

Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
Questions on Notice Additional Estimates 2010-2011, Monday 21 February 2011
Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Portfolio

Q no.	Program/ Division or Agency	Senator	Broad topic	Question	Proof Hansard page & hearing date or Written Q	Date rec'd	Date tabled
1	CSD	Colbeck	Vacancies in the Department	<p>Senator COLBECK—Can you give me an indication of your current departmental vacancies and—</p> <p>Ms Hazell—I would have to take that on notice. I do not have a list of current vacancies with me.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK—If you could take that on notice and also give me an indication of any vacancies that have been open for an extended period of time. Can you do that?</p> <p>Ms Hazell—Certainly</p>	16 21/02/11	12/04/11	
2	CSD	Colbeck	Departmental staffing	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Can you provide an updated breakdown of staff numbers by division/unit for February 2011 and a comparison with October 2010 and February 2010? 2. Where staff reductions have occurred can you provide details as to the reasons and the roles that have been reduced? 	Written	12/04/11	
3	CSD	Colbeck	Consultancy contracts	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How much has the Department spent on consultancy services since December 2007? 2. How much has the Department spent on consultancy services since the Supplementary Budget Estimates in 2010? Can you provide details of the consultants and costs of these? 3. How many consultancies have been undertaken or are underway since the Supplementary Budget Estimate in 2010? 	Written	12/04/11	

4	CSD	Colbeck	Hospitality	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the Department's hospitality spend since Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010? 2. Please detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events? 3. For each Minister/Parl Secretary's office, please detail total hospitality spend since Supplementary Budget Estimates? 4. Please detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event? 5. What is the Minister's hospitality total spend since December 2007? 	Written	12/04/11	
5	CSD	Colbeck	Graduate program	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Can you provide an update on the resumption of the department's graduate program the costs of the program and the numbers of graduates and whether there are any changes from what had been advised in the May Budget Estimates? 2. Can you provide a comparison of graduate numbers and cost of the program over the previous 5 years? 	Written	12/04/11	
6	CSD	Colbeck	Departmental vacancies	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many vacancies are there presently across the Department and how does this compare with the previous 5 years? 2. To what extent is vacancy control presently being used to assist with meeting savings measures? 3. At present what is the average time taken to fill vacancies and how does this compare with the previous 5 years? 4. At any point in time since December 2007 what was the highest number of vacancies? 5. At any point in time since December 2007 what was the lowest number of vacancies? 	Written	12/04/11	
7	CSD	Colbeck	Shredding/ removal of confidential documents	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What was the total cost of shredding/removal of confidential (or similar) documents in DAFF since December 2007? 2. What was the total cost of shredding/removal of confidential (or similar) documents in the Minister/Parl Sec's offices since December 2007? 	Written	12/04/11	
8	CSD	Colbeck	Staff movements	Can you provide details of staffing movements, including the number of staff employed as at July 1, 2010, and the number of	Written	12/04/11	

				staff employed at present. Also to include retrenchments, retirements, resignations etc. and the cost of staffing at ABARES for the 2010-2011 financial year.			
9	CSD	Nash	Contracts	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. With the number of natural disasters over the summer period, has Corporate services undertaken any outsourcing of contracts related to the flooding so as to deal with the increased workload? 2. If outsourcing of contracts has occurred, what is the cost of the new contracts and what services have contractors undertaken to perform? 	Written	12/04/11	
10	CPD	Colbeck	Media monitoring	<p>Senator COLBECK—That is the licensing arrangement the department has with the media monitoring company?</p> <p>Ms Freeman—Yes, correct, but I can confirm that, if you would like.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK—So what is the limit of availability? Could the shadow minister, for example, request access to those clips?</p> <p>Ms Freeman—I would have to take that on notice. I genuinely don't know.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK—When you are getting me that information, could you also find out if there is a scale of additional costs for broadening the availability of those clips? I am aware that in other portfolios they are provided outside the minister's office. You might find whether the contract you have is a standard government contract for a department.</p> <p>Ms Mellor—Senator, we have not been asked before and, as Ms Freeman said, we will take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK—No aspersion; I am asking a simple question because it is something that I have seen through other portfolios and obviously it might be interesting. You have indicated that the RDCs have made requests to get access to them because they have an interest. I do not know whether the</p>	14-15 21/02/11	12/04/11	

				reduction in cost is commensurate with a reduction in access. If you could find that out for me, I would appreciate it. Senator Ludwig —We will take it on notice.			
11	CPD	Colbeck	Expenditure on communication devices	<p>Senator COLBECK—Can you give me the expenditure on communications devices—you have said they are all BlackBerrys—since, say, the election?</p> <p>Ms Freeman—I will take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK—There are 13 BlackBerrys and internet access for 13. Any iPads?</p> <p>Ms Freeman—There are three iPads currently with Minister Ludwig’s office.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK—Three iPads.</p> <p>Ms Mellor—Senator, in answer to a question you asked earlier about expense with tabled amounts in the House, between 3 December 2007 and 24 November 2010, the total communications device usage costs for the minister and ministerial staff was \$130,113.21. We do have some limitations in our corporate finance system, so we are not able to disaggregate beyond a monthly figure down to individual devices et cetera. There are fluctuations from month to month around purchase of handsets, for example. So some months go up just because we buy the hardware as well.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK—I will leave it as a question on notice for you to give me the figure since the election, which will include a hardware cost and appointments.</p> <p>Ms Mellor—It is all in those figures, yes.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK—That answer will be disaggregated by month?</p> <p>Ms Mellor—By month, yes, but not by handset versus other costs.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK—It is up until when?</p> <p>Ms Mellor—From 3 December 2007 to 24 November 2010.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK—I am looking for the latest info, the starts, post election.</p>	16-17 21/02/11	12/04/11	

				<p>Ms Mellor—Post the last election? Senator COLBECK—Post the 2010 election. Ms Mellor—Yes, understood.</p>			
12	CPD	Milne/Nash	Appointment of the Chair of the Recreational Fishing Advisory Committee	<p>Senator MILNE—How did the appointment of David Llewellyn occur? Was it an advertised process or a nominated process? How was he appointed? Mr Neil—I apologise, I do not— Senator COLBECK—That would predate Mr Neil, I would think. Dr Dickson—I will see if we can get some advice on that this evening. Senator NASH—Can I just add a couple of things? I understand Mr Llewellyn was registered as a lobbyist in August last year, so were you aware that he had registered as a lobbyist at that point? I understand that under the regulations he is allowed to take clients after March, so do you see any conflict of interest between his career as a lobbyist and the work he is doing? Perhaps you could consider those as well in the context of that. Dr Dickson—We might have to take that on notice. We do not have the information at the moment on both of your questions. ... Senator HEFFERNAN—Will you sack him if he had a conflict of interest? Senator MILNE—I did ask what the process was for his appointment. Were there nominations called for? Was it advertised or was it an in-house ex-Labor minister mate’s club? Mr Thompson—I believe it was a ministerial appointment by Minister Burke following the resignation of the previous chair of the recreational fishing advisory council. Senator COLBECK—Hang on. The initial announcement was as chair of the roundtable, which is different to the recreational fishing advisory council. Is that not correct? Mr Thompson—His initial appointment was as chair of the recreational fishing advisory council. Then, when Minister</p>	100, 102, 103 21/02/11	12/04/11	

				<p>Burke was unable to attend the recreational fishing roundtable, Mr Llewellyn chaired that on Minister Burke's behalf.</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN—Did he declare an interest?</p> <p>Dr Dickson—This is what we need to follow up.</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN—If he did not, will he be sacked?</p> <p>Senator NASH—I think you just indicated, Dr Dickson, that you did not know when he registered as a lobbyist. This is obviously reporting, but according to the tasmaniantimes.com on 30 August Mr Llewellyn registered with the Tasmanian Department of Premier and Cabinet as a lobbyist. If that is the case, shouldn't you have known that? If you are telling us that you did not know, shouldn't you have known that?</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator Ludwig—Anyway, the easiest way to do it is to check the records, see what we have and get back to you.</p> <p>Senator NASH—Would you have an issue with conflict of interest?</p> <p>Senator Ludwig—I think we will check the records first.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator NASH—Sorry, Chair. Can I clarify that the officials have undertaken to take all those questions on notice.</p>			
13	CPD	Colbeck	Minister's travel	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What was the total cost of travel by the Minister in since October 2010? 2. What is the total cost of travel by the Minister since December 2007? 3. What was the total cost of travel by his staff since October 2010? 4. Which places has the Minister visited since October 2010? 5. What was the cost of travel for each of these visits? 6. Who accompanied him on these visits? 7. What was the cost of travel for these staff? 8. What overseas Ministerial visits are being planned and can you provide some details? 	Written	12/04/11	

14	CPD	Colbeck	Ministerial staff	Can you provide a comparison of the number of Ministerial staff for February 2011 with the previous five years?	Written	12/04/11	
15	CPD	Colbeck	Release of Additional Estimates briefing	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In light of a redacted version of the Incoming Government Brief being made available can you provide a redacted version of the briefing material for the Minister for Additional Estimates 2011? 2. If not, can you explain why a redacted version of these briefs should not be made available when the Incoming Government Brief was made available? 	Written	12/04/11	
16	CPD	Colbeck	Advertising and communication activities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Have there been any changes to the advertising or communications activities scheduled for 2010-2011 as set out during Supplementary Budget Estimates – if so could you provide some details? 2. How much has been spent and advertising and communications activities since December 2007? 	Written	12/04/11	
17	CPD	Colbeck	Media monitoring	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How much has been spent on the Department's media monitoring services since December 2007? 2. Can you provide the number of people who have access to the Department's media monitoring? 3. Can you detail the names and positions of the people who have access to the Department's media monitoring? 4. Can you explain why the Department's media monitoring could not also be supplied to the Shadow Minister and Shadow Parliamentary Secretary in the interests of saving taxpayers money? 	Written	12/04/11	
18	CPD	Colbeck	Staff access to online social media	Have there been any changes to access of staff to online social media since the Supplementary Budget Estimates? If yes, can you provide details?	Written	12/04/11	
19	CPD	Colbeck	Commissioned reports	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many Reports have been commissioned by the Government in your portfolio since the Supplementary Budget Estimates and can you provide all relevant details? 	Written	12/04/11	

				2. How many Reports have been commissioned by the Government in the portfolio since December 2007?			
20	CPD	Colbeck	Reviews	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many Reviews have been commissioned in the portfolio since the Supplementary Budget Estimates and can you provide all relevant details? 2. How many Reviews have been commissioned in the portfolio since December 2007? 	Written	12/04/11	
21	CPD	Colbeck	Mobile phones – Minister and department	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the total amount spent on mobile phones in the Minister’s office since December 2007? 2. What is the total amount spent on mobile phones in the Department since December 2007? 3. How many mobile phones does the Minister office presently have? 4. How many mobile phones does the Department presently have? 	Written	12/04/11	
22	CPD	Colbeck	Hawker Britton	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many meetings has the Minister had with Hawker Britton since December 2007? Can you provide details for each meeting including date, subject matter and people present? 2. How many meetings has the Minister’s office had with Hawker Britton since December 2007? Can you provide details for each meeting including date, subject matter and people present? 3. How many meetings has the Department had with Hawker Britton since December 2007? Can you provide details for each meeting including date, subject matter and people present? 	Written	12/04/11	
23	CFD	Colbeck	DAFF appropriation	<p>Senator Colbeck - What is a fair number in that case for the relationship for the portfolio in context of total government expenditure?</p> <p>Mr Schaeffer – We would have to take that on notice for you</p>	11-12 21/02/11	12/04/11	

				and we would have to back-calculate it for you, but we can certainly do that? Senator Colbeck – So you could do that on an annual basis on those years?			
24	CFD	Colbeck	Efficiency dividend	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Can you advise whether any new or additional strategies have been considered or implemented in meeting the efficiency dividend requirements since the Supplementary Budget Estimates? 2. Can you provide an up to date itemisation of where the efficiencies have been specifically achieved and the individual quantum of savings up to present? 	Written	12/04/11	
25	CFD	Colbeck	DAFF appropriation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Can you provide a comprehensive list of all funding reallocated in the portfolio since December 2007 and the details of each reallocation? 2. What is the total amount of funding reallocated in the portfolio since December 2007? 	Written	12/04/11	
26	CFD	Nash	Industry levies	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Will primary industries levies be reviewed given the hardship faced by farmers and industries affected by the natural disasters? 2. Given that the department have moved to an online lodgement service, what saving is projected with the implementation of “levies online”? 	Written	12/04/11	
27	APD	Nash	Impact of foreign ownership on food security	<p>Senator NASH—Maybe this is more a question for ABARES. Do you look at it in the context at all of what impact foreign ownership might have on food security? Is there any work done on that?</p> <p>Mr Glyde—There is some work that the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation and ABARES have been commissioned to do; to look at some of the facts and figures and questions in relation to foreign investment in Australian agriculture. I would again be happy to provide you with the details of that, the terms of reference for that study. That</p>	116 21/02/11	12/04/11	

