darling Basin Authority?</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Yes.</p> <p>Mr M Thompson: I might ask Mr Glyde.</p> <p>Mr Glyde: They're publicly available as far as I'm aware. If you want, we can run through what they are.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: No, that's fine.</p> <p>Mr Glyde: We're happy to provide them.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: If you could table them on notice, that's fine.</p>	47 27/10/17	
128	Murray-Darling Basin Authority	Hanson-Young	Referrals to the AFP	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Has the authority made any referrals to the AFP since the plan was introduced?</p> <p>Mr Glyde: I'd have to take that question on notice. We have a practice of referring matters that are coming to us on our complaints line to the relevant legal authority. If someone complains about a problem in New South Wales, we would refer that to the New South Wales regulator, because we don't have that competence.</p>	48 27/10/17	

				<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Could I ask you to take this on notice? I'd like to know how many referrals the authority has made to other jurisdictions.</p> <p>Mr Glyde: Other regulators, yes.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: And the dates of those. That would be helpful, thank you.</p> <p>Mr Glyde: We are more than happy to do that.</p>		
129	Murray-Darling Basin Authority	Xenophon	Flood plains	<p>Senator XENOPHON: Yes. And will at least 50 per cent of that be lost in downstream flood plains?</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan: I think we'll—</p> <p>Mr Morris: I think we'll need to ask the MDBA to answer that question.</p> <p>Senator XENOPHON: Can you take it on notice.</p>	50-51 27/10/17	
130	Murray-Darling Basin Authority	Xenophon	NIC documents	<p>Senator XENOPHON: My understanding is that there's an email from you, dated 12 October 2016, forwarding the NIC document to colleagues, saying that the contents were outrageous. If that's the case, do you stand by that?</p> <p>Mr Glyde: As I said, I don't have any recollection of that, and I don't have those documents. I'm happy to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator XENOPHON: Could you take that on notice as to whether you stand by those comments. But as a general principle—finally, Chair—if there's any suggestion that the 450 gigalitre portion quietly go away, that's not something that the MDBA would in any way endorse?</p>	51 27/10/17	
131	Murray-Darling	McKenzie	Constraint	Senator McKENZIE: Your constraint	54	

	Basin Authority		management	<p>management—yes, easements.</p> <p>Mr Reynolds: Over about a 10-year period, there was a process put in place to negotiate easements with landowners downstream of Hume to acquire easements that really enabled prior practice for operations of the Hume Dam to be maintained, but for water that went onto private property to be covered by easements. That was a voluntary process with landowners. It ran close to a decade. I'm sorry, I don't have a final dollar figure for you—</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: On notice, that would be great. Sorry, I've got a very little amount of time. In terms of Dr Pittock's claims about landholders being recalcitrant, is it your experience that they're being deliberately disobedient, which is the definition of recalcitrant, or are they landholders who are genuinely concerned about the impact of environmental flows on their asset?</p>	27/10/17	
132	Murray-Darling Basin Authority	Chair	Allegations	<p>CHAIR: No. You can have all the time you like. Have a talk to your leader, who's just flown back in for the last bit of it. Mr Glyde, are you able to particularise where allegations have been made against Webster so that we can put it into the context of the questions the senator is asking?</p> <p>Mr Glyde: I would like to be able to take that on notice.</p>	55 27/10/17	
133	Murray-Darling Basin Authority	Chair	Allegations	<p>CHAIR: Are you in a position to say whether allegations have been made through any other medium against Webster, to your personal knowledge?</p> <p>Mr Glyde: To my personal knowledge, no—</p>	56 27/10/17	

