

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

Questions on Notice

Budget Estimates, 24-26 May 2017

Agriculture and Water Resources Portfolio

Senate No	Program. Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard page & hearing date or Written question	Date received
1	ABARES	Senator Janet Rice	Trends in terms of energy use on farms	<p>Senator RICE: What have the trends been over the short, medium and long term in terms of energy use on farms?</p> <p>Mr Gooday: We would not have that with us. We can take that on notice, but the general observation would be that energy use will have improved reasonably substantially because the types of equipment that people are using will be allowing that to happen.</p> <p>Senator RICE: Do you think there will be declining energy use per unit of production?</p> <p>Mr Gooday: There will have been, over a long period of time, some fairly substantial savings made in the way in which things are grown.</p> <p>Senator RICE: Is that information publicly available, or can I put it on notice and you can provide it to us?</p> <p>Mr Gooday: We have not produced it in a report, but we can take it on notice and provide you with some information.</p>	35 25.05.2017	
2	ABARES	Senator Janet Rice	Fertilizer input across Australian agriculture	<p>Senator RICE: Finally, do you track fertiliser input across Australian agriculture?</p> <p>Mr Gooday: We collect information on fertiliser inputs as part of our farm survey, yes.</p>	36 25.05.2017	

				<p>Senator RICE: Can you tell me what the trends have been with that.</p> <p>Mr Gooday: The trend over the last 20 years or more would have been that we have been using more materials and services, which is what fertiliser falls into. We have been using more of that, especially in the cropping industries. That is how the technology has gone.</p> <p>Senator RICE: So there would be a trend of increasing use. Have you seen a commensurate increase in yield with that use or, as it has increased, has the relative effectiveness dropped off? Maybe take this on notice.</p> <p>Mr Gooday: There has been an increase in yield, which is what CSIRO and other people report.</p> <p>Senator RICE: I am interested in tracking fertiliser use. Again, it is embodied energy and it is embodied fossil fuel energy so, if that has increased over time but your overall yields have only increased at a lesser rate, I think that is also a very important statistic that we need to know.</p> <p>Mr Gooday: We have not done any studies on the relationship between increased fertiliser use and increased yield, but we do have productivity estimates and other things to show what has been happening in aggregate.</p> <p>Senator RICE: If you could take on notice and provide whatever information you do have on fertiliser trends and any correlation with yield trends, that would be useful. Thank you.</p>		
3	ABARES	Senator Kim Carr	Modelling on the economic benefits in terms of the live export trade	<p>Senator KIM CARR: Is the department aware of it? It is nothing about a policy. It is a question for the department. Has the department had any policy conversations on this issue?</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan: No.</p> <p>Senator KIM CARR: I take it, then, you have not</p>	68 25.05.2017	

				<p>undertaken any modelling on the economic benefits in terms of the live export trade?</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan: It is just a media article.</p> <p>Senator KIM CARR: No, the live export trade. Do you have any modelling on that within the department?</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan: Not in my time as CEO, but there may well have been—</p> <p>Senator KIM CARR: When was the last time modelling was undertaken there?</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan: We would have to take that on notice. There may well have been some.</p>		
4	ABARES	Senator Griff	Almond production	<p>Senator GRIFF: Do you know what proportion of almond production occurs in the Sunraysia area?</p> <p>Mr Glyde: I do not know the answer to that question. I do not know if anyone else does. I do not have that. We can try to get that.</p>	66 26.05.2017	
5	Agricultural Policy Division	Senator Pauline Hanson	Contamination of land around Oakey and Williamstown	<p>Senator HANSON: With the contamination of the land around Oakey and Williamstown, from the Air Force, what provisions have been put in place for the livestock—cattle and horses—that may be contaminated from that land? Also, are tests done, to do with the export market, and, if so, what tests are they?</p> <p>Dr Clegg: I would need to take that on notice. There is a committee. There are officers in the department who have been working on the PFOS contamination issue. The animals themselves that are on the properties are managed by the states and territories, so they are responsible for the health and welfare of the animals there. For export, that would be a different issue.</p>	19 24.05.2017	
6	Agricultural Policy Division	Senator Janet Rice	Representation on board	<p>Senator RICE: Do any of the other RDCs currently have boards with a similar structure as</p>	100 24.05.2017	

				<p>yours—without those representative organisations on them?</p> <p>Ms Slack-Smith: You would need to ask them, Senator.</p> <p>Senator RICE: My understanding is that they do not.</p> <p>Ms Slack-Smith: You would need to ask them.</p> <p>Senator RICE: Do you know of any others that do?</p> <p>Mr Merriman: I think the dairy board is directly elected? I could not swear to that, but that is what I think. Do you know?</p> <p>Senator RICE: I don't think it is. My understanding is that your RDC is the only one that does not have those organisations represented on your board.</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan: Can we take that on notice?</p> <p>Senator RICE: Yes.</p>		
7	Agricultural Policy Division	Senator Glenn Sterle	Rural Research and Development for Profit program	<p>Senator STERLE: That is \$36 million something? How much did you say?</p> <p>Ms Musgrave: Yes, it is about \$36 million. I am just looking for the exact number here.</p> <p>Senator STERLE: We are not going to hang you if you are a couple of cents out.</p> <p>Ms Musgrave: I would say \$36 million and I will correct it if it is wrong.</p> <p>Senator STERLE: That is fine. That money has been allocated and it is out there now. So, what is that being spent on?</p> <p>Ms Musgrave: The 12 projects under round 1.</p> <p>Senator STERLE: If it is an exhaustive list you can give it to us on notice or if you want to brag about it fire away.</p> <p>Ms Musgrave: I might give you the generic thing and give you the exhaustive list later. There are 12 projects under round 1, 17 projects under round 2</p>	49 25.05.2017	

				and six projects funded under round 3. R&D corporations—the rural research and development corporations—are the only eligible applicants under this program, but the requirements under the guidelines mean that they have to be collaborating with others. So, other RDCs but also research institutions, partner entities, industry, whoever. It is aimed at driving some collaboration.		
8	Agricultural Policy Division	Senator Chris Back	Seasonal workers	<p>Senator BACK: Agricultural workforce—what is the seasonal worker incentive scheme? Is it underway and can you tell us, if it is underway, is it effective?</p> <p>Ms Freeman: The announcement was the expansion of the seasonal worker programs to basically allow employers from the broader agricultural sector to access workers from nine eligible Pacific Island countries and Timor Leste. Previously, only horticulture was allowed to participate.</p> <p>Senator BACK: Correct.</p> <p>Ms Freeman: In 2015-16 we know there were roughly 4,500 issues of visas granted under that program.</p> <p>Senator BACK: Can you tell us, on notice if not now, what industry sectors they ended up finding employment in? You are right; it was originally confined to horticulture.</p> <p>Ms Freeman: Correct.</p> <p>Senator BACK: Also, on notice, if you can tell us which countries they came from? I am particularly interested to see whether or not they are from Timor Leste.</p> <p>Ms Freeman: Yes. I will take the industry coverage on notice, but for the worker intakes from participating countries, just from Timor Leste, so working back for 2015-16 there were</p>	49 25.05.2017	

				224 workers.		
9	Agricultural Policy Division	Senator Chris Back	Repeat visits by workers	<p>Senator BACK: Would there be any way of finding out repeat visits by individuals? Is that data you would have?</p> <p>Ms Freeman: I would have to take on notice whether they were repeat. Normally the data just says how many visas were granted or held, whether they are in country or not. I do not know whether they would be repeats.</p> <p>Senator BACK: I sat on the migration committee, which looked at that whole issue last year with recommendations to government. That is why I was particularly interested. The backpacker tax and the backpacker numbers—as a result of the changes to the tax regime—</p> <p>Ms Freeman: Yes.</p> <p>Senator BACK: Can you give us any early advice on the impact, if any, of those changes?</p> <p>Ms Freeman: We are actually seeing the numbers are continuing. Obviously the changes to the working holiday visa that was announced by government applied a 15 per cent tax rate from 1 January this year. So, I think we are seeing the numbers for 2014—583—in 2015-16 and there was just a very small reduction on the previous year. I will take on notice to find out how many we are seeing since then. It might be too soon since the government made its announcement, but I can certainly take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator BACK: There would be some predictions already, I would hope, being the end of May.</p> <p>Ms Freeman: Yes, certainly.</p>	50 25.05.2017	
10	Agricultural Policy Division	Senator Chris Back	Foreign entity – purchase of agricultural	<p>Senator BACK: In that same space, a question was raised that, if a foreign entity wanted to buy what is an agricultural property but not use it for</p>	51 25.05.2017	

			property	<p>the purposes of agriculture, for example, they might want to use it for mining or some other purpose, then it initially would not have been captured on the data, because it was not to be used for agricultural purposes. We saw that not large in terms of hectares as the leases would be, but do we know now whether that is also being captured regardless of the reason for which the foreign entity might want to purchase that land; if it is agricultural land at the time they are purchasing it, is that being captured?</p> <p>Ms Freeman: I would probably defer that to Treasury just for the broader element. The department's role is quite clear that we will be asked where there might be portfolio interest in an application, but there is really a range of factors that would be considered by the government and then we would put our lens over that in that context. So, on that I would refer to Treasury.</p>		
11	Agricultural Policy Division	Senator Chris Back	Third round of applications for the R&D for profit program	<p>Senator BACK: I will go on to R&D. In the recent budget, as I recall it, the Australian government contribution matching industry R&D levies will reach \$300 million—the taxpayer contribution, I should say—an investment that will see farmers generating \$12 for each dollar invested by government. Can you tell me where we are with the third round of applications for the R&D for-profit program?</p> <p>Ms Freeman: My colleague, Ms Musgrave, just covered that, but basically the decision—</p> <p>Senator BACK: I am sorry. I was not paying attention.</p> <p>Ms Freeman: That is all right. The decisions have been made for round 3. A number of those projects have already been announced by government, but there is roughly \$36 million in</p>	51 25.05.2017	

				<p>funds with about \$16 to \$17 million of projects already announced and the remainder to be announced in the coming weeks.</p> <p>Senator BACK: Rather than take the time of the committee now, you might just point me to where I can obtain that information if it is in the public area and I can go and source it myself.</p> <p>Ms Freeman: Certainly.</p> <p>Senator BACK: The numbers of applications, total funding, first two rounds and so on.</p> <p>Ms Freeman: Yes. We can do that.</p> <p>Senator BACK: If you can just let me know where that is.</p> <p>Ms Freeman: Certainly.</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan: We did take all of that on notice to provide the detail.</p>		
12	Agricultural Policy Division	Senator Kim Carr	R&D tax concession arrangements	<p>Mr Quinlivan: Only that we obviously know it happened or is happening.</p> <p>Senator KIM CARR: I want to ask whether this department has undertaken any consultation with the industry department as part of any interdepartmental committees as to the effect of the proposed changes to the R&D tax concession arrangements for companies that are engaged in agricultural or food processing?</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan: Not to my knowledge.</p> <p>Ms Musgrave: We do engage with the Department of Industry in relation to the three Fs review and when it came out in discussions. We have to take on notice what, if any, actual modelling has been done of the effect of the different thresholds if they were considered.</p> <p>Senator KIM CARR: I am a strong supporter of the agricultural R&D program. So, do not misunderstand the import of the question. The fact is that there are significant manufacturers in food</p>	52 25.05.2017	

				<p>manufacturing that do not use those programs but actually use the industry department programs or the R&D tax concession that you have a direct relationship with. My question goes to whether or not you have had representations from them. That is the first question. Have you had any representations from food manufacturers?</p> <p>Secondly, have you made any representations to the Department of Industry in terms of the effect of those recommendations, in particular around the intensity measure, and adverse effects that may well occur for those producers?</p> <p>Ms Freeman: The short answer is, no, but I would note that the AMPC, the R&D corporation for the meat processors, which is one of the 15 research and development corporations—some of them may fall into the category to which you refer.</p> <p>Senator KIM CARR: Can you take that on notice?</p> <p>Ms Freeman: Yes.</p>		
13	Agricultural Policy Division	Senator Malarndirri McCarthy	Cabinet meeting dates – Sugar code	<p>Senator McCARTHY: Mr Williamson, you said that there was a cabinet discussion and that there are confidential processes that surround cabinet. But in terms of advice provided to cabinet, was that around 29 March?</p> <p>Mr D Williamson: It was prior to that. I think that was the point. The Treasurer and the Deputy Prime Minister announced the code on the 29th. There have been government processes in the lead up to that.</p> <p>Senator McCARTHY: Can you give us some dates for when that might have been?</p> <p>Mr D Williamson: I do not think we have that. I am happy to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator McCARTHY: Thank you very much.</p>	72 25.05.2017	

14	Agricultural Policy Division	Senator Glenn Sterle	International Bioeconomy Forum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Will departmental representatives participate in the European Union's International Bioeconomy Forum? 2. If not, did the department consider attending the forum? 3. If yes, who will be attending the forum? 4. Will the Minister be attending the forum? 5. Did the department provide a briefing to the Minister about the forum? 	Written	
15	Agricultural Policy Division	Senator Malcolm Roberts	Cost benefit analysis – 11 government agencies	Has cost-benefit-analysis (CBA) been undertaken on each & all of these eleven government agencies to ensure they are not just a bureaucratic hindrance to private competition, efficiency and innovation in rural industries? The agencies are: 1) Rural Industries and Research Development Corporation; 2) Horticulture Innovation Australia Limited; 3) Landcare Australia Limited; 4) Dairy Australia Limited; 5) Australian Wool Innovation Limited; 6) Grains Research and Development Corporation; 7) Plant Health Australia; 8) Australian Grape and Wine Authority; 9) Australian Meat Processor Corporation Limited; 10) Meat and Livestock Australia Limited; and 11) Australian Livestock Export Corporation (LiveCorp).	Written	
16	Australian Fisheries Management Authority	Senator Carol Brown	Consultation with rec fishers and Indigenous fishers	<p>Senator CAROL BROWN: I have one more question. Have you consulted with rec fishers and Indigenous fishers in regard to mid-water pair trawling?</p> <p>Dr Findlay: I mentioned in answer to your first question about the process we went through.</p> <p>Senator CAROL BROWN: You talk very quickly.</p> <p>Dr Findlay: We went through quite an extensive process involving marine experts, a number of</p>	90 25.05.2017	

				<p>management advisory committees and the scientific expert panel. The management advisory committee for the southeast, the South East MAC, includes recreational fishers on that group. A lot of the submissions we received during the public comment phase were from recreational fishers or on behalf of recreational fishing associations. I would have to check my list about whether or not any Indigenous fishing or Indigenous groups made submissions during that time.</p> <p>Senator CAROL BROWN: Would you be able to answer that on notice?</p> <p>Dr Findlay: Yes, unless we have it here and we can answer it quickly.</p> <p>Dr Rayns: We had a public consultation period and there were a large number of submissions so we would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator CAROL BROWN: So, other than through that process of people putting in submissions or comments, there has been no other consultation with Indigenous fishers?</p> <p>Dr Findlay: Not specifically, no.</p> <p>Senator CAROL BROWN: But there has been with rec fishers?</p> <p>Dr Findlay: Recreational fishers are represented on the South East Management Advisory Committee and also attend a number of our public forums. There was one of those during that time. Again, Indigenous fishers may have also attended that group, but I would have to check the attendance list.</p> <p>Senator CAROL BROWN: Would you be able to answer that on notice?</p> <p>Dr Findlay: Yes.</p>		
17	Australian Fisheries	Senator Peter Whish-Wilson	Dolphins	1. What would be the cumulative number of lethal interactions with dolphins in the Gillnet,	Written	

	Management Authority			<p>Hook and Trap Fishery (GHTF) if each operator in the fishery reached the maximum interaction rate in a six month period?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. What would be the cumulative number of lethal interactions with dolphins in the Small Pelagic Fishery (SPF) if each operator in the fishery reached the maximum interaction rate in a six month period? 3. When assessing the exceedances of allowable lethal interactions with dolphins in a given review period: does AFMA take into account a given fisher's previous review periods; or does a fisher 'start anew' at the beginning of each review period? 4. In the GHTF, could a fisher catch 5 dolphins in one 6 month review period; another 6 or more dolphins in the next review period; and another 6 or more dolphins in the next 6 months before being excluded from the fishery? 5. In the SPF, could a fisher exceed the maximum interaction rate twice in 12 months on the Eastern side of the fishery and then move to the Western side of the fishery and catch more dolphins on that side? 6. Can fishers in the GHTF or the SPF fisheries potentially catch 5 dolphins every 6 months ongoing without being excluded from the fisheries? 7. What is the typically the target species when dolphins are caught in the GHTF? 8. What is typically the target species when dolphins are caught in the SPF? 9. Were animal welfare considerations taken into account in developing the Dolphin Mitigation Strategies? 		
18	Australian	Senator Kim	15% vacancy rate	Senator KIM CARR: That is the normal practice	7	

	Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Association	Carr		in the Public Service, I agree. How long have you had 15 per cent of positions vacant? Ms Janiec: I would have to take that on notice. I don't have the details of the retention.	25.05.2017	
19	Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Association	Senator Kim Carr	List of applications currently overdue	Senator KIM CARR: Can you provide the committee with a list of applications that are currently overdue and can you provide descriptions outlining the intended use of those products? Mr Norden: Yes, we can do that on notice.	9 25.05.2017	
20	Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Association	Senator Janet Rice	Cohort of regulatory scientists	Senator RICE: The usual cohort is around 100 scientists, and I think we just heard that there are currently 82 regulatory scientists, so you are down about 20 per cent on your usual workforce. Is that correct? Mr Norden: I would have to check those numbers.	19 25.05.2017	
21	Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Association	Senator Janet Rice	External providers	Senator RICE: Has the use of external providers in those areas increased over time? Dr Lutze: It fluctuates. For instance, with the health assessment team, traditionally most of those assessments were undertaken by the Department of Health. Over the last couple of years, the Department of Health has ceased to do assessments for us. We have taken some of those assessments in-house and we have also increased the number of assessments that are done externally. Senator RICE: Can you provide on notice the trends in each of those areas, in terms of what is being done in-house and what is being done externally? Dr Lutze: We can do that on notice. Senator RICE: Is there a greater cost for the external provision of these services than if you were doing them in-house?	23 25.05.2017	

				<p>Dr Lutze: That is very difficult for me to say. It depends on the sort of assessment that we might do inside and the sort of assessment we would put outside.</p> <p>Senator RICE: Yes, but in general. You say it is difficult to say, but you must have some idea in terms of your budgeting. If an assessment is being done externally compared with internally, what are the extra costs?</p> <p>Dr Lutze: It depends on the experience of the external assessment and the external assessor. It can vary.</p> <p>Senator RICE: It can vary. Can you give me—</p> <p>Dr Lutze: I will provide some of that advice on notice, with the trends.</p> <p>Senator RICE: Thank you.</p>		
22	Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Association	Senator Carol Brown	APVMA Relocation Advisory Committee ToR	<p>Senator CAROL BROWN: When was that established?</p> <p>Ms Janiec: That was established at the end of last year, coming off the back of the approval of our relocation strategy approach. We had the first meeting in January this year. We have had four meetings to date.</p> <p>Senator CAROL BROWN: When were the other meetings?</p> <p>Ms Janiec: They were each month, so February, March and April. We have just concluded the last one.</p> <p>Senator CAROL BROWN: Obviously if I ask for any documentation from—</p> <p>Ms Janiec: For the terms of reference and the membership?</p> <p>Senator CAROL BROWN: Yes.</p> <p>Ms Janiec: We can take that on notice.</p>	25 25.05.2017	
23	Australian Pesticides and	Senator Janet Rice	Post graduate regulatory science	<p>Senator RICE: But, if you are talking about a graduate—say a graduate from the University of</p>	26 25.05.2017	

	Veterinary Medicines Association		qualification	<p>New England—who has done a science degree but has not got any background in regulatory science, what would you employ them at?</p> <p>Ms Janiec: Using your example, we would look to employ them on our graduate program. We are designing a graduate program to encourage newly completed graduates to start at our base level. We would then put them through our graduate program or through our accredited program to enable them to have the skills, the on-the-job training, the face-to-face training, with experienced subject matter experts doing some course work—so a whole complete program.</p> <p>Senator RICE: So essentially it is an in-house program of training that they would be doing.</p> <p>Ms Janiec: That is right. It is unique to our agency.</p> <p>Senator RICE: And that is what the 12 months that you are expecting—</p> <p>Ms Janiec: It could take up to 12 months. We are looking at a program that could commence very soon. For some people, they could complete it in eight months.</p> <p>Senator RICE: And that would bring them in at APS4 or APS5. In comparison, where is the postgrad regulatory science qualification currently offered?</p> <p>Ms Janiec: In terms of the broader question, I would probably have to take that on notice. The one that I am directly aware of, and that is only because of my role here around the University of New England, is where our Chief Scientist has been assisting and supporting them in that program.</p>		
24	Australian Pesticides and	Senator Janet Rice	Staffing structure of regulatory	Senator RICE: In terms of your staffing structure of your regulatory scientists, your approximately	27 25.05.2017	

	Veterinary Medicines Association		scientists	<p>100 full-time staff, I have seen previous statistics, but how many do you have at APS4 or APS5 and how many at higher levels?</p> <p>CHAIR: Senator Rice, I am going to have to take my shoes and socks off in a minute to keep count of your 'one question'. Labor had the call.</p> <p>Ms Janiec: Sorry; I thought I had that here.</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: While you are getting that, isn't that the purpose of setting up the centre of excellence? We do not have that type of training here in Australia, and the APVMA is not the only organisation or agency across our nation that uses regulatory scientists. By setting up in Armidale and having a specific course and a centre of excellence, we will not just be training future APVMA employees but, indeed, for regulatory agencies across the Commonwealth. Can someone flesh that out for me, please?</p> <p>Ms Janiec: Sorry; I was concentrating on trying to find my numbers.</p> <p>CHAIR: Yes; one thing at a time.</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: Somebody else can answer my question while you find the numbers.</p> <p>CHAIR: Stand by. We will do one thing at a time. Ms Janiec, concentrate on Senator Rice's question and then we will go to other senators.</p> <p>Ms Janiec: I do not appear to have that breakdown of classification structures for regulatory scientists on me, but I can take that on notice.</p>		
25	Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Association	Senator Glenn Sterle	Recruitment and scientists	<p>What are the Department's intentions regarding the shortfall in staffing recruitment?</p> <p>Will the Department consider hiring scientists from overseas to fill this shortfall?</p>	Written	
26	Australian Wool	Senator Janet	Statistics on	Senator RICE: Do you have statistics on those	100-101	