				work has commenced but is not completed.			
28	APD	Colbeck	Ministerial contact with supermarkets about the reduction in retail milk prices	<p>Senator COLBECK—Thank you, Minister. We started off with a program in 2007 that was \$35 million that has had \$17 million taken out of it so far and then we are down to \$5.9 million, of which \$3 million has disappeared into a different department. Have you had any conversations with Coles and/or Woolworths in relation to the recent campaign, particularly from Coles, on the pricing of generic milk at \$1 a litre?</p> <p>Senator Ludwig—My office has.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK—Your office has? You have had no conversations at all?</p> <p>Senator Ludwig—I would have had a brief conversation, I think, with one of the Coles representatives, but I was passing out of the office at the time, so we did not discuss anything, no. I know that my office has had discussions with both the dairy industry and Coles. I can check—and I will take it on notice—what other contact they may have had with industry stakeholders.</p>	118 21/02/11	12/04/11	
29	APD	Nash	Country of origin labelling	<p>Mr Souness—Under state and territory food acts, they are based on an agreed food act and there are a number of penalty points that are assigned to various provisions within state food acts. That was done to standardise the penalties. I do not know the particular penalty for country of origin labelling non-compliance, but there are ascribed penalty units that are standardised across Australia for these sorts of provisions as well.</p> <p>Senator NASH—Does anybody know what the penalty is?</p> <p>Mr Glyde—We can take that on notice.</p>	127 21/02/11	12/04/11	
30	APD	Nash	Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Agreement	<p>Mr Souness—In negotiation of that treaty, the Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Agreement. I think that is probably best directed to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.</p> <p>Senator NASH—This is a new one. We do not normally get</p>	128 21/02/11	12/04/11	

				<p>sent to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.</p> <p>Mr Souness—It is a treaty arrangement that is much broader than just food. TTMRA covers a lot of trade between Australia and New Zealand. I am sorry; I would not have the information. Customs look after the Commerce (Trade Descriptions) Act and treaty arrangements fall under the domain of Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The combination of the two might be difficult to unravel, but essentially it means that food coming in from New Zealand still has to have country-of-origin labelling on it despite New Zealand not mandating country-of-origin labelling.</p> <p>Senator NASH—I have one last question on this, Chair. Would you mind then taking on notice for me and perhaps you could request from the appropriate department some background information on exactly how and why that occurred?</p>			
31	APD	Nash	Impact of cheap imports on prune growers	<p>Senator NASH—... Are you aware of the issue of prune growers potentially ripping out their orchards in Young because of the impact of cheap imports?</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator NASH—No, it wasn't, thank you, Senator Colbeck. It was actually that very small publication 'ABC', which people tend not to notice because it is so tiny! It says: Some prune growers in New South Wales think they will have to make the heart breaking decision to rip out their trees. It talks about cheap imports crippling the industry; they will have to push their trees out: "It's put the nail on the coffin and the trees will probably come out in March or April this year." While I certainly accept you might not have been aware of that particular report, are you aware at all that this particular industry is being quite significantly impacted by cheap imports?</p> <p>Mr Grant—We are not aware of that particular grower and we have not had any information to say that other growers are behaving similarly. I do not have a feel for the number of prune growers in Australia per se, so I do not know how influential that</p>	117 21/02/11	12/04/11	

				<p>one grower is. We have not had any complaints about prunes being dumped in Australia, so we are not sure that there is an unequal trading environment that suddenly changed the way that prunes are traded around the world or that cheap imports are coming into Australia. We have not had any representations to that effect.</p> <p>Senator NASH—If you would not mind taking on notice for the committee to do some research on that. Perhaps have a look at that report from 17 February and maybe backtrack a bit, look at the detail for us and see if there is an issue and whether it is only a one-off or whether it is more broadly through the industry, and what impact that is likely to have and what the causes of that are. That would be very useful.</p> <p>Mr Grant—We are happy to do that.</p>			
32	APD	Colbeck	Milk pricing	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Does DAFF recognise that there could be a negative impact on our dairy industry from the unsustainable lowering of milk prices? 2. At what point does DAFF become concerned about the unsustainable lowering of milk prices and what can DAFF do about it? 	Written	12/04/11	
33	APD	Colbeck	Horticulture Code of Conduct	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the revised timeframe for the Government’s response to the Review of the Horticulture Code of Conduct? 2. Can you provide details of any actions that DAFF has taken relating to the Review of the Horticulture Code of Conduct since Supplementary Budget Estimate in October 2010? 	Written	12/04/11	
34	APD	Colbeck	Regional Food Producers Innovation and Productivity Program	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Can you provide an updated table for the Regional Food Producers Innovation and Productivity Program showing all reductions in the original \$35 million commitment the amount of each reduction and where it was diverted to? 2. How much of the funding remains uncommitted and when will a decision be made on allocating this funding? 	Written	12/04/11	

35	APD	Colbeck	Review of Food Labelling Law and Policy (Blewett Review)	In an answer to a Question on Notice (APD 04) from Supplementary Budget Estimates some details were provided about the Department's involvement in the Review of Food Labelling laws and policy – can you provide an update on progress since October and the timeframes going forward?	Written	12/04/11	
36	APD	Colbeck	Tasmanian food production	<p>From a Tasmanian perspective there is undoubted potential to significantly expand our agricultural production on the back of a series of irrigation developments that are presently underway, however, the Tasmanian Government is making a number of hyped up claims that Tasmania will become the nation's food bowl -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is DAFF aware of these claims by the Tasmania Government and what credibility to you give them? 2. How realistic does DAFF regard the Tasmanian Government's claims that it will become the nation's food bowl? 3. Has DAFF done any assessments of the Tasmanian Government's claims? 4. Has the Tasmanian Government had any contact with DAFF about its food bowl plans and if so can you provide some details? 	Written	12/04/11	
37	APD	Colbeck	Murray-Darling Basin Plan	1. What involvement has DAFF had in the Murray-Darling Basin Plan since the Supplementary Budget Estimates in October 2010, please provide details?	Written	12/04/11	
38	APD	Colbeck	National Food Strategy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Can you provide an update on Australia's current and forecast food security and how this is assessed? 3. Can you provide an update on the National Food Strategy? 	Written	12/04/11	
39	APD	Colbeck	National Framework for Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the status of work on completed for the National Framework for Agricultural & Veterinary Chemicals? 2. What has happened with respect to the National Framework since stakeholders convened at national workshop in May 2010? 	Written	12/04/11	

				<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. The Department advised following the May workshops that a Draft Regulatory Impact Statement would be released in September. Did this happen? If not, why not? 4. When was the Department asked the Minister to prepare the paper “<i>Better Regulation of Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals?</i>” 5. The “<i>Better Regulations</i>” paper states that “<i>Stakeholder views identified through the COAG process over 2009-10 and 2010-11 have informed the proposed reforms outlined in this paper</i>”. Is the Department aware that some of those consulted during the COAG process do not agree that the “<i>Better Regulations</i>” document accurately reflects the input supplied by stakeholders at the COAG workshop in May and the consultative meetings held earlier in 2010? 6. Can the Department provide an explanation on the relationship between the COAG process and the “<i>Better Regulations</i>” paper? 7. How many submissions have been received in relation to the <i>Better Regulations</i> paper? 			
40	APD	Heffernan	Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What was the motivation for the “Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for the Welfare of Animals”? 2. How much was it aimed at increasing trade? How much was it aimed at animal welfare? 3. Why wasn’t the already existing POCTA Acts in each State and Territory and the National Codes of Practice for livestock satisfactory for trade purposes? 4. Why was it necessary to make the words <i>competent/capable/experienced</i> so prominent in the Standards document when by definition these standards must be enacted into State and Territory law? 5. Did anybody give any thought to the possible legal consequences of highlighting <i>competency</i> in the Standards (which must be enacted into law)? 6. What was your Department's reaction when one jurisdiction 	Written	12/04/11	

				<p>(Tasmania) interpreted the inclusion of <i>competency</i> in the Standards as a trigger for certification and a licence to farm livestock?</p> <p>7. In dealing with the <i>competency</i> controversy brought to public attention by the NSW Farmers Association, how seriously did you engage with top decision makers in each State and Territory to ascertain;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> If they had addressed the problem? How they intended to deal with it? With whom did you engage? <p>8. What was your reaction when the entire livestock industry Peak Councils withdrew from the process until the <i>competency</i> issue was solved and their perception of harmonisation/minimum standards/National consistency for animal welfare legislation had been addressed?</p> <p>9. Without the livestock industries support how much value would you put on the “Standards and Guidelines” document as a beneficial tool to enhance trade?</p>			
41	APD	Heffernan	Method of visual appraisal of grain	<p>Viterra used a method of appraisal where visual sprouting was calibrated against mechanical methods (falling numbers) every one thousand tonnes of receivals. This is largely a subjective assessment as individuals come to different visual conclusions and has caused a lot of anger in the farming community. There is considerable evidence, including the use of independent falling numbers machines, that this assessment measure has cost growers many thousands of dollars.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Are near monopolies using their power in the supply chain to intimidate and discourage competition? Is the supply chain working efficiently? Can or should receival standards be standardised across the industry, (special mention of the SA situation with Viterra’s refusal to use a mechanical test on individual loads to assess sprouting damage in the immediate past harvest)? 	Written	12/04/11	

				(Please provide full details/outline of current policy in your response, we do not want a yes/no answer.)			
42	APD	Heffernan	Charges for grain delivery	<p>If grain is delivered to a competitor's site (AWB, EP Grain), when it necessarily has to be delivered to the Viterra system (to access the loading belts, it must undergo a full re-assessment incurring another round of costs). They also charge to cover shrinkage when in fact if the product has been stored for ant time at all it has already shrunk. This delivers a direct benefit to the virtual monopoly thus undermining competition.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Are you aware that this practice is going on? 2. Are the costs of re-delivery to the pre-dominate operator a significant deterrent to fair competition? <p>(Please provide full details/outline of current policy in your response, we do not want a yes/no answer.)</p>	Written	12/04/11	
43	APD	Heffernan	Charges for shipping bookings	<p>The recent WEA report finds just one of three companies allowing third party access to the shipping stem have met compliance to allow fair access.</p> <p>In SA Viterra charge a \$5t charge for booking a slot on the stem, consequentially a 50,000t vessel requires a deposit of \$250,000 to book loading time. If the company does not meet the booking they forfeit the fee to Viterra. In Viterra's case they too pay the fee, but if they default the fee is paid to themselves! This has in the past allowed them to overbook with impunity denying others access.</p> <p>There should be the same penalty for the owner (Viterra) defaulting on the shipping booking. Representatives of the grains industry suggest the fee is paid into an independent account and then periodically disbursed on a pro rata basis to those who have met the schedule. This will reward good practice and penalise poor.</p>	Written	12/04/11	

