

# Chapter 3

## Agriculture and Water Resources portfolio

3.1 This chapter considers the key issues discussed during the hearing for the Agriculture and Water Resources portfolio on 4 and 9 April 2019.

3.2 On 4 April 2019, the committee heard from divisions of the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources (DAWR) and portfolio agencies in the following order:

- Australian Meat Processor Corporation;
- Meat and Livestock Australia;
- Wine Australia;
- Australian Livestock Export Corporation (Livecorp);
- Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (Agrifutures); and
- Australian Fisheries Management Authority.

3.3 The following agencies were released during the course of the hearing without providing evidence:

- Cotton Research and Development Corporation;
- Fisheries Research and Development Corporation; and
- Grains Research and Development Corporation.

3.4 On 9 April 2019, the committee heard from divisions of DAWR and portfolio agencies in the following order:

- Corporate Services;
- Horticulture Australia;
- Dairy Australia;
- Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES);
- Regional Investment Corporation;
- Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority;
- Rural Policy and Farm Performance Division; and
- Agricultural Policy Division.

3.5 The following agencies and divisions were released during the course of the hearing without providing evidence:

- Plant Health Australia;
- AGVET Chemicals, Fisheries and Forestry Division;
- Trade and Market Access Division; and

- Outcome 2 (Exports, Biosecurity Animal, Biosecurity Plant, Compliance, Biosecurity Policy and Implementation and Biosecurity Operations).
- 3.6 The committee discussed a range of topics during the hearings, including:
- the Government Response to the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee's inquiry reports on the effect of market consolidation on the red meat processing sector;
  - effect of the North Queensland floods on livestock levels;
  - heat stress in live exports;
  - water saving and other initiatives in relation to wine production;
  - EvokeAg Conference and the Ignite Network initiative of AgriFutures;
  - National Fisheries Advisory Council;
  - National Carp Control Plan;
  - staffing arrangements within DAWR following the conclusion of various programs and projects;
  - recycled water initiatives in horticulture;
  - water entitlement transactions;
  - work of the Regional Investment Corporation; and
  - the North Queensland Flood Recovery Program.

**Senator Barry O'Sullivan**

**Chair**