				<p>CHAIR: Thank you.</p> <p>Mr Glyde: but that's what I'm saying: I'd like to go back and check whether anyone else in the MDBA might have received such things.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Please do—happy to receive that on notice.</p>		
134	Murray-Darling Basin Authority	Senator Roberts	Lake Alexandrina – salt water estuary	<p>Senator ROBERTS: That's my concern, Mr Glyde. I know you're implementing policies dictated by people above—for the use of better of a word. But wasn't the estuary—that's Lake Alexandrina—near the mouth of the Murray River a salt water estuary before European settlement?</p> <p>Senator RUSTON: No. No, it wasn't.</p> <p>Mr Glyde: There's been a long debate about this. There have been many academic articles written about it. We're more than happy to provide you with the basis of that. The point I would make is that the balance of scientific opinion—all of the research that was done in the lead-up to the basin plan came to a different view than Mr Jury's.</p>	57 27/10/17	
135	Murray-Darling Basin Authority	Senator McKenzie	Basin Plan	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Some of the modelling that underpins the Basin Plan indicates flows of between 80,000 to 120,000ML/day are needed at the South Australian border to inundate areas of the Chowilla Floodplain. 2. Is it true that flows of that level would inundate private properties, shacks and caravan parks in SA ('Fast rising Murray may break South Australian banks', Adelaide Advertiser, 25 March 2012) ? In fact isn't it true that flows over around 60,000ML/day 	Written	

				<p>start to impact SA shack owners? Has the MDBA ever received a request from the South Australian Government to withhold large flows over 60,000ML/day) to protect SA property? (<i>Rumour has it that during the floods of 2011/12 the SA Government wrote to MDBA River Murray Operations head David Dreverman requesting floodwaters, as far as possible, be diverted or re-regulated into Lake Victoria to avoid flooding private property</i>) If so – how does such a request differ from a NSW or Victorian landholder wanting to protect their property?</p>		
136	Murray-Darling Basin Authority	Senator Sterle	Constraints strategy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the actual situation regarding implementation of the constraints strategy? 2. How many projects have been funded and / or are underway? 3. How many projects are in the planning stage? 4. Are State Governments and /or private sector interests blocking full operation of taxpayer funds works designed to provide for minor flooding or overland flows for ecosystem maintenance? 5. What has /or will the Dept/MDBA/Minister do to remove any blocks on constraints removal? 6. What is the situation, as reported by Dr Pittcock of the Wentworth Group, that an \$80m taxpayer funded flood enhancement system works upstream of Barham in SW NSW had been rendered “in operable” by a private landholder? 7. Also according to Wentworth as reported by Fairfax, Murray Irrigation Limited, has hiked 	Written	

				<p>up the charge to taxpayers of using a key piece of its infrastructure to deliver water downstream. Authority documents say a lack of access to the infrastructure "may prevent better watering of flood plains below Swan Hill" in north-west Victoria.</p> <p>8. What can the MDBA say on this matter?</p>		
137	Murray-Darling Basin Authority	Senator Sterle	Northern Basin Review	<p>1. What is the nature of the advice on the Northern Basin that the MDBA will be providing to Minister Joyce following the June Council meeting- will there be any adjustment to the recommended 70 GL reduction in water recovery?</p> <p>2. To what extent will Indigenous concerns be accommodated in the advice to the Minister on the adjustment to recoverable water?</p> <p>3. What is the position of indigenous representatives?</p> <p>4. Which groups have been consulted and what is their position?</p> <p>5. What grounds have been used to dismiss the concerns of the indigenous representatives?</p> <p>6. And you've taken in to account indigenous socio-economic impacts? Including around cultural heritage?</p> <p>I note that the Authority has made a recommendation.</p> <p>Recommendation 7 of the Northern Basin Review Report :</p> <p>7. The Authority recommends that governments consider support for the following measures, to address the concerns of Aboriginal people in the</p>	Written	

				<p>northern Basin:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensuring Aboriginal access to waterways • replacing or refurbishing weir pools at certain locations, such as Wilcannia and Cunnamulla • continuing to improve the capacity of Aboriginal people to engage in water planning and decision-making, in order to factor in their social and cultural imperatives <p>7. Is it true that some sites just need extra watering days?</p> <p>8. How can you guarantee cultural imperatives will be met if you've reduced commonwealth held water by 70GL? Has this been modelled?</p>		
138	Murray-Darling Basin Authority	Senator McKenzie	Impact of irrigation	Has the MDBA modelled the impact of increasing irrigation investment downstream of the Barmah choke on the ability of the Murray River channel to deliver water during periods of peak demand?	Written	
139	Murray-Darling Basin Authority	Senator McKenzie	Murray River	Has the MDBA provided any advice or held any discussions regarding the potential for the Murray River channel to experience capacity constraints in the 2017/18 summer period?	Written	
140	Murray-Darling Basin Authority	Senator McKenzie	Menindee Project	<p>With regard to the Menindee Project nominated for the SDL Adjustment Mechanism package by NSW:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. How will the water savings from the project be distributed between Victoria and NSW? b. Does the MDBA consider that the Menindee Project could impact upon the reliability of Victorian water entitlements, particularly in the Sunraysia region? 	Written	