				<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Are you aware of this practice? 2. Are charges being levied by the virtual monopolies against marketing competitors that materially disadvantage the competitors? <p>(Please provide full details/outline of current policy in your response, we do not want a yes/no answer.)</p>			
44	APD	Heffernan	Grain holdings	<p>The owner of the facilities in SA (Viterra) have full knowledge as to what is held in stock by themselves, other companies and individual growers in warehouse options, apart from relatively minor storage at AWB sites and EP Grain. This is a large marketing advantage enabling them to sell parcels of grain knowing whether it is available and who to approach to accumulate the package. No other marketer holds this advantage. Full holdings should be reported in real time as they are accumulated to enable fair competition.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is there sufficient transparency in the handling system? (Please provide full details/outline of current policy in your response, we do not want a yes/no answer.) 	Written	12/04/11	
45	APD	Heffernan	Rail freight agreement with Viterra and Genesee Wyoming	<p>I understand Viterra and the Genesee Wyoming have an exclusive rail freight agreement. Genesee Wyoming lease track from the owners Great Southern. There have been reports that when third parties have sought to access the track to operate their trains, Genesee Wyoming have threatened to charge enormous access fees, (in one particular case \$27t, when that is far greater than the full freight rate from that site).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Are these reports true and are you aware of this situation? 2. Do competitors have fair access to freight options? <p>(Please provide full details/outline of current policy in your response, we do not want a yes/no answer.)</p>	Written	12/04/11	
46	APD	Nash	Bulk wheat	<p>Given that the 2009/10 report for growers has noted a drop in</p>	Written	12/04/11	

			export	bulk wheat exports, and the value of wheat exports has dropped in 2009/10 combined with a decrease in the number of countries importing bulk wheat; is there a 'slow bleed' within the industry and what factors are at play?			
47	APD	Nash	Chemicals used in agricultural production in other countries	Why does the department not keep a list of chemicals that are used in agricultural production in other countries?	Written	12/04/11	
48	APD	Siewert	Animal welfare – Bobby calves	<p>A draft standard for animal welfare that is currently under consideration proposes inserting a clause that says that 30hrs is the maximum time off feed allowed for bobby cows in transition from farm to slaughter.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I note that the Regulation Impact Statement on Bobby Calves emphasizes that it 'does not deal with ethical perceptions of animal welfare' but instead focuses on scientific measures. <p>With particular reference to the citation in the RIS of a study by University of Melbourne which states that 30 hours is a defensible outer limit with good practice in other aspects of calf management, can you tell me more about the scientific measures that are using in drafting this code? In particular, how other conditions such as heat and travel time are factored into the measure?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. The RIS notes that 24 hours TOF is considered 'best practice management' but that 30 hours is chosen because it is the outer defensible limit under which a high level of compliance can be achieved. This is substantially higher than the water or feed every 10 hours that is mandated in the voluntary code. While there is nothing to prevent those involved from exhibiting a higher standard of animal management, setting the limits at the outer most scientifically defensible limit could be considered an invitation to lower the quality of operations down to the level 	Written	12/04/11	

				<p>set by the standard.</p> <p>Do you have any evidence to suggest that this will not happen?</p>			
49	APD	Siewert	Genetically modified crops in WA	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is the Department aware of issues involved with the GM contamination of Mr Stephen Marsh's crop in Kojonup WA? 2. Is the Department aware that Mr Marsh has lost organic certification of part of his property as a result? 3. Do you agree that this spread of GM material is a failure in the current regulatory approach? 4. What is the Department doing, or planning to do to protect farmers from contamination? 5. Can you report on any reviews underway or measures being developed to address the issues associated with GM contamination and liability? 	Written	12/04/11	
50	APD	Xenophon	Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock	<p>You indicated that some state based authorities have the capability to enforce the Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock (ASEL) but they do not have jurisdictional responsibility for administering the ASEL.</p> <p>Precisely which state based authorities are currently enforcing the ASEL?</p>	Written	12/04/11	
51	APD	Colbeck	Incoming Government Brief – significant portfolio priorities	<p>The Incoming Government Brief significant portfolio priorities section on page 31 notes that:</p> <p><i>“Government policies and interventions should support long-term improvements in industry competitiveness and sustainability. Ad hoc assistance measures send mixed messages about the role of government and its expectations of industry. Some current policies and programs may unintentionally delay necessary change and discourage self reliance.”</i></p> <p>This is one of the government’s stated reasons for the drought</p>	Written	12/04/11	

				pilot – but can you elaborate what other current policies and programs may unintentionally delay necessary change and discourage self reliance – what else are you referring to and can you provide details?			
52	APD/WEA	Heffernan	Grain industry fees	<p>Senator HEFFERNAN—Competitors cite AWB and EP Grain. ‘When necessarily it has to go to the Viterra system to access the loading belts’—you would understand that—‘it must undergo a full reassessment, incurring another full round of costs.’ Right? So it gets onto their belt, they retest it and charge the grower. ‘There is also the charge to cover shrinkage’—when, in fact, if the product has been stored for any time in AWB, it is already shrunk. ‘This delivers a direct benefit to the virtual monopoly, thus undermining competition.’ My question is: are the costs of redelivery to the predominant operator a significant deterrent to fair competition?</p> <p>Mr Woods—That is an area of redelivery and delivery to port via other bulk handlers or by growers themselves; it is something that the ACCC monitors and is part of the access undertakings.</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN—What does the current policy say? We are not looking for a yes or no answer. What is the obligation of the current policy in the redelivery?</p> <p>Mr Woods—The redelivery, in my understanding, is different in every case for bulk handlers.</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN—What is it in South Australia?</p> <p>Mr Woods—I am not exactly sure of the specifics—</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN—Can you take that on notice?</p> <p>Mr Woods—We can, but at the moment Viterra have their draft agreement out. The ACCC have published that and asked for questions on it, so they are considering that at the moment and that is their role, not ours.</p>	19-20 21/02/11	12/04/11	

53	APD/WEA	Back	Wheat industry exporter accreditation	<p>Senator BACK—Of the 18 that were accredited for 2009-10, can you now or on notice give us a breakdown of those that are Australian-based, those that are agents of multinationals?</p> <p>Mr Woods—We can do that, but there are a number of Australian entities and a number of multinationals.</p> <p>Senator BACK—On notice you can give us a breakdown?</p>	24 21/02/11	12/04/11	
54	APD/WEA	Nash	International wheat buyers	What is Wheat Exports Australia doing to gain more international buyers?	Written	12/04/11	
55	APD/WEA	Nash	Wheat Exports Australia	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Given that the Productivity Commission recommended that Wheat Exports Australia be wound up on September 2011, and that the Wheat Export Charge of 22 cents per tonne on wheat exports be abolished from that date, has any notification been provided by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, or any other government department, that this recommendation will be put in place? 2. Has the agency made any plans for existing staff with respect to the agency's winding-up? 3. To the agency's knowledge, if Wheat Export Australia is abolished, will there be any levy or charge be placed on wheat exported from Australia? 	Written	12/04/11	
56	APD/ APVMA	Colbeck	Pesticide usage	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What action has the APVMA taken in relation to concerning recent reports of stunted piglets, deformed chicks, deformed frogs, stunted chicks, dead fish larvae, honey bees dropping dead and wild birds dropping dead that could be linked to pesticide use in the Sunland area? 2. What is the role of APVMA in these type of matters? 3. Has the APVMA satisfied itself that pesticides were not the cause of these adverse events? 4. What action remains to be taken by the APVMA in relation to the Sunland incidents? 5. What regulatory action has been considered by the APVMA in relation to the Sunland incidents? 	Written	12/04/11	

				<p>6. What further information has APVMA sought in relation to these incidents at Sunland?</p> <p>7. What are the responsibilities of APVMA to protect public health?</p> <p>8. In general, does the APVMA have any potential liability for failure to properly investigate reports that result in future damage to human or animal health?</p> <p>9. Can you explain APVMA's general duty of care to act in the interests of human and animal health?</p>			
57	APD/ APVMA	Heffernan	Use of lemongrass and Bugbam	<p>1. There are currently no approvals in Australia for lemon grass extract as an insect repellent for humans, what is APVMA's current policy on lemongrass?</p> <p>2. I understand APVMA has said lemongrass causes cancer in mice, yet the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has approved lemongrass in teas, body lotion oils, etc and is a well known cooking ingredient in Thai food. The TGA has an approval for lemon grass oil in a Listed Medicine. Do APVMA and TGA consult with each other? If not, why not. (please do not answer stating each agency is an independent authority)</p> <p>3. In light of the recent flooding in QLD and Victoria, why won't APVMA approve a product called Bugbam? (bugbam is a wristband and grids made with all natural ingredients and food-grade materials that deters mosquitoes and other flying, biting insects from biting. Bug Bam products were used by cleanup crews after the earthquake in Haiti and in Louisiana for Hurricane Katrina.</p> <p>4. The Bugbam product has the following endorsements yet APVMA continues to refuse approval, please explain in detail your reasons and when will it be approved?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% natural, FDA food-grade, EPA exempt ingredients (citronella, geranium, lemongrass). • US FDA approved/EPA exempt food-grade materials (synthetic latex). 	Written	12/04/11	

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waterproof, sweat-proof, recyclable and eco-friendly. • Safe for Kids (of all ages). • Scientifically tested for efficacy (successfully) against mosquitoes capable of carrying yellow fever, dengue fever, west Nile virus & malaria at leading entomology labs in the USA. • Scientifically tested for skin and eye irritation (non-irritant). • Endorsed by the PGA Tour Partners (Golf). • Endorsed by the National Home Gardening Club. • Endorsed by the National Camp Association. • Awarded BEST PRODUCT and HOT PRODUCT by iParenting Media • Official repellent of the Boy Scouts of America. • Currently in Phase-2 of testing with the United Nations to be adopted by their Rollback Malaria program. <p>5. Surely in light of the recent QLD and Victorian floods, the Bugbam product would qualify for emergency registration, APVMA's guidelines state "The APVMA may also issue a permit to individuals, organisations or corporations allowing them (or others) to use a particular agricultural or veterinary chemical product in a limited way (such as for minor uses, emergency uses and experimental purposes) when that product is either not registered or the proposed use of a registered product is contrary to the use instructions and directions on the approved label of the product." On what grounds did APVMA refuse Bugbam's application for an emergency registration?</p>			
58	APD/ APMVA	Siewert	Pesticide reviews	1. Please provide an update on the APVMA review of diuron. Since the preliminary review findings were released in 2005, please indicate what if anything has been done to implement	Written	12/04/11	

				<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Given paraquat has been under review by APVMA since 1997 and is now banned in Europe, please provide an update on the APVMA review of paraquat? When will APVMA's preliminary findings be released? 3. The Australian Government made a commitment before the election to reform Australia's pesticide laws to better protect human health and the environment. Will the new regime lead to the de-registration of pesticides that have been banned overseas on human health or environmental grounds? For example, the 80+ pesticides identified as prohibited in the European Union in the WWF/National Toxics Network report "A list Australia's most dangerous pesticides". 4. How will the Government treat carcinogenic pesticides under the new regime? 5. How will the new regime treat endocrine (hormone) disrupting pesticides? 			
59	APD/ Wine Australia	Xenophon	Export approval control for bulk wine	<p>Mr Cheesman—Yes, probably twofold. We are going through the process of strengthening the export approval control mechanisms around the export of bulk wine. We are also introducing some new requirements on wine that is packaged in international markets and is labelled as Australian wine. We are working with counterpart regulatory bodies in those other countries to assist us with that.</p> <p>Senator XENOPHON—I think Senator Back has some questions. Could you provide some details of what you have just outlined on notice?</p> <p>Mr Cheesman—Yes.</p>	134 21/02/11	12/04/11	
60	APD/AWI	Fierravanti-Wells	AWI Director's Report	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the nature of the report provided to the Commonwealth on an "in confidence" basis as referred to in the Director's Report of 6 October 2010? (AWI Annual Report 2009/10, page 32) 	Written	12/04/11	

61	APD/AWI	Fierravanti-Wells	Statutory Funding Agreement 2010-2013	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In relation to the Statutory Funding Agreement 2010-2013, please outline: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The period of negotiation for the agreement b. The dates of meeting between AWI and the Government c. Who was present at the meetings d. what variations were made from the previous Statutory Funding Agreement 2007-2010 e. In relation to any variation, please specify whether the variation was at the instigation of AWI or the Government f. In relation to each variation, specify the reason/s that motivated the variation 2. In relation to each variation, what guarantee, if any, does the Government have that AWI will not breach the agreement? 	Written	12/04/11	
62	APD/AWI	Fierravanti-Wells	Reports	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Please advise what reports were received by the Government in relation to AWI from November 2007 to date. In relation to each, please specify: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The nature of each report b. The author of each report c. Whether the report included criticisms of AWI including performance and governance issues and conflict of issues matters d. What actions did the Government require AWI to undertake in relation to each report e. Whether AWI undertook such actions 	Written	12/04/11	
63	APD/AWI	Fierravanti-Wells	Appointments	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I refer to the following extract from the Productivity Commission's Draft Report <i>Rural Research and Development Corporations</i>, September 2010 at p.194 regarding concerns about AWI's board selection processes <i>The Government has sought to address the concerns about AWI's board-selection processes in its recently-</i> 	Written	12/04/11	