	Innovation	Rice	various organisations and levy payers they represent	<p>various organisations and how many of your levy payers they represent?</p> <p>Mr Merriman: We have a thing called the ICC. Do you know what I mean when I refer to the Industry Consultative Committee?</p> <p>Senator RICE: Yes, I think we discussed that last time.</p> <p>Mr Merriman: Okay. Because there is such a broad church in the wool industry and different people purporting to represent different interests, I established the ICC as a forum for the industry. All those different groups come there and discuss. Recently, one of those groups has asked people to put down their membership. Some have and some have not. That is the start of play. There are two groups there that have not given their membership, for an audit purpose.</p> <p>Senator RICE: Which two groups?</p> <p>Mr Merriman: I would not like to say. It is confidential to that group—confidential to the ICC.</p> <p>CHAIR: I am not sure that you can respond in that way, Mr Merriman. There are three sets of circumstances in which you can decline to answer and provide information at estimates. They are called public interest immunity claims. You would need to convince the minister of that and the minister will make the claim to the committee. Otherwise, you have an obligation to answer questions that relate to estimates.</p> <p>Mr Merriman: Daryl has come up with a—</p> <p>CHAIR: An innovative solution—as he does!</p> <p>Mr Merriman: Would you like it if I gave you the ones who have given the numbers for audit purposes?</p> <p>Senator RICE: And if you then also provided the</p>	24.05.2017	
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				<p>names of all of the organisations on your board.</p> <p>CHAIR: What you have suggested is for the senator to be able to do her own calculations, so that is one and the same.</p> <p>Mr Merriman: The ICC is public knowledge. It is on our website.</p> <p>CHAIR: So you just need to cross off the ones who have and you will know which ones have not.</p> <p>Senator RICE: Yes, but I am not going to do that now as I do not have the list of your ICC members in front of me, sadly.</p> <p>Mr Merriman: We can get you that.</p>		
27	Australian Wool Innovation	Senator Janet Rice	Industry organisation representation on board	<p>Senator Ruston: I am absolutely sure that you are wrong in that regard. I do not believe that you will find that any of the other RDCs actually have industry organisation representation on their board's. I know that for the RDCs that come under my jurisdiction in forestry, fisheries, horticulture and wine that is not the case. Perhaps it might be useful for AWI to perhaps explain to you how the board is appointed, in terms of the 39,000 levy payers, and, of those 39,000, how many are shareholders, so that you get an understanding. I think you are wrong in terms of where you are going.</p> <p>Senator RICE: I am happy for that to be provided on notice, rather than taking up on the committee. It would be valuable. But if we could get the list of the members of your ICC that have provided their membership numbers?</p>	101 24.05.2017	
28	Australian Wool Innovation	Senator Janet Rice	Current structure of AWI	<p>Senator RICE: All right. It is an issue of governance and representation on your board, but I will leave it at that, given the time. If you want to provide more information to me on notice as to why you feel that your current structure is the appropriate one, I would be pleased to receive the</p>	102 24.05.2017	

				<p>information.</p> <p>Mr Merriman: We will certainly do that, but that is not our idea of it. I would like to take you back in history to how AWI was born.</p> <p>Senator RICE: Can we take that on notice, because we are pushed for time.</p> <p>Mr Merriman: We have taken note and we will show you the history of how this organisation came about.</p> <p>Senator RICE: Thank you.</p>		
29	Australian Wool Innovation	Senator Barry O'Sullivan	Workshops	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Has the Agency through its R&D arm developed workshops for the membership such as the "realising the productive potential" workshop or others? 2. Who is responsible for the delivery of these workshops and what entity has been commissioned for their delivery – are they being delivered by AWi or has AWI contracted a third party to deliver? 3. If a third party has been commissioned to deliver these workshops, what is the industry background of the entity or individual that has been commissioned? 4. What costs if any are being charged to the membership to attend these development workshops? 5. If a third party has been commissioned to deliver these workshops, what is the length of retainment and is it exclusive? What Selection criteria or Tender process was used in the determination of the successful candidate? 6. What costs and payment structure are AWi responsible for in delivering these workshops? 7. Are AWi still working with La Trobe 	Written	

				<p>University on the development of the "Smart Tag," or similar "Smart Sensors,"?</p> <p>8. Who was responsible for the R&D within AWi on these Smart sensors/Smart Tags?</p> <p>9. Are there any commercial entities now working with AWi on the Smart Tag or other Smart Sensors? Who are they? What selection criteria or Tender Process was used in the determination of the successful entity?</p> <p>10. Has the R&D completed by AWi in conjunction with La Trobe University reached the point of potential commercial production of the Smart Tag or Smart Sensors?</p>		
30	Biosecurity Animal Division	Senator Chris Ketter	Bait and burley surveys	<p>Senator KETTER: It is the 22 May report. I think on page 7 you indicate that prior to 1 December 2016 Australia was considered to be free of WSSV. I know there was work done in 2009 on that issue. Was any risk assessment done in relation to the potential for bait to be an issue?</p> <p>Dr A Cupit: When we did the risk assessment in 2009 there were a couple of bait and burley surveys that were done that informed the decision-making process when we did the IRA, and it did find that there was the potential, and always a small percentage of anglers would use prawns as bait.</p> <p>Senator KETTER: When was that?</p> <p>Dr A Cupit: Those two surveys—I cannot remember the exact dates, but they were done from the early 2000's after the Darwin incident. We did one in 2001 and one in 2007 or 2008. I will get the exact dates later.</p>	42-43 24.05.2017	
31	Biosecurity Animal Division	Senator Glenn Sterle	Structural diagram	<p>Senator STERLE: Chair, can I just do something? I just want to ask for some</p>	55 24.05.2017	

				<p>information. I do not want to go back to white spot, but I am going to ask for a structural diagram on who is in charge of what in terms of the eradication and the whole lot between you guys, federally, Secretary Quinlivan, the state government and all the bodies that fall under you, so we know who is who.</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan: That is a very complicated picture.</p> <p>Senator STERLE: I thought it might be.</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan: It works well for most things. We will do that.</p> <p>Senator STERLE: Thanks, if you can provide that.</p> <p>Ms O'Connell: Yes.</p>		
32	Biosecurity Animal Division	Senator Carol Brown	FMD training in Nepal	<p>Senator CAROL BROWN: I want to go to the investment by the government in FMD training in Nepal. Can you tell me how much funding has been allocated to FMD training in Nepal since the white paper was released on 4 July 2015.</p> <p>Dr Martin: We did have some funding for FMD training in Nepal prior to the white paper. I do not have the exact figure, so I will have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator CAROL BROWN: Okay.</p> <p>Dr Martin: It is over several years in that, so I will give you the total amount.</p> <p>Senator CAROL BROWN: That is fine. I would appreciate that. If you could take that on notice, that would be good. But the minister did make a more recent announcement of funding on 16 December. Was that \$491,000? That's okay.</p> <p>Dr Martin: I can give you the amount.</p> <p>Senator CAROL BROWN: On notice, because you probably will not have this here either, can you provide a breakdown of the industry and state</p>	73-74 24.05.2017	

				<p>funding contributions to the training in Nepal as well?</p> <p>Dr Martin: Yes, I will have to take that on notice. We do have partners with industry and with states.</p> <p>Senator CAROL BROWN: Yes, I understand. You can take it on notice to do that. Also, take on notice a breakdown of funding allocated to the government's biosecurity surveillance funding and a list of programs it funds?</p> <p>Dr Martin: Can I just clarify. That is a very broad issue. Is it to do with animal disease surveillance from the white paper?</p> <p>Senator CAROL BROWN: Yes.</p> <p>Dr Martin: That is fine.</p>		
33	Biosecurity Plant Division	Senator Chris Back	Importation of Peanuts	<p>Senator BACK: You mentioned Argentina, Brazil, and did you say Bolivia?</p> <p>Dr Healy: Bolivia.</p> <p>Senator BACK: Do we import or have we ever imported peanuts, peanut products or peanut plants from any of those countries?</p> <p>Dr Healy: We have imported peanuts—we would have to take on notice the question in total, as in, have we ever, but I can tell you—</p>	63 24.05.2017	
34	Biosecurity Plant Division	Senator Barry O'Sullivan	Banana Importations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Can the Department advise if there were any applications for banana imports in the preceding six (6) months? 2. If the answer is yes, will the department advise from which country the import request was received and the status of these applications. 	Written	
35	Biosecurity Plant Division	Senator Gallacher	Phytosanitary Certification	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the process for and timeframe for an agricultural exporter who is compliant in the Middle East and wants to access China? 	Written	
36	Biosecurity Policy and Implementation Division	Senator Kim Carr	Plant Biosecurity CRC	<p>Senator KIM CARR: Could you perhaps assist me here? When you said that they are setting up a program, what progress has been made on that establishment?</p>	7 24.05.2017	

				<p>Mr Quinlivan: I would have to get the relevant people at the table to answer that.</p> <p>Ms O'Connell: The seven plant based RDCs, along with Plant Health Australia, announced last month—I think it was then, but I can come back to you on the date—a cooperative and shared arrangement on R&D in plant based biosecurity. So they have announced that and they have set that up, in terms of increasing effort into R&D in plant based biosecurity.</p>		
37	Biosecurity Policy and Implementation Division	Senator Carol Brown	Partnership of R&D corporations – biosecurity related matters	<p>Senator CAROL BROWN: How is that assembly or partnership locked into place? What mechanism is used?</p> <p>Ms O'Connell: The RDCs have reached an agreement to do this and set this up and also include Plant Health Australia.</p> <p>Senator CAROL BROWN: So they have all signed an agreement or something.</p> <p>Ms O'Connell: I am not sure of the mechanics of how they have done that.</p> <p>Senator CAROL BROWN: They have not just shaken hands.</p> <p>Senator Ruston: While you are continuing your questioning, I will get the answer for you.</p>	11 24.05.2017	
38	Biosecurity Policy and Implementation Division	Senator Janet Rice	Plant Biosecurity CRC	<p>Senator RICE: Let me clarify: my understanding was that, in fact, they were not intending to continue as a CRC but that they did want to have further federal funding to enable this broader partnership to continue. They wanted federal funding and not just what is currently going through the RDCs. Can I confirm that that further federal funding has not been forthcoming?</p> <p>Senator Ruston: I will certainly check that for you. I certainly know that the CRC was very, very active and has been extremely active in terms of where it goes to in the future. But the industry has</p>	12 24.05.2017	

				<p>made a decision about how it wishes to handle biosecurity in the plant space. I am more than happy to get a specific answer to your question notwithstanding the fact that they have been very active in their lobbying for government funding for the continuation of their own—</p> <p>Senator RICE: And to confirm at this stage, in terms of that extra federal funding, it is currently not forthcoming?</p> <p>Senator Ruston: Not that I am aware of, but I will certainly check that for you.</p>		
39	Biosecurity Policy and Implementation Division	Senator Chris Back	Calici K5 virus	<p>Senator BACK: I am wanting to get an update on the release of the new calici K5 virus. How is it being released and how effective is it?</p> <p>Mr Koval: There are 600 trial sites around the country.</p> <p>Senator BACK: How was the virus delivered to the 600 trial sites?</p> <p>Mr Koval: I might have to take that one on notice to confirm. As far as I recall, it was delivered to the groups who were going to release the virus via Australia Post. Is that the question you were asking in terms of the logistics of it?</p> <p>Senator BACK: What was the medium in which the virus was released? Presumably infected rabbits were not sent to Australia?</p> <p>Mr Koval: As I understand it—and I will clarify on notice, as I am not a scientist or veterinarian—the virus was in vials; they were released to the trial sites that people had nominated; and the virus was then put into rabbits which were then released. I will confirm that on notice for you.</p>	59 24.05.2017	
40	Biosecurity Policy and Implementation Division	Senator Malcolm Roberts	Pest Animals and Weeds	In a recent case, I understand an innovative new idea to trap wild pigs was submitted to Established Pest Animals and Weeds; Dan Passer, it was rejected by what seems to be a misunderstanding	Written	

				<p>of context or a technicality:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the assessment process for determining if a project is eligible for grant funding? Is there an objective measure or measures? 2. What is the final step before a project is given approval is it signed off by a committee, or an individual? 3. Is the approver or approvers' subject matter experts in the area where the grant application has been made? If not, why not? 4. As a part of the assessment process is "innovation" considered as a qualifying measure? If so how much weight does it hold? 5. Why does the department not have an appeals process once an application has been rejected? 6. What is the grant budget allocated to the Established Pest Animals and Weeds section of the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources? 		
41	Biosecurity Policy and Implementation Division	Senator Malcom Roberts	Managing biosecurity and imported food risk	Has cost-benefit-analysis (CBA) been done on managing biosecurity & imported food risks to ensure that such measures do not act disproportionately as barriers-to-trade that hurt Australian import businesses & consumers and may lead to trade-partner countries counter-measures?	Written	
42	Compliance Division	Senator Barry O'Sullivan	Estimation of the number of white-spot infected prawns	<p>CHAIR: In the period between March and April 2016 we see an elevation, and particularly from June through to October we see a steady elevation. Is that to do with Christmas and Easter and those sorts of things?</p> <p>Mr Chapman: Partially. If you compare the orange line and the blue line, the blue line is the number of tests. Obviously there are more imports where it spikes up, so you would expect that we would get more positive tests if the percentage</p>	26 24.05.2017	

				<p>level stayed the same.</p> <p>CHAIR: Except June contradicts that completely.</p> <p>Mr Chapman: I am not sure what the rationale for that is. Where it becomes interesting is—</p> <p>CHAIR: Could you take the June question on notice, because that is a mathematical anomaly in front us. And September, again, for the reverse reason.</p>		
43	Compliance Division	Senator Barry O'Sullivan	Raw data sheet	<p>Mr Chapman: To explain the grey line—the estimation—that is work that we have been doing since February. When the suspension was put in place there were quantities of prawns which had been imported prior to the suspension and were being held in approved arrangements. They are only released if they are negative to white spot syndrome virus when they are tested by AAHL. We have the very sensitive testing now that we talked about the last time we met. What we are doing is using a proper sampling regime of all the stored prawn product we have. We are finding that some of it is negative to white spot but some of it which had already cleared our border processes and has just been held in storage is positive for white spot. So we are using that proper sampling regime of all those prawns in storage to estimate the total volume of prawns that may have entered the country when they should not have done because they had white spot.</p> <p>CHAIR: Do you have the raw data sheet with you?</p> <p>Mr Chapman: I can give you the numbers.</p> <p>CHAIR: No. I imagine there is quite a comprehensive raw data sheet you have relied upon to enter this data to produce this graph.</p> <p>Mr Chapman: This work has been done by the compliance division, but I am sure it is available.</p>	26-27 24.05.2017	

				<p>Ms O'Connell: We could make that available to you.</p> <p>CHAIR: Could you do that for the committee—in as much detail as possible?</p> <p>Ms O'Connell: As a question on notice?</p> <p>CHAIR: Yes, please.</p> <p>Ms O'Connell: Yes.</p>		
44	Compliance Division	Senator Barry O'Sullivan	Grey prawns – market share overall both in volume and in distribution points around country	<p>CHAIR: Yes, but we are going to revert to thinking in volumes at the end of this conversation. We are not going to look at percentages or graphs. We are going to start to think whether it was a tonne of prawns or 10 tonnes of prawns, and then we going to ask you questions about the number of distribution points, if you already know the answer to that. Of the grey prawns, of the six that we are suspicious of, which have been factored into here, what was their market share overall both in volume and in distribution points around the country?</p> <p>Mr Chapman: Those six firms have about one-third of the entire volume of imports.</p> <p>CHAIR: Volume and market, yes. Now what about the outlets?</p> <p>Senator BACK: And they distributed right around the nation?</p> <p>Mr Chapman: Yes. Some of the companies distributed more in some areas than the others, but they were all around the country.</p> <p>Senator STERLE: I am sure there must be one in WA.</p> <p>CHAIR: Do you have that number in a more—you would have it, because these tests have come, retrospectively, from end points or storage points. That would be a very useful number for us to know, the spray—how many different locations these prawns went to from this 30 per cent of the</p>	29-30 24.05.2017	

				<p>market share.</p> <p>Mr Chapman: I will have to refer that to colleagues in compliance division, as they have done all of the trace back.</p> <p>CHAIR: Sure.</p> <p>Ms O'Connell: We can provide that in terms of location, but, as Mr Chapman mentioned earlier, in terms of that testing of product that has been recalled from retail and is in cold stores, we have done 40 per cent of it. The testing there needs to be complete before we can give you a full picture, but we can give you a picture on the basis of having done—</p>		
45	Compliance Division	Senator Carol Brown	Mr Blake	<p>Senator CAROL BROWN: I understand that, but Mr Blake, who has undertaken the training—and, obviously, is very concerned about the spreading of FMD—says that he has spoken to five walkers who recently returned from walking through Nepal, and none had their footwear decontaminated at Customs. From the questions that you are actually asking on the card, passengers may not believe that they need to tick those questions. They probably did not go to farms but they have been walking all over the place. The article says—and, if it is not correct, just let me know:</p> <p>He has since made a recommendation to the Department of Agriculture to include a clause on the entry immigration card asking visitors if they had walked through specific areas, such as endemic FMD countries.</p> <p>Has anyone had any contact with Mr Blake?</p> <p>Ms O'Connell: I will ask Mr Chapman to comment.</p> <p>Mr Chapman: I do not believe we have had any contact with Mr Blake, but this is an issue which</p>	74-75 24.05.2017	

				<p>has been considered a number of times. We do take a risk management approach to risks. Foot-and-mouth disease virus is not a stable virus. It needs to remain in a moist or humid environment, so the risk of a passenger coming into Australia carrying foot-and-mouth with them would need to have reasonably significant amounts of soil, manure, on their footwear carrying the foot-and-mouth disease and then would need to go to a farm or to a place where there are susceptible animals in Australia.</p> <p>Senator CAROL BROWN: So you are happy with the way that the system is working now. Can I just ask: is anyone aware of Mr Blake making this recommendation to the department?</p> <p>Mr Mackay: We receive a number of recommendations. As to Mr Blake specifically, I would need to take that on notice.</p>		
46	Corporate Strategy and Governance Division	Senator Glenn Sterle	Biosecurity duties – labour hire arrangements	<p>Senator STERLE: Are any of the people under these labour hire arrangements undertaking biosecurity duties?</p> <p>Mr Power: The labour hire roles are in a variety of different positions across the organisation. Most of them are concentrated in the corporate functions, but there are certainly some who work in different parts of the biosecurity system. I could not tell you exactly—</p> <p>Senator STERLE: Perhaps you can take it on notice to provide a breakdown for the committee.</p> <p>Mr Power: I am happy to do so.</p>	38 25.05.2017	
47	Corporate Strategy and Governance Division	Senator Glenn Sterle	White paper funding – Farm insurance advice and risk assessment grants	<p>Senator STERLE: I will throw them at you anyway, because I am a firm believer if we can get it out now it saves your department hours and hours and then having to come back to us. Twenty-nine point nine million for farm insurance advice and risk assessment grants?</p>	78 25.05.2017	

				<p>Mr Quinlivan: We have had a pretty strong go at that program. The objective of it was to try and stimulate a private market in multiperil insurance, but I think we are getting towards the point where we think that we are not able to stimulate the development of that market in Australia for various reasons. I think we are regarding that as a policy experiment.</p> <p>Senator STERLE: So, there is still a bucket of money there?</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan: There are unspent funds in that program.</p> <p>Senator STERLE: Take it on notice to let us know how much is unspent, unless you know now?</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan: No, I do not know.</p>		
48	Corporate Strategy and Governance Division	Senator Glenn Sterle	White paper funding – local infrastructure projects	<p>Senator STERLE: Thirty-five million for local infrastructure projects to help communities suffering due to drought?</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan: That was a program that I think was implemented quite quickly after the white paper and to the best of my knowledge it has been fully implemented.</p> <p>Mr D Williamson: That is our draft communities program?</p> <p>Senator STERLE: Yes, the infrastructure projects.</p> <p>Mr D Williamson: Yes. That is actually being administered by the Infrastructure and Regional Development program, but I think Mr Quinlivan is right. There might be one round of funding left, but we will take that on notice and let you know.</p>	78 25.05.2017	
49	Corporate Strategy and Governance Division	Senator Glenn Sterle	White paper funding – pest, animals and weeds	<p>Senator STERLE: There is \$25.8 million over four years to manage pest, animals and weeds in drought affected areas. It is amazing how the weeds always still grow.</p>	78 25.05.2017	

