Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2014

Agriculture

Question: 32

Division/Agency: Biosecurity Plant Division

Topic: Programs staffing numbers

Proof Hansard page: 57 (28/05/2014)

Senator FARRELL asked:

Senator FARRELL: You have mentioned this fodder company. Are there any other companies that have picked up on this?

Mr Aldred: There are about 800 authorised officers. I am sure we can provide some more examples of where they have been implemented.

Answer:

As at 6 June 2014 there are 717 appointed industry authorised officers. A total of 181 companies have appointed industry authorised officers. There is a further 1109 authorised officer applicants working through the competency framework. Examples of companies, in addition to the fodder company, include bulk grain loading establishments, log and woodchip exporting businesses and businesses exporting fresh fruit and vegetables and nursery stock.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2014

Agriculture

Question: 33

Division/Agency: Biosecurity Plant Division

Topic: Import Risk Analyses priorities

Proof Hansard page: Written

Senator WATERS asked:

Import risk analyses are important documents for assessing high priority import. What are the priorities for import risk analysis for 2014-15 (and future years if they have been determined?). What is the basis on which these priorities have been determined?

Please provide the rationale for each of these priorities and the criteria that were applied to determine them (beyond those specified in the import risk analysis handbook).

Answer:

The priorities for Animal and Plant Import Risk Analyses and non-regulated analyses of existing policy for 2014-2015 are to progress and/or finalise those analyses already in progress. The analyses already in progress are at **Attachment A**.

The relevant areas within the department also develop technical submissions for market access from other countries

In addition to our Import Risk Analyses and non-regulated analyses of existing policy the majority of work is conducted routinely and includes a high-volume of non-regulated provision of scientific advice, the parallel processes undertaken for weed risk assessment and biological control agent assessment, and for Animal competent authority assessments.

Factors considered in assessing and proposing departmental work priorities are the development of country strategies that take into account the overall relationship between our trading partners, the connectivity between imports and exports, and how they complement other priorities across the broader portfolio in line with industry priorities and expectations. Other considerations include

a. whether the work needs to be done to manage existing biosecurity risks to an acceptable level

b. whether the work will increase organisational efficiency to enable more focus on higher risk products, or decrease regulatory burden

c. germplasm /genetic resource demand (both domestic and international)

Question: 33 (continued)

d. a change in pest and disease status of a trading partner and responding to emerging pests

e. practicality, including staff availability, appropriate expertise and workload

f. cost benefit

g. Requests from importers

h. National interest.

Plant Biosecurity

Potatoes for processing from New Zealand
Salacca (snake) fruit from Indonesia
Table grapes from Japan
Apples form the USA (currently on hold)
Table grapes from India
Citrus nursery stock review
Prunus nursery stock review
Apple and pear nursery stock review
Rubus nursery stock review
Phytophthora ramorum host material review
Zantedeschia bulb review
Biological control agent *Eueupithecia sp 2* for the control of weed *Parkinsonia aculeata*
Review of viroids in imported tomato seed for sowing
Table grapes from Senora, Mexico

Animal Biosecurity

Dairy products from various countries
Cooked turkey meat from USA
Hatching eggs of domestic hens and turkey
Gamma irradiation as a treatment of animal pathogens
Freshwater ornamental fish with respect to gourami iridovirus

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2014

Agriculture

Question: 34

Division/Agency: Biosecurity Plant Division

Topic: Processes for Myrtle Rust

Proof Hansard page: Written

Senator WATERS asked:

The incursion of the myrtle rust fungus was first found in Australia in 2010 and has since been declared ineradicable. It may impact on one of Australia's largest plant families, the myrtacae family, which includes Eucalypts. Have any changes been made to biosecurity processes to reduce the risks of incursions of myrtle rust? What are they? Provide any reports or reviews that have informed any changes made.

Answer:

A meeting of experts was held in April 2011, as a result of the incursion in 2010 of the fungus that causes myrtle rust in Australia. From this meeting, the department decided to maintain the present restrictions and conditions for entry of products derived from myrtaceous species from countries where the fungus is present. In 2013, the department removed the prohibition of myrtaceous timber from countries with the pathogen. This change was based on an evaluation of this pathway, and through consultation with the jurisdictions and the forestry industry. The department is maintaining all other restrictions to prevent further incursions that may introduce new pathotypes.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2014

Agriculture

Question: 35

Division/Agency: Biosecurity Plant Division

Topic: Tramp ants

Proof Hansard page: Written

Senator WATERS asked:

1. Tramp ants are repeatedly breaching Australia's quarantine system. Have any changes been made to biosecurity processes to reduce the risks of new incursions of tramp ants, including red imported fire ants and yellow crazy ants? What are they?