				c. What changes will be made to the water sharing agreement between Victoria and NSW in order to implement the Menindee Project?		
141	Murray-Darling Basin Authority	Senator McKenzie	Water recovery	With reference to the additional 450 GL water recovery under Part 7.09 (e) of the Basin Plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Note 1 to Part 7.09 (e) refers to the 'Commonwealth program to ease or remove capacity constraints and deliver 450 GL of additional environmental water'. What will be the impact of an additional 450 GL of water being available for the environment if identified capacity constraints in the Southern Basin cannot be removed or relaxed? b. What mechanisms exist in the Basin Plan to ensure that the impact of water recovery toward the 450 GL on the operability and viability of irrigation districts, is considered? 	Written	
142	Murray-Darling Basin Authority	Senator McKenzie	The Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists	With reference to The Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists (TWG): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Provide a list of engagements between TWG and MDBA staff and officials in the past 12 months? b. Provide a list of and a copy of any MDBA material shared with TWG in the past 12 months? 	Written	
143	Rural Industries and Research Development Corporation	Senator Rhiannon	Kangaroo-related projects	May I please have an updated list of all kangaroo-related research projects since May 2015 involving the RIRDC, either as a funder, a major contributor or partner or supporter: including the	Written	

				authors, cost of each project, dates, aims and Objectives Summary.		
144	Sustainable Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Division	Senator Gallagher	Appointment of CEO	<p>Senator GALLAGHER: So did the short list go to the Deputy Prime Minister with a preferred candidate or just the preferred candidate from the department's point of view?</p> <p>Mr Williamson: We'll double-check, but I think the advice that went to the Deputy Prime Minister had several options but a preferred candidate in Dr Parker.</p>	94 24/10/17	
145	Sustainable Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Division	Senator Roberts	Rights of property holders in Australia	<p>Senator ROBERTS: Thank you, Mr Williamson. Thank you all for attending. Which specific treaties or instruments of foreign powers, such as the United Nations, does the Australian government invoke to limit the rights of property holders in Australia? Let me clarify by being more specific. Through memorandums of understanding signed with various state and territory governments, which foreign instruments have been used or referenced to restrict the right of property owners to clear their land—for example, the Kyoto Protocol?</p> <p>Mr I Thompson: I don't think I would go so far as to say that the Australian government signed international conventions with the specific objective of impinging on property rights. But there are a number of conventions that would affect management of vegetation on land, and one is the Kyoto convention. Another one would be the biodiversity convention because it goes to the protection of biodiversity, which includes native vegetation, habitats and species. How</p>	122 24/10/17	

				<p>those instruments are then put into practice do vary, but they're not with the intention of impacting on property rights. They are with the intent of mitigating or adapting to climate change, or protecting biodiversity. They're the two off the top of my head. If you wanted to go into some detail, I would have to take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator ROBERTS: Could you do that, please?</p> <p>Mr I Thompson: Yes.</p>		
146	Sustainable Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Division	Senator Sterle	Illegal logging	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Was there a request made this year on behalf of Susanne Breilkopf, the policy manager at <i>the Environmental Investigation Agency</i> and /or Melissa Blue Sky, a Senior Attorney at the <i>Center for International Environmental Law</i> to meet with the Department and/or the Assistant Minister's office? 2. Did the Department and/or the Assistant Minister's office meet with Ms Breilkopf or Ms Blue Sky? 3. If not, why not? 4. Does the Department know whether Ms Breilkopf and/or Ms Blue Sky either support or oppose FSC and PEFC certified products being 'deemed to comply' for Due Diligence purposes under the <i>Illegal Logging Prohibition Regulation 2012</i>? 5. Did the Department consult with <i>the Environmental Investigation Agency</i> and /or the <i>Center for International Environmental Law</i> prior to the decision to reform the <i>Illegal Logging Prohibition Regulation 2012</i> was made? 	Written	