				<p>Mr D Williamson: That is over a number of years. That is being implemented.</p> <p>Senator STERLE: Four years?</p> <p>Mr D Williamson: Yes. I think we are two years into it. I will give you on notice an update of the program, but it is proceeding well.</p>		
50	Corporate Strategy and Governance Division	Senator Glenn Sterle	White paper funding – tea tree oil industries	<p>Senator STERLE: So, that is \$100 million all up for tackling that sort of stuff. I know it is two different ones. One point four million to match industry levies and contributions in the export fodder and tea tree oil industries. How is that going?</p> <p>Mr D Williamson: Yes, that has been implemented. I think the tea tree levy was signed off and went to ExCo last week, but it has been implemented.</p> <p>Senator STERLE: I am bearing in mind that if there are any questions you have got it in hand.</p> <p>Mr D Williamson: Yes, I will come back to you.</p>	78 25.05.2017	
51	Corporate Strategy and Governance Division	Senator Glenn Sterle	White paper funding – Australia's food export traceability systems	<p>Senator STERLE: Twelve point four million to modernise Australia's food export traceability systems to further enhance our food safety credentials. How is that going?</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan: We will take that one on notice.</p>	79 25.05.2017	
52	Corporate Strategy and Governance Division	Senator Glenn Sterle	White paper funding update	<p>Senator RUSTON: No, that is done. Chair, can I just say to Senator Sterle that the department has offered to give you a full breakdown on the agricultural white paper initiatives implementation. That will be provided to you.</p> <p>Senator STERLE: Thank you very much.</p>	79-80 25.05.2017	
53	Corporate Strategy and Governance Division	Senator Malcolm Roberts	Remuneration – Mr Parker	<p>Senator ROBERTS: Thank you all for coming today. I have recently learned that the whole idea of Senate estimates is accountability and transparency, so that is what I will be focused on. With that in mind, Mr Parker, could you tell me your annual remuneration, please?</p>	28 26.05.2017	

				<p>Senator Ruston: You might have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Mr Parker: Yes, I think I should take that on notice. There is also certain publicly available information on that—</p> <p>CHAIR: I can manage this. People's gradings and pay scales are well published and available for any sort of research. I would be reluctant to let us go into this space case by case with individuals, Senator Roberts.</p> <p>Senator ROBERTS: I do not intend to go into it case by case. I have asked this question in every estimates session I have attended and they have freely given that information.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD: All I can tell you, Senator Roberts, is that it is more than you get.</p> <p>CHAIR: Yes. Mr Parker, you might start by talking about where you sit in the Public Service scale of things and give a generalisation.</p> <p>Senator XENOPHON: Chair, can I raise an issue of relevance?</p> <p>CHAIR: Yes.</p> <p>Senator XENOPHON: We are here to discuss the implementation of the plan.</p> <p>CHAIR: We are in estimates and it is government expenditure. I am sending you a message, Senator Roberts, to see if we can proceed without getting into personal circumstances. I understand why you are doing it, but it is the personal circumstances of officers. Is there a chance we can give a generalisation and see if Senator Roberts is satisfied with that? If he pursues the question, you will have to answer it.</p> <p>Senator ROBERTS: I would like to know the amount. We can put it on notice. It is not embarrassing, as far as I can see, that you do not</p>		
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				<p>know it, because there are lots of technicalities. There have been times when I did not know my remuneration.</p> <p>CHAIR: Taking it on notice might be the solution.</p> <p>Senator ROBERTS: I would like all the entitlements, allowances and everything, please.</p> <p>Mr Parker: Certainly.</p>		
54	Corporate Strategy and Governance Division	Senator Malcolm Roberts	Number of position over \$250,000 or more	<p>Senator ROBERTS: Thank you. Could I also have details of the positions of all those who earn \$250,000 or more, please.</p> <p>Mr Parker: For the department as a whole?</p> <p>Senator ROBERTS: The department, yes.</p> <p>Mr Parker: Some of that falls outside of my area of responsibility, so I would have to refer the question to the secretary.</p> <p>CHAIR: Sorry, what was the question? You want the names of all officers who are on—</p> <p>Senator ROBERTS: No, I do not want the names; I want the titles of—</p> <p>CHAIR: The titles?</p> <p>Senator ROBERTS: Yes.</p> <p>Senator Ruston: It should not be hard to work out who they are if you have the title, though, should it?</p> <p>CHAIR: No, that is right.</p> <p>Senator ROBERTS: Or you can tell me the number. That will do if you are worried about confidentiality.</p> <p>Senator Ruston: As Mr Parker has pointed out, he is the deputy secretary responsible for water, so these questions are probably best put on notice to the main Agriculture estimates.</p>	28-29 26.05.2017	
55	Corporate Strategy and Governance Division	Senator Don Farrell	Market Research	For the 2016-17 financial year, what was the total amount spent by the Department on market research (either as a whole contract or as part of a	Written	

				<p>contract)?</p> <p>For each contract for market research in 2016/2017, can you please provide:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. The subject of the market research; ii. The supplier; iii. Whether the supplier has been engaged previously and if so, for which contracts; iv. The total value of the contract; v. The term of the contract (time); vi. The date that the decision was taken to seek market research on the topic; vii. The date the contract was opened to tender or selection process; viii. The date the supplier was engaged; ix. Whether the contract was subject to a tender process, including whether there was a full, partial or closed tender process; x. Does the supplier exist on a pre-approved supplier list, if so, when were they added to that list; xi. Whether the Minister, or the Minister's Office, requested that the research be conducted; xii. Whether the Minister approved the decision to conduct market research; xiii. Whether the Minister approved the contract with the supplier; xiv. Whether the Minister or the Minister's office was consulted on questions asked; xv. Whether the Minister or the Minister's office received a copy of the market research; xvi. If the decision to conduct research was initiated by the department or agency, was the Minister or their office consulted 		
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				<p>before the decision was taken to conduct research, if so – in what form did that consultation take (written, verbal other);</p> <p>xvii. If the decision to conduct research was initiated by the department or agency, did Minister or their office make any amendments or changes to the Department's proposal for market research to be conducted, if so, what changes and to what aspects were they made;</p> <p>xviii. At any stage in the life of the proposal to conduct market research were other departments or agencies consulted?</p> <p>xix. At any stage in the life of the proposal to conduct market research were other Ministers, or the Prime Minister consulted?</p> <p>xx. At any stage in the life of the proposal to conduct market research did the expected cost change, if so how?</p> <p>xxi. At any stage in the life of the proposal to conduct market research did the scope, questions or supplier of the research change?</p> <p>xxii. Have any topics or questions of market research been conducted and subsequently conducted again by the same or different supplier?</p>		
56	Corporate Strategy and Governance Division	Senator Glenn Sterle	Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper Initiatives	<p>1. Provide a breakdown of funding for each Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper Initiative, including</p> <p>a. Original funding allocated to each initiative</p> <p>b. Amount spent for each initiative for each financial year; 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17</p>	Written	

				<p>c. Amount of unspent money for each initiative for each financial year; 2013-14, 2014-15, 2016-17</p> <p>d. What has happened with unspent funds for each financial year; 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17</p> <p>e. Provide a breakdown of administrative costs for each initiative for each financial year; 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17</p> <p>f. Provide a breakdown of any advertising costs associated with each initiative for each financial year; 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17</p> <p>g. Provide detail of reviews that have been undertaken for each of the Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper Initiatives</p>		
57	Corporate Strategy and Governance Division	Senator Glenn Sterle	Ministerial functions	<p>In relation to any functions or official receptions hosted by Ministers or Assistant Ministers in the portfolio since 1 October 2016, can the following please be provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List of functions; • List of attendees including departmental officials and members of the Minister's family or personal staff; • Function venue; • Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive); • Details of any food served; • Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and • Details of any entertainment provided. 	Written	
58	Corporate Strategy and Governance Division	Senator Glenn Sterle	Vacancies	Please provide a list of all statutory, board and legislated office vacancies and other significant appointments vacancies within the portfolio, including length of time vacant and current acting	Written	

				arrangements.		
59	Corporate Strategy and Governance Division	Senator Glenn Sterle	Media and public relations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How much has the Department spent on media monitoring since 1 October 2016 (GST inclusive)? 2. Can a list of all Contract Notice IDs for the Austender website in relation to media monitoring contracts please be provided? 3. How many media or public relations advisers are employed in the Department? 4. At what APS level (eg EL2, APS5) is each staff member employed? 5. Can an organisational chart for the relevant area of the Department please be provided? 6. What was the total cost of employing relevant staff in calendar year 2016 (please provide a global figure)? 	Written	
60	Corporate Strategy and Governance Division	Senator Glenn Sterle	Advertising and information campaigns	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How much has the Department spent on advertising and information campaigns since 1 October 2016 (GST inclusive)? Can a list of all Contract Notice IDs for the Austender website in relation to advertising and information campaign contracts please be provided? 2. How much did the Department spend on Facebook advertising or sponsored Facebook posts in calendar year 2016 (GST inclusive)? 3. How much did the Department spend on Google adwords advertising in calendar year 2016 (GST inclusive)? 	Written	
61	Corporate Strategy and Governance Division	Senator Glenn Sterle	Market research	<p>How much did the Department spend on market research in calendar year 2016 (GST inclusive)? Can a list of all market research contracts entered into please be provided, together with the Austender Contract Notice number? What was the purpose of this market research? Did it relate to an advertising or information</p>	Written	

				campaign? If so, which campaign?		
62	Corporate Strategy and Governance Division	Senator Glenn Sterle	Consultancies	Please provide an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive) for spending in calendar year 2016 on external consultants/service providers in the following categories please be provided: (i) social media; (ii) photography; (iii) graphic design; (iv) web design (v) electronic communications (vi) acting or public speaking training; (vii) ergonomics.	Written	
63	Corporate Strategy and Governance Division	Senator Glenn Sterle	Redundancies	How many staff were made redundant in calendar year 2016? How many were voluntary redundancies? How many were forced redundancies? What was the total cost of all redundancies (expressed as a single global figure)? Have any staff made redundant in calendar year 2016 subsequently carried out work for the Department as a contractor? If so, please provide an itemised list of relevant contracts and related Austender Contract Notice numbers.	Written	
64	Corporate Strategy and Governance Division	Senator Glenn Sterle	Armidale ministerial office	With reference to the Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources' ministerial office in Armidale, since 2 July 2016: How many times has the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources visited the Armidale office? How many times have any other departmental staff visited the Armidale office (excluding Departmental Liaison Officers)? How many times has the Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources visited the Armidale office? How many times has the Assistant Minister to the Deputy Prime Minister visited the Armidale office?	Written	
65	Dairy Australia	Senator Glenn	Dairy farmers-	Senator STERLE: Does Dairy Australia have	90	

		Sterle	financial hardship	<p>information about how many dairy farmers are facing financial hardship or have not made a profit in the last financial year? Do you keep those figures?</p> <p>Mr Halliday: Yes, and we have just recently completed—every 12 months we do a national dairy farmers survey. We ask 1,000 farmers across all regions around Australia. We have just got that feedback back. It is quite a detailed document that we are about to release through an initiative we call Situation Outlook in a couple of weeks time. But the headlines would be that in 2015-16, of these thousand farmers we asked, about 62 per cent made a profit. And 45 per cent anticipate making a profit in this current financial year, 2016-17.</p> <p>Senator STERLE: Is that state specific? Is there a trend there?</p> <p>Mr Halliday: We would have the details, and we can certainly take it on notice to provide that information to you.</p> <p>Senator STERLE: Yes, if you could, that would be great.</p>	24.05.2017	
66	Dairy Australia	Senator Janet Rice	Programs to help farmers	<p>Senator RICE: What sorts of programs are you looking at?</p> <p>Mr Halliday: I could come back with a question on notice in terms of exactly the programs. But we are looking at decision-making, particularly around farm systems and how they can deal with things like heat stress and how they can take costs out.</p>	92 24.05.2017	
67	Dairy Australia	Senator Janet Rice	Impact of heat stress	<p>Senator RICE: Have you done work that has articulated and quantified the impact of heat stress from the warming and drying that we have already experienced?</p> <p>Mr Halliday: Yes, we have. I have not got the</p>	92 24.05.2017	

				<p>detail with me now. We could provide that. But we have certainly done quite a lot of work in that regard.</p> <p>Senator RICE: If you could take that on notice, that would be good. Thank you, Chair.</p>		
68	Exports Division	Senator Lee Rhiannon	List of people consulted re export of horses	<p>Senator RHIANNON: So, there is an exposure draft around it, about the amendment?</p> <p>Dr Clegg: No, not at this stage.</p> <p>Senator RHIANNON: You do not even have an exposure draft. So, when you get to the exposure draft stage, who will that be discussed with?</p> <p>Dr Clegg: Before providing the policy proposal requests through to the minister's office, we have been discussing this issue with the animal welfare groups and with the exporters. Just to go through it, we are considering this; we have had the odd inquiry; we can see that there is a gap here; and we are proposing—one way of remedying this gap would be to make it the same as for all the other species of animals that are subject to ESCAS if they are going to another country for slaughter.</p> <p>Senator RHIANNON: Could you just take on notice to supply us with a list of those people who have been consulted?</p> <p>Dr Clegg: Yes.</p> <p>Senator RHIANNON: And when it will be released for public consultation?</p> <p>Dr Clegg: Yes.</p> <p>Senator RHIANNON: Thank you.</p>	15 24.05.2017	
69	Exports Division	Senator Derryn Hinch	Export of cattle to port near Shanghai	<p>Senator HINCH: I have a question for Senator Ruston. Those of us who are opposed to live exports are trying, at least for now, to curb expanding markets, which Australia is doing fairly effectively in places like Japan and Indonesia. When the government approved the sale of the Kidman estate to Hancock Pastoral, were you</p>	17 24.05.2017	

				<p>aware that Gina Rinehart had done a deal with the giant Chinese company New Hope to hopefully, she says, export 800,000 more cattle to a port near Shanghai by 2020?</p> <p>Senator Ruston: No, I was not aware of that.</p> <p>Senator HINCH: Was the government aware of that?</p> <p>Senator Ruston: I will have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator HINCH: And I have a final question that you probably cannot answer either. Has Gina Rinehart made any request to the government for any special treatment or consideration, because 800,000 more cattle going overseas in the year may need alterations to the regulations that Dr Clegg talked about earlier? Can you take that on notice as well?</p> <p>Senator Ruston: Certainly.</p>		
70	Exports Division	Senator Lee Rhiannon	Live export trade compared with the trade in box-chilled meat	<p>Senator RHIANNON: Minister, does the government weigh up the benefits in terms of jobs created in northern Australia between the live export trade compared with the trade in box-chilled meat, where the animals are being slaughtered in abattoirs in northern Australia?</p> <p>Senator Ruston: I will take all questions in relation to this on notice. I would only be speculating if I gave you anything here.</p> <p>Senator RHIANNON: You will take that on notice?</p> <p>Senator Ruston: Absolutely.</p>	18-19 24.05.2017	
71	Exports Division	Senator Chris Back	Abattoirs in the north and live export trade	<p>Senator BACK: I just have one or two questions in this space First of all, could you advise the committee of whether there are any abattoirs in the north that do process and send chilled meat? I know of one out of Darwin that processes and sends frozen meat from old bulls and cows, and I</p>	19 24.05.2017	

				<p>know of one in the Kimberley that does the same for old bulls and cows, but you might assist the committee by advising me of what if any abattoirs are processing and sending chilled meat.</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan: For export?</p> <p>Senator BACK: For export. And secondly, could you advise the committee of the cost of processing an animal in abattoirs in Australia, the United States of America, Brazil and Indonesia on a per animal basis? Thirdly, could you provide to the committee the loss of employment across the north of Australia in 2011 and subsequently when the live export trade was banned temporarily and whether or not there was an increase in the sale of chilled or frozen meat to Indonesia concurrent with the termination of the live export trade?</p> <p>Thank you.</p>		
72	Exports Division	Senator Derryn Hinch	Townsville abattoir	<p>Senator HINCH: I would also like to know, if I could, the current status of the Townsville abattoir—the same questions that Senator Back asked and the current situation there.</p>	19 24.05.2017	
73	Exports Division	Senator Kim Carr	Meat export markets - protocols	<p>Senator KIM CARR: Could you provide on notice what protocols you have negotiated and for which countries in regard to the meat industry?</p> <p>Ms van Meurs: We can. The meat industry has many exports to many countries and depending on which part of the meat industry you are talking about.</p> <p>Senator KIM CARR: The broad range. Obviously, there is the beef. I take it that it is either beef, pork or white meat. Would that be the categories you would normally use? How do you divide it?</p> <p>Ms van Meurs: It depends on which country. The beef industry has a lot of access into countries such as Japan, China, Korea and the United States.</p>	73 25.05.2017	

				<p>They are probably some of the biggest markets. And then if you go into issues around dairy, it depends on what type of dairy we are talking about.</p> <p>Senator KIM CARR: I am interested in the meat industry at the moment rather than dairy.</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan: Red meat?</p> <p>Senator KIM CARR: Do you do it on the basis of red or white meat? What is your categorisation?</p> <p>Ms van Meurs: Beef is a good categorisation but, again, it would depend on—</p> <p>Senator KIM CARR: Is lamb separate?</p> <p>Ms van Meurs: Lamb is separate, yes, and it also depends on the particular country and what protocols those countries have.</p> <p>Senator KIM CARR: What I am interested to know is what protocols you have negotiated, the major ones you have, and what sectors of the meat industry they cover. Is it possible to take that on notice?</p> <p>Ms van Meurs: Yes, we can provide that. The meat industry, for example, goes to most countries in the world or a large proportion of the countries. But it depends also whether it is competitive where they are exporting to those countries.</p>		
74	Exports Division	Senator Lee Rhiannon	Live exports of equines for slaughter	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What discussions or considerations have any departmental staff had with either state or territory agencies, potential exporters or overseas interests including government officials with regard to exporting horses, ponies or donkeys for the purposes of slaughter? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. If so from whom and for export to where? b. Please provide copies of any such consideration or briefing documents. 2. Has an exposure draft or similar of an <i>Export</i> 	Written	

				<p><i>Control (Animals) Amendment (Equine Animals) Order 2017 (the Equine Amendment Order)</i> provided to any stakeholders by any departmental staff?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> When was this distributed? To whom? What resources has the Department allocated towards developing such a document or similar? Please provide a copy of this document <p>3. During May Senate Estimates the department inferred that a draft or final <i>Export Control (Animals) Amendment (Equine Animals) Order 2017 (the Equine Amendment Order)</i> did not exist or if it did, it may have been worked on casually by a diligent staff member without the knowledge of the department. Is this correct?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Please clarify who in the department has worked on this issue and when. <p>4. The ALEC has made it clear that it does not support the live export of equines, what is the response to this?</p>		
75	Exports Division	Senator Lee Rhiannon	Department contact with ALEC or LiveCorp – equines for slaughter	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Has ALEC or Livecorp been approached or involved in any discussions with exporters or overseas interests, or any federal or state departmental staff, about developing a live export market in donkeys, horses or ponies? Has any department officer disseminated to anyone in ALEC OR Livecorp an exposure draft of the Export Control (Animals) Amendment (Equine Animals) Order 2017 (the Equine Amendment Order) - that will amend Part 3 of the Export Control (Animals) Order 2004 or something similar? When? 	Written	
76	Exports Division	Senator Lee Rhiannon	Greyhound exports	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Is the department aware of the media reports about the unauthorised sale of greyhounds to 	Written	

				<p>Macau, China, Vietnam and Dubai?</p> <p>2. Was the department aware of these unauthorised sales before the story broke in the media?</p> <p>a. If so when did the department become aware of these unauthorised sales?</p> <p>3. What action has been taken about these unauthorised sales?</p> <p>4. Has the department engaged with the relevant state authorities about these unauthorised sales?</p> <p>a. If not, why not?</p> <p>5. What are the specific conditions that cover the export of greyhounds overseas?</p> <p>6. Is there a ban on greyhounds being exported to any specific country and if so to what country[ies]?</p> <p>7. For countries to which greyhounds can be exported, what are the Australian animal welfare standards that have to be met before the animals can be exported?</p> <p>8. Who determines if the standards have been met in the countries that the greyhounds are to be exported to?</p>		
77	Farm Support Division	Senator Malarndirri McCarthy	Regional Investment Corporation	<p>Senator McCARTHY: Will the government seek to consult with farm groups with regard to the legislation?</p> <p>Senator Ruston: Of course we will be doing that.</p> <p>Senator McCARTHY: When will you do that?</p> <p>Mr D Williamson: Once we have got draft legislation available, we will. We have already commenced consultation off the back of the announcements in the budget, which announced the broad architecture for the RIC. Ms Kennedy and her team have had quite an extensive range of consultations already with industry and also with</p>	43 25.05.2017	

				<p>the state and territory governments.</p> <p>Senator McCARTHY: Who in the industry have you consulted with already?</p> <p>Ms Kennedy: I can read out the list, or I can provide it on notice if that is easier.</p> <p>Senator McCARTHY: Is it a long list?</p> <p>Ms Kennedy: It is relatively long. I have already had conversations with, I think, 10 different groups, and we have got another six lined up. We have talked with most of the key ones now and have flagged that we would like to have ongoing consultation with them as we move towards the RIC opening for business.</p> <p>Senator McCARTHY: That is 16 groups, is it?</p> <p>Ms Kennedy: I have already had conversations with 10, and another six are lined up for the next short time.</p> <p>Senator McCARTHY: Would you be able to table those names?</p> <p>Ms Kennedy: I can certainly take it on notice.</p>		
78	Farm Support Division	Senator Janet Rice	Previous schemes	<p>Senator RICE: Have they now been amalgamated into the overall Farm Business Concessional Loans Scheme?</p> <p>Mr Hutchison: From 1 November 2016, the Farm Business Concessional Loans Scheme started, and it had two products available under it. It was a drought assistance concessional loan which, effectively, replaced the two previous drought products that I mentioned as well as the continuation of the dairy recovery loans which were started late last financial year.</p> <p>Senator RICE: Basically, this one scheme is now taking over those two loan schemes?</p> <p>Mr Hutchison: That is right. This one scheme is now available. It has drought loans and dairy loans available. The announcement that we have been</p>	46 25.05.2017	