				<p><i>negotiated SFA, which includes new provisions on board governance (box 8.5). The Government has indicated its intention to also strengthen the governance requirements in SFAs with other IOCs. This has already occurred for HAL (sub. 101).</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Please outline the processes referred to above b. What provisions are in place to ensure AWI meets new board governance processes c. Given AWI's bad history of governance, what provisions are in place to ensure that AWI meets new board governance processes d. Given that the AWI board members who have been primarily responsible for governance problems, what guarantees does the government have that the board will implement and meet new board governance processes? 			
64	APD/AWI	Fierravanti-Wells	Governance	<p>1. I refer to the appearance by AWI Chairman Wal Merriman at the Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee in May 2010 where he acknowledged the existence of the three reports and to the following extract from the Productivity Commission's Draft Report <i>Rural Research and Development Corporations</i>, September 2010 at p.198</p> <p><i>... Moreover, subsequent to the Arche review, three reports from external advisers on how to improve the organisation's governance have not been publicly released. This has added to a sense of a lack of transparency and the ongoing concerns that governance issues at AWI are not being adequately addressed.</i></p> <p><i>Given the above, it will therefore be especially important for the Government to effectively monitor and enforce AWI's new SFA. This issue is considered further below in section</i></p>	Written	12/04/11	

				<p><i>8.4 as part of a discussion of monitoring and enforcement.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Has the government received any or all 3 of these reports b. If so, when were they received c. Given the scathing criticisms levelled at AWI in relation to performance and governance issues, has the government considered releasing the reports d. How will the government monitor and enforce AWI's new SFA e. What action will the government undertake if AWI fails to comply with the SFA 			
65	APD/AWI	Fierravanti-Wells	Governance	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I refer to the appearance by AWI Chairman Wal Merriman at the Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee in May 2010 where he acknowledged the existence of the three reports and to the following extract from the Productivity Commission's Draft Report <i>Rural Research and Development Corporations</i>, September 2010 at p.198 <p><i>... Moreover, subsequent to the Arche review, three reports from external advisers on how to improve the organisation's governance have not been publicly released. This has added to a sense of a lack of transparency and the ongoing concerns that governance issues at AWI are not being adequately addressed.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Given the scathing criticisms levelled at AWI in relation to performance and governance issues, has the government requested AWI to publicly release these 3 reports? If not, why not. b. In relation to each report, please advise whether the government requested AWI to commissioned the report c. If so, when was such request made in relation to 	Written	12/04/11	

				<p>any or each of the reports</p> <p>d. The role of government associated with commissioning each report</p> <p>e. Was the draft of each report was provided to government and if so, when</p> <p>f. Was the final of each report was provided to government and if so, when</p> <p>g. To whom was any or each report provided</p>			
66	APD/AWI	Fierravanti-Wells	Correspondence	1. I refer to correspondence tabled at estimates hearings from Paolo Zegna to Wal Merriman dated 25 March 2010. Please outline what action has been taken by the government in relation to concerns raised in that correspondence.	Written	12/04/11	
67	APD/AWI	Fierravanti-Wells	One Year On Review of Performance, Final Report, November 2010	<p>1. In relation to the Report for One Year On Review of Performance, Final Report, November 2010 by GHD (the GHD Report), please advise:</p> <p>a. When was GHD commissioned to provide the report?</p> <p>b. How was GHD engaged? Was this by contract directly with AWI?</p> <p>c. What was the cost of the GHD Final Report?</p> <p>d. Was AWI provided with a draft or drafts of the report? If so, please provide details as to the date each was provided to AWI.</p> <p>e. Did AWI suggest any changes to any draft/s? If so, please provide details in relation to each change.</p> <p>f. When was the Final Report provided to AWI?</p> <p>g. Was the Final report considered by the Board? If so when?</p> <p>h. Did the AWI Board edit or make any changes to the Final Report?</p> <p>i. Did any AWI employee edit or make any changes to the Final Report?</p>	Written	12/04/11	

				<p>j. Was any such change at the direction of the Board or any member/s of the board? If so, please provide details of who gave any such direction and when was it done.</p> <p>k. In relation to any edit or change, please advise whether GHD accepted the same?</p>			
68	APD/AWI	Fierravanti-Wells	3 Year Review of Performance – Final Report	<p>1. In relation to each of the recommendations contained in the AWI: 3 Year Review of Performance – Final Report, please advise what changes have been made at AWI or to AWI structures or procedures to give effect to that recommendation.</p> <p>2. In relation to each change, please advise what decision/s the AWI Board made to give effect to that change.</p>	Written	12/04/11	
69	APD/AWI	Fierravanti-Wells	One Year On Review of Performance, Final Report, November 2010	<p>1. In relation to the GHD Report, the review outcome for Recommendation 1 is “Review Outcome – Completed: Recommendation mostly completed with feedback from stakeholders in the future required to confirm success.” Page 2 of the Executive Summary states that the rating for “Completed” is “work to address recommendation completed and no further action required.” Please explain the discrepancy between the “review outcome - completed” and “recommendation mostly completed”.</p>	Written	12/04/11	
70	APD/AWI 11	Fierravanti-Wells	One Year On Review of Performance, Final Report, November 2010	<p>1. In relation to the GHD Report, the review outcome for Recommendation 6 is “Review Outcome – Completed: Recommendation mostly completed with continuing rationalisation of subsidiary companies into the future.” Page 2 of the Executive Summary states that the rating for “Completed” is “work to address recommendation completed and no further action required.” Please explain the discrepancy between the “review outcome - completed” and “recommendation mostly completed”.</p>	Written	12/04/11	

71	APD/AWI	Fierravanti-Wells	One Year On Review of Performance, Final Report, November 2010	1. In relation to the GHD Report, the review outcome for Recommendation 9 is “Review Outcome – In Progress: Recommendation completed.” Page 2 of the Executive Summary states that the rating for “In Progress” is “work in progress will address the recommendations before 2012.” Please explain the discrepancy between the “review outcome – in progress” and “recommendation completed”.	Written	12/04/11	
72	APD/AWI	Fierravanti-Wells	One Year On Review of Performance, Final Report, November 2010	1. In relation to the statement in relation to Recommendation 8 that “the optimal skill sets for new directors will be determined by the Board and published when applications for directorship are sought”, please advise: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Has the Board formulated a skills set? b. When does the Board intend the release the information about the skills set? c. If the Board does not release the skills set, existing directors will have “inside information” for a time and will this not place potential directors at a perceived if not actual disadvantage? Is this not another example of conflict of interest issues persisting at AWI? 	Written	12/04/11	
73	APD/AWI	Fierravanti-Wells	Levies	1. According to AWI’s Annual Report 2009/10, there were 64,728 levy payers as at 30 June 2010 of which 29,347 were AWI shareholders. In relation to WoolPoll 2009, please advise the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The number of voting papers issued b. The number of voting papers cast c. The number of votes cast for each of the levy options – 0, 1, 2, 2.5 and 3 per cent 	Written	12/04/11	
74	APD/AWI	Fierravanti-Wells	Shareholders	1. Please provide a breakdown of the AWI shareholding ranging from shareholders entitled to one vote to the maximum entitlement held by any shareholder/s.	Written	12/04/11	

75	APD/AWI	Fierravanti-Wells	Correspondence	1. Further to correspondence from Paolo Zegna to Wal Merriman dated 25 March 2010, please outline what efforts AWI has made to progress the matters referred to in that correspondence.	Written	12/04/11	
76	APD/AWI	Fierravanti-Wells	Testing laboratory	1. Please provide details regarding the closure of AWI testing laboratory in Italy including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. When the decision was made? b. Outline the work undertaken at this laboratory. c. Where will AWI undertake the work previously at this laboratory? d. Specify the work undertaken at this facility regarding licensing issues? e. What arrangements are in place to ensure alternative arrangements will assure licensing requirements will be met? 	Written	12/04/11	
77	APD/AWI	Fierravanti-Wells	Employee expenses	1. In relation to employee expenses, please advise: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Total expenses for FY 2008/09 b. Total expenses for FY 2009/10 c. If there was a reduction in such expenses from FY 2008/09 to FY 2009/10, please outline how this was achieved. Was this undertaken through a net reduction in salaries and other expenses? 	Written	12/04/11	
78	APD/AWI	Fierravanti-Wells	Board of Directors – fees and benefits	1. In relation to the AWI board directors’ fees and other benefits, please outline the increase in fees and other benefits from FY 2008/09 to FY 2009/10 including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The activities of each director including an indication of hours per week undertaken? b. The reason for the increase in relation to each director? c. What additional activities was each director required to undertake which may have warranted the increase from FY 2008/09 to FY 2009/10? 	Written	12/04/11	

79	APD/AWI	Fierravanti-Wells	Board of Directors – fees and benefits	<p>1. In relation to the AWI board directors’ fees and other benefits, please outline the increase in fees and other benefits from FY 2008/09 to FY 2009/10 including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The attendance fee for each board meeting? b. The attendance fee for each committee meeting? c. Additional expenses paid for each such attendance? d. Other fees or expenses for other activities? 	Written	12/04/11	
80	APD/AWI	Fierravanti-Wells	Board of Directors – fees and benefits	<p>1. Do AWI Board directors review their own fees? If so, is this not another example of a potential conflict of interest persisting at AWI?</p>	Written	12/04/11	
81	APD/AWI	Fierravanti-Wells	Board of Directors - qualifications	<p>1. AWI 04 – Answer to question on notice (May 2010) indicates that the Marketing and Intellectual Property Committee no longer exists and that marketing issues are now dealt with by the entire board. Please provide details of what, if any, marketing qualifications each AWI board member has.</p>	Written	12/04/11	
82	APD/AWI	Fierravanti-Wells	Conflict of interest	<p>1. Please outline the circumstances that resulted in the approval of the Conflicts of Interest Directors and Officers including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. When did the board decide to make changes to the conflicts of interest policy? b. What was the basis for such changes? c. Did the media and other scrutiny of conflict of interest issues raised in relation to directors Meridith Sheil and Chick Olsson lead to or influence the board to change the conflict of interest policy? 	Written	12/04/11	
83	APD/AWI	Fierravanti-Wells	Appointments	<p>1. In relation to the appointment of marketing agency Euro RSCG, please advise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The date of appointment? b. The cost of the contract? c. How long is the contract for? 	Written	12/04/11	

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> d. The obligations of both AWI and Euro RSCG under the contract? e. Does any director or member of his/her immediate family have any relationship with Euro RSCG? 			
84	APD/AWI	Fierravanti-Wells	Director's Report	1. What is the nature of the report provided to the Commonwealth on an "in confidence" basis as referred to in the Director's Report of 6 October 2010? (Annual Report 2009/10)	Written	12/04/11	
85	APD/AWI	Fierravanti-Wells	Statutory Funding Agreement	<p>1. In relation to the Statutory Funding Agreement 2010-2013, please outline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The period of negotiation for the agreement b. The dates of meeting between AWI and the Government c. Who was present at the meetings d. what variations were made from the previous Statutory Funding Agreement 2007-2010 e. In relation to any variation, please specify whether the variation was at the instigation of AWI or the Government 	Written	12/04/11	
86	APD/AWI	Fierravanti-Wells	Performance management	<p>1. I refer to the following extract from the Productivity Commission's Draft Report <i>Rural Research and Development Corporations</i>, September 2010 at p. XXXI in relation to changes to the RDC model and levy arrangements:</p> <p><i>Notably, the current approach appears not to have been very effective in dealing with what are widely perceived to be significant and ongoing performance issues within Australian Wool Innovation (AWI). As well as concerns about the direct impacts on the returns to levy payers and the community from AWI's R&D investments, several</i></p>	Written	12/04/11	

				<p><i>stakeholders pointed to the potential for instability and unresolved performance issues within AWI to degrade confidence in the RDC model as a whole.</i></p> <p><i>In the Commission’s view, this situation should not be allowed to continue. AWI’s recently renewed Statutory Funding Agreement and the 2009 independent review of its performance detail a range of specific issues that need to be addressed by AWI. If the next three-yearly independent performance review of AWI indicates that appropriate remedial action has not been taken — and if a meaningful intermediate sanction cannot be found — then the case for the Government to withdraw its funding for AWI would become compelling.</i></p> <p>Given this scathing assessment of AWI’s performance, please advise what action, if any, has AWI undertaken to address each of the severe criticisms levelled at it by the Productivity Commission in the above quote.</p> <p>Given the significant and ongoing performance issues at AWI, why should the Government not withdraw AWI’s funding?</p>			
87	APD/AWI	Fierravanti-Wells	Performance management	<p>1. I refer to the following extract from the Productivity Commission’s Draft Report <i>Rural Research and Development Corporations</i>, September 2010 at p.177 regarding supporting changes to the RDC model:</p> <p><i>Ongoing concerns about the performance of Australian Wool Innovation (AWI) are damaging confidence in the RDC model. If AWI’s next three-yearly independent performance review finds that the problems have not been satisfactorily addressed — and if a meaningful intermediate sanction cannot be found — then the case</i></p>	Written	12/04/11	