147	Sustainable Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Division	Senator Sterle	Forest and Wood Products Australia	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Can the Department provide an update on whether a new Statutory Funding Agreement has been reached with FWPA? 2. When was the new Statutory Funding Agreement signed off? 3. What are the details of the new a Statutory Funding Agreement? 4. If a new Statutory Funding Agreement has not been signed, where is the process up to? 5. When does the Department expect to sign the new Statutory Funding Agreement? 	Written	
148	Sustainable Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Division	Senator Sterle	APVMA's statutory timeframes	Did the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources set the APVMA's statutory timeframes with an expectation that the APVMA would be able to achieve 100% timeframe performance?	Written	
149	Trade and Market Access Division	Senator Rhiannon	Funding for kangaroo industry	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Please provide details of funding disbursed by the Department that supports, promotes or informs the commercial kangaroo industry, including skins and meat products, since January 2016 including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Funding amount and dates b. Funding program and its location c. Funding Recipient d. Aims and outcomes of the funded project 2. In February 2016 Senate Estimates I was advised the Australian Department of Agriculture "works closely with the Department of Foreign Affairs on a day to day basis on a range of market access issues, including improving access to overseas markets for kangaroo products". I was also 	Written	

				<p>advised the department worked with the Department of Environment and with the Australian Consulate in Los Angeles which [had] been making and facilitating representations to the Californian legislature to permanently lift its ban on the importation and sale of kangaroo products”:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Which Australian government representatives have undertaken any actions to lift the Californian ban since Feb 2016. Please include which Californian interests or legislators have been approached. b. Have any Australian government representatives facilitated or hosted the KIAA in this respect? Who and when? <p>3. In 2009/2010 the Australian government funded \$236,664 to the Kangaroo Industry Association of Australia to engage US law firm and lobbyists Manatt, Phelps and Phillips to influence Californian legislators to lift the Californian importation ban on kangaroo products. In 2016 the Australian government was found guilty of violating that State’s lobbying laws with its \$143,000 funding to the KIAA to engage the same legal firm to influence the Californian legislation process in 2015.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Please provide details of the 2009/2010 funding including the strategy undertaken and funding acquittal details/outcomes reported; details of Australian government representation to Californian interests. 		
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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. Was this funding also illegal given the findings in 2016? c. Has the Australian government been investigated about its funding of this (successful) attempt to influence Californian legislative processes? d. Was the controversial “gut and amend” Californian legislative process used in this instance as it was in 2015? 		
150	Trade and Market Access Division	Senator Rhiannon	KIAA relationships with Minister	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The NSW Kangaroo Management Panel Minutes of 30 May 2016 states that Ray Borda, president of the Kangaroo Industries Association Australia (KIAA), “is advisor to Barnaby Joyce MP, who has a big interest in the Kangaroo Trade”. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Is it correct Ray Borda has been advisor to the former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Agriculture, Senator Barnaby Joyce – notwithstanding Mr Joyce has been recently disqualified by the High Court from office? b. How does this role conflict with Mr Borda’s longstanding lobbyist role as (currently) President of the commercial kangaroo industry body the KIAA, and as the owner of the ““largest human consumption kangaroo company in Australia”? c. What decisions, funding and other support has Mr Joyce provided or influenced during his time in office to the benefit of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The commercial kangaroo industry? 	Written	

				<p>ii. Mr Borda or his company Macro Group Australia and Macro Meats?</p> <p>2. The KIAA described itself to the Californian Government as “representing wildlife management services in coordination with the Australian Government”.</p> <p>a. Is this true?</p> <p>b. Is it correct the KIAA is the peak representative body for the kangaroo meat and skin processing industry, including kangaroo processors, traders, shooters, chillerbox operators, as stated on its website?</p> <p>c. How does the KIAA’s declaration to the Californian government reconcile with its actual role representing commercial interests seeking to grow profits from shooting kangaroos?</p>		
151	Water Division	Senator Xenophon	Report	<p>Senator XENOPHON: Is that report publicly available?</p> <p>Mr Morris: That report was part of the motion 420 that you requested, Senator, and has been provided as part of the—</p> <p>Senator XENOPHON: The entire report has been provided?</p> <p>Mr Morris: I believe so, yes.</p> <p>Senator XENOPHON: Perhaps you can confirm that. Also, is the advice Mr Papps' office provided with respect to that purchase available?</p>	37-38 27/11/17	
152	Water Division	Senator Xenophon	Water buybacks	<p>Senator XENOPHON: Given the time constraint I want to put some questions on notice. could I ask, on notice, for a list of all the water buybacks</p>	39 27/11/17	