2. Please provide any reports or reviews that have informed any changes made.

Answer:

Biosecurity import conditions specify entry requirements for imported goods that might harbour diseases and exotic pests including tramp ants. These conditions are reviewed under a risk-based approach. Ants might be carried on goods such as those imported for large infrastructure projects, machinery and non-commodity, such as timber packaging and shipping containers.

There are three current cost shared eradication responses for tramp ants: Electric Ant in Queensland, and Red Imported Fire Ant in Yarwun, Queensland and in south-east Queensland. Genetic testing has confirmed that the two Red Imported Fire Ant incursions are unrelated, and genetic analysis indicates that the likely origin of the Yarwun incursion is the southern United States of America. The department's interception data indicates that Red Imported Fire Ant is intercepted most frequently in consignments from the United States. There have been seven detections since 2007, with all but one consignment being from there.

As part of its risk based approach, the department is currently examining pathways to determine whether any additional measures can be undertaken to reduce the risk of further incursions of tramp ants into Australia. This review includes considering expanding the Country Action List which targets a range of high risk pests and other contaminants on imported sea containers and non-containerised cargo.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2014

Agriculture

Question: 36

Division/Agency: Biosecurity Plant Division

Topic: Risk assessments of new plant products

Proof Hansard page: Written

Senator WATERS asked:

1. How many risk assessments of new plant products were conducted in the last financial year? Which taxa were assessed, and what was assessed?
2. If it is impossible to reply, provide a list of taxa that were assessed, and the outcomes of each assessment (permitted, rejected or pending further information).

Answer:

1.-2. In the 2012–13 financial year 139 weed risk assessments (WRAs) were completed. Of the 139 species assessed, 108 species were permitted, 16 were rejected and 15 were assigned further evaluate. See table 1 for a list of assessed taxa.

Table 1: List of taxa assessed through the WRA process and the outcome of the assessment

Botanic name	Family	WRA result
Achyranthes arborescens	Amaranthaceae	Permitted (Present in Australia)
Achyranthes margaretarum	Amaranthaceae	Permitted (Present in Australia)
Acrodon bellidiflorus	Aizoaceae	Permitted (Present in Australia)
Aechmea recurvata var. *ortgiesii*	Bromeliaceae	Permitted (Present in Australia)
Aechmea recurvata var. *recurvata*	Bromeliaceae	Permitted (Present in Australia)
Alcantarea cerosa	Bromeliaceae	Permitted
Alcantarea compacta	Bromeliaceae	Permitted
Alcantarea martinellii	Bromeliaceae	Permitted
Alcantarea panniculata	Bromeliaceae	Permitted (Present in Australia)
Alcantarea pataxoana	Bromeliaceae	Permitted
Alcantarea trepida	Bromeliaceae	Permitted
Amorphophallus dactylifer	Araceae	Permitted
Amorphophallus impressus	Araceae	Permitted
Amorphophallus myosuroides	Araceae	Permitted

Botanic name	Family	WRA result
Amorphophallus ochroleucus	Araceae	Permitted
Amorphophallus rostratus	Araceae	Permitted
Amorphophallus thaiensis	Araceae	Permitted
Arctotheca populifolia	Asteraceae	Permitted (Present in Australia)
Arracacia xanrhorrhiza	Apiaceae	Permitted (Present in Australia)
Billbergia acreana	Bromeliaceae	Permitted
Billbergia brachysiphon	Bromeliaceae	Permitted
Billbergia cardenasii	Bromeliaceae	Permitted
Billbergia castelensis	Bromeliaceae	Permitted
Billbergia dasilvae	Bromeliaceae	Permitted
Billbergia formosa	Bromeliaceae	Permitted
Billbergia incarnata	Bromeliaceae	Permitted
Billbergia issingiana	Bromeliaceae	Permitted
Billbergia jandebrabanderi	Bromeliaceae	Permitted
Billbergia kautskyana	Bromeliaceae	Permitted
Billbergia laxiflora	Bromeliaceae	Permitted
Billbergia macracantha	Bromeliaceae	Permitted
Billbergia microlepis	Bromeliaceae	Permitted
Billbergia pohliana	Bromeliaceae	Permitted
Billbergia robertreadii	Bromeliaceae	Permitted
Billbergia rupestris	Bromeliaceae	Permitted
Bobartia lilacina	Iridaceae	Permitted
Boehmeria australis	Urticaceae	Permitted (Present in Australia)
Boswellia sacra	Burseraceae	Permitted (Present in Australia)
Braunsia maximiliani	Aizoaceae	Permitted
Brugmansia vulcanicola	Solanaceae	Permitted (Present in Australia)
Carruanthua ringens	Aizoaceae	Permitted (Present in Australia)
Carruanthus caninus	Aizoaceae	Permitted (Present in Australia)
Ceiba insignis	Malvaceae	Permitted (Present in Australia)
Cephalophyllum loreum	Aizoaceae	Permitted
Cephalophyllum niveum	Aizoaceae	Permitted
Cephalophyllum tricolorum	Aizoaceae	Permitted
Cochlospermum vitifolium	Bixaceae	Permitted (Present in Australia)
Dysoxylum bijugum	Meliaceeae	Permitted (Present in Australia)
Encholirium magalhaesii	Bromeliaceae	Permitted (Present in Australia)
Encholirium subsecundum	Bromeliaceae	Permitted (Present in Australia)
Ficus deltoidea	Moraceae	Permitted (Present in Australia)
Fontainea pancheri	Euphorbiaceae	Permitted
Hippeastrum bukasovii	Amaryllidaceae	Permitted (Present in Australia)
Hippeastrum glaucescens	Amaryllidaceae	Permitted (Present in Australia)
Lesquerella arctica	Brassicaceae	Permitted
Lesquerella kingii	Brassicaceae	Permitted
Maxburretia furtadoana	Arecaceae	Permitted

