

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2017-18

Finance Portfolio
24-25 May 2017

Department/Agency: Finance

Outcome/Program: 1/1.1

Topic: Application of Decentralisation Criteria to APVMA

Senator: Gallagher

Question reference number: F29

Type of question: Hansard Proof, 24 May 2017, F&PA Committee, Page 88

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Friday, 7 July 2017

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator GALLAGHER: With the criteria that is listed on page 4—and I think you have referred to it as robust and structured—going on the first relocation to be implemented by this government, how would that criteria apply to the APVMA move?

Senator Cormann: You are now going into the portfolio responsibilities of the minister for agriculture. But if you want me to take it on notice, I am happy to.

Senator GALLAGHER: If you could. My question is: apply the criteria that you have outlined in your statement, in your preface on budget paper No. 4, to the APVMA relocation and see whether it stacks up.

Senator Cormann: Sure.

Senator GALLAGHER: I honestly cannot see how it would meet any of those three criteria, but I remain to be persuaded by the good officers of Finance in their response.

Answer:

The APVMA's move to Armidale was underpinned by a statutory consultation process between the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources, the Hon Barnaby Joyce MP, and the APVMA in November 2016. This process evaluated similar criteria to that outlined in Budget Paper No. 4, taking into account the significant infrastructure already available in Armidale, such as NBN connectivity and the prospects of creating an agricultural centre of excellence in the University of New England. Other matters were considered in an independent cost-benefit and risk analysis, which informed the government's decision on implementing the move. This report is available on the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources' website at:

<http://www.agriculture.gov.au/SiteCollectionDocuments/apvma-cost-benefit-analysis.pdf>.