

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee**
Answers to questions on notice
Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities portfolio
Additional Budget Estimates, February 2012

Program: Division or Agency: 1.3: LST **Question No:** 030
Topic: Review of NRM extension practices
Proof Hansard Page and Date 98-99
or Written Question: (13/2/12)

Senator Siewert asked:

Senator SIEWERT: ...Somebody mentioned to me that they thought there had been a review undertaken into extension practices. Are you aware of such a review?

Mr Flanigan: Of extension practices?

Senator SIEWERT: Of NRM extension practices.

Mr Flanigan: It is not ringing any particular bells. We did commission from a consultant an examination of community skills, knowledge and engagement and how people were getting their information and participating in programs. That is the report that I mentioned before. But, again, it may be one of the projects embedded within our work plan. I would have to check that, but I am not familiar with that particular project.

Senator SIEWERT: Could you take that on notice to see if it is part of the process?

Mr Flanigan: It is a project about reviewing extension services?

Senator SIEWERT: Yes.

Mr Flanigan: We will take it on notice.

Answer:

A review of Natural Resource Management (NRM) extension practices or services has not been and is not planned to be undertaken by the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities.

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Program: Division or Agency: 1.3: LST **Question No:** 031

Topic: Impact of factory farming on the environment

Proof Hansard Page and Date or Written Question: Written

Senator Rhiannon asked:

1. In light of statistics providing that factory farming is bad for the environment, including the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation's statistic that livestock production is responsible for approximately 18% of the total greenhouse gas emissions worldwide and the CSIRO's statistic that over 30% of greenhouse gas emissions produced in Australia can be attributed to animal industries, is DSEWPC conducting, or does DSEWPC have any plans to conduct, research into the effects of factory farming on climate change, with consideration of alternative practices such as free range and organic systems? If such research is being undertaken, please provide details of that research including the parameters and any conclusions reached.

Answer:

1. The Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities is not conducting, nor plans to conduct, research into the effects of factory farming on climate change. This question may be better directed to the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry or the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency.

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Program: Division or Agency: 1.3: LST **Question No:** 032

Topic: Biodiversity Fund – cessation of logging

Proof Hansard Page and Date or Written Question: Written

Senator Rhiannon asked:

Under the biodiversity fund, it is stated that "Funding will also be available to support conservation and management actions associated with the cessation of logging in publicly owned native forests."

1. Can you confirm that this remains the case?
2. Do any state forest agencies or state governments have made applications and inquiries to the biodiversity fund on the basis of accessing funding in order to implement a cessation of logging in publicly owned native forests?

Answer:

1. Yes.
2. An analysis of applications made to the Biodiversity Fund under the first funding round is still in process.