				<p><i>for the Government to withdraw its funding for AWI would be compelling.</i></p> <p>Given this scathing assessment of AWI's performance, please advise what action, if any, has AWI undertaken to address each of the severe criticisms levelled at it by the Productivity Commission in the above quote.</p> <p>Does AWI agree that its performance is damaging confidence in the RDC model?</p> <p>Given the significant and ongoing performance issues at AWI and the fact that AWI's performance is damaging the RDC model, why should the Government not withdraw AWI's funding as suggested by the Productivity Commission?</p>			
88	APD/AWI	Fierravanti-Wells	Performance management	<p>1. I refer to the following extract from the Productivity Commission's Draft Report <i>Rural Research and Development Corporations</i>, September 2010 at p.180 regarding supporting changes to the RDC model:</p> <p><i>The remainder of this chapter outlines the specific changes that the Commission is proposing to support the principles listed in draft recommendation 8.1. The discussion is structured around four broad areas:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>changes to goals and functions</i> • <i>promoting effective communication</i> • <i>improving governance and administration</i> • <i>strengthening performance monitoring and enforcement.</i> <p><i>Some of the issues raised in these areas concern Australian Wool Innovation (AWI). As detailed in this</i></p>	Written	12/04/11	

				<p><i>chapter, there were widespread concerns among inquiry participants about ongoing governance and performance problems at AWI, and the potential for these to damage confidence in the RDC model. Hence, it is important for the integrity and ongoing health of all RDCs that the concerns about AWI be effectively addressed.</i></p> <p>a. Given this scathing assessment of AWI's performance, please advise what action, if any, has AWI undertaken to address each of the severe criticisms levelled at it by the Productivity Commission in the above quote.</p> <p>b. Does AWI agree that its performance is damaging confidence in the RDC model?</p>			
89	APD/AWI	Fierravanti-Wells	Performance management	<p>1. I refer to the following extract from the Productivity Commission's Draft Report <i>Rural Research and Development Corporations</i>, September 2010 at p.183 regarding marketing and industry representation:</p> <p><i>The Commission accepts that there can be synergies not only between marketing and R&D, but also with industry representation. In practice, most independent businesses combine these functions under one roof without problems, and indeed encourage close liaison between them.</i></p> <p><i>It is therefore notable that the recently-negotiated SFA for AWI prohibits it from promoting itself as an industry-representative body, which the SFA links to agripolitical activity. Specifically, the SFA states that AWI:</i></p> <p><i>... must not engage in, or use the Funds for, Agri-Political Activity. To avoid doubt, the Company must only spend the Funds on Marketing and Research and Development Activities. This does not include activities</i></p>	Written	12/04/11	

				<p><i>promoting itself as an Industry representative body or referencing information from which stakeholders would assume the Company is an industry representative body. (s. 7.4)</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Given the above comments, what actions has AWI taken to ensure that it's Chairman and Board Directors do not contravene the provision of promoting AWI as an "industry representative body"? b. What action has AWI taken to ensure that material which offends the provision of "referencing information from which stakeholders would assume the company is an industry body" has been rectified? c. Please provide a list of publications "referencing information from which stakeholders would assume the company is an industry body"? d. In relation to the offending publications, what efforts has AWI made to withdraw them from circulation? 			
90	APD/AWI	Fierravanti-Wells	Misconduct issues	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I refer to the following extract from the Productivity Commission's Draft Report <i>Rural Research and Development Corporations</i>, September 2010 at p.183 regarding the SFA and agri-political activity undertaken by AWI: <i>The SFA further notes that:</i> <i>'Agri-Political Activity' means engaging in or financing any form of external or internal political campaigning, but does not include an activity required or authorised under the Corporations Act 2001 (Cwlth) or another law. (s. 1)</i> 	Written	12/04/11	

				<p><i>This requirement needs to be viewed in the context of widespread concerns about the governance of AWI (for example, Arche 2009; Australian Superfine Wool Growers Association, sub. 9; Burke 2009, 2010; Colin Agar, sub. 17; Dr John Keniry, sub. 80; Wool Producers Australia, sub. 48). In light of those concerns, it appears that the Government made a judgement that AWI had been unable to draw a clear line between industry representation and agri-political activity. AEC and APL do not appear to have had such difficulties. Hence, the Commission does not see the developments with respect to AWI as necessarily being indicative of the requirements that should apply elsewhere for marketing and industry representation. A sensible approach to industry representation, steering well clear of agri-political activity, may well have benefits for other RDCs.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. What is AWI’s response to “widespread concerns”? b. Why have other RDCs been able to refrain from agri-political activity whereas AWI has been unable to do so? c. What measures has AWI put in place to ensure that it’s Chairman and Directors do not engage in agri-political activities? When were such measures put in place? d. Please list all public attendances by AWI directors since 2009 including the nature of the attendance, who attended and whether it was instigated by AWI or at the invitation of other person/s or organisation/s. e. Please list all media statements, interviews and comments made by AWI directors since 1 January 2009 including who made the statements 			
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				and the nature of such statements			
91	APD/AWI	Fierravanti-Wells	Expenses	<p>1. In relation to WoolPoll 2009, please itemise all expenditure by AWI in relation to the same including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Attendances by AWI directors and staff at meetings in the lead up to the poll b. Where were those meetings c. Who attended the meetings d. The cost of each attendance e. Were directors paid fees for each such attendance f. Was any material distributed at each of those attendances? If so, please provide a copy of the material distributed g. What activities were undertaken by each director to encourage a vote in WoolPoll h. For example, in relation to the Wool Industry Day held on 20 May 2009 please advise: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. When were the invitations issued? ii. To whom were they issued iii. The number of people who attended 	Written	12/04/11	
92	APD/AWI	Fierravanti-Wells	Consultations	<p>1. I refer to the following extract from the Productivity Commission's Draft Report <i>Rural Research and Development Corporations</i>, September 2010 at p.188 regarding concerns about AWI's industry consultation:</p> <p>The performance of AWI in consulting with and providing value for, industry stakeholders has been widely criticised as inadequate. An independent performance review (the Arche Review) found that AWI:</p> <p><i>... has not had a consistent and transparent process for involving stakeholders in its strategy setting process. Industry stakeholders commented that consultation processes</i></p>	Written	12/04/11	

				<p><i>had been ad hoc, and focused on informing stakeholders of directions AWI is taking rather than involving them in the development of strategy and directions. (Arche Consulting 2009, p. 24)</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. What is AWI's response to the criticisms referred to? b. Please explain the ad hoc nature of consultations? c. Please list all consultations that AWI undertook with stakeholders since 2009 including the nature of the consultations, the date that the consultation was sought, the reason for the consultation, who was invited to participate in each consultation, the programme for each consultation. 			
93	APD/AWI	Fierravanti-Wells	Appointments	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I refer to the following extract from the Productivity Commission's Draft Report <i>Rural Research and Development Corporations</i>, September 2010 at p.194 regarding concerns about AWI's board selection processes: <p><i>The primary concern expressed to the Commission about current board-selection processes relates to the arrangements used by AWI. That entity's most recent performance review found that the 'architecture of the constitution for the appointment of directors does not ensure that the AWI Board is skills based' (Arche Consulting 2009, p. x).</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. What is AWI's response to the criticisms referred to? b. Given the criticism that the AWI is not a skilled based board, what efforts has AWI made to date to rectify this problem c. Does AWI intend to rectify the problem d. Has the AWI board considered the need date to 	Written	12/04/11	

				<p>rectify this problem</p> <p>e. What efforts have AWI made to change the constitution to rectify this problem</p>			
94	APD/AWI	Fierravanti-Wells	Appointments	<p>1. I refer to the following extract from the Productivity Commission’s Draft Report <i>Rural Research and Development Corporations</i>, September 2010 at p.194 regarding concerns about AWI’s board selection processes</p> <p><i>The new SFAs for AWI and HAL specifically refer to a document prepared by the ASX Corporate Governance Council (2007) — titled Corporate Governance Principles and Recommendations — as a guide to best-practice corporate governance, particularly with respect to the nomination committee. A revised version of that document will apply from 1 January 2011, including new requirements for board diversity, which may also be useful for the RDCs to follow (ASX Corporate Governance Council 2010).</i></p> <p>a. What practical measures has AWI put in place to implement the new governance processes</p> <p>b. What provisions are in place to ensure AWI meets new board governance processes</p> <p>c. Given AWI’s bad history of governance, what provisions are in place to ensure that AWI meets new board governance processes</p> <p>d. Given that the AWI board members who have been primarily responsible for governance problems, what guarantees has AWI given to the government have that the board will implement and meet new board governance processes</p> <p>e. Given the criticism levelled at the AWI board to date, surely the most transparent course of action is for the entire board to resign and AWI be</p>	Written	12/04/11	

				<p>subject to the selection of a proper skills based board</p> <p>f. Has the board and have board members considered adopting this course of action. If not, why not.</p>			
95	APD/AWI	Fierravanti-Wells	Appointments	<p>1. I refer to the following extract from the Productivity Commission's Draft Report <i>Rural Research and Development Corporations</i>, September 2010 at p.197 regarding board selection under AWI's new statutory funding agreement.</p> <p>a. Given AWI's poor governance history and the scathing criticisms in the Arche Consulting, what practical steps has AWI undertaken to meet the new requirements</p> <p>b. Given the current election processes for election of the board, how can AWI achieve a skills based board without a change to its constitution</p>	Written	12/04/11	
96	APD/AWI	Fierravanti-Wells	Performance and governance reports	<p>1. I refer to the appearance by AWI Chairman Wal Merriman at the Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee in May 2010 where he acknowledged the existence of the three reports and to the following extract from the Productivity Commission's Draft Report <i>Rural Research and Development Corporations</i>, September 2010 at p.198</p> <p><i>... Moreover, subsequent to the Arche review, three reports from external advisers on how to improve the organisation's governance have not been publicly released. This has added to a sense of a lack of transparency and the ongoing concerns that governance issues at AWI are not being adequately addressed.</i></p>	Written	12/04/11	

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Given the scathing criticisms levelled at AWI in relation to performance and governance issues, why has AWI failed to publicly release these 3 reports b. In relation to each report, please advise whether AWI commissioned the report c. If so, when was each report commissioned d. The process associated with commissioning each report e. Who provided each report f. When was the draft of each report was provided to AWI g. Did AWI make any changes to the draft/s of each report h. The date of each final report i. Did AWI provide a copy of any or each of the report to government j. If so, the date that any or each report was provided to government k. To whom was any or each report provided 			
97	APD/AWI	Fierravanti-Wells	AWI reports	<p>1. I refer to the following extract from the Productivity Commission’s Draft Report <i>Rural Research and Development Corporations</i>, September 2010 at p.204 regarding strengthening performance monitoring and enforcement.</p> <p><i>The Government has recently decided to specifically require the IOCs to undertake ex post evaluations, and is phasing this in as individual SFAs are renegotiated. For example, the most recent SFAs for AWI and HAL include clauses requiring a structured program of evaluations, and participation in any evaluation project established for all RDCs. The Commission supports this move, and considers that the statutory RDCs should have a similar requirement.</i></p>	Written	12/04/11	

				<p>a. Given AWI's poor performance and governance history and the scathing criticisms in the Arche Consulting, what practical steps has AWI undertaken to meet the new requirements for structured evaluation programs</p> <p>b. What practical steps has AWI undertaken to meet the new requirements for participation in any evaluation project?</p>			
98	ABARES	Siewert	Drivers and barriers to the management of native vegetation on private land	<p>Senator SIEWERT—I understand you have started a project called drivers and barriers to the management of native vegetation on private land.</p> <p>Mr Glyde—Correct.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—I cannot find it very easily. Where would I find the details about that particular project?</p> <p>Mr Morris—The project is still underway. It was one, I believe, contracted to us from the sustainable resource management area of the department. But if you would like a copy of the terms of reference—</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—That would be appreciated. Terms of reference, how you are going about it, how long it is going to take, who is being consulted, what the purposes are, who commissioned it and why would be really useful.</p> <p>Mr Morris—Yes.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—Although it is about drivers and barriers, why was it commissioned and how long ago? Can you tell me that now?</p> <p>Mr Morris—I do not have the exact date, but we can provide that.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—And when you are talking about broadacre agriculture, does that mean you are not looking at rangelands?</p> <p>Mr Morris—Rangelands are included in broadacre, so we look</p>	82-83 21/02/11	12/04/11	