				<p>in the last three years and a copy of the independent evaluations that informed the purchases, including any advice from the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder. I do want to put some questions on notice now. I will roll through them. About Cunnamulla: how much water was recently purchased, what was the cost, what modelling was done in respect to the effect of the buyback, what independent assessments were made of the value of the water. If you could provide that to the committee in the next hour or so that would be useful. How much of the water purchases will make it back to the lower basin, noting that it appears that much of it, at least 50 per cent, will be lost in downstream flood plains? Is the department, is the authority measuring the amount of water that will actually make it back into river system? This is about Cunnamulla.</p>		
153	Water Division	Senator Gallacher	Cost of infrastructure	<p>Senator GALLACHER: I want to go to one issue in the opening statement, where Mr Matthews' recommendations—giving priority to the installation of water meters for all large water users within the next 12 months. Is it true that \$30 million worth of infrastructure to pay for meterage was actually directed in NSW to the users of lower amounts of water? And that these meters may have cost between \$5,000 and \$8,000, but there was a decision made which metered lower-volume users with an investment of between \$5,000 and \$8,000 per user? Does anybody have any information about that?</p> <p>Mr Morris: We're probably going to have to</p>	40 27/11/17	

				<p>answer that in detail on notice, but I can give you some information to start with, which might help to answer some of your question. It's true we did run a metering program in NSW for a period of time. One of my colleagues will pull up the numbers for me in a moment. I believe that that program resulted in around 770-odd meters being installed over the course of that program. That program has now been concluded.</p> <p>Senator GALLACHER: I would like, on notice, the size of the water entitlement that was metered. I'm definitely no expert, but reading the information that I have before me, it appears that the only ones who weren't metered in NSW were the large users. If I look in another jurisdiction, the only ones who weren't metered were the ones who took no water. That seems to be completely diametrically opposed to common sense.</p>		
154	Water Division	Senator Gallacher	Northern area	<p>Senator GALLACHER: But the evidence is that you're measuring the water take in the northern area by satellite images, yet you metered people who were taking very small amounts of water.</p> <p>Mr Morris: I've got some information that might help answer your question. I'll just correct a number I gave earlier. I said there were about 770 meters under one particular program. It was 710 meters. The project received in total, across the board, \$31.5 million. This was a program aimed at achieving water savings, and in total there were 4.61 gigalitres of surface water savings from a number of catchments, so from the Murray, Murrumbidgee and lower Darling. 5.33 gigalitres</p>	40-41 27/10/17	

				<p>of ground water was also saved, so it's not really correct to say that there wasn't a benefit in addressing these meters.</p> <p>Senator GALLACHER: I'm not arguing that metering is bad; I'm just arguing that metering was put, and investment was put in my view—maybe no-one else's view—in an area where it did achieve a result, but if it was put somewhere else it could have avoided a lot of pain and would have achieved a much bigger result.</p> <p>Mr M Thompson: We'll look to provide a more comprehensive answer to that on notice. It raises a number of issues</p>		
155	Water Division	Hanson-Young	Referrals to AFP	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Sure. Has either the Commonwealth department or the MDBA made any referrals to the Australian Federal Police?</p> <p>Mr Glyde: In relation to those particular compliance issues, certainly from our perspective, no.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: And the department?</p> <p>Mr M Thompson: Not in relation to the most recent issues that have been in the press.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: You have previously made other referrals to the AFP?</p> <p>Mr M Thompson: I might need to take that on notice. A colleague has just pointed out—and this is why I was hesitating a bit—that the AFP may be involved where there was an allegation of fraud in relation to spending Commonwealth funding. An offence in terms of tampering with meters or water theft would not be a federal offence. I just make that clarification.</p>	47-48 27/10/17	

