

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES – 20 OCTOBER 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(SE14/186) PROGRAMME – Internal Product

Senator Xenophon (Written) asked:

I also raised a number of questions about the maintenance of Custom's current biosecurity activities including in-airport monitoring and management of incoming plant and animal material. I was informed the "Department of Agriculture maintains primary responsibilities for biosecurity".

- a. Will ABF then hold "secondary" responsibilities?
- b. If so, can you explain the extent of these responsibilities?

Answer:

- a. The Department of Agriculture is responsible for biosecurity.
- b. The Government has asked the three agencies; the Department of Immigration and Border Protection; the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service and the Department of Agriculture to explore options on whether and how operational functions for agriculture could be managed seamlessly at the border. The Government has made no decision in relation to this matter.