				<p>at three agro-economic zones in Australia: the high rainfall zone, which is mainly coastal areas, the wheat/sheep zone, which is the major producing areas in Australia, and then the pastoral zone, which is I think what you referred to as rangelands.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—So you are undertaking it in the pastoral zone. If you could get me the terms of reference and all those details, that would be very much appreciated.</p>			
99	ABARES	Colbeck	Agricultural productivity growth	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Can you provide the latest data on agricultural productivity growth and are you meeting your goal of boosting productivity growth above the long-term average? If not, what are the reasons? 2. Can you provide a comparison of agricultural productivity growth each year over the past 30 years? 	Written	12/04/11	
100	ABARES	Colbeck	Water storage capacity	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. What assessments has the Department done in relation to our water storage capacity across the nation and has any consideration been given to this issue in light of the recent flood events? 5. Does the Department recognise the importance of water storage capacity to agricultural production what strategies are in place to enhance water storage capacity? 6. Can you provide some details of DAFF's involvement in the issue of water storage capacity over the past 5 years? 	Written	12/04/11	
101	ABARES	Colbeck	Available biomass for electricity generation	Can you provide details of what assessments or work has been undertaken by DAFF in relation to the available supply of biomass for electricity generation or any other matters associated with biomass for electricity generation and the opportunities for the agricultural and forestry industries?	Written	12/04/11	
102	ABARES	Colbeck	ABARES' Projects in 2010-11	<p>Can you provide a list of all new research projects, studies, analysis etc commenced since July 1, 2010, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Topic - Commissioning agency or department - Status of the project including commencement dates 	Written	12/04/11	

				<p>and completion date, or projected completion date</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Allocation of ABARES staffing resources to each project 			
103	ABARES	Colbeck	Game fishing socio-economic research	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. When will the ABARES socio-economic research on the game fishing sector commissioned by the Department be completed? 2. Will the research be released publicly? 	Written	12/04/11	
104	ABARES	Colbeck	Food commodities retail price	Does ABARES have data which indicates the break-down on the share of retail price which flows through the various supply chain sectors (eg. retail, processor, farmer) for the major food commodities – meat, dairy, fruit, vegetables etc?	Written	12/04/11	
105	ABARES	Nash	Cost of wheat	Given that December imports were up on November, and that ABARE predicts that extensive rainfall over the summer has degraded the quality of wheat; what dollar effect could this have on the industry?	Written	12/04/11	
106	ABARES	Nash	Murray-Darling Basin Authority	With regard to Written Question on Notice ABARE-BRS 01 from May 2010, has the agency received a response from the Murray Darling Basin Authority?	Written	12/04/11	
107	CC	Nash	EC budget measures	<p>Senator NASH—Can you clarify for us the terminating measures, 30 June 2011, where the drought assistance exceptional circumstances are all terminating measures in 2010-11?</p> <p>Mr McDonald—There are a number of measures that are part of the budget process for reconsideration coming up on 10 May, and there are six measures that lapse on 30 June that are part of a government consideration at the moment. I can list them if you wish.</p> <p>Senator NASH—We are short of time, so if you could take that on notice and provide them for me, thanks.</p> <p>Mr McDonald—Yes.</p>	57 21/02/11	12/04/11	

108	CC	Back	Pilot of drought reform measures in WA	<p>Senator BACK—My final question relates to the selection of those people who are actually delivering the program. You might be able to take it on notice. I am interested in knowing what their professional backgrounds have been; their experience, for example, in agribusiness; whether they are from regional areas or metropolitan areas. I also understand that there is a mentoring scheme, to mentor those who exit farming. I am interested in knowing what the skill base is of those who would be mentoring those who are exiting, but you may take that on notice.</p> <p>Mr Noble—I can, if you wish. The program you refer to is called Beyond Farming. It is a program delivered by the WA Council of Social Service. They sought expressions of interest for people to become mentors, so former farmers to become mentors to current farmers. We can provide details about the selection process for those mentors, if you would like.</p>	59 21/02/11	12/04/11	
109	CC	Siewert	Pilot of drought reform measures in WA	<p>Senator SIEWERT—I do particularly want to follow up on the WA trial. Of the 19 applications for exit, you said three had been pre-approved. Is that correct?</p> <p>Mr Noble—Yes.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—You said no-one has actually exited, but three have been pre-approved.</p> <p>Mr Noble—Yes. They have gone through a pre-assessment process where Centrelink has assessed their income and assets, and Centrelink has advised them that subject to selling their property based on the eligibility criteria, they would be eligible for an exit grant.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—You said there are 19. Three have obviously been assessed. Where are the other 16 up to?</p> <p>Mr Noble—I would need to take that on notice to find out where those applications are up to. The figure has increased quite a bit since early December, so I think a lot of those would be in the assessment process, but I can take that on notice to give you that detail.</p>	59 21/02/11	12/04/11	

110	CC	Siewert	Pilot of drought reform measures in WA	<p>Mr Noble—Sorry. The terms of reference will look at the efficiency, effectiveness, appropriateness, and preliminary outcomes of each of the pilot measures. The outcomes and objectives of the pilot are documented in the national partnership agreement for the pilot, and that has been publicly available since mid-last year.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—I am interested in the criteria for evaluation that will be used — what they consider effective, et cetera. I am interested in the actual methodology of the evaluation.</p> <p>Mr Noble—Okay.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—Is that available?</p> <p>Mr Noble—We can take that on notice and provide that information to the committee.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—That would be appreciated, thank you. I am also interested in how that was developed, the background to it, who developed it and then what it is. Does that make sense?</p>	60 21/02/11	12/04/11	
111	CC	Milne	Tasmanian Forest Contractors Exit Assistance Program	<p>Senator MILNE—Thank you, Chair. I want to go to forestry now, if I may, and I would like to start with the exit package, the \$17 million of Commonwealth money going to the exit package for forest contractors. I note that the DAF fraud group has been in Tasmania in relation to this. Minister and/or whoever is the appropriate person in the department: were you aware of the longstanding concerns and criticisms of people in the parliament and the Auditor-General about the handling of Commonwealth grants to Tasmania in terms of forestry prior to setting up this particular grant round?</p> <p>Mr Aldred—There has certainly been a range of audits in the past on a range of programs, so the department is aware of the outcomes of those audits.</p> <p>Senator MILNE—And what were the outcomes of those audits?</p> <p>Mr Aldred—I do not have the details of them here, Senator. I would have to take on notice the specifics of the audit that you</p>	63 21/02/11	12/04/11	

			<p>are referring to and the department's response to it.</p> <p>Senator MILNE—Would you agree that the Auditor-General, in writing the reports, suggested the department put in place measures to make sure the shortcomings were overcome?</p> <p>Mr Aldred—Again, if the Auditor-General made recommendations and the department responded to those, then I would need to look at the details of the response.</p> <p>Senator MILNE—Okay. Well, I can tell you the department said they would implement the Auditor-General's recommendations at the time. Moving on from there, under the Tasmanian community forest agreement grants program, Forestry Tasmania was given \$115 million from the Commonwealth for intensive forest management. It was paid upfront. Is the Commonwealth aware that Forestry Tasmania has used that money for its operating expenses?</p> <p>Mr Aldred—As I understand it, there is a performance and financial audit underway on a range of past forestry programs and, from recollection, it is due to report in March. So I would take your comments in that context and follow up for you.</p> <p>Senator MILNE—The Tasmanian Auditor-General noted that Forestry Tasmania had used Commonwealth funding for its operating expenses, and given its recent financial statements it appears not to have the money to be able to fulfil the obligations of the Commonwealth. Who in the Commonwealth actually engages and oversees how this money is being spent? Who in the department is responsible for that?</p> <p>Mr Aldred—It sits within the forestry branch and so, from that point of view, rests with me. As I have said, I will take your points on notice and I will follow up on them.</p> <p>Senator MILNE—That is fine, but can you explain to me why there is not a proactive oversight of how the Commonwealth's funds are being handled in the states and, in this case, in the state of Tasmania?</p> <p>Mr Aldred—Perhaps I can clarify. I am not aware of the details of that. I will check what activity is underway.</p>			
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112	CC	Milne	Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement grants program	<p>Senator MILNE—Was it ever followed up whether, with the grants that were made in the first place, the machinery was ever used in Tasmania in the first place, or when the grants were made was it possible for those companies to buy the machinery, operate them in Victoria, apply for the money to get out of Tasmania and continue their Victorian operations on that cash?</p> <p>Mr Aldred—I think we have follow-up reports on the grants issued under the former program. I am happy to take that on notice and chase it through, but I would expect so.</p>	65 21/02/11	12/04/11	
113	CC	Colbeck	Tasmanian Forest Contractors Exit Assistance Program	<p>Senator COLBECK—Can you give me—and you will have to do this on notice, I understand—full details of the consultation process that was undertaken in relation to the program. I already have some of that from Monday, 21 February 2011 previous discussions we have had, so I have that up to a certain date for some of the meetings and who was met with. That was provided on notice CC29, but could you give me a completion of that process up until when the details were finalised and finally announced.</p>	66-67 21/02/11	12/04/11	
114	CC	Colbeck	Tasmanian Forest Contractors Financial Support Program	<p>Senator COLBECK— Can you tell me what is happening with the other part of the funding package—that is, the assistance package.</p> <p>Mr Aldred—That is being managed on behalf of the Commonwealth by the Tasmanian government. It was advertised just prior to Christmas and closed on 7 January. I understand that 56 offers were made under the support package and 46 payments have been made.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK—Where would we access that information? It is Commonwealth money, but it is being managed by the state.</p> <p>Mr Aldred—It is. We will get reports from the Tasmanian government about it but, if you have particular questions, I am happy to follow up.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK—I am just interested in the generic</p>	67 21/02/11	12/04/11	

				<p>information, I suppose in the similar way of what would be a reasonable reporting process. Can you give me a sense of the scope and scale of the payments?</p> <p>Mr Aldred—A number in the order of \$100,000 to \$200,000. I will take it on notice and give you the broader scale.</p>			
115	CC	Colbeck	Independent facilitator for the Statement of Principles on Tasmanian Forests	<p>Senator COLBECK—Could you give us a list of stakeholders that Mr Kely has met with. I will make a declaration now that I will be on that list at some stage in the proceedings. My understanding is Mr Kely is doing this for no fee. That is as it is. What expenses are being incurred as part of this and who is carrying the tab for that?</p>	67 21/02/11	12/04/11	
116	CC	Colbeck	Gunn's pulp mill	<p>Senator COLBECK—Have you had any specific discussions with the company on the mills since supplementary budget estimates?</p> <p>Senator Ludwig—I would have to take that on notice. As part of the forest contracting package that we were just talking about, I do have a recollection of speaking to representatives. I am not sure whether they were representing Gunns at the time or whether they were representing haulage and harvesting contractors. That aside, since that date, I have not. But I will take it on notice just to make sure, and I will also check whether my office has, as well.</p>	68-69 21/02/11	12/04/11	
117	CC	Colbeck	Tasmanian Regional Forest Agreement	<p>Mr Aldred—The East Gippsland and Tasmanian regional forest agreements hit their 15 years in 2012. That is the point at which the agreements provide for determining a process for renewal, on expiry.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK—With the Tasmanian one, which, as I understand it, is the only one legislated by both parliaments, what is the process for making significant changes to wood supply under that agreement?</p> <p>Mr Aldred—Off the top of my head, there is a requirement for 300,000 cubic metres of class 1 and class 3 and that is legislated.</p>	69-70 21/02/11	12/04/11	

				<p>I cannot recall all the clauses and so on, but I would expect that it would take legislative change. But in terms of the details, I would need to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK—If you could, I would be interested to know what the processes would need to be. I suppose the only thing you could do would be to give us advice at a Commonwealth level, but perhaps you could also give me any information you can about what would have to happen with complementary legislation at the state level, because one of the driving factors for the current process in Tasmania is a significant hole in the wood supply which will start to appear about 2017 and manifest itself completely by about 2021. There will effectively be only 150,000 cubic metres of native forest timber available post that date. If that is going to be the case—and it appears to be one of the negotiating processes as part of this agreement that is being discussed in Tasmania at the moment—I would be interested to know what the provisions to actually give effect to that might be. Have you had any specific discussions with the Tasmanian government about that looming supply hole? It is effectively a large proportion of native forest that has been converted to plantation and the concern is that the product available, which is <i>nitens</i>, is not suitable for saw log supply.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator COLBECK—I would be interested in any information around that topic being made available. It is obviously something that you will have to take on notice, but it is certainly something that I am interested in having a look at, given some of the discussions that are occurring in Tasmania at the moment.</p>			
118	CC	Bob Brown	Forest burns	<p>Senator BOB BROWN—I will not go further; that speaks for itself. I wanted to ask a question about forest burns, and this maybe would be best answered by Mr Mortimer. Is it your assessment that the greenhouse gas emissions from Tasmanian regeneration burns are less than the amount absorbed by forests</p>	72 21/02/11	12/04/11	

