

Senate Economics Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates

2016 - 2017

Division/Agency: Australian Competition and Consumer Commission

Question No: 109

Topic: Reviews

Reference: Written

Senator: Ketter, Chris

Question:

Please provide details, for all reviews currently underway:

- 1) When these reviews commenced;
- 2) When the reviews are expected to be completed;
- 3) Expenditure on these reviews to date;
- 4) Budgeted expenditure for these reviews;
- 5) How many staff are involved in each review;
- 6) How many external contractors and consultants are involved in each review;
- 7) What is the cost of the external contractors and consultants for each review.

Answer:

The ACCC, through its Agriculture Unit, is currently undertaking an Inquiry into the Australian Dairy Industry, with responses to the above questions provided below.

- 1) 1 November 2016.
- 2) 1 November 2017.
- 3) The ACCC's Agriculture Unit tracks costs on a whole-Unit basis only. That is, reviews are not tracked individually. The total cost incurred to date (to 31 October 2016) is approximately \$1.6m and only includes the Agriculture Unit's direct costs. It does not include indirect costs like overheads, administration support, senior management and other Commissioner time.
- 4) The Dairy Inquiry expenditure will be funded from the budget for the ACCC's Agriculture Unit. In July 2015, the ACCC was provided \$11.4 million for a four year period to establish the Agricultural Unit as part of the government's implementation of the Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper. This funding is published in the ACCC's Portfolio Additional Estimates Statements 2015-16 on p.40 and is allocated across the four year funding period as follows:

2015-16 \$'000	2016-17 \$'000	2017-18 \$'000	2018-19 \$'000
2,591	2,737	3,025	3,054

- 5) As of 1 November 2016, eight staff (including internal ACCC legal and economic advisers) were allocated to the Dairy Inquiry. However, staff levels can fluctuate depending on the resourcing required during certain phases of the review. As such, there is

an expectation the figure provided will vary at different times during the 12 month period of the Inquiry.

- 6) As at 1 November 2016, there were no external contractors or consultants, but may be engaged at a later date during the period of the inquiry.
- 7) See answer to question 6 above, there has been no expenditure to date on either contractors or consultants.