



Senate Rural & Regional Affairs & Transport Legislation Committee  
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2024–25  
Tuesday, 5 November 2024  
Daily Summary

The committee met from 9:01am until 9.06pm.

The committee released the Australian Fisheries Management Authority, Fisheries Research and Development Corporation and Rural industries Research and Development Corporation (AgriFutures).

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry:

Corporate Matters:

- Ministerial documents that were misplaced in Doha following a United Nations event;
- National Water Initiative;
- Biosecurity cost recovery and the Biosecurity Protection Levy;
- Provision of data and information to the Parliamentary Budget Office by the department;
- Operations Emissions Reduction Plan 2024-2030, including low emissions vehicles used by the department;
- National Farmers Federation rally in Canberra; and
- Department's annual report.

Outcome 1:

- Live sheep export trade;
- Federal government announcement of an additional \$32.7 million for sheep farmers as part of the decision to end live exports by 2028;
- Growing a Better Australia – A Billion Trees for Jobs and Growth;
- Australian Forest and Wood Innovations;
- Accelerate Adoption of Wood Processing Innovation Program;
- Commonwealth assistance for Victorian plantation programs;
- Export of Australian timber;
- European Union Deforestation Regulation including definitions, impact on Australian beef, livestock provenance and impacts to First Nations;
- Updates on agricultural exports as a result of the Australia-India Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement and the Australia-United Kingdom Free Trade Agreement;
- Projected benefits of the Australia-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement;
- Independent Panel Report: Phase Out of the Live Sheep Exports by Sea;
- Engagements with foreign markets in relation to the phase out of live sheep exports by sea;
- Ministerial meetings with the Western Australian government;
- Farm Financial Assessments;
- Trade, including diversification, expansion, Asian markets, China relations, lobster exports, free trade agreements;
- Phase out of live sheep exports, including support for farmers and broader supply chain, consultation with stakeholders, codesign, economics of livestock production in Western Australia and farm debt;

- Hemp industry, including government support, rules concerning animal consumption and consultation with stakeholders;
- National Forestry Policy Statement;
- Implications of the shutdown of native forestry in Western Australia and Victoria;
- Impacts of importation of Chilean salmon on domestic production;
- Sheep processing capacity in Western Australia;
- Factors contributing to reduced sentiment within the wool industry;
- Updates on Brett Cattle case;
- National Water Agreement; and
- *Kangaroo Protection Act 2024* – currently before US Congress.

#### Outcome 2:

- Vaccinating threatened Australian native species against avian flu;
- National Fire Ant Eradication Program:
  - Fire ant nests located near wildlife sanctuaries;
  - Pollution generated by helicopters participating in the program;
  - Chemicals used in the program;
  - Fire ants detected at defence sites;
- Breakdown of expenses under Exercise Volare;
- Biosecurity levy underspending;
  - Service standards achieved in delivering the underspend;
- HPIA (Avian flu) taskforce outcomes;
- Failure of United Airlines to declare arrival of dogs to Australia and biosecurity management of rabies; and
- Sheep and Goat EID (electronic identification) tags.

#### Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA)

- Timeframes for major pesticide applications;
- Detailed response to the final report on future structure and governance arrangements for the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicine Authority;
  - Stakeholders engaged within reviews;
- Antibiotic use in salmon;
- Review and potential banning of Paraquat;
- Chemicals used in Fire ant baiting;
  - Label and permit use;
- Approval and use of mRNA vaccines; and
- Overseas manufacturing of vaccine for footrot in sheep.

#### The Australian Live Export Corporation (LiveCorp)

- LiveCorp's engagement with political campaigns;
- Support for farmers involved in the live sheep trade;
- Standard and quality of live export ships; and
- Live export market analysis over the last 12 months.

#### Inspector General of Animal Welfare and Live Animal Exports

- Independent Observer Program: Review of systems and processes; and
- Outstanding Independent Observer reports.

#### Inspector General of Biosecurity

- Review program 2024-25.

#### Meat and Livestock Australia

- Updates on the sheep market; and
- Differences between East Coast and West Coast sheep markets.

#### Grains Research and Development Corporation

- Use and impact of further regulation of paraquat and diquat herbicides.

#### Australian Wool Innovation Limited

- Potential impact on wool producers from the phase out of live sheep exports;
- Updates on the wool market; and
- Composition of the board.

#### Wine Australia

- Wine export markets including the resumption of exports to China.

#### Horticulture Innovation Australia Limited

- Labour force issues affecting the horticulture industry;
- AUSVEG report; and
- Fruit and vegetable consumption trends.

#### Dairy Australia

- Closure of dairy processing factories.

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