				<p>discussing in the last few moments is the addition of those concessional loans for ex-farm household allowance recipients.</p> <p>Senator RICE: Could you take on notice how much was taken up by each of the previous schemes and how much has been available?</p> <p>Mr Hutchison: Yes.</p>		
79	Farm Support Division	Senator Janet Rice	Concessional loan scheme	<p>Senator STERLE: So, you talk about improving, diversifying, expanding or growing business and you said something about supply chains. Can you give us some examples of how a farmer can make application through the concessional loan scheme to get some money and do what? Those headings are pretty generic. Can they buy a new tractor?</p> <p>Mr D Williamson: I might ask Ms Kennedy to answer but, just to put a marker down, this is commencing from 1 July next year—not the current program.</p> <p>Senator STERLE: I understand. It is a good time to ask.</p> <p>Ms Kennedy: Although that primary eligibility will be moving away from a geographic basis around drought, there will still be a safety net there to ensure that people who are drought affected will still be able to access it. But in terms of that primary eligibility pathway, that is going to be a focus of the ongoing stakeholder consultation that we are doing. Of course, this will be a matter that would be part of the responsible minister's operating mandate for the RIC board once it is appointed. Also, the board itself will have a role in identifying eligibility criteria. For instance, we believe that people would still be, similar to current schemes, restructuring debt or looking at a loan to increase the profitability of their business, any kind of operating expenses. There will be</p>	53-54 25.05.2017	

				<p>some exceptions that we want to work with stakeholders on. There has been a list that has existed as exceptions so far, but we want to make sure that those are still appropriate.</p> <p>Senator STERLE: Are you able to provide that list? I am not knocking any assistance to our farming communities, not at all, but it is a very wide open list. So, you have a list already that targets a few examples. Can you provide that to the committee?</p> <p>Ms Kennedy: I am sure we could take on notice some examples. I think the key point here is there is a list of eligible and non-eligible purposes for the current loan schemes. The point that Mr Williamson has already made is that the new expanded RIC program will not come online until 1 July 2018.</p>		
80	Farm Support Division	Senator Glenn Sterle	Concessional Loans	<p>1. Provide a breakdown of funding for the different concessional loans available since 2013 (farm finance, drought, drought recovery, dairy and any others), including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Original funding allocated to the various concessional loans Amount spent for each financial year; 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17 Amount of unspent money for each financial year; 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17 What has happened with unspent funds for each financial year; 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17 Provide a breakdown of administration costs associated to each program paid to each State and Territories for each financial year; 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17 	Written	

				<p>f. How many Department of Agriculture and Water Resources staff members administer the various concessional loans.</p> <p>g. Provide a breakdown of the number of recipients in each State and Territory of the various concessional loans for each financial year; 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17</p> <p>h. Provide the average waiting time for applicants when applying for the various concessional loans for each financial year; 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17</p>		
81	Finance and Business Support Division	Senator Glenn Sterle	Use of Plutus company for contract staff	<p>Senator STERLE: Would any of these labour hire contractors use that Plutus system—you know, the mob who have just got themselves in trouble?</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan: Yes.</p> <p>Senator STERLE: They do?</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan: No, I meant you have the right company.</p> <p>Ms Canning: We are looking at that at the moment. We are still confirming with the contractors. We are going back through the labour hire firms to confirm. As yet I do not have an answer.</p> <p>Senator STERLE: Could you please take it on notice to let the committee know when you do find out?</p> <p>Ms Canning: Yes.</p>	38 25.05.2017	
82	Finance and Business Support Division	Senator Malarndirri McCarthy	Indigenous contracted staff	<p>Senator McCARTHY: Does it impact productivity of the department if staff employed via labour hire arrangements are unable to access the resources to do their job, or are you saying they have access to everything?</p> <p>Mr Smalley: I am saying they have access to the</p>	38 25.05.2017	

				<p>systems that are relevant to their jobs.</p> <p>Senator McCARTHY: How many of the 226 contracted staff are Indigenous?</p> <p>Mr Power: I am afraid we do not have that information here. We could certainly look at that.</p> <p>Senator McCARTHY: Would you be able to take that question on notice?</p> <p>Mr Power: Absolutely.</p>		
83	Finance and Business Support Division	Senator Glenn Sterle	Indigenous labour hire companies	<p>Senator McCARTHY: So the labour hire firms that you work with, how many companies do you interact with?</p> <p>Mr Power: I am afraid we do not have—I would not know how many companies we have. It would be a broad variety.</p> <p>Ms Canning: It is a couple of hundred. It is about 500 different suppliers.</p> <p>Senator McCARTHY: Five hundred providers?</p> <p>Ms Canning: Yes. At any one time that we use—there are a number of IT companies that we use for IT contractors. There is a range of suppliers available.</p> <p>Senator McCARTHY: And how many of those would be Indigenous companies?</p> <p>Ms Canning: Sorry, I could not tell you that, but we can find that out.</p>	39 25.05.2017	
84	Finance and Business Support Division	Senator Malarndirri McCarthy	Names of indigenous labour hire firms	<p>Senator McCARTHY: Chair, I am trying to hear Mr Quinlivan. I cannot seem to hear him; there are a lot of conversations going on. I am sorry, Mr Quinlivan.</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan: I will just go over that last bit again. We have 590 labour hire firms that are eligible for the provision of labour services, and of those 26 of those firms identify as Indigenous.</p> <p>Senator McCARTHY: You mentioned Indigenous principles.</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan: Yes.</p>	55 25.05.2017	

				<p>Senator McCARTHY: What did you mean by that?</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan: I was just getting to that. More generally in the area of procurements you probably are aware that Commonwealth agencies have targets for procurement from firms with Indigenous principles. Last year our target was five, which was our share of the whole-of-government target. We entered into 54 contracts. We were well ahead of the target, and in fact I know that was true for the Commonwealth as a whole. I think pretty much all agencies had contract numbers that were multiples of their target. This year our share of the whole-of-government target was 31, and we have entered into 58 contracts so far. Again, I am sure that is in line with the numbers for the whole of government.</p> <p>Senator McCARTHY: Could I get the names of the 26?</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan: We will take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator McCARTHY: Also, of the 54?</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan: I think they will be on our website, but we will give you all of the details you need.</p> <p>Senator McCARTHY: And the 58?</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan: Yes. We will give you everything we can in that area.</p> <p>Senator McCARTHY: Thank you very much.</p>		
85	Finance and Business Support Division	Senator Kim Carr	Australian made paper	<p>Senator KIM CARR: What is the percentage of Australian made paper that the department is using? I was told in February, in the last answer I got from the Department of Finance, that the agriculture department was using 33 per cent Australian paper of the total usage. What is the current figure?</p>	66 25.05.2017	

				<p>Mr Quinlivan: The people who had that information are long gone, but from memory the number is a few percentage points higher.</p> <p>Senator KIM CARR: So, you will have to take that on notice?</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan: We will have to take that on notice, yes. I know it has gone up a lot but not a huge amount.</p> <p>Ms Lauder: I have that figure here. It is 44 per cent so far this financial year.</p> <p>Senator KIM CARR: I am sorry?</p> <p>Ms Lauder: It is up to 44 per cent so far this financial year, and that was to the end of March. There will be more accurate information.</p>		
86	Finance and Business Support Division	Senator Kim Carr	Increase in inspection services	<p>Senator KIM CARR: There are matters that the Commonwealth does have responsibility for, but I will come to that in a moment, in terms of the meat inspection role. On the question, though, of health certificates, there was an exercise at a meatworks recently in New South Wales and we are told that the cost for health certificates had increased for New South Wales producers from \$12 to \$45 over the past 18 months. Would you be familiar with those types of increases in regulatory burdens?</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan: If they are associated with an export certification service, that is a cost recovery service that we provide.</p> <p>Senator KIM CARR: Yes.</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan: I am not sure whether that particular one is.</p> <p>Senator KIM CARR: Can you confirm whether or not that figure is accurate?</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan: I would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator KIM CARR: I expect that. That is the</p>	69-70 25.05.2017	

				<p>figure that has been put to me at a recent visit to an abattoir in New South Wales. If you would not mind, I would ask you to confirm what the increase has been.</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan: I can confirm that.</p> <p>Senator KIM CARR: Has there been any increase in inspection services more generally? Is that the only increase?</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan: We provide export certification services in accordance with the requirements of the importing country. The requirements of importing countries change from time to time. Again, I will have to take that on notice as to whether there have been any changes recently, but I think they do change, as I say, in response to the requirements of our export destinations.</p>		
87	Finance and Business Support Division	Senator Kim Carr	Reducing the cost of the regulatory burden for Australian producers	<p>Senator KIM CARR: Has there been any consideration within the department about reducing the cost of the regulatory burden for Australian producers?</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan: As to whether these service should be cost recovered or not, that would be a policy matter for the government. As to whether the cost of the services is reasonable and the services themselves are provided in an efficient way that matter I think is more or less continuously under review. There was a review undertaken I think last year of the efficiency of our services for both plant certification and meat certification. People in the industry had an opportunity to contribute to that review. I do not know whether that review has been made public. I am pretty sure it has been provided to the meat industry. They were certainly consulted.</p> <p>Senator KIM CARR: Can you take that on notice?</p>	71 25.05.2017	

				<p>Mr Quinlivan: Yes.</p> <p>Senator KIM CARR: If a copy can be tabled, I would appreciate that.</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan: Yes.</p>		
88	Finance and Business Support Division	Senator Glenn Sterle	Departmental functions	<p>In relation to expenditure on any departmental functions or official receptions etc since 1 October 2016, can the following please be provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List of functions; • List of attendees; • Function venue; • Itemised list of costs (GST <u>inclusive</u>); • Details of any food served; • Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and • Details of any entertainment provided. 	Written	
89	Finance and Business Support Division	Senator Glenn Sterle	Plants and gardens	<p>a. What was the total cost (GST <u>inclusive</u>) of acquiring and maintaining indoor plants for all departmental premises in calendar year 2016?</p> <p>b. What was the total cost (GST <u>inclusive</u>) of external gardens and landscaping for all departmental premises in calendar year 2016?</p> <p>c. What was the total cost (GST <u>inclusive</u>) of acquiring and maintaining indoor plants for ministerial offices in calendar year 2016? Please provide separate figures for each Minister's office in the portfolio, covering ministerial offices both at Parliament House and elsewhere.</p>	Written	
90	Finance and Business Support Division	Senator Glenn Sterle	Subscriptions	<p>1. What was the total cost (GST <u>inclusive</u>) of subscriptions to print and online news services, newspapers, magazines, journals and periodicals etc in calendar year 2016 for the Department?</p> <p>a. Please provide a complete list of each service to which the Department subscribed.</p>	Written	

				<p>2. What was the total cost (GST <u>inclusive</u>) of subscriptions to print and online news services, newspapers, magazines, journals and periodicals etc in calendar year 2016 for Ministers in the portfolio?</p> <p>a. Please provide a complete list of each service to which ministerial offices subscribed.</p>		
91	Finance and Business Support Division	Senator Glenn Sterle	Gifts	<p>1. What was the total cost (GST <u>inclusive</u>) of all gifts purchased for use by departmental officials in calendar year 2016?</p> <p>2. Can an itemised list of gifts and costs thereof (GST <u>inclusive</u>) please be provided?</p> <p>3. Who was the recipient of each gift?</p> <p>4. For what purpose was each gift given?</p> <p>5. What was the total cost (GST <u>inclusive</u>) of all gifts purchased for use by Ministers in the portfolio in calendar year 2016?</p> <p>6. Can an itemised list of gifts and costs thereof (GST <u>inclusive</u>) please be provided?</p> <p>7. Which Minister gave each gift?</p> <p>8. Who was the recipient of each gift?</p> <p>9. For what purpose was each gift given?</p>	Written	
92	Finance and Business Support Division	Senator Glenn Sterle	Water coolers	<p>1. What was the total cost (GST <u>inclusive</u>) of providing water coolers at departmental premises in calendar year 2016? Please provide a breakdown of costs for acquiring and maintaining/resupplying water coolers.</p> <p>2. What was the total cost (GST <u>inclusive</u>) of providing water coolers to ministerial offices in calendar year 2016? Please provide a breakdown of costs for acquiring and maintaining/resupplying water coolers.</p>	Written	
93	Finance and Business Support Division	Senator Glenn Sterle	Snacks	<p>1. What was the total cost (GST <u>inclusive</u>) of supplying fruit and other snacks at departmental premises in calendar year 2016?</p>	Written	

				2. What was the total cost (GST inclusive) of supplying fruit and other snacks to ministerial offices in calendar year 2016? Please provide a breakdown of the costs for each separate ministerial office, covering both offices at Parliament House and elsewhere.		
94	Finance and Business Support Division	Senator Glenn Sterle	Coffee machines	Can an itemised list of coffee machines at departmental premises please be provided including (i) make and model; (ii) purchase or lease cost; (iii) ongoing maintenance costs; (iv) ongoing cost of supplying coffee and other consumables?	Written	
95	Finance and Business Support Division	Senator Glenn Sterle	Stationary and paper	How much did the Department spend on stationary and office supplies (excluding paper) in calendar year 2016 (GST inclusive)? How much did the Department spend on paper in calendar year 2016 (GST inclusive)? What brand of paper does the Department use? Is this paper Australian made? If no, why doesn't the Department buy Australian made paper?	Written	
96	Finance and Business Support Division	Senator Glenn Sterle	Executive office upgrades	Have the furniture, fixtures or fittings of the Secretary's office, or the offices of any Deputy Secretaries, been upgraded since 1 October 2016? If so, can an itemised list of costs please be provided (GST inclusive)?	Written	
97	Finance and Business Support Division	Senator Glenn Sterle	Facilities upgrades	Have the facilities of any of the Department's premises been upgraded since 1 October 2016, for example, staff room refurbishments, kitchen refurbishments, bathroom refurbishments, the purchase of any new fridges, coffee machines, or other kitchen equipment? a. If so, can a detailed description of the relevant facilities upgrade please be provided together with an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive)? Can any photographs of the upgraded facilities	Written	

				please be provided?		
98	Finance and Business Support Division	Senator Glenn Sterle	Flights	What was the Department's total expenditure on flights for departmental staff in calendar year 2016?	Written	
99	Finance and Business Support Division	Senator Glenn Sterle	Ground transport	What was the Department's total expenditure on the following categories of ground transport in calendar year 2016 (GST inclusive): (i) Taxi hire; (ii) Limousine hire; (iii) Private hire car; and (iv) Ridesharing services.	Written	
100	Finance and Business Support Division	Senator Catryna Bilyk	Credit cards	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many credit cards are currently on issue for staff in the Department and agencies within the portfolio? If possible, please provide a break-down of this information by APS/ SES level. 2. What was the value of the largest reported purchase on a credit card in calendar year 2016 and what was it for? 3. How much interest was paid on amounts outstanding from credit cards in calendar year 2016? 4. How much was paid in late fees on amounts outstanding from credit cards in calendar year 2016? 5. What was the largest amount outstanding on a single card at the end of a payment period in calendar year 2016 and what was the card holder's APS/ SES level? 6. How many credit cards were reported as lost or stolen in calendar year 2016 and what was the cost of their replacement? 7. How many credit card purchases were deemed to be illegitimate or contrary to agency policy in calendar year 2016? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. What was the total value of those purchases? b. How many purchases were asked to be 	Written	

				<p>repaid on that basis in calendar year 2016 and what was the total value thereof?</p> <p>c. Were all those amounts actually repaid? If no, how many were not repaid, and what was the total value thereof?</p> <p>8. What was the largest purchase that was deemed illegitimate or contrary to agency policy and asked to be repaid in calendar year 2016, and what was the cardholder's APS/ SES level?</p> <p>a. What that amount actually repaid, in full? If no, what amount was left unpaid?</p> <p>9. Are any credit cards currently on issue in the Department or agencies within the portfolio connected to rewards schemes?</p> <p>a. Do staff receive any personal benefit as a result of those reward schemes?</p> <p>10. Can a copy of the Department's staff credit card policy please be provided?</p>		
101	Fisheries Research and Development Corporation	Senator Carol Brown	Membership of science advisory group	<p>Senator CAROL BROWN: As to the science advisory group that you talked about, on notice can you provide the committee with a list of who is on that?</p> <p>Mr Barwick: Absolutely.</p>	82 25.05.2017	
102	Grains Research and Development Corporation	Senator Glenn Sterle	Staffing levels compare to other RDCs	<p>Senator STERLE: How do the staffing levels compare to other RDCs, would you know?</p> <p>Dr Jefferies: I have got an idea, but I would have to take that on notice. I know some but I do not know all of them. I would have to take that on notice.</p>	103 24.05.2017	
103	Grains Research and Development Corporation	Senator Glenn Sterle	R&D spend in regional areas	<p>Senator STERLE: How much of the research and development dollar spend is in the regional areas? Do you have that information?</p> <p>Dr Jefferies: Can I just clarify that question. Is it in terms of dollars that are spent on research conducted in regional areas?</p>	104 24.05.2017	

				<p>Senator STERLE: Or anything to do with R&D, but in regional areas, yes. How much of your collection is spent?</p> <p>Dr Jefferies: The majority. I would need to take the actual—</p> <p>Senator STERLE: Yes, sure.</p> <p>Dr Jefferies: But the majority of it is spent in regional areas.</p> <p>Senator STERLE: If you do not have it there, you can provide it on notice.</p> <p>Dr Jefferies: Yes, we can take it on notice if you want.</p>		
104	Grains Research and Development Corporation	Senator Glenn Sterle	Commitment to cross-commodity research	<p>Senator STERLE: Okay. Can you just let us know what GRDC's commitment to cross-commodity research is?</p> <p>Dr Jefferies: Cross-commodity?</p> <p>Senator STERLE: Yes. Do you have cross-commodity research?</p> <p>Dr Jefferies: Do you mean partnerships with other RDCs?</p> <p>Senator STERLE: I probably mean—I do not know what I mean.</p> <p>Dr Jefferies: Cross-commodity? Oh, I see.</p> <p>Senator STERLE: Cross-commodity—another commodity.</p> <p>Dr Jefferies: If you are talking about grain commodities, yes. We have multiple—</p> <p>Senator STERLE: Well, that is what I thought. You are GRDC.</p> <p>Dr Jefferies: Yes. We have numerous investments. Again, I would need to get this checked, but I would estimate that roughly 50 per cent would have multiple commodities—wheat, barley, pulses et cetera.</p> <p>Senator STERLE: Yes, all sorts of stuff. Can you tell us how much you are currently spending on</p>	104 24.05.2017	

				<p>this type of research?</p> <p>Dr Jefferies: Again, I would need to check the figures, but I think I estimate it at approximately 50 per cent of our R&D budget, which would mean it would approach \$100 million.</p>		
105	Grains Research and Development Corporation	Senator Glenn Sterle	Levy payers	<p>Senator STERLE: Yes. It would be interesting to know. Can you identify all your levy payers?</p> <p>Dr Jefferies: No, not yet, but we hope the legislation that has allowed for a levy payers database should be able to facilitate that.</p> <p>Senator STERLE: I remember that inquiry. Where are you up to with the levy payer database or register?</p> <p>Dr Jefferies: We are in negotiations with the department, and we are collaborating closely with the department. We have agreed to be a pilot for the department as a model to see how we can do a levy payers database within grains and how that could be expanded into other commodities.</p> <p>Senator STERLE: Seeing as we did do this inquiry three or four years ago, what is your time frame for completion?</p> <p>Dr Jefferies: I cannot answer that question—I would have to take it on notice.</p>	104-105 24.05.2017	
106	Grains Research and Development Corporation	Senator Janet Rice	CSIRO research – declining wheat yield	<p>Senator RICE: Are you familiar with the work published by CSIRO earlier this year on declining wheat yield across Australia since 1990 due to climate impacts, which is showing that the yield potential declined by 27 per cent over the last quarter of a century?</p> <p>Dr Jefferies: Yes, we are aware.</p> <p>Senator RICE: Do you agree with the findings of CSIRO in this research?</p> <p>Dr Jefferies: I personally have some reservations about some of the assumptions that underlie that particular study.</p>	105 24.05.2017	

				Senator RICE: I will put on notice, then, your reservations, plus what role GRDC is taking to support farmers in climate adaptation and in mitigation.		
107	Horticulture Innovation Australia Limited	Senator Janet Rice	Budget of new partnership	<p>Senator RICE: That is very reactive rather than necessarily strategic and what the strategic priorities of this new initiative will be. I am almost done with my questions, Chair. Can I get an idea of the resources that the RDCs will be expected to contribute to this new partnership. What is the budget of this new partnership going to be?</p> <p>Mr Lloyd: We have a funding budget that is for the coordination role. That is the administration and funding budget and all the RDCs have contributed to that. One of the key aspects of that role is to go through the existing RDC investments. I will have to get this clarified, but I think our current biosecurity investment is in the order of \$18 million a year. We are a particularly large one in that area because of the fruit fly investment that we make; others will be somewhat less. That coordinated funding is really the budget allocated funding that this organisation—</p> <p>Senator RICE: That is the money that you are currently spending and you are going to be spending it in a coordinated way.</p> <p>Mr Lloyd: In a coordinated way.</p> <p>Senator RICE: But there will be a proportion that you are spending for that coordination.</p> <p>Mr Lloyd: We have already agreed to do that.</p>	97 24.05.2017	

