

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

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2013

**Agriculture**

**Question:** 133

**Division/Agency:** Agricultural Productivity Division/Grains Research and Development Corporation

**Topic:** Revenue

**Proof Hansard page:** 66

**Senator STERLE asked:**

**Senator STERLE:** How does that compare to the previous financial year?

**Mr R Clark:** He knows his way through it better than I do.

**Senator STERLE:** Sorry—I am asking the wrong official.

**Mr Harvey:** Revenue last year from both levy and from the federal government was 196.4 million combined.

**Senator STERLE:** Can you explain that for me. I just want to see whether there is a trend there. There is obviously a trend.

**Mr Harvey:** In 2012-13, it was 196.4 million combined.

**Senator STERLE:** What does that break up to? I am interested in research and development.

**Mr Harvey:** I do not have that in front of me. I can take it on notice.

**Answer:**

	<b>2012-2013</b>	<b>2011-2012</b>
<b>Revenue:</b>		
Industry Contributions (levies)	\$118 192 000	\$97 714 000
Revenue from Government	\$62 846 000	\$55 935 000
Other (Royalties, Project refunds, Grants income)	\$15 362 000	\$23 851 000
<b>Total Revenue:</b>	<b>\$196 400 000</b>	<b>\$177 500 000</b>
<b>Expenditure:</b>		
Research and Development	\$159 237 000	\$150 231 000

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

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2013

**Agriculture**

**Question:** 134

**Division/Agency:** Agricultural Productivity Division/Grains Research and Development Corporation

**Topic:** Advisory Committees

**Proof Hansard page:** 66-67

**Senator HEFFERNAN asked:**

**Mr R Clark:** Our structure is both top down and bottom up. We have a board that identifies, at the most strategic level, how much we might want to spend in our western region, which is essentially Western Australia; how much we might want to spend in the southern region, which is from the Lachlan in New South Wales around to the Eyre Peninsula; and how much we spend in the northern region, which is obviously the Lachlan north. We are moving to a system where we will also dice it in different ways and say how much we want to spend in a particular area of research according to the themes earlier.

From the bottom up we have regional cropping solution groups, which are groups of farmers and their advisers who will identify that they have a crisis in their local district this year that they need solved. We fund small, effectively grower-initiated projects to solve that problem straightaway. We have three panels—one in the west, one in the south and one in the north—who do more strategic prioritisation of research topics, and they work with the regional cropping solution groups. They identify the medium- and long-term issues that each district is having problems with, and they will allocate funds according to the consensus of the priorities that they arrive at on a regional basis.

**CHAIR:** Could you table those advisory committees.

**Mr R Clark:** Yes, we can do that. On top of that—

**Senator STERLE:** Do you know them?

**Answer:**

Grains Research Development Corporation (GRDC) facilitates two-way communication with growers, their advisers and the wider grains industry through its regional panel system and network of local grower groups.

**Question:** 134 (continued)

### **Regional Panels**

GRDC has three Regional Panels for the Northern, Southern and Western regions. All three panels are made up of a Chair and nine panel members who come from a wide range of relevant backgrounds including grain growing, agribusiness and researchers.

### **Grower Groups**

GRDC also facilitates grower group networks in the North, West and Southern regions. These Networks support their Regional Panel and provide advice in relation to local issues and the prioritisation of activities to bring about productivity and profit gains.

Regional Cropping Solutions Networks in the West involve five groups, representing each of the grain Port Zones. These are Albany Port Zone, Esperance Port Zone, Geraldton Port Zone, Kwinana East Port Zone and Kwinana West Port Zone. These groups include a combined membership of 40 farmers, 19 agronomists, five bankers and five representatives from the Department of Agriculture and Food Western Australia.

The Regional Cropping Solutions Networks in the South involve four groups, representing the major climatic zones – high rainfall, low rainfall, medium rainfall and irrigation. Spread across these groups is 27 farmers, 10 agronomists and four researchers.

The Northern Grower Alliance involves local committees from two major geographical areas – Northern NSW & Southern Queensland and Central NSW. Recent committee-run meetings have attracted between 60 and 77 participants from across the local area, including growers and advisers.

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

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2013

**Agriculture**

**Question:** 135

**Division/Agency:** Agricultural Productivity Division/Grains Research and Development Corporation

**Topic:** R&D funding

**Proof Hansard page:** written

**Senator STERLE asked:**

Have you received any advice or engagement from government about the coalition policy to increase R&D funding by \$100 million?

**Answer:**

The Department of Agriculture has provided Grains Research and Development Corporation with preliminary advice in relation to its role in helping to determine the priorities for the expenditure of increased R&D funding.

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

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2013

**Agriculture**

**Question:** 136

**Division/Agency:** Agricultural Productivity Division/Grains Research and Development Corporation

**Topic:** Red and green tape reductions

**Proof Hansard page:** written

**Senator STERLE asked:**

Will the Government's commitment to reduce red and green tape impact on the work being undertaken by the GRDC?

**Answer:**

We have had no advice from our portfolio agency, The Department of Agriculture, which would suggest that there will be any impact on Grains Research and Development Corporation operations.

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

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2013

**Agriculture**

**Question:** 137

**Division/Agency:** Agricultural Productivity Division/Grains Research and Development Corporation

**Topic:** Stakeholders priorities

**Proof Hansard page:** Written

**Senator STERLE asked:**

Have you been working with the government in relation to your major stakeholders priorities in the following key areas:

- a) Reinvest in research and Development
- b) Rebuild and Reskill Labour
- c) Improve Trade & Market Access Implement Wheat Taskforce Recommendation.

**Answer:**

The Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) meets regularly with its colleagues in the Department of Agriculture. During the course of the calendar year, there have been discussions around the following issues:

- GRDC's current R&D investment portfolio and the development of priorities for future expenditure.
- Strategies for building capacity in the grains industry, including the development of specialised agreements with research facilities and the funding of scholarship and award programs for industry representatives.
- Projects currently being funded by GRDC which help to identify new markets and ensure that Australian grain growers meet the requirements of emerging markets.
- The Department of Agriculture has provided preliminary advice in relation to the development and progress of the Wheat Taskforce.