

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: 107

Division/Agency: Horticulture Innovation Australia Limited

Topic: Budget of new partnership

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Senator RICE asked:

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?

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—

Senator RICE: That is the money that you are currently spending and you are going to be spending it in a coordinated way.

Mr Lloyd: In a coordinated way.

Senator RICE: But there will be a proportion that you are spending for that coordination.

Mr Lloyd: We have already agreed to do that.

Answer:

Horticulture Innovation Australia's overall biosecurity investment is currently approximately \$22 million per year.