108	Information Services Division	Senator Glenn Sterle	Mobile devices	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many mobile telephones are currently on issue to departmental to staff? 2. Can an itemised list showing make and model please be provided? 3. How many new mobile phones were purchased by the Department in calendar year 2016? 4. What was the total cost (GST <u>inclusive</u>) of purchasing mobile telephones for departmental staff in calendar year 2016? 5. How many mobile telephones had to be replaced due to damage in calendar year 2016? What was the cost of replacement (GST <u>inclusive</u>)? 6. How many mobile telephones were reported lost or stolen in calendar year 2016? What was the cost of replacement (GST <u>inclusive</u>)? 7. How many ipads/tablets are currently on issue to departmental staff? 8. Can an itemised list showing make and model please be provided? 9. How many new ipads/tablets were purchased by the Department in calendar year 2016? 10. What was the total cost (GST <u>inclusive</u>) of purchasing ipads/tablets for departmental staff in calendar year 2016? 11. How many ipads/tablets had to be replaced due to damage in calendar year 2016? What was the cost of replacement (GST <u>inclusive</u>)? 12. How many ipads/tablets were reported lost or stolen in calendar year 2016? What was the cost of replacement (GST <u>inclusive</u>)? 	Written	
109	Information Services Division	Senator Glenn Sterle	iTunes/Android	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Does the Department have an iTunes account? If so, what was the total expenditure on iTunes in calendar year 2016 (GST <u>inclusive</u>)? What applications/subscriptions/services purchased through iTunes in calendar year 2016? 	Written	

				<p>2. Does the Department have an Android account? If so, what was the total expenditure on Android in calendar year 2016 (GST inclusive)? What applications/subscriptions/services purchased through Android in calendar year 2016?</p> <p>3. Do any ministerial offices in the portfolio have an iTunes account? If so, what was the total expenditure on iTunes in calendar year 2016 (GST inclusive)? Please provide separate figures for each Minister. What applications/subscriptions/services purchased through iTunes in calendar year 2016?</p> <p>4. Do any ministerial offices have an Android account? If so, what was the total expenditure on Android in calendar year 2016 (GST inclusive)? Please provide separate figures for each Minister. What applications/subscriptions/services purchased through Android in calendar year 2016?</p>		
110	Information Services Division	Senator Glenn Sterle	Websites	<p>What were the top 20 most utilised (by data sent and received) unique domain names accessed by departmental staff in calendar year 2016?</p> <p>What were the top 20 most accessed (by number of times accessed) unique domain names accessed by departmental staff in calendar year 2016?</p>	Written	
111	Information Services Division	Senator Cataryna Bilyk	Laptops	<p>How many laptops are currently on issue to staff of the Department and agencies in the portfolio? Can an itemised list showing make and model please be provided?</p> <p>How many new laptops were purchased by the Department and agencies in the portfolio in calendar year 2016?</p> <p>What was the total cost (GST inclusive) of purchasing laptops for staff of the Department and agencies in the portfolio in calendar year 2016?</p>	Written	

				<p>How many laptops did the Department and agencies in the portfolio have to be replaced due to damage in calendar year 2016? What was the cost of replacement (GST inclusive)?</p> <p>How many laptops were reported lost or stolen in calendar year 2016? What was the cost of replacement (GST inclusive)?</p>		
112	Landcare Australia Limited	Senator Malarndirri McCarthy	Funding announced in budget for Landcare	<p>Senator McCARTHY: Is the funding announced in the budget for Landcare enough to restore the cuts announced in the 2014 budget?</p> <p>Ms Jakszewicz: I need to quickly explain Landcare Australia. We are independent of government. We are a not-for-profit organisation. We have an independent board. We are not part of a government department. So, in answer, I think the question you are asking is one more for the department. From a Landcare Australia perspective, given the climate and the fiscal environment that we are in, some people in the Landcare movement were relatively okay with the announcement. What we are keen to see is the allocation of funding under that bucket. There are many elements to the National Landcare Program, ranging from the reef, to Landcare as we know it, to over 20 million trees and so forth. What we do not know yet is the allocation to those specific projects, and that is what we are keen to find out.</p> <p>Senator McCARTHY: Mr Quinlivan, is the funding announced in the budget for Landcare enough to restore the cuts announced in 2014?</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan: I will get Mr Thompson to explain the funding decision in the budget.</p> <p>Mr Thompson: I am not in a position to immediately compare it to the level in 2014, but there is almost \$1 billion over seven years for the National Landcare Program.</p>	87 24.05.2017	

				<p>Senator McCARTHY: You can take the question on notice.</p> <p>Mr Thompson: To do the actual comparison we will have to, because the actual appropriations are to Environment.</p> <p>Senator McCARTHY: Just take the question on notice.</p>		
113	Landcare Australia Limited	Senator Malarndirri McCarthy	Review of program	<p>Senator McCARTHY: Who conducted that review?</p> <p>Mr Thompson: A range of people participated in the review. There was material prepared by the department, there was input by the Fenner School at ANU, there were some reports prepared by the National Landcare Advisory Committee and there was a survey done of Landcare participants. All of that fed into the report and into the government's consideration of the review.</p> <p>Senator McCARTHY: But who conducted the report? Who carried it out?</p> <p>Mr Thompson: The review was led by the departments—the environment department and the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources.</p> <p>Senator McCARTHY: How much did that review cost to conduct?</p> <p>Mr Thompson: I would have to take on notice the exact cost of the review because there were some costs associated with some consultancies. There was a consultancy done on the finances of the program, for example. We have those numbers; I just do not have them to hand at the moment. The internal departmental costs were just born out of existing resources. It was part of our people's job in reviewing the program as it neared its end.</p> <p>Senator McCARTHY: You could take that question on notice.</p>	88 24.05.2017	
114	Murray-Darling	Senator	Name of group that	Senator ROBERTS: Mr Glyde, this question is	9-10	

	Basin Authority	Malcolm Roberts	represents the Indigenous	<p>for you. Following on from Senator Kakoschke-Moore, why do the Indigenous support the environment more? Can you just quickly give me any reasons?</p> <p>Mr Glyde: There are a number of reasons why they would do that. I am probably not the best equipped to explain the full range of values and what they have called capital—they have got a variety of different capitals they see—but I am more than happy to provide you on notice the summary of the value statements and the cultural capital work they have done, and that is reported on our website as well. There is a variety of—in our terms, I guess—environmental, social, health, cultural and spiritual values that they see. What they are seeing is that the extent of development—particularly, in this case, in the north—over the last 50 or 60 years has greatly diminished those values, as far as the Aboriginal community is concerned. Therefore, the generality of their view would be that we need to put even more water back into the environment to begin to bring up those values again so they can feel that they live and work in a healthy environment.</p> <p>Senator ROBERTS: Could you just include the name of the group that represents the Indigenous?</p> <p>Mr Glyde: Sure. There is a specific—</p>	26.05.2017	
115	Murray-Darling Basin Authority	Senator Bridget McKenzie	Salinity indicators	<p>Senator McKENZIE: Can somebody run me through those indicators?</p> <p>Mr Glyde: Sure. I might ask Mr Binning to take us through those indicators'</p> <p>Senator GALLACHER: Are we trying to unravel the plan?</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: I am just trying to make sure that it is fair, Senator.</p>	10 26.05.2017	

				<p>Mr Binning: I cannot speak to the salinity indicators—I will have to take that on notice—but I can take you through what we call the flow indicators, which show the volumes of water available to the system under the different scenarios. Those volumes relate both to the environmental outcomes and to the dilution of salt within the system. But I do not have at hand the specific salinity numbers.</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: What did that modelling say for the salinity targets under 2,400 giganlitres?</p> <p>Mr Binning: As I said, I do not have the—</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: You do not have that?</p> <p>Mr Binning: I do not have the salinity numbers with me. What I do have—</p>		
116	Murray-Darling Basin Authority	Senator Bridget McKenzie	Modelling for salinity targets	<p>Senator McKENZIE: Could you take it on notice to check out the modelling that was done. My understanding is that, at 2,400, it was around 99.2 per cent; and, if we went up to 3,200, relaxed constraints and modified the barrage operation, we would be at 99.8 per cent. That is my understanding. Also, for all those indicators, there are a range of different scenarios. Mr Glyde, you are nodding. Can you enlighten me?</p> <p>Mr Glyde: I do not know if those figures are correct. I do not have them in my head either, but, generally speaking, we had a range of indicators that were examined at the time. Salinity is one of the many environmental indicators. It is obviously a big focus, but there are a whole lot of other things, as Mr Binning indicated. We certainly can provide you with the salinity figures on notice, but we could also, if you like, provide you with the other indicators that we generally use to help compare between different scenarios.</p>	10 26.05.2017	
117	Murray-Darling	Senator Bridget	800 gig flow-on	Senator McKENZIE: Once you have obtained	11	

	Basin Authority	McKenzie	costs for communities	<p>the information I am asking for on notice, could you also let me know what the cost of recovering the 800 gig would be and the flow-on costs for communities.</p> <p>Mr Glyde: I am more than happy to do that on notice—and my apologies for not having that information to hand. I think it is important, though, to understand, particularly for the constituents you mentioned, that the salinity targets or the achievement of those was not the driving force behind the selection of the particular sustainable diversion limit. The whole idea was to try to make sure that we had a healthy basin and a healthy environment right up and down the basin.</p>	26.05.2017	
118	Murray-Darling Basin Authority	Senator Nich Xenophon	Modelling	<p>Senator XENOPHON: Exchange rates can fluctuate, and that could impact on the whole issue of socio-economic affects. How do you crystallise that to make a decision?</p> <p>Mr Glyde: Through some very clever economic trick modelling, which we are more than happy to show you. I can provide on notice the references. What we have done is all on our website. It is peer-reviewed and checked, and draws on a lot of the information we got from local communities as well. But, we will be doing assessments for the first five years of the plan. We are looking at a basin-wide scale, a regional scale, an industry scale and a local scale to try and tease out the sorts of things you are talking about.</p> <p>Senator XENOPHON: You are saying that the mechanism is quite transparent and quite robust in your view to measure the social and economic impacts?</p> <p>Mr Glyde: Yes, it is. And it is limited, however, by the depth of data we have. The ABS does not have a whole lot of information on small towns.</p>	61 26.05.2017	

				We have had to go out, particularly in the northern part of the basin, and collect that information from businesses in towns like Dirranbandi and St George so that we can actually get a pretty good handle on what the impact has been of different levels of water recovery. We will provide you the linkages and the documentation that backs it up and the research that has been done to prove it.		
119	Murray-Darling Basin Authority	Senator Bridget McKenzie	'Minor over bank flows'	<p>Will the MDBA revise their assumption that <i>'only 'minor over bank flows'</i> would be required to achieve proposed environmental flows downstream?</p> <p>Data taken from the September-October 2016 flows along the Goulburn, Murrumbidgee, Murray Rivers and their tributaries proved this to be totally incorrect with significant major flooding occurring to achieve 60,000-80,000ML/day at the South Australian border.</p> <p>Landowners with many years local experience of flood events know the above assumption to be absolutely wrong..</p> <p>Will the MDBA revise the proposed environmental flow targets of 60,000ML-80,000ML/day over the South Australian border in light of the fact that the Spring 2016 floods which delivered a peak of 95,000ML/day and flows of in excess of 60,000ML/day for 5 weeks DID NOT scour the Murray Mouth sufficiently to withdraw dredging?</p>	Written	
120	Murray-Darling Basin Authority	Senator Bridget McKenzie	Constraints Management Strategy	The MDBA has been charged with the responsibility of overseeing the MDB Plan, so how did the Constraints Management Strategy pass even the Phase 1 let alone Phase 2 Guideline criteria of "being feasible within the estimated cost" when the Goulburn River Reach Report estimated mitigation costs have blown out by	Written	

				<p>350% from an initial \$31-\$47 million to \$140 million (GHD document 'Cost and Benefits for Private Agricultural Land' January 2016), keeping in mind that the total amount made available to mitigate third party impacts across the entire Murray Darling Basin is only \$200 million?</p> <p>The mid-Murray mitigation costs are estimated to be approximately \$240 million.</p>		
121	Murray-Darling Basin Authority	Senator Bridget McKenzie	Negative third party impacts measured, assessed and quantified	<p>As there are many people across the Basin who are extremely concerned with the increasing frequency of blackwater events, manipulated overbank flood flows and carp population explosion, would the MDBA specifically demonstrate how these negative third party impacts have been measured, assessed and quantified.</p>	Written	
122	Murray-Darling Basin Authority	Senator Bridget McKenzie	Volume of water diverted from the Coorong	<p>What volume of freshwater is currently diverted FROM the Coorong via the South East Drainage Scheme in South Australia?</p> <p>Is the MDBA planning to recover ALL that water for the Coorong, and is this occurring under the MDB Plan?</p>	Written	
123	Murray-Darling Basin Authority	Senator Bridget McKenzie	Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority	<p>In January 2016 the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority revealed to communities in the Goulburn River Reach that the proposed environmental flows of 25,000ML/day with a peak of 30,000ML/day at Shepparton under the Constraints Strategy, would affect or inundate 562 properties and 11,552 Hectares. The proposed repeated frequency of environmental floods - an extra 1-3 floods every 10 years with 2-3 recurrent peaks with each flood, added to the stated 6 natural floods per 10 years will cause a massive reduction in productivity on the Goulburn river flats and their tributaries.</p>	Written	

				<p>What is the assessed cost to Victoria and Australia's productivity in dollar terms in that a large percentage of this area is prime agricultural farm land?</p> <p>If this hasn't been undertaken, what is the reasoning behind this lack of feasibility analysis?</p>		
124	Murray-Darling Basin Authority	Senator Bridget McKenzie	Constraints Strategy	<p>So how has the Constraints Strategy passed the evaluation criteria that states the proposal must be technically feasible, when landowners in the Upper Goulburn Catchment and mid Murrumbidgee have absolutely refused to accept or negotiate easements?</p> <p>And why is the 'relaxed constraints' Strategy still being even considered when there is no hope whatsoever of delivering that water when both State and Federal Governments "will not intentionally flood private land without prior agreement of landholders, nor compulsorily acquire land or easements."?</p>	Written	
125	Murray-Darling Basin Authority	Senator Bridget McKenzie	Method of estimating mitigation costs	<p>The policy of estimating mitigation costs for affected farmland is to use a method of disaggregation, or to cost impacts on only that portion of land which is the difference between where a natural flood would reach and the extra environmental flow would inundate.</p> <p>As flooding affects the management and productivity of the entire farm, why has the MDBA approved this method of estimating costs?</p>	Written	
126	Murray-Darling Basin Authority	Senator Bridget McKenzie	Environmental flood flows in the Goulburn Catchment	<p>The proposed number of environmental flood flows per decade in the Goulburn Catchment are based on historical flood data over the last 55 years, despite the fact that since the beginning of the Millenium drought there has been a real step change in climate and such frequent flood events no longer occur.</p> <p>Why has the MDBA not revised the data used to</p>	Written	

				the last 20 years as suggested by MDBA board member Mr. George Warne?		
127	Murray-Darling Basin Authority	Senator Bridget McKenzie	Goulburn Murray Irrigation District and Southern Basin	<p>Victorian Water Minister Lisa Neville has stated that the Goulburn Murray Irrigation District and Southern Basin is at ‘a tipping point’ thus putting the economic stability of the state at risk.</p> <p>Do you understand how significant the socio-economic impacts of the MDB Plan have already been?</p> <p>Do you know under the current trajectory of the continual reduction in High Reliability Water Shares from the Goulburn Murray Irrigation District that the system is forecast to have less than 700GL left in its delivery system-down from 1600GL?</p> <p>In light of this wouldn’t it be wise to revise the further removal of water from the system?</p>	Written	
128	Murray-Darling Basin Authority	Senator Bridget McKenzie	Negative third party impacts measured, assessed and quantified	<p>Do you agree that delivering greater and greater volumes through thousands of kilometres of the Basin river channel systems also has many negative impacts, such as transporting larger volumes of sediment, nutrients and phosphates to deposit in wetlands, creating increased water turbidity, increase carp explosion and hypoxic blackwater events, spread of noxious weeds such as Lippia over thousands of hectares?</p> <p>Can the MDBA specifically demonstrate how these negative third party impacts have been measured, assessed and quantified?</p>	Written	
129	Murray-Darling Basin Authority	Senator Bridget McKenzie	Professor Peter Gell	Professor Peter Gell of the Water Research Network, Federation University Australia , totally debunks the MDBA theory that simply delivering greater volumes of water will restore Basin health, and emphasises the importance of	Written	

				<p>improved water quality and a “multi-faceted approach” if there is to be an ecological benefit.</p> <p>We have constantly been told by the MDBA that the best scientific information available has been guiding the strategies put in place to restore the health of the Murray Darling Basin. Why has the MDBA failed to utilise such robust scientific evidence as that of Professor Gell and other esteemed scientists?</p> <p>Why has the MDBA focussed so much, purely on attaining and delivering large volumes of water?</p>		
130	Murray-Darling Basin Authority	Senator Bridget McKenzie	Complimentary measures	<p>Why are complimentary measures not considered an alternative to further water recovery?</p> <p>At the MinCo meeting September 2016 the Authority noted that complementary measures are “good actions to take but not substitutes for flow related outcomes. They also recognised it was not feasible to develop a volumetric SDL offset assessment method in a short timeframe, if at all.”</p> <p>Isn't this a very blinkered approach and detrimental to the people of the MDB?</p>	Written	
131	Murray-Darling Basin Authority	Senator Malcolm Roberts	Water in environment after the Basin Plan enacted	<p>The MDBA has described in various documents related to the Basin Plan, that under pre basin plan conditions 58% of water remain in the environment & 42% is extracted (ie human , irrigation or for specific environmental purposes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How much water remains in the environment after the Basin Plan is enacted? 	Written	
132	Murray-Darling Basin Authority	Senator Malcolm Roberts	MDBA – Regulatory Impact Statement 2012	<p>MDBA Regulatory Impact Statement 2012 states that the majority of social and economic impacts of the Basin Plan will occur in the Southern Basin</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Did the RIS identify social and economic impacts on the 2750GL? 2. How extensive was the scope of the Regulatory Impact Study (RIS) into the impacts of the Basin Plan in the Southern Basin? 	Written	

				<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Did the RIS primarily focus on the impacts of water recovery to irrigators? 4. Did the RIS look at impacts on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irrigators who didn't sell water (ie impacts on irrigators remaining in an irrigation system or scheme that are left to pay for the running costs of that system) • Effects on the temporary water market and how businesses used/depended on temporary water markets • Broader effects on irrigation dependent businesses and rural communities 5. Did the RIS conclude that these impacts will be largely offset by Water for the Future Program and the 650GL Sustainable Diversion Adjustment Mechanism 6. Did the RIS look at impacts to non-irrigators including associated businesses 7. Any effects on non-irrigators (ie shire assets, riparian landowners or tourism that will be affected by higher flows down the Murray , Goulburn & Murrumbidgee Rivers in Northern Vic & southern NSW) 8. Did the RIS look at social and economic impacts on irrigation rights outside the main irrigation supply schemes and any potential impacts from changes to Murray River operations 9. Did the RIS include any social and economic impact assessments from the proposed additional 450GL 		
133	Murray-Darling Basin Authority	Senator Malcolm Roberts	Report Card - MDBA	<p>In 2017 MDBA will prepare a 'report card' on social & economic impacts in the Southern Basin in 2017 – but MDBA have advised rural communities this will not change decisions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the parameters of the proposed 	Written	

				<p>report card?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the limitations of this proposed report? • What is the basis for this MDBA statement and why wouldn't new information on social and economic impacts be utilised in current MDBA decisions to reduce those impacts? • Will the report card also include impacts from foreign investments or speculative traders in water? 		
134	Murray-Darling Basin Authority	Senator Malcolm Roberts	Catchment area of Coorong not included in the Basin Plan	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why was the main catchment area of the Coorong (South East of South Australia) not included in the Basin Plan when identifying environmental flow needs for the Southern Lagoon of the Coorong? 2. Has the Murray Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) re- considered the historical impacts of the South Australian South East Drainage Scheme and the Upper South East Drainage and Flood Mitigation Scheme? 3. Does the MDBA know what volumes of water flow through the SA drains out to sea? 4. What percentage of flows could be returned from both the South East Drainage Scheme and the Upper South East Drainage and Flood Mitigation Scheme? 5. Could investments in the updating and fully automating the Barrages help in controlling and/or release water in a timelier manner assisting with salinity targets for Lake Alexandrina and sand deposits in the Murray Mouth? 6. Has the MDBA received any firm quotes for the full automation of the barrages & what were the amounts? 7. Has the MDBA received any quotes below \$40 	Written	

				<p>million?</p> <p>8. Has the MDBA looked at an adaptive management approach to management of the Lower Lakes in times of extreme drought, including the option of a Weir at Wellington?</p> <p>9. Has the MDBA looked at friction piling as a method of building the base for a lock that needed to be built into deep silt such as would be needed near Wellington? If not, then why not?</p> <p>10. Did the MDBA consider allowing sea water through the barrages when lake Alexandrina's lake bed was partially dry during the recent drought and local people were getting respiratory problems from the dust coming from the acid lake bed? If not, why not? If so, why did it not allow sea water in to cover the lake bed sufficient to neutralise the acid areas?</p> <p>11. Did the MDBA or any of its staff ever make a statement about how long they thought it would take to refill Lake Alexandrina, when the lake bed was partially exposed? If so, what time period was mentioned?</p> <p>12. Has the MDBA considered the idea of having a straight narrow channel directly from the barrages through bird island to the Murray mouth, be able to run regular (fortnightly or so) flows of approx. 150 ML to keep the mouth open while maintaining current levels of the lakes?</p> <p>13. Has the MDBA authority looked at how much fresh water would be required to enter the lower lakes if an estuarine system was brought into play in the MDBP? If so what amount would be required?</p> <p>14. To achieve targets for the Coorong, Lower</p>		
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				Lakes and Murray Mouth, did the MDBA rely on reports generated within South Australia?		
135	Murray-Darling Basin Authority	Senator Malcolm Roberts	Salinity	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Can the MDBA supply evidence relating to the figure of 2 million tons of salt that needs to be exported through the Murray Mouth? 2. The basin Plan sets specific salt targets for Lake Alexandrina - 1000 EC 95% of years & 1500 EC 100% of years – to meet this target water is being removed from food production largely in southern NSW & Northern Vic , did these figures come from the South Australian Government? 3. Is the MDBA aware that during southerly swells in SA, sea water can re-enter Lake Alexandrina when the barrages are open, with salt levels rising to 40,000 EC at Goolwa wharf & salt levels rising to high levels right up to Milang? 4. Why has the MDBA focussed on flows down the Murray River to meet the MDBA’s target of 2 million tonnes of salt to be exported and not included strategies to prevent sea water incursions into Lake Alexandrina reducing the reliance on water recovery from upstream states? 	Written	
136	Murray-Darling Basin Authority	Senator Malcolm Roberts	Cost Benefit Analysis	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Has the MDBA ever conducted a cost benefit analysis to determine the most effective ways to achieve environmental targets/outcomes, in particular for targets associated with the Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth? 2. Would the MDBA consider or has it considered an adaptive approach to management of the Lower Lakes in times of extreme drought including an option for a weir at Wellington? 	Written	
137	Murray-Darling	Senator	Flood event 2016	In October 2016 major floods occurred in the	Written	

