

**Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2017

**Department of Agriculture and Water Resources**

**Question Number:** 68

**Division/Agency:** Exports Division

**Topic:** List of people consulted re export of horses

**Proof Hansard Page:** 15 (24.05.2017)

**Senator RHIANNON asked:**

**Senator RHIANNON:** So, there is an exposure draft around it, about the amendment?

**Dr Clegg:** No, not at this stage.

**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?

**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.

**Senator RHIANNON:** Could you just take on notice to supply us with a list of those people who have been consulted?

**Dr Clegg:** Yes.

**Senator RHIANNON:** And when it will be released for public consultation?

**Dr Clegg:** Yes.

**Senator RHIANNON:** Thank you.

**Answer:**

Please refer to the response to Question on Notice 74 from Budget Estimates, May 2017.

**Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2017

**Department of Agriculture and Water Resources**

**Question Number:** 69

**Division/Agency:** Exports Division

**Topic:** Export of cattle to port near Shanghai

**Proof Hansard Page:** 17 (24.05.2017)

**Senator HINCH asked:**

**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 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?

**Senator Ruston:** No, I was not aware of that.

**Senator HINCH:** Was the government aware of that?

**Senator Ruston:** I will have to take that on notice.

**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?

**Senator Ruston:** Certainly.

**Answer:**

This matter was approved by the Foreign Investment Review Board. This question should be directed to the Treasury.

The department has not received any application regarding the export of cattle to China from Ms Rinehart or Hancock Prospecting. No special treatment has been requested nor granted by the department with respect to the export of cattle from this business.

**Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2017

**Department of Agriculture and Water Resources**

**Question Number:** 70

**Division/Agency:** Exports Division

**Topic:** Live export trade compared with the trade in box-chilled meat

**Proof Hansard Page:** 18-19 (24.05.2017)

**Senator RHIANNON asked:**

**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?

**Senator Ruston:** I will take all questions in relation to this on notice. I would only be speculating if I gave you anything here.

**Senator RHIANNON:** You will take that on notice?

**Senator Ruston:** Absolutely.

**Answer:**

The department supports both the live export trade and the export trade in box-chilled meat. The department does not seek to intervene in the balance of domestic employment between trades.

**Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2017

**Department of Agriculture and Water Resources**

**Question Number:** 71

**Division/Agency:** Exports Division

**Topic:** Abattoirs in the north and live export trade

**Proof Hansard Page:** 19 (24.05.2017)

**Senator BACK asked:**

**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 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.

**Mr Quinlivan:** For export?

**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? Thank you.

**Answer:**

Yes.

There are six export registered abattoirs, located in the north of Australia, which process and export chilled meat.

The department does not hold data on the cost of processing animals.

The department does not hold data on the loss of employment across the north of Australia.

There was an increase in imports of frozen beef and offal into Indonesia in June, July and August 2011. This period coincides with Ramadan.

Frozen Beef and Offal imports into Indonesia from Australia (Tonnes) 2011								
January	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept
3,629	2,347	3,007	1,940	2,963	5,654	5,353	6,645	3,817

**Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2017

**Department of Agriculture and Water Resources**

**Question Number:** 72

**Division/Agency:** Exports Division

**Topic:** Townsville Abattoir

**Proof Hansard Page:** 19 (24.05.2017)

**Senator HINCH asked:**

**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.

**Answer:**

The Townsville establishment is currently operating four shifts of 10.5 hours per week.

**Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2017

**Department of Agriculture and Water Resources**

**Question Number:** 73

**Division/Agency:** Exports Division

**Topic:** Meat export markets - protocols

**Proof Hansard Page:** 73 (25.05.2017)

**Senator CARR asked:**

**Senator KIM CARR:** Could you provide on notice what protocols you have negotiated and for which countries in regard to the meat industry?

**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.

**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?

**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. 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.

**Senator KIM CARR:** I am interested in the meat industry at the moment rather than dairy.

**Mr Quinlivan:** Red meat?

**Senator KIM CARR:** Do you do it on the basis of red or white meat? What is your categorisation?

**Ms van Meurs:** Beef is a good categorisation but, again, it would depend on—

**Senator KIM CARR:** Is lamb separate?

**Ms van Meurs:** Lamb is separate, yes, and it also depends on the particular country and what protocols those countries have.

