



Senate Rural & Regional Affairs & Transport Legislation Committee
Budget Estimates 2024-25
Thursday, 30 May 2024
Daily Summary

The committee met from 9:00am until 11.01pm.

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry:

Corporate Matters

- The government's performance in the Agriculture portfolio;
- Departmental funding and additional funding allocated in budget;
- Live sheep exports;
- Staff locations from agriculture, fisheries and policy group;
- Staff travel;
- SES appointments and start dates;
- Brett Cattle live export class action;
- Ministerial travel and communications; and
- Improvements in departmental capacity and financial sustainability.

Outcome 1:

- National Forest Policy Statement;
- Combating Illegal Logging funding;
- Funding of forestry programs;
- Emissions reduction targets;
- COP28 Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use;
- Antibiotic use in the Tasmanian salmon industry;
- South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation;
- Shark netting;
- Agricultural exports;
- Salmon farm operators in Macquarie Harbour;
- Restructuring and challenges in the wine industry;
- Communication and compliance with the European Union;
- Indigenous agricultural product framework project;
- First Nation's involvement in agriculture, fisheries and forestry; and
- Seafood product labelling.

Outcome 2:

- Statistics of live exports from Australia;
- Live exports to the Middle East;

- Impacts from the planned phase out of live sheep exports on;
 - Farmers;
 - Transport operators;
 - Meat processors;
- Mortality rates from live export transit;
- Animal Welfare Strategy;
- Proposed biosecurity protection levy;
- Independent Observer policy on live exports;
 - Vets on ships containing live exports and administration of medicine to animals;
- Rural vet shortages;
- Biosecurity – national control program;
- Importation of phosphate for fertiliser production and related biosecurity risks;
- Outbreak of Avian flu in Victoria;
- *Export Control Act 2020* amendments enabling ban of live sheep exports;
- Ministerial travel and communications to Western Australian officials;
- WA Government submission to the Independent Panel considering live export ban; and
- WA live sheep export ban.

The committee will recommence on Friday, 31 May 2024 at 9:00am in Committee Room 2R1, for the examination of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Portfolio.