	Basin Authority	Malcolm Roberts		<p>Murray River below Albury. Catastrophic flooding occurred at and beyond Tocumwal with flow figures of approximately 200,000 ML/day. Flood waters of approximately 95,000 ML/d reached the SA Border in December and approximately 70,000 + ML/d at the barrages later in December.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is it correct that dredging of the Murray Mouth resumed 9th January 2017 • What lessons have been learnt from this flood event and will the MDBA review its reliance on high flows down the Murray River as the primary mechanism to clear sand deposits in the Murray Mouth? • Will the MDBA consider that localised infrastructure or operational improvements are required to address sedimentation risks in the Murray Mouth? • What other opportunities could there be? • What risks management plans have you put in place since then to avoid a repeat of catastrophic flooding in 2017 and subsequent years • Has the MDBA held formal meetings with affected people to discuss future flood risks options? • In 2017, there perhaps is even a higher risk of catastrophic flooding as it is likely that Hume Dam, Dartmouth Dam & the Goulburn weir in Victoria will be near capacity – has the MDBA discussed these risks with both the States Governments of Vic/NSW and stakeholders? • What decisions are likely to result? 		
138	Murray-Darling Basin Authority	Senator Malcolm Roberts	Northern Basin	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The MDBA has written to states with proposed amendments to the Basin Plan that have arisen from the Northern Basin Review 2. What was the trigger for the Northern Basin 	Written	

				<p>Review?</p> <p>3. The Basin Plan in its current form has a reduction of 390 GL reductions for the Northern Basin. What is the MDBA's estimate of job losses for a recovery level of 390 GL in Dirranbandi specifically and across the northern basin under the current setting?</p>		
139	Murray-Darling Basin Authority	Senator Malcolm Roberts	Loss of jobs in Dirranbandi under the proposed 320 GL reduction target	<p>1. How many less jobs will be lost in Dirranbandi? Does that include flow on effect jobs (shop assistants in the town) or just direct jobs (farm employees)?</p> <p>2. How many less jobs lost across the northern basin? Does that include flow on effect jobs?</p> <p>3. What are the total estimated job losses across the Northern Basin under a 320GL target?</p> <p>4. Will any jobs be lost or gained in the southern basin as a result of the proposed 320 GL reduction?</p> <p>5. What are the volume of extra water and other implications of flows at the SA Border as a result of the proposed northern Basin changes? (e.g. with both the 390 GL & 320 GL options)</p> <p>6. What are the volume of extra water and implications of the recommendations for proposed northern Basin flows at the barrages in South Australia? (For both the 390 & 320 GL reductions?)</p> <p>7. Supposing around 3 GL of extra water was expected to flow over the Barrages under the 390 GL plan than the 320 GL plan, would the MDBA consider another option in say the Coorong / lower Lakes end of the MDBP that could give the same extra 3 GL flow at the Barrages / Murray mouth?</p> <p>8. In the Northern Basin how many Basin Plan flow targets are met under the 320GL target as</p>	Written	

				<p>opposed to the 390GL target?</p> <p>9. How does the MDBA model expected job losses in the MDB? Is it from expected revenue loss from lower income going into the community divided by an average wage?</p> <p>10. Does the MDBA factor into the water allocation reductions, how the social fabric of a community changes when a school closes or a shop or business closes and residents then have to travel much further to obtain services , repairs or schooling etc.? If so how? If not, then should the MDBP start to address this issue?</p>		
140	Murray-Darling Basin Authority	Senator Malcolm Roberts	Additional Social and Economic Impacts (450GL)	<p>1. What is the factual scientific basis for the additional 450GL of water for the environment?</p> <p>2. Has there been any cost benefit analysis on this additional 450GL and in which region?</p> <p>3. With such devastating social & economic impacts seen in both the Southern Basin & Northern Basin from the existing reductions of water e.g. .job losses in the South (Deniliquin, Wakool, Shepparton etc.) & in the Northern basin (Dirranbandi, St George & Wee Waa of 33, 34 & 8 job losses already,) isn't it impossible for another 450 GL of water allocations to be reduced anywhere with neutral or beneficial socio economic impacts?</p> <p>4. Does the MDBA's social & economic neutrality test mean the following?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If one irrigator participates in an on farm efficiency program, the neutrality test is met? • Social & economic effects on a riparian landholder could be deemed socially & economically neutral if a completely separate irrigator in a completely separate region takes up 	Written	

				<p>efficiency project deal?</p> <p>In the southern Basin – stakeholders have advised that the MDBA environmental flow targets within 2750GL will have third party impacts & these are yet to be resolved (i.e. overbank flows and related natural or constraints issues, e.g. bridges, private property impacts etc.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doesn't this make third party impacts worse if an extra 450GL is acquired for the environment? 		
141	Murray-Darling Basin Authority	Senator Malcolm Roberts	Murray Darling Basin Authority Charges	<p>The MDBA pass on costs to State Governments who then pass costs to irrigators to cover river operations and other programs. SA is different because charges are just picked up by the SA government & whole SA community pays;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Are these MDBA fees passed on to irrigators in NSW (& presumably Vic) subject to full transparency? 2. MDBA staffing levels have been reported as approx. 300, & this compares to staffing levels of about 35 -50 people under the former Murray Darling Basin Commission. Can the MDBA provide a breakdown of roles and responsibilities for the full staffing levels? 3. IS the MDBA subject to a regulatory oversight process on how MDBA fees are set and the justification for any increases? 4. Who audits the MDBA? 	Written	
142	Murray-Darling Basin Authority	Senator Malcolm Roberts	Basin Plan Science	<p>The MDBA developed the Basin Plan during the Millennium Drought; baseline documents included the Sustainable Rivers Audit (a report that assessed Basin River Health during the Millennium drought)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Given the short political timeframes for developing a new Basin Plan, how extensive did the MDBA rely on 'available' information 	Written	

				<p>when developing the Plan?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Does the MDBA think given that the Millennium Drought has ended & the environment has recovered, that a review of baseline assumptions the MDBA made is required? 3. Does the MDBA consider that an adaptive approach to new science is appropriate and if so how would such knowledge be built into current decisions and key points to 2019 4. On what basis does the MDBA consider that the Lower Lakes were always fresh? 5. Can the MDBA provide evidence of this? (cite paper & authors & brief outline of evidence) 		
143	Murray-Darling Basin Authority	Senator Malcolm Roberts	Murray River Natural Capacity	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is the MDBA concerned about large new irrigation developments downstream of the Barmah Choke on the Murray River? 2. As managers of Murray River Operations, does the MDBA propose to highlight natural river constrictions and recommend to State Governments that new irrigation developments are made aware of river limitations? 3. Is the MDBA aware of discussions with Murray Irrigation Limited in regards to moving volumes of water through the Mid Murray region (including the use of Murray irrigation channels & escapes into the Edward/Wakool river system)? What is the MDBA's opinion? 4. What is the MDBA views on how these large flows would move through the system including new environmental flow demands in peak periods, new irrigation developments and how water could or could not pass through the system? What are the limitations? 5. Will the MDBA revise their assumption that 'only 'minor over bank flows' would be 	Written	

				<p>required to achieve proposed environmental flows downstream?</p> <p>6. Will the MDBA revise the proposed environmental flow targets of 60,000ML-80,000ML/day over the South Australian border in light of the fact that the Spring 2016 floods which delivered a peak of 95,000ML/day and flows of in excess of 60,000ML/day for 5 weeks DID NOT scour the Murray Mouth sufficiently to withdraw dredging?</p> <p>7. The MDBA has been charged with the responsibility of overseeing the MDB Plan, so how did the Constraints Management Strategy pass even the Phase 1 let alone Phase 2 guideline criteria of “ being feasible within the estimated cost” when the Goulburn River Reach Report estimated mitigation costs have blown out by 350% from an initial \$31-\$47 million to \$140 million (GHD document ‘Cost and Benefits for Private Agricultural Land’ January 2016), keeping in mind that the total amount made available to mitigate third party impacts across the entire Murray Darling Basin is only \$200 million?</p> <p>The overarching evaluation criteria (Point 4) of the Phase1 Assessment Guidelines for Constraint and Supply Proposals states : “The risks and impacts associated with the proposed measure are manageable and acceptable.”</p> <p>8. Whom was it who assumed they are manageable and acceptable?</p> <p>The MDBA has stated that an important principle of the Constraints Strategy is that it will not create any new risks to reliability of entitlements.</p>		
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				<p>9. Please explain how the removal of another 450GL of High Reliability Water Shares under the Constraints Strategy will not cause the Goulburn Murray Irrigation District(GMID) system to collapse, considering the majority of the 450GL upwater will be taken from the GMID through an on-farm efficiency program.</p> <p>10. How can such a huge reduction in volume - down to 700GL- not affect efficient delivery and therefore put irrigators entitlements at risk?</p>		
144	Murray-Darling Basin Authority	Senator Malcolm Roberts	Negative third party impacts	As there are many people across the Basin who are extremely concerned with the increasing frequency of blackwater events, manipulated overbank flood flows and the carp population explosion, would the MDBA specifically demonstrate how these negative third party impacts have been measured, assessed and quantified.	Written	
145	Murray-Darling Basin Authority	Senator Malcolm Roberts	Freshwater currently diverted from Coorong	<p>1. What volume of freshwater is currently diverted FROM the Coorong via the South East Drainage Scheme in South Australia?</p> <p>2. Is the MDBA planning to recover ALL that water for the Coorong, and is this occurring under the MDB Plan?</p>	Written	
146	Murray-Darling Basin Authority	Senator Malcolm Roberts	Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority	<p>In January 2016 the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority revealed to communities in the Goulburn River Reach that the proposed environmental flows of 25,000ML/day with a peak of 30,000ML/day at Shepparton under the Constraints Strategy, would affect or inundate 562 properties and 11,552 Hectares.</p> <p>The proposed repeated frequency of environmental floods - an extra 1-3 floods every 10 years with 2-3 recurrent peaks with each flood, added to the stated 6 natural floods per 10 years</p>	Written	

				<p>will cause a massive reduction in productivity on the Goulburn river flats and their tributaries.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the assessed cost to Victoria and Australia's productivity in dollar terms in that a large percentage of this area is prime agricultural farm land? 2. If this hasn't been undertaken, what is the reasoning behind this lack of feasibility analysis? 3. How has the Constraints Strategy passed the evaluation criteria that states the proposal must be technically feasible, when landowners in the Upper Goulburn Catchment and mid Murrumbidgee have absolutely refused to accept or negotiate easements? 4. And why is the 'relaxed constraints' Strategy still being even considered when there is no hope whatsoever of delivering that water when both State and Federal Governments "will not intentionally flood private land without prior agreement of landholders, nor compulsorily acquire land or easements."? 		
147	Murray-Darling Basin Authority	Senator Malcolm Roberts	Method of estimating costs	<p>The policy of estimating mitigation costs for affected farmland is to use a method of disaggregation, or to cost impacts on only that portion of land which is the difference between where a natural flood would reach and the extra environmental flow would inundate.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. As flooding affects the management and productivity of the entire farm, why has the MDBA approved this method of estimating costs? 	Written	
148	Murray-Darling Basin Authority	Senator Malcolm Roberts	Historical flood data	<p>The proposed number of environmental flood flows per decade in the Goulburn Catchment are based on historical flood data over the last 55 years, despite the fact that since the beginning of</p>	Written	

				<p>the Millenium drought there has been a real step change in climate and such frequent flood events no longer occur.</p> <p>1. Why has the MDBA not revised the data used to the last 20 years as suggested by MDBA board member Mr. George Warne?</p>		
149	Murray-Darling Basin Authority	Senator Malcolm Roberts	Socio-economic impacts	<p>Victorian Water Minister Lisa Neville has stated that the Goulburn Murray Irrigation District and Southern Basin is at 'a tipping point' thus putting the economic stability of the state at risk.</p> <p>1. Do you understand how significant the socio-economic impacts of the MDB Plan have already been?</p> <p>2. Do you know under the current trajectory of the continual reduction in High Reliability Water Shares from the Goulburn Murray Irrigation District that the system is forecast to have less than 700GL left in its delivery system-down from 1600GL?</p> <p>3. In light of this has the MDBA considered a revision of further water removal from the system?</p> <p>4. Do you agree that delivering greater and greater volumes through thousands of kilometres of the Basin river channel systems also has many negative impacts, such as transporting larger volumes of sediment, nutrients and phosphates to deposit in wetlands, creating increased water turbidity, increase carp explosion and hypoxic blackwater events, spread of noxious weeds such as Lippia over thousands of hectares?</p> <p>5. Can the MDBA specifically demonstrate how these negative third party impacts have been measured, assessed and quantified?</p>	Written	
150	Murray-Darling	Senator	Professor Peter	Professor Peter Gell of the Water Research	Written	

	Basin Authority	Malcolm Roberts	Gell	<p>Network, Federation University Australia , totally debunks the MDBA theory that simply delivering greater volumes of water will restore Basin health, and emphasises the importance of improved water quality and a “multi-faceted approach” if there is to be an ecological benefit.</p> <p>Farmers within the Murray Darling Basin have constantly been told that the best scientific information available has been guiding the strategies put in place to restore the health of the Murray Darling Basin.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why has the MDBA failed to utilise such robust scientific evidence as that of Professor Gell? 2. Why has the MDBA focussed so much, purely on attaining and delivering large volumes of water down the river when a holistic view/goal with environmental, socio - economic and long term job development impacts would seem the most appropriate? 3. Why are complimentary measures not considered an alternative to further water recovery? 		
151	Murray-Darling Basin Authority	Senator Malcolm Roberts	Ministerial Council meeting – September 2016	<p>At the MinCo meeting September 2016 the Authority noted that complementary measures are “good actions to take but not substitutes for flow related outcomes. They also recognised it was not feasible to develop a volumetric SDL offset assessment method in a short timeframe, if at all.”</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Isn't it true that this is a very narrow approach and is fundamentally detrimental to the people of the MDB? 	Written	
152	Murray-Darling Basin Authority	Senator Malcolm Roberts	Sustainable Diversion Adjustment Mechanism	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The SDL Mechanism allows for 650GL of projects can help ‘fill the gap’ between water entitlements bought/or acquired through efficiency programs & the 2750GL. State 	written	

			(650GL)	<p>submitted projects are restricted by the 'limits of change', including that State projects cannot compromise the objectives of the Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth (CLLMM) (refer specific flow targets to the CLLMM) Is this correct?</p> <p>2. Now that changes to the historic flow patterns to the Coorong, Murray Mouth from within South Australia is better understood, is the MDBA prepared to accept that more flexibility is required how it has set criteria including the 'limits of change' for State projects submitted?</p> <p>3. Given new knowledge, would the MDBA be prepared to encourage South Australia to submit a more comprehensive range of 'end of system' project options to help meet environmental outcomes locally in the Coorong, Lower Lakes & Murray Mouth.</p> <p>4. If the full suite of 650GL worth of projects cannot be achieved by 30th June 2017, would the MDBA consider an 'adaptive component' for new projects that could be developed to 30th December 2017 or beyond?</p> <p>5. What is the basis for the MDBA's objection to the inclusion of complementary measures within the 650 GL of potential offset projects?</p>		
153	Office of General Counsel	Senator Glenn Sterle	Legal costs	<p>1. What was the Department's total spend on external legal services (including services provided by the Australian Government Solicitor) (GST inclusive) for calendar year 2016?</p> <p>2. Can an itemised list of costs of each legal matter (GST inclusive) please be provided?</p> <p>3. Can a list of relevant Contract Notices published on Austender please be provided?</p>	Written	
154	Rural Industries	Senator Carol	Reduction of	Senator CAROL BROWN: When was the	84	

	Research and Development Corporation	Brown	alumni ticket price	<p>decision made to reduce the alumni ticket price from \$180 to \$160? I think the original save-the-date email went out on 12 April.</p> <p>Mr Harvey: I would need to take that on notice. My understanding is that it was very shortly after that email went out.</p>	24.05.2017	
155	Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation	Senator Carol Brown	Reduction of ticket	<p>Senator CAROL BROWN: I understand what you are saying, Mrs Hull, and you have said it a couple of times. There was some feedback as to why was this happening or we are not happy with it. Did you decide to reduce the cost of the ticket because you started having some negative feedback?</p> <p>Mr Harvey: My understanding is we made that reduction before we got that feedback. I would need to check the actual dates, but my understanding is we made that call before we got the feedback.</p> <p>Mrs Hull: That is my understanding, too. Certainly the decision was made before we got any feedback, because it was my understanding it would be \$160.</p>	85 24.05.2017	
156	Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation	Senator Carol Brown	Average number of alumni attend	<p>Senator CAROL BROWN: Anything could happen. Thirty-nine alumni attended last year. In your experience, Mr Harvey, what is the average number of alumni who attend? There are over 200 politicians, as you would well know, Mrs Hull. I do not know how many politicians attend.</p> <p>Senator Ruston: With the greatest amount of respect, how much level of detail do you want to get in to running the affairs of—</p> <p>Senator CAROL BROWN: If you want to come over here and answer the questions that is fine. I am happy to take your spot there.</p> <p>Senator Ruston: I am not sure the government will be very happy to have you here—</p>	86 24.05.2017	

			<p>Senator CAROL BROWN: I will ask the question. I think I have been asking them in quite a reasonable tone, so what is your problem?</p> <p>CHAIR: We have some critical management issues to deal with here. Mrs Hull, are you in town tonight?</p> <p>Mrs Hull: No, I am not.</p> <p>CHAIR: What time do you have to depart?</p> <p>Mrs Hull: It is only a 3½ drive for me.</p> <p>CHAIR: As we know, senators can go forever if they choose, but I am going to have to interpose some of the other groups who have flight commitments. If we are only a few minutes off the end, I am happy to complete it, but if not I am going to have to interpose Landcare then Dairy Australia.</p> <p>Senator Ruston: I am not sure what Mrs Hull's driving arrangements are tonight, but I would be a little bit loathed to be interposing anybody in front of her if she is driving by herself for three 3½ in the dark. I think that we should perhaps put a priority on her finishing before we bring anyone else on.</p> <p>CHAIR: We can do that, but the consequence of that is that we will immediately test our numbers—to let Landcare go and Dairy Australia go. We cannot be everything to all people. Is that your preference to have Mrs Hull continue for you?</p> <p>Senator CAROL BROWN: I did not know Mrs Hull was driving home tonight. I am happy to complete my questions—</p> <p>Mrs Hull: Sorry, what was that, Senator Brown?</p> <p>Senator CAROL BROWN: I am lobbying on your behalf.</p> <p>Mrs Hull: Thank you.</p>		
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				Senator CAROL BROWN: That was a legitimate question. I will let you take it on notice. I have finished.		
157	Service Delivery Division	Senator Carol Brown	Ranger program	<p>Senator CAROL BROWN: So that \$200 million is now \$189 million. I am going to go quickly through my list because I do not want people to go and I have missed one. I do not think it is in this area, but who would I ask about the \$12.4 million to boost Indigenous ranger groups?</p> <p>Unidentified speaker: Not biosecurity.</p> <p>Senator CAROL BROWN: Yes, I know.</p> <p>Ms O'Connell: There is a biosecurity ranger program, and we administer that.</p> <p>Senator CAROL BROWN: These are the programs that were announced in the white paper.</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan: You are in the right territory. Mr Padovan will respond.</p> <p>Senator CAROL BROWN: Again I am wanting to know where we are in terms of the funding. Was that over four years?</p> <p>Mr Padovan: That is correct.</p> <p>Senator CAROL BROWN: How much have we spent? Over those four years is \$12.4 million going to be expended, or will it be reduced or be more?</p> <p>Mr Padovan: At this point in time we are largely on track with that expenditure. There are a couple of aspects that are contingent on third parties. For example, we are doing a lot of joint work with the states in terms of diagnostic equipment, lab facilities and those sorts of things, so we are working across jurisdictions. Certainly the bulk of the money has been expended as per the plan.</p> <p>Senator CAROL BROWN: What do the budget papers say?</p> <p>Mr Padovan: I will have to come back to you.</p>	52 24.05.2017	