				<p>under the aegis of Forestry Tasmania each year?</p> <p>Mr Mortimer—That is a very specific question.</p> <p>Senator BOB BROWN—Yes. I wanted to make it specific.</p> <p>Mr Mortimer—I am not sure how to answer it. Ms Gaglia, is there anything we can say on that, or should we take it on notice?</p> <p>Ms Gaglia—The Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency would be able to provide an answer to that because they actually have the modelling and estimation capacity that we do not. We would not be able to give you an answer to that.</p> <p>Senator BOB BROWN—Could you also take on notice to look at forests which are not slated for potential logging and which are under the control of Forestry Tasmania? This of course excludes protected forests in national parks et cetera.</p>			
119	CC	Bob Brown	Plenty Link Road	<p>Senator BOB BROWN—...I have a question about the Plenty link road, which goes between the New Norfolk region and the Judbury region at the back of Mount Wellington in Tasmania and which is exclusively used by logging interests and prohibits access by members of the public and the tourist industry. How much Commonwealth money went into establishing that road?</p> <p>Mr Aldred—I will have to take that on notice. You said New Plenty Road?</p> <p>Senator BOB BROWN—The Plenty link road.</p> <p>Mr Aldred—Plenty link road.</p> <p>Senator BOB BROWN—Would you establish what representations the Commonwealth has made to give public access to this high-quality, all-weather road; for example, for tourism? Finally on that matter, would you look at the immediate plans to log next to that road in a way which does not take into account its future tourism amenity? I am talking about on the south decline of that road where there are a number of quite massive clear fells but no screening and no effort to retain the natural beauty of the landscape. Thank you for that.</p> <p>Mr Aldred—I will take that on notice, Senator. I may come</p>	72-73 21/02/11	12/04/11	

				<p>back and say that is a matter for Forestry Tasmania and the state government.</p> <p>Senator BOB BROWN—Then I will come back and may say, ‘That’s if there’s no federal funding involved.’</p> <p>Mr Aldred—And that is why I am pleased to take it on notice, Senator.</p> <p>Senator BOB BROWN—Are you aware, by the way, of proposals I and the residents of the West Wellington Protection Group have been involved in, for a walking track from Hobart along the Wellington Range to the Snowy Range and potentially into the Weld and Styx valleys and, if so, could you take on notice what impact proposed logging on the Wellington Range may have in compromising that option?</p>			
120	CC	Bob Brown	Illegal logging	<p>Senator BOB BROWN—...The reference to legislation to prevent the import of illegally logged timbers; is the department aware of a current people’s blockade against logging at Vanimo in Papua New Guinea where residents believe their rights have been totally overridden? And what does the government do about internal corruption which effectively means that illegal logging under national laws are given permits by people in corrupt processes? Will such logging materials be prevented entry into Australia under this slate of legislation?</p>	73 21/02/11	12/04/11	
121	CC	Bob Brown	Forest protest in Bodalla SF	<p>Senator BOB BROWN—Finally, are you aware of a copy in the current issue of the <i>Narooma News</i> that approximately 10 days ago a young woman was on a platform protesting against the destruction of forests near Bermagui, and police were called to that operation. Other people at the protest left at their direction, but she remained there. Police then left, according to this story, that area and at night thugs came and cut down the tree in which she was stationed, under searchlight, and she was left in this extraordinarily fearful situation by the activity of those thugs. And if you are not aware of it, would you get what information you can about that incident and report it back to the</p>	73-74 21/02/11	12/04/11	

				<p>committee and see what measures are taken to—</p> <p>Mr Aldred—Senator, on that one, no, I am not aware of it. But I believe that is a matter for the police and for the state government.</p> <p>Senator BOB BROWN—No, it is also a matter for the logging processes taking place down there. But would you take on notice and see if the department has any information about that incident?</p> <p>Mr Ludwig— Senator Brown, we will see what we can do in terms of this department but, at first instance, with something serious like that, I hope that you or the young person involved has reported it to the police to take appropriate action in that area. It does seem very serious, quite frankly.</p> <p>Senator BOB BROWN—It is in the <i>Narooma News</i>, Minister, so I presume the police are taking action.</p> <p>Mr Ludwig—Yes.</p> <p>Senator BOB BROWN—Whether there is information about it is a matter for this department, and I am asking if—</p> <p>Mr Ludwig—And I said we will take on notice what we can to see what involvement we have in that issue.</p>			
122	CC	Colbeck	Forestry Division - budget & spending 2006-10	What is the budget and spending, including consultancies, for the forestry division of DAFF by year for the 5 years from 2006 to 2010 inclusive?	Written	12/04/11	
123	CC	Colbeck	Forestry Division - staffing and qualifications 2006-10	What are the professional staffing levels for the forestry division of DAFF by year for the 5 years from 2006 to 2010 inclusive? How many of these have professional forestry qualifications?	Written	12/04/11	
124	CC	Colbeck	Managed investment schemes	Since the collapse of major Australian companies offering forestry MIS products in 2009/10, what initiatives or policy review has been carried out by DAFF to address the dramatic reduction in plantation establishment in Australia?	Written	12/04/11	

125	CC	Colbeck	Regional Forest Agreements	The Regional Forest Agreements between the Commonwealth and most State Governments established in the mid to late 1990s, with major oversight by DAFF were due for policy review at 5 yearly intervals thereafter. What has DAFF done to initiate such reviews and provide advice to Government about any such reviews? What is the status and timeframes of these reviews?	Written	12/04/11	
126	CC	Colbeck	World Forestry Congress	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Was Australia represented by DAFF at the World Forestry Congress in 2009? 2. If not, why not, when the FAO, as advised to forestry interests in Australia, was seeking for Australia to host the next World Forestry Congress? 	Written	12/04/11	
127	CC	Colbeck	World Forestry Congress	What options has DAFF considered for hosting the next World Forestry Congress in Australia and what are the details of these – what options have been rejected or accepted and why?	Written	12/04/11	
128	CC	Colbeck	United Nations Forum on Forests	What representation have Australian forestry interests through DAFF or DAFF sponsored attendees, had at recent United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Conference of the Parties (COP – climate change) international meetings? Please provide details.	Written	12/04/11	
129	CC	Colbeck	Forestry capacity building in the Asia-Pacific	How much has DAFF spent on capacity building for forestry in the Asia-Pacific region in the past 5 years? What have been the outcomes of these programs?	Written	12/04/11	
130	CC	Colbeck	National Forest Policy Statement 1992	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the present status of any review of the National Forest Policy Statement 1992? 2. How does the government intend to enable effective participation of key industry stakeholders in any review and what are the details of any funding for this? 	Written	12/04/11	

131	CC	Colbeck	Student numbers in the forestry industry	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What assessment has DAFF undertaken of the numbers of students undertaking relevant courses for employment in the forestry industry? 2. Can DAFF provide any figures in relation to the present student numbers in relevant disciplines for employment in the forestry industry and a comparison over the past 5 years? 3. What information does DAFF have about skills development for the forestry industry and what action is DAFF taking? 4. What involvement has DAFF had in the tailoring of University and other courses to ensure that graduates have the skills required by industry? 	Written	12/04/11	
132	CC	Colbeck	Illegal logging code and business costs	<p>In relation to illegal logging:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The literature made available so far indicates the Government will rely on a co-regulation approach that will require industry to shoulder much of the work developing the Code of Conduct under which timber will be brought to market. With this in mind: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. How does the Department envisage industry developing this code of conduct and what mechanisms will be established to ensure all elements of the industry have a say in such matters?; and b. How will industry conflicts of interest be managed? 2. The Regulatory Impact Scheme mentions that small businesses will be exempt from the illegal logging regulations. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. What size threshold must be crossed before a business will be covered by these rules? b. If no answer is available, when will the Department have an answer? 3. The literature mentions that at this point it is envisaged that verification will occur at the point timber enters the market. We understand the definition of point of entry for 	Written	12/04/11	

				<p>domestically produced timber is the primary processor. This may add extra costs to operators; particularly those that purchase their resource from small farm forests or private native forests.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Has the department conducted any work to ascertain the increased costs such operators will be faced with? b. If yes, what will these added costs be and what actions does the Department plant to take to mitigate them to minimise costs to Australian business; or c. If the Department cannot answer the question or has not done the work, why not? <p>4. The ABARE report into <i>the economic consequences of restricting the import of illegally logged timber</i> envisages employment losses in the industry.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Can the Department inform this committee on what it sees being the impact of its proposed model on employment in the industry? b. If job losses are predicted: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. What is the estimated size of the job losses; ii. In which segments of the industry and if possible, their geographic location; iii. What does the Department intend to do to mitigate job losses, or lessen their impact on effected communities? 			
133	CC	Colbeck	Illegal logging consultation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Who represented the Department at the recent information sessions about the new illegally logged timber policy, held in Sydney and Brisbane in early February 2011? 2. Did the Minister attend any of these sessions? 3. If not, was the Minister represented by others? If so, who? 4. Did staff from the Minister's office attend? 5. What were the attendance numbers at each session? 6. Was a list of representative groups or individuals recorded as attendees, and is this publicly available? 	Written	12/04/11	

				<p>7. Can the Department supply a list of all stakeholders consulted thus far, including dates and locations, with regard to the development of this policy?</p> <p>8. Has the Department consulted with relevant State Government departments and forestry managers?</p> <p>9. Are the States fully informed and working with the Commonwealth on this matter?</p> <p>10. What consultation has taken place with Australian suppliers, such as saw millers, private forestry resource owners, and other affected small-medium enterprises?</p> <p>11. Has the Department conducted any analysis of the cost and impact of the regulation on suppliers of domestic timber? What is indicated in terms of cost of compliance?</p> <p>12. When it is expected that the Government will introduce the legislation?</p>			
134	CC	Colbeck	Softwood plantations	<p>1. Can DAFF provide details of its strategy to expand the softwood plantation estate to provide for future timber requirements and to reduce imports?</p> <p>2. What action is presently being undertaken or planned?</p>	Written	12/04/11	
135	CC	Colbeck	Value adding domestic forest products	<p>1. Can DAFF provide details of its strategy to increase the amount of domestic value adding to forest products to create employment in Australia rather than exporting raw materials?</p> <p>2. What action is presently being undertaken or planned?</p>	Written	12/04/11	
136	CC	Colbeck	Sawn hardwood and softwood production	Can the Department provide data for sawn hardwood and sawn softwood production by state for 2008-09 and 2009-10, and also any data already available for 2010-11?	Written	12/04/11	
137	CC	Colbeck	Pilot of drought reform measures in WA	In light of recent natural disasters in Australia, has the Department undertaken any work to investigate the possibility of establishing a national multi-peril insurance fund to enable farmers to mitigate risks?	Written	12/04/11	

138	CC	Colbeck	Department activities to support private forest industry in Tasmania	What work is the Department undertaking or planning to support a sustainable future for the private forest industry in Tasmania and to ensure private forest assets are not devalued as the Tasmanian forest industry restructures?	Written	12/04/11	
139	CC	Siewert	Timber imports	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What was the quantity of timber and timber product imported into Australia last year? 2. How much of the timber or timber product originated in PNG? How much in Indonesia? 3. Are there currently any requirements as part of the procurement policy that ensure the timber is: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Legal? b) Sustainable? 	Written	12/04/11	
140	CC	Williams	Exceptional Circumstances	<p>As part of the deliberation for the Delungra EC application, data was used from two sample farms.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In what part of the application area are those farms? 2. When and at what intervals is this data collected? 3. The application prepared by Industry and Investment indicates there are 400 farms in the applied-for area. Data collected from two sample farms represents just .005% of the total number. How is this reflective of an area of 270,000 hectares? 	Written	12/04/11	
141	CC	Colbeck	Forest Certification Scheme	<p>Forest Certification Schemes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Has the Department provided any advice to the Minister with regard to the forest certifications schemes available for use in Australia? If so, on how many occasions? 2. The DAFF website contains the following statement: <p><i>“The Australian Government supports all credible internationally recognised forest certification schemes that provide for legal and sustainable forest management and believes that the choice of forest certification scheme(s) is a</i></p>	Written	12/04/11	