156	Water Division	Hanson-Young	Proposed sale to the New South Wales government	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Could you take that on notice, please. I'd like to know who proposed the sale to the New South Wales government and then to the Commonwealth in the first instance.</p> <p>Mr Morris: I can tell you that the Commonwealth received the proposal from the New South Wales government. You would have to ask the New South Wales government as to how they got that information. I don't believe we have that. If we do then I'm happy to provide it to you. I'll check, but I'm not sure that we have that information.</p>	49 27/10/17	
157	Water Division	Senator Xenophon	Independent assessments	<p>Senator XENOPHON: I'm really pushed for time. Were there independent assessments made of the value of the water? Can you provide those in due course to the committee?</p> <p>Mr Morris: There were, and we can provide those.</p>	50 27/10/17	
158	Water Division	Xenophon	Resources of the MDBA	<p>Senator XENOPHON: It was eight minutes before your interjection. I asked questions about Cunnamulla, about how much the water would cost, and I was told that there was no notice of that. But in question on notice No. 558, which I asked of the minister on 6 September 2017, I asked a series of questions in terms of the resources of the MDBA, issues of allegations of water tampering and the MDBA's powers under sections 238, 223 and 224 of the Water Act, and I also asked specifically about purchases at the Ballandool station in Queensland. But I also asked in question 7 for a list of all purchases of water across the basin from 1 January 2017, the locations, the contract price, the unit cost of</p>	50 27/10/17	

				<p>water, the modelling and the like. It's been a good seven weeks. When will I be able to get that answer? It was directed to Minister Nash, representing the Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources.</p> <p>Mr Glyde: As soon as we can, I guess. I'll have to confirm where we're up to.</p> <p>Senator XENOPHON: I just want to know—the department and the authority have been aware of these questions for about seven weeks, so it shouldn't be any surprise in terms of Cunnamulla. Can anyone tell me about Cunnamulla in the next two minutes or so. If they can't, I'll just have to wait for them to be on notice.</p>		
159	Water Division	Gallacher	Budget	<p>Senator GALLACHER: I just want to return to the previous examination about the budgetary questions. You got as far as how much was spent on enforcement. Is it possible to get a snapshot of the spend in different budget areas, not in a detailed way but in a broad sense, so that we would be able to identify how much was in each program, like sustainable rural water use initiatives and that sort of thing?</p> <p>Mr Morris: Yes, we can provide that on notice.</p>	52 27/10/17	
160	Water Division	Senator Sterle	South Rockhampton flood levee	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Has the department considered funding for the South Rockhampton flood levee? 2. Has the department briefed, or been briefed by the current or former Minister or the Member for Capricornia on the Levee? 3. On notice can you provide any materials associated with those briefs? 4. Has the department studied the plans 	Written	

				developed by Rockhampton Council?		
161	Water Division	Senator Sterle	Rookwood Weir	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Prime Minister offered the Queensland Government an extra \$130 million to build the Rookwood Weir in Central Queensland. Was the Department aware of this offer before it was made? 2. Did the Department advise the Prime Minister that it had an extra \$130 million available to fund the Rookwood Weir? 3. Where did the Department find an extra \$130 million for the Weir? Was this funding allocation confirmed through treasury? 4. Did the Department extend a formal funding offer to the Qld Government? When? 5. The Member for Capricornia said that it was appropriate to only extend the offer of \$130 million in Commonwealth funding verbally, does the Department agree? Is this usual practice? Does this approach meet financial accountability requirements? 6. Deputy Prime Minister claimed in Parliament on Monday, 23 October 2017 that the Rookwood Weir would deliver \$1 billion in economic benefits. Can the Department confirm this and provide supporting documentation? 	Written	
162	Water Division	Senator Sterle	Water purchase/value for money	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What was the process the department went through for the purchases for water from Tandou Ltd (\$81 million) Eastern Australia Agriculture Pty Ltd (\$39 million + 38 million) and Walter Gregory Cecil Dunsdon, Ian Geoffrey Dunsdon & Donald Scott Dunsdon 	Written	

