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Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade

Inquiry into Australia's Relationship with ASEAN

Questions on Notice - Responses

FADT3

China Melamine – Cadbury announced that they had 11 affected products coming to Australia, on being chocolate éclairs, what are the other 10 products?

Cadbury has recalled 11 chocolate products made at its factory in Beijing which are distributed in Taiwan, Hong Kong and Australia.

In Australia, only one product, 180g (blue) packs of its Cadbury-branded Eclairs lollies made in China, is affected and has subsequently been withdrawn. The company has advised that Chinese dairy products are not used in any other Cadbury products manufactured in Australia.

The action commenced on 30 September 2008 and is pending Australian test results for possible melamine contamination.

China Melamine – Are you (AQIS) advised automatically by FSANZ of whether these products are coming into Australia when there is a problem declared with them?

Following testing of a range of Chinese foods by Australian state and territory food regulators, FSANZ advised AQIS that foods containing melamine posed a risk.

Melamine

In regards to melamine - testing is targeting a range of products from China containing dairy as a minor ingredient. More than 120 products have been tested so far. Test results to date have not detected the presence of melamine in any of these products, except for White Rabbit lollies, Lotte biscuits, Kirin Milk Tea, Orion Tiramisu Italian cake and Dali Yuan brand First Milk vanilla flavoured drink.

A national coordinated surveillance program of products containing ingredients from China that may have been adulterated by melamine is being carried out by FSANZ and the states and territory authorities. This began in October 2008.

FADT5

China Melamine – Provide a report showing any imported milk products from China that arrived in Australia subsequent to the batch of condensed milk in March 2007 in reference to the Melamine issue.

Chinese milk powder and infant formula are not permitted in Australia because they do not meet quarantine requirements.

The Chinese foods most likely to be imported into Australia are those highly processed food products with small amounts of dairy ingredients.

FADT12/13

Malaysia Halal – Provide a list of Australian plants that have been relisted for export, and those that are still not on the list, and the location of these plants - are those that have been relisted all in Western Australia?

In 2005, 16 export registered establishments with existing approval for Malaysia were audited by the Department of Veterinary Services and the Department of Islamic Development and found to be non-complaint. Five of these establishments were only prohibited from exporting beef to Malaysia and maintained all other Malaysian export listing. Only three establishments (Est. 224, 533 and 686) have reapplied for Malaysian listing; all three establishments have been successful and are all currently eligible to export to Malaysia.

None of the three establishments that were de-listed in Western Australia have re-applied for Malaysian export approval.

Establishment with prior Malaysian listing and de-listed in 2005.	Region	Comments	Re-listed
180	VIC		No
187	QLD		No
194	QLD		No
224	VIC	De-listed beef only	2007
239	NSW		No
246	VIC		No
260	VIC		No
282	VIC	De-listed beef only	No
533	VIC	De-listed beef only	2007
555	WA		No
612	VIC	De-listed beef only	2006
648	WA		No
686	WA	De-listed beef only	No
1614	VIC		No
1620	QLD		No
2309	NSW		No

FADT13

Animal Welfare – Are all ASEAN countries working towards developing and implementing a regional set of principles and standard regulations for animal welfare?

The Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry has provided significant international leadership in the development of the *Regional Animal Welfare Strategy: Asia, the Far East and Oceania* (the Strategy) in association with the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE). The Strategy was endorsed by the OIE International Committee in May 2008.

In November 2007, 37 participants from 12 countries in the Asian region and 3 international organisations participated in a successful Animal Welfare Workshop. Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand from the ASEAN member countries were involved. Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia and Laos were invited to the first workshop but were unable to attend.

The workshop endorsed the development of a broad based strategic plan to implement the OIE Guidelines for Animal Welfare in the region. A writing group was established and met in February 2008 to draft the Strategy. (Indonesia, Philippines and Singapore from the ASEAN member countries participated).