Botanic name	Family	WRA result
Mestoklema arboriforme	Aizoaceae	Permitted (Present in Australia)
Nepenthes peltata	Nepenthaceae	Permitted
Onopordum bracteatum	Asteraceae	Permitted (Present in Australia)
Onosma alborosea	Boraginaceae	Permitted (Present in Australia)
Onosma echioides	Boraginaceae	Permitted (Present in Australia)
Onosma stellulata	Boraginaceae	Permitted
Orthophytum albopictum	Bromeliaceae	Permitted (Present in Australia)
Orthophytum burle-marxii	Bromeliaceae	Permitted (Present in Australia)
Orthophytum lemei	Bromeliaceae	Permitted (Present in Australia)
Orthophytum lucidum	Bromeliaceae	Permitted (Present in Australia)
Pennantia endlicheri	Pennantiaceae	Permitted (Present in Australia)
Phycella ignea	Iridaceae	Permitted (Present in Australia)
Physaria nelsonii	Brassicaceae	Permitted
Pinus thunbergii	Pinaceae	Permitted (Present in Australia)
Pithecellobium lobatum	Fabaceae	Permitted (Present in Australia)
Pogonatherum paniceum	Poaceae	Permitted (Present in Australia)
Portea nana	Bromeliaceae	Permitted
Portea petropolitana var. *noettigii*	Bromeliaceae	Permitted (Present in Australia)
Portea petropolitana var. *petropolitana*	Bromeliaceae	Permitted (Present in Australia)
Portea pickelii	Bromeliaceae	Permitted
Primula forbesii	Primulaceae	Permitted
Primula grandis	Primulaceae	Permitted
Primula incana	Primulaceae	Permitted
Rheum rhabarbarum	Polygonaceae	Permitted (Present in Australia)
Rhododendron aureodorsale	Ericaceae	Permitted
Rhododendron changii	Ericaceae	Permitted
Rhododendron dendricola	Ericaceae	Permitted (Present in Australia)
Rhododendron farinosum	Ericaceae	Permitted
Rhododendron hypoglaucum	Ericaceae	Permitted
Rhododendron irroratum subsp. pogonostylum	Ericaceae	Permitted (Present in Australia)
Rhododendron monanthum	Ericaceae	Permitted
Rhododendron moulmainense	Ericaceae	Permitted (Present in Australia)
Rhododendron platypodum	Ericaceae	Permitted
Rhododendron pseudociliipes	Ericaceae	Permitted
Rhododendron roxieoides	Ericaceae	Permitted
Sanguisorba canadensis	Rosaceae	Permitted (Present in Australia)
Sarcocapnos enneaphylla	Fumariaceae	Permitted
Sterculia megistophylla	Sterculiaceae	Permitted
Stoeberia carpii	Aizoaceae	Permitted (Present in Australia)
Streblus pendulinus	Moraceae	Permitted (Present in Australia)
Tillandsia barbeyana	Bromeliaceae	Permitted (Present in Australia)