**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?

**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.

**Question Number:** 73 (continued)

**Answer:**

Market access arrangements vary according to market requirements and therefore may be achieved through negotiation of protocols, certification alone or where trading partners recognise Australian standards and have no additional requirements. Australia has meat market access for over 130 countries. In the last year, Australian meat was exported to 126 markets. The top markets for Australian meat exports include Japan, the United States, Republic of Korea and China.

**Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2017

**Department of Agriculture and Water Resources**

**Question Number:** 74

**Division/Agency:** Exports Division

**Topic:** Live exports of equines for slaughter

**Proof Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator RHIANNON asked:**

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?
  - 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 Export Control (Animals) Amendment (Equine Animals) Order 2017 (the Equine Amendment Order) provided to any stakeholders by any departmental staff?
  - a. When was this distributed? To whom?
  - b. What resources has the Department allocated towards developing such a document or similar?
  - c. Please provide a copy of this document
3. During May Senate Estimates the department inferred that a draft or final Export Control (Animals) Amendment (Equine Animals) Order 2017 (the Equine Amendment Order) 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?
  - a. Please clarify who in the department has worked on this issue and when.
4. The ALEC has made it clear that it does not support the live export of equines, what is the response to this?

**Question Number: 74 (continued)**

**Answer:**

1. Departmental staff have not had any discussion or considerations with state or territory agencies with regard to exporting, ponies or donkeys for the purpose of slaughter.
  - a. No applications have been received.
  - b. There are no briefing documents.
2. A deliberative draft was prepared by the department for consultation with key stakeholders before policy approval was sought.
  - a. The deliberative draft was briefly distributed to the Australian Livestock Exporters Council (ALEC), LiveCorp, the National Farmers' Federation (NFF), the RSPCA, Animals Australia and major horse export transport companies (New Zealand Bloodstock, Equine International Airfreight and IRT).
  - b. Invoices from the Office of Parliamentary Counsel for the preparation of the document total \$3,963.65.
  - c. The document was a deliberative draft and is not for public consultation. As the Minister has not made a policy decision to apply the Exporter Supply Chain Assurance System (ESCAS) to the export of equines, it would not be appropriate to release this draft or related materials.
3. Refer to answer two above.
  - a. Live Animal Exports Branch staff worked on this issue between January – May 2017.
4. The department has noted their views.

**Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2017

**Department of Agriculture and Water Resources**

**Question Number:** 75

**Division/Agency:** Exports Division

**Topic:** Department contact with ALEC or LiveCorp – equines for slaughter

**Proof Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator RHIANNON asked:**

1. 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?
2. 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?

**Answer:**

1. Not to the department's knowledge.
2. Please refer to the response to Question on Notice 74 from Budget Estimates May 2017.

**Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2017

**Department of Agriculture and Water Resources**

**Question Number:** 76

**Division/Agency:** Exports Division

**Topic:** Greyhound exports

**Proof Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator RHIANNON asked:**

1. Is the department aware of the media reports about the unauthorised sale of greyhounds to Macau, China, Vietnam and Dubai?
2. Was the department aware of these unauthorised sales before the story broke in the media?
  - a. If so when did the department become aware of these unauthorised sales?
3. What action has been taken about these unauthorised sales?
4. Has the department engaged with the relevant state authorities about these unauthorised sales?
  - a. If not, why not?
5. What are the specific conditions that cover the export of greyhounds overseas?
6. Is there a ban on greyhounds being exported to any specific country and if so to what country[ies]?
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?
8. Who determines if the standards have been met in the countries that the greyhounds are to be exported to?

**Answers:**

1. Yes, the department is aware of the media reports. The department has not received any reports that illegal greyhound exports have occurred under Commonwealth legislation.

**Question Number: 76 (continued)**

2. No.
  - a. N/A
3. The department has not received any reports that illegal greyhound exports have occurred under Commonwealth legislation.
4. No.
  - a. See response to question 3 above.
5. Under the Export Control (Animals) Order 2004, all dogs exported from Australia (including greyhounds) are required to be inspected by a veterinarian and be prepared in accordance the relevant importing country requirements. Each dog must be found to be fit for travel by the veterinarian before the department will issue an export permit and health certificate.
6. The Commonwealth has not implemented any ban on the export of greyhounds to any country.
7. See response to question five above.
8. Greyhounds Australasia considers the proposed export destination when assessing passport applications.