

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2013

Agriculture

Question: 202

Division/Agency: Biosecurity Plant Division

Topic: Importing bananas applications

Proof Hansard page: Written

Senator BOSWELL asked:

Have there been any applications to import bananas into Australia?

Answer:

No

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2013

Agriculture

Question: 203

Division/Agency: Biosecurity Plant Division

Topic: Summer stone fruit

Proof Hansard page: Written

Senator STERLE asked:

How many jobs would be affected if Australia's summer stone fruit growers were to shut their orchards down?

Answer:

There are approximately 1200 summer fruit growers in Australia. (Reference, *Summer fruit Australia* submission to the Select Committee on Australia's Food Processing Sector). The Department of Agriculture has no additional information on how many jobs would be affected if Australia's stone fruit growers were to shut their orchards down.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2013

Agriculture

Question: 204

Division/Agency: Biosecurity Plant Division

Topic: Stone fruits

Proof Hansard page: Written

Senator STERLE asked:

1. What is the attitude of Biosecurity Australia to the import of stone fruits?
2. How much stone fruit is imported each year?

Answer:

1. The Department of Agriculture assesses proposals to import stone fruit on the basis of biosecurity risk and in accordance with the principles of international standards and agreements. Subject to compliance with biosecurity protocols, final decisions by individual importers about where they choose to source imported product from are a commercial matter.
2. The Estimates Committee was advised on Tuesday 19 November 2013 that 954 tonnes of stone fruit was imported in 2012–13 and approximately 11 500 tonnes of stone fruit was exported. Between July and September 2013, Australia has imported 2665 tonnes of peaches and nectarines from the USA.