

Public Accounts and Audit
Answers to questions on notice
Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Portfolio

Inquiry: Annual Performance Statements 2021-22
Question No: IQ23-000257
Hearing Date: 28 July 2023
Division/Agency: Enterprise Strategy and Governance Division
Topic: Periodic Performance Monitoring
Hansard Page:
Question Date: 31 July 2023
Question Type: Written

Mr Julian Hill MP asked:

One of the potential areas for improvement ANAO identified was periodic performance monitoring. What is DAFF's view on this? Has it implemented this?

Answer:

The department has commenced implementing periodic reporting. Quarterly reporting of the status and progress of performance measures is provided to the executive, and 6 monthly executive reviews of performance monitoring are provided to the department's Executive Board for review and discussion.

Public Accounts and Audit
Answers to questions on notice
Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Portfolio

Inquiry: Annual Performance Statements 2021-22
Question No: IQ23-000258
Hearing Date: 28 July 2023
Division/Agency: Enterprise Strategy and Governance Division
Topic: Performance measure reporting on the proportion farm businesses making capital investments
Hansard Page:
Question Date: 31 July 2023
Question Type: Written

Mr Julian Hill MP asked:

The ANAO found that DAWE reported an incorrect result for the performance measure reporting on the proportion of farm businesses making capital investments. This measure was included in the department's 2022-23 Corporate Plan with the note that the 'methodology and data sourcing has been improved'. How has the department changed the methodology and data behind the performance measure, and how it assesses if it has met the specific target related to the proportion of farm businesses making capital investments?

a. Has the department changed its broader approach to assessing if it has met performance targets or not?

Answer:

This is an important measure for the department and we have continued discussions with the ANAO about how to improve it. The department is responsible for several policies and programs designed to support farmers' confidence and business management capacities, and in turn, affect their ability to make capital investments. We have provided more detail in the measure on how these policies and programs encourage farmers to make capital investments. We have also changed the tolerances associated with this measure, so that the 'partially achieved' tolerance does not apply – which improves clarity and removes any ambiguity. 'Achieved' is only linked to an increase from one period to the next and 'not achieved' applies to no change or a decrease in investment levels, based on the moving 5-year average.

a. The department has strengthened how its performance measures are developed to ensure more consideration is given to how they are achieved. This includes:

- i. Ensuring there is a clear rationale for including each performance measure
- ii. Better explaining the contributing programs relevant to each performance measure, who the measure benefits and the impact the measure contributes to achieving the department's purpose and objectives.
- iii. Checking tolerances for each performance measure to ensure they are realistic and point to positive goals.
- iv. Reviewing data sources for each performance measure to ensure they are reliable and verifiable
- v. Assessing all performance measures against section 16EA of the PGPA Rule.