

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: 496

Topic: Murray Goulburn Report

Reference: Written

Senator: Sterle, Glenn

Question:

When will the ACCC's report into the Murray Goulburn dairy crisis be released?

Answer:

The ACCC's investigation relating to the cuts to the price paid to dairy farmers for milk solids, announced by Murray Goulburn in April 2016, is well advanced. This investigation is being progressed as a matter of priority for the ACCC, with information gathered from relevant stakeholders currently being assessed.

The ACCC is aiming to finalise its assessment as quickly as possible, noting that the timing of outcomes of complex investigations is difficult to predict.

The Government has requested the ACCC to conduct an inquiry into the Australian dairy industry pursuant to Part VIIA of the *Competition and Consumer Act 2010*. The ACCC is required to produce a report to the Government by 1 November 2017. The dairy inquiry and the ACCC's investigation into the price cuts announced by Murray Goulburn are separate processes.