AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, INNOVATION, SCIENCE, RESEARCH AND TERTIARY EDUCATION

TOPIC: Food Industry Policy

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Edwards

QUESTION No. BI -115

1. Food Industry Policy and its coordination is the responsibility of the department. What has been produced from the $478,000 announced in last year's budget?
2. What is the budget for the 2012/2013 year and what deliverables are expected?

ANSWER

1. The budget has been used to provide secretariat support and undertake a number of consultancies to assist in the development of the Food Processing Industry Strategy Group Report. These consultancies include:
   - Market intelligence on innovations in the processed food sector though an online subscription database.
   - A survey of the food processing industry providing insights.
   - A study into the competitiveness of the high volume, low value add Australia food oils and flour milling sectors.
   - A commissioned study into innovations in food packaging in Australia.
   - Scenario planning using the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) economic modelling tool (Globe Trade Analysis Project).
   - Facilitators to undertake business modelling workshops at two of the Strategy Group meetings for the purpose of developing a strategic roadmap for the food processing sector.
   - A contribution to a commissioned study by the Victorian Department of Primary Industries on the need for processed food pilot plants in Victoria.

2. The budget for the 2012/13 financial year for Food Industry Policy is $48,000. Expected deliverables include:
   - Printing of the Strategy Group report and providing policy advice to the Government on the Food Processing Industry Strategy Group recommendations.
   - Contributing to the mapping of the processed food industry including location, employment, products, exports, R&D investment, links with primary industry, as well as existing data sources for the industry.