The Strategy provides OIE member countries with a direction for future improvements in animal welfare standards and practices through education, regulation and research and development.

DAFF hosted and funded a Workshop in Bangkok, Thailand on 3-4 November 2008 and drafted a broad based implementation plan. Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand were participants of the Implementation Workshop.

The next step is to seek endorsement of the implementation plan from the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East & Oceania and the OIE International Committee in May 2009.

FADT14

Animal Welfare – How much money have we spent on slaughter boxes in Indonesia?

The restraining box project was initially granted \$375 000 over three years, 2005-06 - 2007-08. Phase 1 saw the installation of 50 boxes in abattoirs that handle Australian cattle. Phases 2 and 3 (additional funding of \$247 500) have seen the construction and installation of a further 30 boxes. A further 15 boxes (Phase 4) (additional funding of \$82 500) have now been constructed and are ready for installation. This will see 95 restraining boxes in total completed and installed by MLA with a total funding to date of \$705 000.

Animal Welfare – Provide Information on the value of Australia’s investment in the slaughter boxes

Over the past 3 years, over 80 restraining boxes have been installed and commissioned in Indonesia covering a large network of slaughter facilities where Australian livestock are processed. The Mark 1 restraining box is a simple addition to infrastructure that has enabled improved and less stressful control of the animal prior to slaughter. The use of the box, where it is usual for the animal not to be stunned before slaughter, is a very significant improvement in animal welfare.

During the commissioning process the slaughtermen are trained in the safe and correct use and maintenance of restraining boxes. This has achieved significant improvement in practices and processing standards.

The restraining box project meets the objectives of the Live Animal Trade Program (LATP) administered by DAFF, facilitating trade by addressing live animal welfare, handling and processing issues associated with the live export trade to Indonesia.

There is low risk of duplication as the Department (in conjunction with industry) is the only Australian entity undertaking these types of projects in the region.

Forestry – What is the timeframe for turning around the decline in forest cover in Indonesia and PNG?

The management of forests in Indonesia and Papua New Guinea (PNG) is the sovereign right of those countries. In order to address declining forest cover, referred to herein as deforestation, a fundamental turnaround in sectoral governance arrangements, including better implementation of existing policy and legal requirements, is needed¹. It is difficult to accurately predict when the decline in forest cover will come to an end.

As members of the United Nations Forum on Forests, Indonesia and PNG have made a commitment to work globally, regionally and nationally to achieve progress against four global objectives on forests by 2015. The objectives include a commitment to ‘reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through sustainable forest management, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation’².

The Australian Government is supporting Indonesia and PNG to meet the Global Objectives by committing to restrict the importation of, and trade in, illegally logged timber and wood products in Australia and to encourage the sourcing of these products from sustainably managed forests. Five election commitments were made to address illegal logging and improve the standards of forest management in the Asia-Pacific region.

¹ AusAID 2006, *Pacific 2020, Challenges and Opportunities for Growth*. Pp 115

² <http://www.un.org/esa/forests/about.html>

In support of these commitments, the Government has signed a Letter of Intent with Indonesia agreeing to work together to combat illegal logging and build capacity to manage forests sustainably.

At a meeting in August 2008 between Minister Burke and the PNG Minister for Forests, Mr Belden Namah, it was agreed that Australian and PNG officials should work together on forest certification and verification issues with a view to potentially developing a Memorandum of Understanding.

The \$200 million International Forest Carbon Initiative (IFCI) is a key part of Australia's international leadership on reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries. A component of the IFCI is the \$15.8 million Asia-Pacific Forestry Skills Capacity Building Program. This Program is providing practical support for sustainable forest management and improving forest governance, law enforcement and regulatory frameworks.

In summary, the timeframe for turning around the forest decline in Indonesia and PNG will depend on the ability of Indonesia and PNG to implement effective sectoral governance arrangements and the overall investment in capacity building designed to address those factors leading to deforestation and forest degradation.