158	Service Delivery Division	Senator Carol Brown	Ranger program	<p>Senator CAROL BROWN: The \$12.4 million that was announced by the minister was all the Commonwealth government component?</p> <p>Mr Padovan: That is correct, noting that there is a broader government program around rangers. Ours is very biosecurity specific. The focus of the ranger work has been on bringing additional ranger groups on board, so we brought a further 28 ranger groups on board, and developing training packages for the ranger groups. We are working through NAILSMA to develop a training program for rangers around biosecurity. We have also begun a process of emergency response training, which is a separate training program, and we spent around a million dollars equipping these groups with the tools that they need in order to undertake biosecurity tasks. That gives us very broad coverage from a surveillance perspective up in the north, so around 10,000 kilometres of coastline is now well covered through these ranger groups.</p> <p>Ms O'Connell: It is a fabulous program in terms of the significant addition of the number of ranger groups involved through this funding. It is terrific to see, and that increase happened very quickly on the commencement of the program. We are confident the spend is underway and in the right direction.</p> <p>ACTING CHAIR: Could you provide the information to the committee where all these ranger groups are.</p> <p>Ms O'Connell: Yes, we can provide you with an interesting map showing the northern coastline and the ranger groups that are there, and it is pleasing to see the expansion in the activity for the Indigenous rangers.</p>	53 24.05.2017	
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				<p>ACTING CHAIR: Brilliant; well done.</p> <p>Senator CAROL BROWN: How much have we expended so far?</p> <p>Mr Padovan: Apologies: I do not have that number at hand.</p> <p>Senator CAROL BROWN: If you could take that on notice, that would be good. Do we know whether it is going to be ongoing past this initial—maybe I should ask the minister—\$12.4 million that has been provided?</p>		
159	Service Delivery Division	Senator Malarndirri McCarthy	Review of quarantine procedures after destruction of historic and valuable plant specimens	<p>Senator McCARTHY: If I can take you back to the conversation around biosecurity in relation to the plants, when did the department commence the review of Australia's quarantine procedures after biosecurity officers destroyed those historic and valuable plant specimens?</p> <p>Mr Padovan: Are you referring to the procedures in terms of how we handle it? Are you referring to how we handle goods forfeited and subsequently—</p> <p>Senator McCARTHY: I guess what I am trying to understand is: did you conduct a review in relation to what happened there?</p> <p>Mr Padovan: We undertook a review within the delivery of biosecurity services—the area that I am responsible for. So we did look at the processes. That review—I would have to confirm the dates, but it was pretty much soon after this incident came to light.</p> <p>Senator McCARTHY: Could you give me the dates then on notice?</p> <p>Mr Padovan: Yes.</p>	65-66 24.05.2017	
160	Service Delivery Division	Senator Malarndirri McCarthy	Training costs – biosecurity officers	<p>Senator McCARTHY: How many staff are we talking about who are in need of this training or retraining?</p> <p>Mr Hawe: I would have to confirm the numbers,</p>	67 24.05.2017	

				<p>but it would be around 40 to 50.</p> <p>Senator McCARTHY: Where would those staff be located?</p> <p>Mr Hawe: They are staff who are typically located at gateway facilities—so they are in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane.</p> <p>Senator McCARTHY: So 40 to 50 staff need retraining?</p> <p>Mr Hawe: We will run all our staff through that. Not all staff would necessarily routinely handle those particular specimens, but we just think it is good practice to put all our staff through that.</p> <p>Senator McCARTHY: So how have you costed this retraining for the 40 to 50 staff in those three locations?</p> <p>Mr Hawe: We train staff routinely in a range of things, so the cost of doing this is not over and above what we would normally undertake as part of just our routine training, and verification and insurance processes.</p> <p>Senator McCARTHY: How much is that?</p> <p>Mr Hawe: I would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator McCARTHY: Could you take that on notice, please.</p> <p>Mr Hawe: Yes.</p>		
161	Service Delivery Division	Senator Malarndirri McCarthy	Outcomes of review	<p>Senator McCARTHY: Okay. Now that the review is finished, can the review be provided to the committee?</p> <p>Mr Hawe: Yes, I could take that on notice and provide you with an outline of the outcomes of our review.</p>	68 24.05.2017	
162	Service Delivery Division	Senator Malarndirri McCarthy	Second case of valuable plant specimens being destroyed	<p>Senator McCARTHY: There are allegations that there is a second case where valuable plant specimens were destroyed. Have these allegations been verified?</p> <p>Mr Padovan: I think you are referring to the case</p>	69 24.05.2017	

				<p>of the plants sent from New Zealand to the Australian Herbarium late last year. Those specimens arrived on 4 August and were destroyed quite some time later—I think it was towards the end of October—and the receiving party only contacted us in the last month once they had become aware of the French herbarium incident. It certainly dates back a little bit to this.</p> <p>Senator RICE: Can I clarify—did they know that they had been destroyed before then?</p> <p>Mr Padovan: No. In fact they contacted us in April—I will have to get the dates—to find out the status of those items.</p>		
163	Service Delivery Division	Senator Janet Rice	Additional information required within 30 days	<p>Senator RICE: Did you follow up as to why they were not providing that required information?</p> <p>Mr Padovan: I would have to chase up the further details on that.</p>	70 24.05.2017	
164	Service Delivery Division	Senator Malarndirri McCarthy	Email exchange - correspondence	<p>Senator McCARTHY: No, hang on. The problem here is that a process was already underway by biosecurity officers. I would like to see the email exchange in this correspondence. But it sounds to me like someone did not want to wait for that further documentation, even though they had clearly been given a guarantee that there would be an opportunity to wait for that document to arrive.</p> <p>Ms O'Connell: I think it is portrayed as a decision. There was a mistake made in destroying those goods. We have acknowledged that. Mr Padovan.</p> <p>Mr Padovan: The breakdown was the disconnect between the person who was having the conversation and the person who undertook the destruction. The 30-day period had elapsed and the goods were in a room where they had been set aside on the basis that more than 30 days had</p>	72 24.05.2017	

				<p>passed. So 3 March, which is when we had the follow-up conversation, was after that 30-day period. The disconnect and where there was breakdown on our part was the communication between the person who undertook the destruction and the person who was having the correspondence with the Queensland Herbarium. The process Mr Hawe outlined earlier was one that now seeks to ensure that there is a clear line of sight between the person who undertakes the destruction and any communications that may be underway with that party.</p> <p>Senator McCARTHY: There is a complete breakdown in that process at that particular moment when a guarantee clearly had been given for those further documents to arrive, even after you had identified that there had been a problem. You had already begun a series of conversations. Could I have a copy of those emails for the Senate committee, Mr Hawe?</p> <p>Mr Hawe: I do not have them with me, but I can provide those.</p> <p>Senator McCARTHY: Thank you.</p>		
165	Service Delivery Division	Senator Barry O'Sullivan	Indigenous ranger program – Longreach district	<p>Mr Quinlivan: Senator McCarthy asked a question about Indigenous employment in the department, and we did provide an answer to the question about the overall numbers of direct employees, and you might recall yesterday we talked a little bit about the Indigenous rangers program—I think that was when we were discussing Landcare—but we have got a document here which shows the geographic distribution of the employment of those rangers, whom we employ under a program but not as direct employees. But it is obviously an area of increasing effort for us and for the government.</p>	41 25.05.2017	

				<p>We have got this map that shows you where they are across northern Australia, if you are interested in seeing it.</p> <p>Senator McCARTHY: Are you providing that information in response to those—</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan: No, just in addition, because it is relevant to the question you asked and I thought you would be interested. We have got the document here.</p> <p>Senator McCARTHY: Absolutely. Can you table that document?</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan: We will table it now.</p> <p>Ms O'Connell: Also, Senator, you asked for this yesterday, so we are providing it—and we have got colour copies. CHAIR: Is there any objection to that being tabled? There is no objection. Mr Quinlivan, on that point, I do not know if you guys are aware of just how successful those programs are with the Indigenous rangers. We have had a discussion with Senator Scullion about the prospect of a slight broadening of that in the desert channels area, to do with the prickly acacia that I raised yesterday. You may have some knowledge as to whether there is a plan to expand it with numbers in the Longreach district. If not, could you take it on notice?</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan: I think I would need to. I am certainly well aware of the value of the program to both the communities that are involved and the Commonwealth departments who are involved in it. I am also well aware of the overall value of the program and looking to expand it wherever we can.</p>		
166	Service Delivery Division	Senator Kim Carr	Termination and shortage of meat inspectors	Senator KIM CARR: If you could, I would appreciate that. Is the department aware of any complaints from producers about the inflexibility	70 25.05.2017	

			<p>of hours and charges relating to inspection services?</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan: We regularly get—</p> <p>Senator KIM CARR: Complaints?</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan: I do not know if I would call them complaints, but we regularly get concerns about the difficulties in managing our requirements with a relatively small number of people sometimes operating in remote locations with the commercial objectives of the processing plants. So, yes, there are regular concerns.</p> <p>Senator KIM CARR: It has been put to me that there is a waiting period of up to two months to appoint or terminate inspectors. This is not in remote locations; this is in quite accessible regions in New South Wales. Are you aware of that?</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan: I am not sure about termination, but I would not be at all surprised if that was the case for recruitment, because they are a small cohort of people who have quite a high average age. I think we have had a lot of difficulty recruiting people to provide these services. I am not surprised by that. As to termination, I am not sure what the issues are there. Again, I would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator KIM CARR: Could you please?</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan: Yes.</p> <p>Senator KIM CARR: What is your understanding of the level of shortage, if you are saying there is a shortage of meat inspectors?</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan: I do not have precise knowledge of that.</p> <p>Senator KIM CARR: You can take that on notice again.</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan: Yes.</p> <p>Senator KIM CARR: Is this a Commonwealth</p>		
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				<p>responsibility?</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan: Yes, it is. The people who deal with this in the department are those who were here when we first spoke yesterday morning.</p> <p>Senator KIM CARR: Producers were suggesting to me that it was a surprise to them, given that there have been plant closures in New South Wales, and yet the claim was that there were shortages of meat inspectors. The two propositions did not really sit side by side.</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan: My impression is that we always have a shortage of meat inspectors.</p> <p>Senator KIM CARR: So, what control does the department have over inspection services?</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan: It is our regulatory responsibility.</p> <p>Senator KIM CARR: Why is there not more flexibility in the service?</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan: We are getting to a level of detail that I am not sure about.</p> <p>Senator KIM CARR: Would you take that on notice?</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan: Yes, I will have to do that.</p>		
167	Sustainable Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Division	Senator Kim Carr	Basis for the selection of Armidale	<p>Senator KIM CARR: Assistant Minister, what was the basis for the selection of Armidale?</p> <p>Senator Ruston: I am quite happy to take that on notice and seek advice from the senior minister.</p> <p>Senator KIM CARR: You don't know?</p> <p>Senator Ruston: I was not a party to that particular policy decision of government. I was not a minister at the time.</p>	12 25.05.2017	
168	Sustainable Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Division	Senator Glenn Sterle	CropLife's concern relocation of APVMA	<p>Senator STERLE: No, it will be a real release. Thanks, Chair. I want to go to the relocation of the APVMA for just one question. I note that CropLife has urged the government to reconsider moving the agency from Canberra, which we are well and truly aware of, warning that the delays</p>	42 25.05.2017	

				<p>risk losing the farming sector billions in revenue. That is CropLife's concern. So I ask you, Mr Quinlivan, and your officers: have you provided a brief to the minister or his office on the serious risk that the relocation of APVMA could have on the Australian agriculture fisheries and forestry multibillion dollar industries, as raised by CropLife?</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan: Not in response to their most recent communications. But you will recall we have discussed this at length in the past, and we did brief the minister on the Ernst & Young cost-benefit analysis from which those numbers were derived, so those issues have certainly been ventilated.</p> <p>Senator STERLE: I think I already know the answer, but can you share those with the committee?</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan: I will take that on notice.</p>		
169	Sustainable Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Division	Senator Malarndirri McCarthy	Forest Industry Advisory Council	<p>Senator McCARTHY: I would like to have a look at the Forest Industry Advisory Council. When was the last time that the council met?</p> <p>Ms Lauder: I think the FIAC last met in December last year, but there is a meeting coming up within the next month.</p> <p>Senator McCARTHY: When does it meet normally? Is it every six months?</p> <p>Ms Lauder: It must meet at least twice a year.</p> <p>Senator McCARTHY: It must or does?</p> <p>Ms Lauder: Yes, it must according to the RFA Act, but it can meet more regularly based on a needs basis.</p> <p>Senator McCARTHY: What issues were raised? Was the issue of imminent wood supply shortfalls for Australian sustainable hardwoods at Hayfield or Carter Holt Harvey at Morwell raised?</p>	56 25.05.2017	

				<p>Ms Lauder: No. Now that you have flagged that—it must have been a bit earlier than December, because the things that concerned them at the time were how they would implement the recommendations from the FIAC report that was provided to government. At that stage also the East Gippsland Regional Forest Agreement was about to cease. There were concerns about whether that would be extended in time before it ran out. Those were the key focuses at the time.</p> <p>Senator McCARTHY: So, you now think it was before December that they met?</p> <p>Ms Lauder: Yes. I have to take on notice the exact date.</p>		
170	Sustainable Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Division	Senator Malarndirri McCarthy	Forest Industry Advisory Council Report	<p>Senator McCARTHY: So, those are some of the recommendations that have already been implemented by the government?</p> <p>Senator Ruston: Yes. There are many more. I am happy to take it on notice and give you a proper response to that.</p>	57 25.05.2017	
171	Sustainable Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Division	Senator Chris Back	Additional RFA reserves	<p>Senator Ruston: Senator Back, the other question that you asked, which I do not think we answered, was in relation to how much more forest area has actually gone into reserve—</p> <p>Senator BACK: Since then.</p> <p>Senator Ruston: —since the RFAs were signed.</p> <p>Senator BACK: Yes.</p> <p>Senator Ruston: A significant amount has gone in. I do not have the figures in front of me and I do not know whether Ms Lauder does, but we will certainly provide you on notice the additional addition to the reserves post the actual signing of the RFAs.</p>	60-61 25.05.2017	
172	Sustainable Agriculture, Fisheries and	Senator Malarndirri McCarthy	Forest Industry Advisory Council - unions	<p>Senator McCARTHY: Are there any unions on the council, either as a member or as an observer?</p> <p>Senator Ruston: No, I do not think so.</p>	62-63 25.05.2017	

	Forestry Division			<p>Senator McCARTHY: Is there any particular reason you do not need their skills or expertise?</p> <p>Senator Ruston: It was not appointed by me, but I am certainly happy to find out.</p> <p>Ms Lauder: It was not appointed in my time. We can come back to you on that. I know there is an observer from the skills and training side of things but not union.</p> <p>Senator McCARTHY: So, you will come back to me?</p> <p>Ms Lauder: Yes.</p> <p>Senator McCARTHY: Would you also take on notice just in terms of what that process is to be on there as a member or as an observer?</p> <p>Ms Lauder: Yes, absolutely.</p>		
173	Sustainable Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Division	Senator Malarndirri McCarthy	Forest Stewardship Council National Standard	<p>Senator McCARTHY: As you are aware, the Forest Stewardship Council National Standard, whose development was partly funded by the Australian government with \$500,000 in the 2013-14 budget, has been submitted to FSC International in Bonne without a consensus motion for principle 2 of the standard, which is about workers' rights, putting the whole standard development process at risk.</p> <p>Ms Lauder: We will need to take that one on notice. I am sorry.</p> <p>Senator McCARTHY: Thank you.</p>	63 25.05.2017	
174	Sustainable Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Division	Senator Janet Rice	Timber Release Plan	<p>Senator RICE: Can you explain to me why, on the current Timber Release Plan, which was published in January 2007, there were only two coupes that were listed as using retention harvesting compared with 376 that were to be clear felled?</p> <p>Ms Lauder: No, I am sorry. I cannot. We would have to get that information from the Victorian government.</p>	66 25.05.2017	

				<p>Senator RICE: That is completely inconsistent with retention harvesting being 50 per cent, moving to 100 per cent, and completely inconsistent with what Minister Ruston has told us, that that is one of the key measures that will be used to maintain populations of the Leadbeater's possums.</p> <p>Senator Ruston: We will certainly need to get clarification from VicForests on that, because the advice that we got from VicForest is that that is their intention. We will get back to you on notice.</p> <p>Senator RICE: Thank you.</p>		
175	Trade and Market Access Division	Senator Back	Japan-Australia Economic Partnership agreement (JAEPa)- tariffs	<p>Senator BACK: In terms of your predictions, we know that at the moment rice to Japan is not included in any of the provisions under the free trade agreement. Is that correct?</p> <p>Ms Gleeson: That is correct.</p> <p>Senator BACK: But we also know that the average age of Japanese famers, including rice farmers, I think, is now 68 or 69 years of age and that the size of their farms and their land title systems are such that they are not able to amalgamate farms to get the economies of scale. So the day is going to come reasonably soon, I would have thought, where they are not going to be self-sufficient in rice. Is it the case that we have most favoured nation status with Japan as part of our free trade agreement in the sense that, if and when they are looking at rice imports, Australia will be well positioned to meet that demand?</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan: We will just see if we have any people from our Trade and Market Access Division here.</p> <p>Senator BACK: I will ask that question later on or I will put it on notice.</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan: They will certainly know the</p>	31-32 25.05.2017	

				answer to that question.		
176	Trade and Market Access Division	Senator Kim Carr	Schedule of tariffs	<p>Senator KIM CARR: Yes, the technical side of it. In terms of market access arrangements, particularly in regard to behind border restrictions, who is responsible for dealing with that issue?</p> <p>Ms van Meurs: Again, it depends on what you are talking about when you are talking about behind border issues. If it is to do with a technical issue such as a country requiring that we are free of a particular disease in Australia, then it is the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources. If it is about a specific technical side, how much weight you need in a particular orange juice, then depending on the issue it might well be the Department of Industry or the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Again, it depends on the non-tariff measure.</p> <p>Senator KIM CARR: Is there a schedule I can find somewhere that explains this?</p> <p>Ms van Meurs: We could provide that on notice.</p> <p>Senator KIM CARR: Would you?</p> <p>Ms van Meurs: Yes.</p>	72-73 25.05.2017	
177	Trade and Market Access Division	Senator Kim Carr	Overseas Counsellors	<p>Senator KIM CARR: Can I get a list of those and where those counsellors are based?</p> <p>Ms van Meurs: Yes. Those counsellors quite often work with obviously Canberra but they are located in those countries. They will work with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Austrade. Depending on what that particular delegation wants to see and do, it might be a combination of the different departments in those countries helping them either to market their product, to find new importers, helping to try and deal with a particular issue. It depends on why they are going. Our counsellors often are helping the agricultural industries in those circumstances.</p>	73-74 25.05.2017	

178	Trade and Market Access Division	Senator Chris Back	Korea FTA - tariffs	<p>Senator BACK: I would like to get some advice from you in terms of each of the Korea, Japan and China free trade agreements where you can show evidence of increased trade in the agricultural space as a result of each. Can we start with Korea, which entered into force in December 2014. What, if any, change/improvements in agricultural commodity exports have we seen as a result of that?</p> <p>Ms van Meurs: I have some examples here. The free trade agreement entered into force on 12 December 2014. The worth of the agricultural exports to Korea at that time was \$2.6 billion. In 2016, under KAFTA, Australian exports have reached \$3 billion. Australian exporters have now benefited from four tariff cuts under KAFTA, with a fourth on 1 January 2017. Some examples are that Australian beef exports to Korea have increased by nine per cent in 2016 compared with 2015, reaching \$1.4 billion. The value of Australian potatoes for chipping exported to Korea has almost doubled in 2016 to just over \$14 million, compared with \$7.1 million in 2015. Some other examples are dairy. The calendar year 2015 was \$465 million. In calendar 2016 this has increased to \$781 million, which is a 68 per cent increase. As to tariff reductions prior to the entry into force—as of 1 January 2017 this has gone from 10 per cent to 7.5 per cent. Milk powder—</p> <p>Senator BACK: Will it reduce further under the agreement?</p> <p>Ms van Meurs: Yes, it will. I do not have those with me, but I can take them on notice. That will continue to decline over I think it is a 10-year period. Milk powder for the 2015 calendar year was \$115 million. In calendar year 2016 it is \$201</p>	74 25.05.2017	
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				<p>million—an increase of 75 per cent. Again, that reduction in the tariff is from 10 to 7.5 per cent in the last tariff reduction, which is 1 January 2017.</p> <p>Senator BACK: Is that an annual tariff reduction?</p> <p>Ms van Meurs: It is. I will have to take that on notice just to be specific on that one, but it is annual.</p>		
179	Trade and Market Access Division	Senator Chris Back	Cherry exports - Tasmania	<p>Senator BACK: Can you tell me from what states? I understand Tasmania is fairly prominent in that increase, is it? Are you able to give me those figures?</p> <p>Ms van Meurs: On my memory, Tasmania is the only state that can export cherries to China.</p> <p>Senator BACK: So, all of that is Tasmanian?</p> <p>Ms van Meurs: Yes. I would have to take that on notice, but from memory, yes. Citrus was \$53 million in 2015 exports, and in 2016 it has gone to \$72.3 million, an increase of 36 per cent. Wine is—</p> <p>Senator BACK: And the tariff on that?</p> <p>Ms van Meurs: The tariff on that one—I will have to just look at that as I go through some of the others.</p>	75 25.05.2017	
180	Trade and Market Access Division	Senator Chris Back	Technical market access achievements	<p>Senator BACK: I will not ask you about the TPP, except to say that there are still 11 countries, I understand, very keen to pursue it. I do not think we should give up on the prospect of the United States coming back in. What I will ask you, finally if I may, is if you could give the committee some advice on how technical market access is negotiated and what, if anything, have we achieved in government with technical market access?</p> <p>Ms van Meurs: Technical market assess is a key. We are the lead agency to negotiate protocols with different countries. We have, I think as I said</p>	76 25.05.2017	