				<p>(16 million – see table below)?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. On what basis were these purchases made? 3. Can the department outline the type of water purchased – its security and reliability? (What was the average price of that type of security water on the market at the time?) 4. Does the department accept these purchases were above market price? 5. Who authorised the purchase? 6. Can the department explain how these purchases meet the objectives and targets set out in Chapter 8 and Schedule 7 of the Basin Plan and advance the object of the Water Act? 		
163	Water Division	Senator Sterle	450GL 'upwater'	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the current status of work on achieving the agreed 450 GL of additional water for the environment? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Projects? ii. Preliminary work? iii. Planning? iv. Constraints removal? 2. What is the timeframe? 3. What are these things likely to cost? 4. The multiplier for projects for on-farm infrastructure is 1.7 times the value of water, is that correct? What current water price is the department using? Why? 5. Why hasn't the department run a round of on-farm infrastructure grants recently? 6. When will the department run another round? 7. What preparatory work has been done to run funding rounds? 	Written	

				<p>8. What rough costings have been done?</p> <p>9. How will things happen when you start recovering the 450GL? Open tender? A tender type arrangement?</p>		
164	Water Division	Senator Sterle	Social/Economic outcomes	What has the Govt done to examine possible improved socio, economic and environmental outcomes from delivering the 450GI?	Written	
165	Water Division	Senator Sterle	Judicial inquiry/Royal Commission	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Has the department done any preliminary work regarding what a judicial inquiry would involve and how the commonwealth would participate? 2. Has the department or authority briefed the Minister or done any internal briefing? 3. Can the Commonwealth and/or the MDBA can undertake a fully independent inquiry in to compliance issues in the MDB? 4. Isn't there a real or perceived conflict of interest for the MDBA review that the Deputy Prime Minister set up? 5. Has the MDBA or department briefed the Minister or his office on any real or perceived conflicts of interest? If so, what were they? 6. Has there been discussions between the department and the Authority about how to manage any conflicts of interest? What are the key issues? 7. Have you made any recommendations for overcoming a real or perceived conflict of interest? Either internally or to the Minister? 8. Have you had the department's legal counsel working on the issue? 	Written	

166	Water Division	Senator Sterle	Accusations on Lateline	<p>Under FOI there was an email released that was from the Minister's office (an advisor) to the Department about concerns and to follow up.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What steps were taken to investigate the claims? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. By the department? b. By the Authority? 2. Did the commonwealth visit the site? Seek an audit and for Queensland to visit the site? 3. When did the Commonwealth learn the police were involved? 4. Have funds been frozen? If so, when? (or did the State take this action?) 	Written	
167	Water Division	Senator McKenzie	Purchases of entitlement	<p>With reference to purchases of entitlement by the Commonwealth in Victoria (excluding the CEWH):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Has any entitlement been purchased in Victoria in the past 12 months? If so, please provide location, amount (ML), entitlement classification and vendor; b. Is there any planned or under negotiation purchase of entitlement from Victoria? 	Written	
168	Water Division	Senator McKenzie	Final tranche of water savings	<p>When does the Commonwealth expect to receive the final tranche of water savings from the GMW Connections Project Stage 2?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. What would be the effect if the State of Victoria does not meet its obligation to delivery this water by 30 June 2019? 	Written	
169	Water Division	Senator McKenzie	Victoria water infrastructure projects	List the applications for funding received from the State of Victoria for water infrastructure projects in the current financial year, including the	Written	

				relevant closing date for the relevant funding program.		
170	Water Division	Senator Sterle	Budget for Murray-Darling Basin	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the total funding allocated to the MDB Plan? 2. How much of that has been spent? A total. 3. How much of its overall budget has the MDBA dedicated to compliance and enforcement? 4. Is it possible get the budget broken down in to the different areas? How much is budgeted (over the forward estimates) and how much is spent and or contracted (if a distinction could be made that would be useful)? 5. If available – each individual area and if programs exist then each program e.g. the Sustainable Rural Water Use Initiative. 6. Can we also get a budget for the entire water portfolio? How much is available and how much has been spent / contracted? 7. What is the budget for the MDBA including any programs? What's budgeted and also what has been spent to date. 	Written	