



Senate Rural & Regional Affairs & Transport Legislation Committee
Additional Estimates 2024-25
Tuesday, 25 February 2025
Daily summary

The committee met from 9.00am until 6.32pm.

The committee called the Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry portfolio, discussing the following topics:

Corporate Matters

- Independent Panel Report: Phase Out of the Live Sheep Exports by Sea;
- 2022-23 financial year consultancy contracts;
- Increase in staffing levels;
- Budget for departmental travel;
- Departmental representation overseas;
- Biosecurity staffing;
- Port of Broome and Port of Darwin workplace safety issues; and
- Biosecurity funding and levies collected.

Outcome 1

- Phase out of live sheep exports and implementation of transition package;
- Australian Government advertising of the phase out of live sheep exports;
- Expert opinions and representations to government on the phase out of live sheep export by sea;
- Government response to parliamentary Inquiry into the Export Control Amendment (Ending Live Sheep Exports by Sea) Bill 2024;
- Marine protected areas;
- Update on Regional Investment Corporation (RIC) operations
- Shortage of veterinarians.

Outcome 2

- Role of Biosecurity officers;
- Recruitment and training of veterinarian officers;
- Fire Ant Response Taskforce; and
- Imported salmon biosecurity risks.

Australian Livestock Export Corporation

- Moroccan live export market;
- Contribution of livestock exports to international development goals project; and
- Live exports and the Australian community 2024 research report.

Regional Investment Corporation

- Agency financing; and
- Review of the Operation of the Regional Investment Corporation Act 2018.

Meat and Livestock Australia

- Australian lamb advertisement campaign;
- Updates on the Australian sheep market; and
- Supplements used in the livestock industry.

The committee released the Australian Fisheries Management Authority, Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA), Fisheries Research and Development Corporation, Inspector General of Animal Welfare and Live Animal Exports, Inspector General of Biosecurity, and Rural industries Research and Development Corporation (AgriFutures).

This concludes the examination of the Agriculture portfolio, and concludes the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee's Additional Estimates 2024-25 hearings.

Please contact the secretariat on (02) 6277 3511 or rrat.sen@aph.gov.au if you have any questions.