Botanic name	Family	WRA result
Tillandsia ponderosa	Bromeliaceae	Permitted (Present in Australia)
Tillandsia porongoensis	Bromeliaceae	Permitted (Present in Australia)
Tillandsia standleyi	Bromeliaceae	Permitted (Present in Australia)
Tillandsia strobelii	Bromeliaceae	Permitted (Present in Australia)
Tipuana tipu	Fabaceae	Permitted (Present in Australia)
Ungeria floribunda	Malvaceae	Permitted (Present in Australia)
Xanthostemon verdugonianus	Myrtaceae	Permitted
Zehneria baueriana	Cucurbitaceae	Permitted (Present in Australia)
Zigadenus elegans	Liliaceae	Permitted (Present in Australia)
Zigadenus nuttallii	Liliaceae	Permitted (Present in Australia)
Balsamorhiza sagittata	Asteraceae	Further evaluate
Bromelia charlesii	Bromeliaceae	Further evaluate
Bromelia charlesii	Bromeliaceae	Further evaluate
Carpobrotus deliciosus	Aizoaceae	Further evaluate
Chimonocalamus delicatus	Poaceae	Further evaluate
Fargesia albocerea	Poaceae	Further evaluate
Hippeastrum correiense	Amaryllidaceae	Further evaluate
Hippeastrum leonardii	Amaryllidaceae	Further evaluate
Lampranthus amoenus	Aizoaceae	Further evaluate
Lampranthus bicolor	Aizoaceae	Further evaluate
Lampranthus haworthii	Aizoaceae	Further evaluate
Lampranthus hoerleinianus	Aizoaceae	Further evaluate
Lapeirousia sandersonii	Iridaceae	Further Evaluate
Oncoba spinosa	Salicaceae	Further evaluate
Sanguisorba albiflora	Rosaceae	Further evaluate
Satureja coerulea	Lamiaceae	Further evaluate
Draba nivalis	Brassicaceae	Reject
Euphorbia hypericifolia	Euphorbiaceae	Reject
Gladiolus pardalinus	Iridaceae	Reject
Hippeastrum machupijchensis	Amaryllidaceae	Reject
Phyllostachys nigra	Poaceae	Reject (Present in Australia and under official control)
Prosopis tamarugo	Fabaceae	Reject
Salix purpurea	Salicaceae	Reject (Present in Australia and under official control)
Salix triandra	Salicaceae	Reject (Present in Australia and under official control)
Salix viminalis	Salicaceae	Reject (Present in Australia and under official control)
Sanguisorba hakusanensis	Rosaceae	Reject
Silene vulgaris	Caryophyllaceae	Reject (Present in Australia and under official control)
Symphoricarpos oreophilus	Caprifoliaceae	Reject

Botanic name	Family	WRA result
Terminalia ivorensis	Combretaceae	Reject
Terminalia mantaly	Combretaceae	Reject
Zygophyllum fabago	Zygophyllaceae	Reject

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2014

Agriculture

Question: 37

Division/Agency: Biosecurity Plant Division

Topic: New incursions of myrtle rust into Australia

Proof Hansard page: Written

Senator WATERS asked:

In January 2013, in response to a question on notice (Question No 2670) the then agriculture minister Senator Joe Ludwig said "The department is currently reviewing the import conditions for myrtaceous timber in consultation with the Australian Forest Products Association. The review will be finalised in the first half of 2013." Can the Department provide a copy of that review and any other reviews or assessments relevant to biosecurity processes to address the risk of new incursions of myrtle rust into Australia?

Answer:

The review of import conditions that commenced in 2012 for myrtaceous timber is not yet finalised. Initially, the review was based on assessing the risk of surface contamination of myrtaceous timber with the rust pathogen, *Puccinia psidii*, a strain of which causes myrtle rust in Australia. Following discussion with the Australian Forest Products Association, the scope of the review has been expanded to include an assessment of the risk of the importation of canker-forming fungal pathogens of concern that can be present in the timber. As the review has progressed a change was made in 2013 to the import conditions for myrtaceous timber that allows imports of timber from countries with the rust pathogen with specific phytosanitary treatments required. The change was based on evaluation of this pathway and through consultation with the jurisdictions and the forestry industry. The department is maintaining all other restrictions to prevent further incursions that may introduce new pathotypes.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2014

Agriculture

Question: 38

Division/Agency: Biosecurity Plant Division

Topic: Imported sphagnum moss and cut flowers

Proof Hansard page: Written

Senator WATERS asked:

Provide a list of all entities, including a list of the countries from which they import to Australia, that are certified as using a DAFF approved method of imported sphagnum moss and cut flowers.

a. Of the entities identified in response to the question above, how many and how frequently were the entities audited in the last five years?

b. What were the results of each of these audits?

Answer:

The Department of Agriculture does not accredit any entities, either on-shore or overseas to use an approved method of importing sphagnum moss and cut flowers.