				<p>before, a number of counsellors throughout the world who help us with that negotiation. Some of the key areas where we have market access and tried to improve market access include—I am sorry, I will just find the details.</p> <p>Senator BACK: Would it be easier if you took it on notice and provided me with the information?</p> <p>Ms van Meurs: Yes, I can take it on notice.</p>		
181	Trade and Market Access Division	Senator Glenn Sterle	Asparagus/beans market access	<p>Ms van Meurs: I would have to take that on notice. I am not sure which vegetables you are talking about and which market access.</p> <p>Senator STERLE: Let us have a crack. How are we going with asparagus?</p> <p>Ms van Meurs: I would have to take that on notice. I would not have that detail on me.</p> <p>Senator STERLE: What about beans?</p> <p>Ms van Meurs: Again, I would have to take that on notice. Only other than I know that Horticulture Industry Australia, which is the peak industry body, is looking at China and particularly around vegetables and what they might be able to do to increase that market access into China. They are looking at and working with people like AUSVEG to be able to get more access into China.</p>	76 25.05.2017	
182	Trade and Market Access Division	Senator Glenn Sterle	Vegetable exports to China	<p>Senator STERLE: The last time I looked we were not having much luck with vegetables into China, so I was asking whether anything has moved on since our last round?</p> <p>Senator Ruston: It might be worth noting that last week the horticultural industry had its annual peak conference in Adelaide. There were two and a half thousand people there and one of the subjects that was greatly discussed was the amount of progress that had been made in terms of being able to get market access for a number of</p>	76-77 25.05.2017	

				<p>different vegetable types, but most particularly about the change in the way they were doing business to be able to access the market. I think there is a quite good news story there, so I will get you some more information.</p> <p>Senator STERLE: Thank you. Minister, you will come back to us because the information in the latest table that I have—nothing has gone in yet, although we have asparagus and lettuce with a phyto cert, a certain percentage, and nil by 2019. But you are saying—</p> <p>Senator Ruston: Are you talking specifically about a market or more generally in terms of exports?</p> <p>Senator STERLE: To China.</p> <p>Senator Ruston: I am sorry. I thought you were talking more generally about export. My apologies.</p> <p>Senator STERLE: No, I was talking about China.</p> <p>Senator Ruston: Now we are talking more generally about exports. Vegetables have not been a really big export area for us, but it is certainly seen as a great opportunity.</p> <p>Senator STERLE: I agree and we are all excited. I have been to China three times and there are wonderful opportunities for us.</p> <p>Senator Ruston: I will get you some information.</p>		
183	Water Division	Senator Don Farrell	Funding allocated to buybacks	<p>Senator FARRELL: What is the total funding allocated to the buybacks?</p> <p>Mr Parker: We can give you a number. That is a capital amount. We can dig that number out for you. While my colleagues are doing that, I will just make the point that, because the SDL adjustment mechanism reduces the need for buyback, that liberates money, which provides for funding for doing the SDL adjustment process.</p>	6 26.05.2017	

184	Water Division	Senator Skye Kakoschke-Moore	Green Army	<p>Senator KAKOSCHKE-MOORE: I just want to turn now to the abolition of the Green Army. Our colleague Rebekha Sharkie, the member for Mayo, raised some concerns about the impact the abolition of the Green Army would have on a number of projects within her electorate. I just wanted to know how the abolition and defunding of the Green Army will impact on bioremediation within the areas we just discussed.</p> <p>Mr Robertson: The Green Army is actually a program that was run involving the department of the environment and others. It is not something that has been part of our responsibility. So we are unable to comment on that.</p> <p>Mr Parker: We are happy to refer the question to them.</p>	7-8 26.05.2017	
185	Water Division	Senator Bridget McKenzie	Environmental indicators	<p>Senator McKENZIE: So it was a political solution in the end.</p> <p>Mr Glyde: Yes, and it was important in order to get everybody together to support the overall plan. The MDBA's role was to recommend the level that you would need in order to restore the basin to sustainability, and that is why we came up with the 2,750.</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: What difference would the 450 make to environmental indicators at the end of the system—the flow over the barrages, the salinity, mouth openness et cetera?</p> <p>Mr Glyde: If you were to return the full 450?</p> <p>Mr James: We would have to take that on notice. It is a simple question but a complex answer. It would depend a lot on the landing point of, if you like, the down water and the various measures that are put in place there, because that will dictate, to some degree, how effectively that water can be used and the outcomes it can achieve.</p>	13 26.05.2017	

				<p>Senator McKENZIE: But I am assuming, if we have had this conversation about 450 and the explanation Mr Glyde just gave us about why it exists, that we would have some reconciliation of its environmental impact.</p> <p>Mr Glyde: My understanding at the time—I do not know if we have actually fully modelled what the 3,200 would be, and I might seek some advice on this—is that, as Mr James has mentioned, depending on how you do the 650 down water, that has an impact on the amount of real water that is flowing through the system. Then, on top of that, again the 450 gigalitres of up water has not really been started. There is a pilot program that the Commonwealth government is running. If I understand your question, it is about getting the accurate estimate of what the environmental outcomes would be. If that is what you are after, we would probably have to go back to the original work that we did on the 3,200, the 2,800 and the 2,400 to give you that figure in answer to that question.</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: Yes, we need that level of detail to understand why we are here now. I also would like to know how much it will cost to recover.</p> <p>Mr Glyde: The 450?</p> <p>Mr Parker: Yes. That is probably a question for us. It again depends on a bunch of other things as well. We are happy to take that on notice. There will be an element of scenarios—</p>		
186	Water Division	Senator Pauline Hanson	Highcourt overrule section100	<p>Senator ROBERTS: Can I ask a follow-up question? Mr Parker, on what basis did the High Court overrule section 100? Do you know?</p> <p>Mr Parker: They did not overrule. They said the plan and the water act was not inconsistent with it.</p>	15-16 26.05.2017	

				<p>Senator ROBERTS: What was the basis? Can I get that from you on notice?</p> <p>Mr Parker: It is a public document. I do not have all of the precise details of the judgement in front of me.</p>		
187	Water Division	Senator Alex Gallacher	DPM meetings with crossbench senators or One Nation	<p>Senator GALLACHER: That is very important; it was probably my next question. Has the Deputy Prime Minister had any meetings with crossbench senators or One Nation, for example?</p> <p>Senator Ruston: I am sure he probably has, but I would need to take on notice any specifics of those.</p>	17 26.05.2017	
188	Water Division	Senator Don Farrell	Letter from DPM to Mr Hunter	<p>Senator FARRELL: That is really the point, and I am not happy with the answer, and I do not think the people of South Australia, Minister, are happy with the answer. I do not think we would have a problem, if we did not have this letter in writing from Deputy Prime Minister Joyce. What is he saying is the 'unsolvable stalemate'?</p> <p>Senator Ruston: Obviously, we have heard evidence on a number of occasions—you heard it hear this morning from Senator McKenzie—that there are a number of communities upstream from South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales and Queensland, who have had some very significant impacts from the amount of water that has been taken out of productive use in their communities. We have to be very mindful of those implications.</p> <p>As part of the agreement when the 450 up water was included as part of the negotiations for the final plan, it was agreed at that time that there would be no negative socioeconomic impacts on the recovery of the 450 gegalitres. What, I think, the minister is saying—and, as I said, I do not want to verbal the Deputy Prime Minister; I am</p>	19 26.05.2017	

				quite happy to seek further clarification. My interpretation is: we need to start sitting down at the table and looking at how we are going to deliver this 450 at the same time as dealing with this—there are some very significant economic and social impacts in our river communities. I live in one of them, Senator Farrell.		
189	Water Division	Senator Don Farrell	Letter from Mr Hunter to DPM	<p>Senator FARRELL: Sorry, Mr Parker: this is a subsequent letter?</p> <p>Mr Parker: Yes, and the terms of reference for that advice have been agreed amongst all jurisdictions.</p> <p>CHAIR: Thank you for that. Senator Farrell, you can ask for it.</p> <p>Senator FARRELL: Are we able to get a copy of that second letter? Has anybody got a copy of it?</p> <p>Senator Ruston: We will take that on notice, Senator Farrell, but I am sure you have probably got access to the writer.</p> <p>Senator FARRELL: Yes, but not here right now—but I am sure he would provide one.</p> <p>Senator Ruston: Sure.</p> <p>CHAIR: Senator Xenophon, you have got the call.</p> <p>Senator XENOPHON: Thank you. Is that the Prime Minister's letter of 29 November 2016?</p> <p>Senator FARRELL: No, it is a letter from Minister Hunter, I think they are talking about.</p> <p>Senator Ruston: Yes, it was a subsequent letter from Minister Hunter.</p> <p>Mr Parker: That is right, yes.</p> <p>Senator XENOPHON: So, you will take that on notice, if you could provide us—</p> <p>CHAIR: The minister said yes.</p>	20 26.05.2017	
190	Water Division	Senator Ian Macdonald	National Water Infrastructure	Senator IAN MACDONALD: You will be safe in your evaluation, Mr Chairman; I am here. Good	25 26.05.2017	

			Development Fund	<p>morning, Minister, gentlemen and Ms Fox. Does the National Water Infrastructure Development Fund relate to parts of the Darling River that come into Queensland? Can someone tell me exactly what that fund is related to?</p> <p>Mr McLoughlin: It is a national fund, so it applies to both feasibility study funding and capital project proposals anywhere in the country.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD: And is any of it currently earmarked for any part of the Murray-Darling Basin?</p> <p>Mr McLoughlin: There are feasibility studies that have been funded in the Murray-Darling Basin in New South Wales and southern Queensland. I can list those, but we can provide the detail of those on notice if you wish.</p>		
191	Water Division	Senator Nick Xenophon	Feasibility studies	<p>Senator IAN MACDONALD: You mentioned other feasibility studies. As the chairman said, rightly so a lot of them are in Queensland. Are they all progressing?</p> <p>Mr McLoughlin: They are. Queensland has contracted every single one of the feasibility studies that were proposed to us and that were agreed to be funded, as has every other jurisdiction, so all 39 feasibility studies that were funded across the country are now off and running. Some of them have already been completed—but none in Queensland.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD: Which ones have been completed?</p> <p>Mr McLoughlin: What is due at the end of this month and so is due to be completed: Bundaberg Channel capacity upgrade feasibility study for Bundaberg and the north Adelaide irrigation scheme business case have been completed. In Victoria, an alternative water grid to enable</p>	25 26.05.2017	

				<p>growth and resilience for agriculture west of Melbourne has largely been completed.</p> <p>Senator XENOPHON: That is northern Adelaide, is it, not North Adelaide?</p> <p>Mr McLoughlin: Northern Adelaide, yes. You are right. All of the details of these feasibility studies are listed on our website. We can certainly provide a consolidated list for you if you wish.</p>		
192	Water Division	Senator Ian Macdonald	Schedule of contracts - Queensland	<p>Senator IAN MACDONALD: You have more staff than I have, so on notice, and I will confine it to Queensland—other senators can ask similar for their states—could you give me as much detail as possible on when the contract was signed, who is doing it, when it is anticipated to be completed and if there are any arrangements for announcements on completion? Often there is a requirement that these be announced jointly by state and federal governments. I would like to confirm that that is the case.</p> <p>Mr McLoughlin: Certainly. For the first part of your request, certainly we can provide that. For the last point, yes, there is a requirement that any publicity, any media event, has to be notified to us and be jointly agreed.</p>	27-28 26.05.2017	
193	Water Division	Senator Alex Gallacher	Any parts of the plan the minister does not agree with	<p>Senator GALLACHER: Are there any parts of the plan that the minister does not agree with at this stage?</p> <p>Senator Ruston: Parts of the plan that I do not agree with?</p> <p>Senator GALLACHER: That the minister does not agree with. It could be—</p> <p>Senator Ruston: I would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator GALLACHER: This minister or the other minister!</p> <p>Senator Ruston: Sorry—yes. I will have to take</p>	52 26.05.2017	

				that on notice. But I am assuming not.		
194	Water Division	Senator Nick Xenophon	Timing of the plan	<p>Senator XENOPHON: Chair, can I be supplementary to your question that was put on notice to the Deputy Prime Minister? Could the question also be, supplementary to that: are there any parts of the plan that the Deputy Prime Minister holds any concerns, reservations or disagreements about in respect of the timing of the plan? It is not just a question of the plan itself, which you quite rightly asked about, but issues of timing and whether there is a different view about the timing of implementation from that which has been set out in the plan.</p> <p>Senator Ruston: Sure, Senator, I am happy to get that for you.</p>	52 26.05.2017	
195	Water Division	Senator Nick Xenophon	SDL adjustment mechanism	<p>Senator XENOPHON: Given that the Australian government will be holding much less water as a result of the offsets delivered under the SDL adjustment mechanism—I know you cannot tell me how much that will be because of the various processes; you well explained that—can you at least posit what the annual average saving to the Commonwealth from reduced water holdings if the SDL offsets range from 600 to 650 gegalitres would be? It seems to be somewhere in that range. So if we are somewhere between 600 and 650 gegalitres, what would the annual saving to the Commonwealth be if we were around that 600 to 650 gegalitre range subject to the caveats you have already set out?</p> <p>Mr Parker: I need to seek clarification about the annual saving we are talking about here. There is a capital cost of not having to acquire the entitlements</p>	55 26.05.2017	
196	Water Division	Senator Nick Xenophon	Intergovernmental agreement	<p>Senator XENOPHON: Yes. I go to 4.7 of the intergovernmental agreement. It says: The Commonwealth will consult closely with Basin States</p>	56 26.05.2017	

				<p>on the design of efficiency measure programs (including targeted volumes of water recovery and their regional distribution), and on arrangements for their subsequent delivery and implementation ... and the achievement of socio-economically neutral or beneficial outcomes.</p> <p>If one of the states says, 'You know what, we don't want to play ball on this,' even though you have talked about some of the mechanisms in place, and they say, 'We're going to take our time. We're not going to pursue this further,' what happens if there is a gridlock with respect to this? This agreement is predicated on all the states and Commonwealth working together cooperatively. If one state says, for whatever reason, 'We don't want to play ball,' what does that do? How is any deadlock in 4.7 dealt with?</p> <p>Mr Parker: I think that is a hypothetical question at this point in time and it would be better not to—</p> <p>Senator XENOPHON: You do not want to think about it, do you, at this stage?</p> <p>Senator Ruston: The other thing that is probably worth considering is the fact that it took 100 years for everybody to agree to go forward on this, all jurisdictions. Everyone has a fair bit invested in trying to come up with—</p> <p>Senator XENOPHON: Yes. And, in fairness to Mr Parker, I hope that is never considered, but I just want to know if there is a deadlock-breaking mechanism. That is all.</p>		
197	Water Division	Senator Nick Xenophon	SDL adjustment mechanism	<p>Senator XENOPHON: But from a policy point of view—and I am happy for this to be taken on notice; this is not a trick question—if there are going to be savings, has a policy decision been made? What has been considered in the context of the Commonwealth underwriting the ongoing annual costs of the offset projects or will the costs be borne by irrigators? I think that is a fear amongst irrigation communities. I am not suggesting that is what the government is doing. I am just trying to understand where that would be.</p>	56 26.05.2017	

				<p>Mr Glyde, I think that is one of the issues. I do not know if you were nodding as to the question or whether it was just a general nod.</p> <p>Mr Glyde: I was nodding that it is a very complicated issue, as Mr Parker has said.</p>		
198	Water Division	Senator Nick Xenophon	Disallowable instrument	<p>Senator XENOPHON: I have a copy of the exposure draft here. The foreign ownership register and the rules surrounding it should be up and running by 1 July. Minister, I may have blinked and missed it but I do not think that legislation has been introduced yet—has it?</p> <p>Ms Colreavy: The legislation for the register was passed in December?</p> <p>Senator XENOPHON: No, for these rules. Are you saying that there must be a separate act?</p> <p>Ms Colreavy: Yes. They have not come in yet.</p> <p>Senator XENOPHON: Are we talking about support legislation?</p> <p>Ms Colreavy: It is a regulation.</p> <p>Mr Parker: It is a regulation.</p> <p>Senator XENOPHON: I see.</p> <p>Senator Ruston: I am sorry, I have been sitting here trying to work out where it is.</p> <p>Senator XENOPHON: We are in the same boat.</p> <p>Ms Colreavy: I did not understand the confusion, I am sorry.</p> <p>Senator XENOPHON: They are regulations, in effect; so they are a disallowable instrument.</p> <p>Ms Colreavy: Yes, I think they are.</p> <p>Senator XENOPHON: They normally would be.</p> <p>Ms Colreavy: They normally would be, yes.</p> <p>Senator XENOPHON: Minister, could you take it on notice?</p> <p>Senator Ruston: Yes, as much for my own sake as yours.</p>	68 26.05.2017	
199	Water Division	Senator Glenn	Projects	1. What kinds of projects get put forward?	Written	

		Sterle		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. What information is collected and maintained by Department / authority? 3. What criteria do projects have to meet? 4. Are the criteria set by the department / authority? 5. How are projects monitored? 6. How does the funding side work? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Is funding given to the farmer? b. In stages? c. Is there a multiplier? (what does the work cost? What is the water saving worth? Etc) 7. How much water gets saved by individual projects? What percentage for example? 8. Who gets the water? Or the savings? 9. Who benefits? 10. Are these programs popular? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. If so, with who? b. Does the department / authority keep records of the uptake of projects? c. What sort of uptake is there? 11. How is a project deemed successful? What's the process the department / authority goes through to 'finish' a successful contract? 12. Does the department measure the socio-economic impact of projects? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. if so, how? 13. Would any of the projects that contribute to the 2750GL qualify (and/or be eligible) for the 450GL criteria as set out in the Basin Plan (section 7.17)? the department mentioned in senate estimates that it is looking in to ways / the legality for additional savings from existing infrastructure projects counting towards the 450GL. does that mean they qualify? 14. What is the status of the legal advice? or any advice on this issue? 		
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				<p>15. How many infrastructure programs have been run in the last year or so?</p> <p>16. How many programs have been run in the term of this government?</p> <p>17. Have stakeholders or individuals asked the department / authority to fund more on-farm projects?</p> <p>a. How much interest?</p> <p>b. Have people mentioned it at meetings?</p> <p>c. Have people provided proposals?</p> <p>18. How much water has been recovered in the last year? Over the term of government?</p>		
200	Water Division	Senator Malcolm Roberts	Water policy	Given the continuing ineffectiveness, inefficiency & inequity of government environmental regulation , is it time to subject such regulation to proper & independent CBA ... especially genuinely analysing greater freedom over control?	Written	
201	Water Division	Senator Bridget McKenzie	Phase 1 Assessment Guidelines for Constraint and Supply Proposals	<p>The overarching evaluation criteria (Point 4) of the Phase1 Assessment Guidelines for Constraint and Supply Proposals states :</p> <p>“The risks and impacts associated with the proposed measure are manageable and acceptable.”</p> <p>These risks and impacts are NOT acceptable to landowners, so to whom is it assumed they are manageable and acceptable?</p>	Written	
202	Water Division	Senator Bridget McKenzie	Risks to reliability of entitlements	<p>The MDBA has stated that an important principle of the Constraints Strategy is that it will not create any new risks to reliability of entitlements. Please explain how the removal of another 450GL of High Reliability Water Shares under the Constraints Strategy will not cause the Goulburn Murray Irrigation District(GMID) system to collapse, considering the majority of the 450GL upwater will be taken from the GMID through an on-farm efficiency program.</p>	Written	

				<p>And how can such a huge reduction in volume - down to 700GL- not affect efficient delivery and therefore put irrigators entitlements at risk?</p> <p>INFORMATION NOTES FOR QUESTION 6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since 1995 the GMID has lost 40% or 640,000ML of High Reliability Water Shares. The removal of another 450GL upwater under the Constraints Strategy, most of which will come from the Goulburn Murray Irrigation District, will see the GMID losing so much High Reliability Water Shares that water delivery will be inefficient and unviable. • By 2020 Goulburn Murray Water(GMW), which manages 70% of Victoria's water resources, is Australia's largest rural water business with approximately 38,000 customers (as at Feb 2016), will be unviable with no economic future due to the fact that there will be such a reduced volume of water in the system that it will be inefficient to deliver entitlements. • GMID will have only 700GL HWRS remaining by end of Connections program, reduced from 1600GL in 1996 (Statement made by then Chairwoman of GMW Sarah Scales in June 2016) • Irrigators will have a significantly more expensive system to maintain and a reduced reliability of water supply • GMW themselves have warned the Victorian Govt that all Victoria's irrigation districts are in decline. 		
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203	Water Division	Senator Glenn Sterle	DPM letter to Minister Hunter	<p><i>DPM Joyce wrote to Minister Hunter late in 2016 regarding the 450GL and (paraphrasing) stated it is not possible to achieve the 450GL and sought to discuss other ways of satisfying South Australia.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Has the department / authority provided advice on what would be eligible for the 450GL of additional water (the up water)? 2. Has the department / authority provided any advice on whether these projects are feasible? 3. Has the department / authority mapped or identified areas where the projects to deliver on the 450GL commitment could come from? 4. What work has the department / authority done on the idea that the 450GL could not be delivered? 5. Has the Department / authority formed the view that the 450GL could not be delivered? 6. Was the department / authority asked to provide a draft letter for Minister Hunter on the 450GL? <p>If yes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Was the draft used? b. Does the department / authority stand by the content of that letter? <p>If no:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> c. When did the department / authority first learn about the letter sent to Minister Hunter? d. Does the department / authority agree with the contents of the letter? e. Are there any parts the department / authority does not agree with? f. Did the department / authority provide advice on the contents of the letter? 	Written	
204	Water Division	Senator Glenn Sterle	Downstream benefits of the 450	Why isn't the study examining the downstream benefits of the 450 GLs?	Written	

			GLs	<p>Minister Joyce in his media release says he is committed to “the triple bottom line outcomes of the Basin Plan: water recovery must be done in a way that supports strong Basin communities and productive industries”.</p> <p>- As ‘the expression ‘triple bottom line ‘ is defined as “an accounting framework with three parts: social, environmental and financial” and as the Minister’s reference to triple bottom line does not mention the environment element, why was the phrase triple bottom line used? why are environment aspects not included in the study ToR’s?</p> <p>The ToR’s were agreed by Basin Ministers on 17 March - why has it taken 10 weeks to release the ToR’s (on 26 May)? when will the Independent study report? To which body will the Study report to?</p>		
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