				<p><i>decision for forest owners/managers.</i></p> <p>Is the Department aware of any move away from this position with regard to choice of schemes being a decision for forest owners and managers?</p> <p>3. Does the proposed legislation relating to illegally logged timber contain any specifications with regard to forest certification schemes? If yes, in what context and with what consequence?</p>			
142	CC	Nash	Pilot of drought reform measures in WA	With regards to the Western Australia Drought Pilot Project, Why is it that a farm business cannot be receiving Exceptional Circumstances interest rate subsidies in any financial year that it is receiving funding under the Building Farm Business programme?	Written	12/04/11	
143	CC	Nash	Pilot of drought reform measures in WA – Stronger Rural Communities Program	Given that one of the key performance indicators of the Stronger Rural Communities Program is the construction of social capital of the community and increased resilience to significant hardship; how does the agency measure their performance in this regard?	Written	12/04/11	
144	CC	Nash	Carbon Farming Initiative	Has the agency finalised the rules for the Carbon Farming Initiative?	Written	12/04/11	
145	CC	Nash	Pilot of drought reform measures in WA – Farm Planning	Given that Curtin University believes that the actual delivery costs for Farm Planning courses are significantly above the \$6,000 allocation; How far over the \$6,000 allocation is the actual delivery cost, and who is meeting the shortfall?	Written	12/04/11	
146	CC	Nash	Farm Exit Support Scheme	Has there been further interest in the Exit Support Scheme for farmers?	Written	12/04/11	
147	SRM	Colbeck	National climate change action	Can you provide an update on the present status of the national climate change and fisheries action plan?	Written	12/04/11	

			plan for fisheries and aquaculture				
148	SRM	Macdonald	Contributions to NRM groups & Caring for our Country Review	<p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Someone here may have a better memory than I, but did you ever supply me with the details of what individual state governments were putting in cash as opposed to in kind to the NRM groups in their state?</p> <p>Mr Thompson—We provided you with some material on that, Senator. I do not think we were able to provide you with a comprehensive answer because we do not always know how much money the states may pay for various things. I think we provided you with a broad answer, but we were not able to do a really detailed one.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—On notice, if there is any update you can give me from what you last gave me, that is if you have, since you last replied to this, become aware or ascertained or perhaps even asked the state governments to tell you about any cash investment, could you let me know that on answer. And just finally, in the mid-term review of Caring for our Country is there any review of whether either the community based NRM groups or the state government statutory authority NRM groups is a preferred model of delivery? Is that part of the review?</p>	89 – 90 21/02/11	12/04/11	
149	SRM	Colbeck	Chair, Recreational Fishing Advisory Committee	<p>Senator COLBECK—He is maintaining his attendance record, by the sound of it. Can you give me some advice on the Chair of the Recreational Fishing Advisory Committee, whom I believe is David Llewellyn. Is that correct?</p> <p>Mr Neil—Yes.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK—What is the remuneration for the position?</p> <p>Mr Neil—We would have to take that on notice. I believe it is only sitting fees, but I would need to confirm that.</p>	100 21/02/11	12/04/11	
150	SRM	Colbeck	European Union	<p>Senator COLBECK—So can we quantify specifically what</p>	103	12/04/11	

			catch certification for illegal unregulated and unreported fishing	<p>those difficulties might be? I would hate to infer that they were using them as an artificial non-tariff trade barrier. I would hate to infer that and I know you cannot. But what are the difficulties that we are facing?</p> <p>Mr Thompson—I do not have the current status on that one. They were relating to issues about who was providing the certification, the verification of it, the data that was collected on vessels and dates and where the fish were caught, and a range of issues. We would need to get more detail on that.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK—So if it does not have fish scales on it, it does not count effectively? Is there someone from Trade and Market Access who can, without confirming or denying my inference, give us any answers to that question?</p> <p>Ms Mellor—We will have to take the rest of that on notice.</p>	21/02/11		
151	SRM	Nash	Caring for our Country Review	<p>Given that one of the themes that the agency reported arose from stakeholder consultative forums as part of the review of the Caring for our Country program was that the ‘approach of specific and measurable targets at the national level imposed a number of challenges’; Can the agency please elaborate on the theme and whether the agency considers the targets unobtainable, unrealistic or ill thought-out?</p>	Written	12/04/11	
152	SRM	Nash	Caring for our Country Review	<p>Can the agency please explain what is meant in the themes emerging from the public consultations associated with the review of the Caring for our Country program when it states that “Consultative and transparent target setting, to build an understanding of the rationale underpinning specific national targets, is important for the ultimate adoption of targets by stakeholders”?</p>	Written	12/04/11	
153	SRM	Nash	Caring for our Country Review	<p>Given that one theme to emerge from the community consultations with regard to the Review of the Caring for our Country program was that the complexity of the application process should be relative to the amount of funding being</p>	Written	12/04/11	

				sought; does the agency therefore consider the grant process too complicated for small grants?			
154	SRM	Nash	Caring for our Country Review	What are the main problems that have been encountered by the agency in the caring for our Country program?	Written	12/04/11	
155	SRM	Nash	Caring for our Country Review	When will the review of the Caring for our Country program be completed and published?	Written	12/04/11	
156	SRM	Macdonald	Southern bluefin tuna propagation	<p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—They have been successfully bred and then there were some problems with what was bred and it has come and gone. I am wondering if you or anyone in AFMA are in a position to indicate where the proposals for breeding and farming southern bluefin tuna are at. It is the breeding rather than the farming I am getting at, I should say.</p> <p>Dr J Findlay—AFMA manages the wild capture fisheries, as you know.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Yes.</p> <p>Dr J Findlay—The actual aquaculture operation itself is managed by the South Australian government. I am not sure if Dr Begg has any more information about the current state of proposals with FRDC or the industry with regard to the propagation work, but it is not something we are directly involved with. As you said, it has been successful, but at this stage it is a big step going from a successful closure of the life cycle through to commercial reality for that program.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Does FRDC come before our committee?</p> <p>CHAIR—No, they do not.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Would they if they were coming?</p> <p>CHAIR—I am sure they would if you asked.</p> <p>Dr Dickson—We could take on notice a question to FRDC.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—That would be good.</p>	95-96 21/02/11	12/04/11	

157	SRM	Colbeck	Staff budgets	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In answer to a Question on Notice (SRM 07 – Supplementary Estimates October 2010) the budget for the Fisheries Branch has reduced from \$9.2 million in 2007-08 to \$5.1 million in 2010-11 with a cut in FTEs from 46 to 34. What positions have dissolved from the Branch during this time? 2. Can the Department provide specific details accounting for and explaining the reduction in funding? 	Written	12/04/11	
158	SRM	Colbeck	Effects of seismic surveys on fish	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is the Department aware of any fisheries concerns related to seismic surveys, either in Australia or international waters? 2. What research or studies is the Department aware of in relation to the effect of seismic testing on any fishery? 3. What is the Department's view about seismic testing and effect on fisheries? 	Written	12/04/11	
159	SRM	Colbeck	Australian sea lion management strategy	Can you provide an update on the Australian Sea Lion Management Strategy since October 2010 Supplementary Estimates?	Written	12/04/11	
160	SRM	Colbeck	Review of the Commonwealth Fisheries Harvest Strategy Policy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A five-year review of the harvest strategy is required to be completed this year, has the review commenced? 2. What is the process for this review? 3. What is the timeline for the review? 4. With whom will the Department consult in undertaking the review? 5. How many Departmental officers will be allocated to undertake the work of completing the review? 	Written	12/04/11	
161	SRM	Colbeck	Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission	<p>The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission met 6-10 December in Oahu, Hawaii.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Who attended the Commission's meeting representing Australia? 2. What was achieved at the WCPFC December 2010 session? 3. What action if any is required from Australia following this session? 	Written	12/04/11	

162	SRM	Colbeck	Torres Strait Protected Zone Joint Authority decisions	<p>The Incoming Government Brief current issues section (p54) notes the Torres Strait Protected Zone Joint Authority (PZJA) had several important matters looming for decision by the end of 2010.</p> <p>Can the Department provide a status report on the decisions taken by the PZJA since October Supplementary Estimates 2010?</p>	Written	12/04/11	
163	SRM	Colbeck	Recreational Fishing Industry Development Strategy Project	<p>The Government is providing \$500,000 to coordinate a national data collection project for recreational fishing in Australia:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the timeline for this project? When did it begin and what is the estimated completion date? 2. Where will the information be available from once the project is complete? 3. Will it be fully accessible by the public? 4. How will the information be updated over time? 5. Who is on the advisory committee for this project? 	Written	12/04/11	
164	SRM	Siewert	Longline trials in the Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Were seabirds present during longline trials of Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery? 2. Are you able to provide a breakdown of species and relative abundance? 3. What monitoring has been undertaken regarding the substantial loss of longline gear? 4. Has this resulted in the entanglement of marine mammals on shore? 5. Have efforts been made to determine the location of the lost gear and its potential impact on the surrounding habitat and species such as marine mammals? 	Written	12/04/11	
165	SRM	Siewert	Total allowable commercial catch program	<p>Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC) program for yellowfin tuna, bigeye tuna, striped marlin, swordfish and albacore:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why is the proposed TACC for these species much higher than the scientific advice for the Recommended Biological 	Written	12/04/11	

				Commercial Catch (RBCC)?			
166	SRM	Williams	Macintyre River	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is the Department aware of a major problem in the Macintyre River north of Inverell where the Bannockburn Creek has filled many kilometres of the river with sand? 2. Has the Border Rivers –Gwydir CMA applied for funding, or has at least put this issue on a priority list? 3. If there has been no contact, is it possible for the Department to contact people on the ground at the Inverell office to discuss this problem as it is getting worse and choking the river? 4. If a contractor wanted to enter a river and excavate sand from that river to clean it up, what type of approval process would need to be followed? 5. What environmental impacts do you take into account when assessing any such application? 6. Is there a cost involved in lodging that application? 7. Is there a limit as to how much sand can be removed? 	Written	12/04/11	
167	SRM/ AFMA	Colbeck	CSIRO southern bluefin tuna close-kin genetics project	<p>Senator COLBECK—What can you tell me about the work that is being done by CSIRO on the close-kin project that maps DNA?</p> <p>Dr Begg—Yes, that project is still ongoing, and they are analysing an additional, I think, 7,000 samples. We are expecting to see the results later this year, and around September-October those results are expected.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK—But what is the focus of that? I mean, my understanding is that it is to do a calculation on the size of the spawning stock. How does that relate?</p> <p>Dr Begg—That is correct. We can certainly give you the details and we can table the report that has been presented to date on that, but effectively the idea is to match pairs of spawning adults, which are sampled out of Indonesian waters, and those juveniles that we collect in the GAB, and from that index, it gives you an</p>	92 21/02/11	12/04/11	

				estimate of the biomass. So it would provide us with another index in terms of the potential size of the stock.			
168	SRM/ AFMA	Macdonald	Queensland floods and tropical cyclone Yasi	<p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Perhaps I will follow that up at some future estimates. Are you in any way involved in the impact on the fisheries—and again I am talking about the Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery and the Coral Sea Fishery—from events such as Cyclone Yasi and, before that, other cyclones that have hit the Queensland coast in recent years? They always hit the Queensland coast, but I am talking in recent years. Are you involved in any work on that?</p> <p>Dr J Findlay—When doing our risk assessments about how we are going to manage the fisheries, we certainly take into account scientific information, including the impact of various mechanical events which affect reefs and how that might affect our fisheries. That is part of the normal process. In the case of Cyclone Yasi, I cannot give you any up-to-date information or any current assessments. I suspect there have not been any assessments in the regions that the Coral Sea Fishery is operating in. They operate quite widely and I doubt there have been any recent surveys out there to tell us what has gone on with the reefs we are interested in as a result of that cyclone. I am happy to follow up and see if there is anything around and provide it on notice.</p>	96 21/02/11	12/04/11	
169	SRM/ AFMA	Macdonald	Queensland floods and tropical cyclone Yasi	<p>Dr Begg—Various surveys are conducted on an annual basis up there. The Australian Institute of Marine Science conducts surveys throughout the reefs of the GBR. They have been going for some time now, so you could see some temporal trends there. I am not familiar with it in terms of the recent projects that have looked at the potential impacts of the cyclones, but it is information we could look at.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Could you do that for me?</p> <p>Dr Begg—Yes.</p>	97 21/02/11	12/04/11	

170	SRM/ AFMA	Macdonald	Queensland floods and tropical cyclone Yasi	<p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—You have jogged my memory that perhaps I should be asking AIMS or even GBRMPA or FRDC, as you say, but I am a fraction surprised that it would not come into your fisheries management role in those fisheries that are impacted upon by severe weather conditions. Whilst you are having a look at that, you might let me know whether after the biggest floods—since 1974 I might add; it has happened before—any work has been done on the impact of severe flooding in South-East and Central Queensland waters and whether that has had any noticeable impact on fisheries stocks generally. Again, I appreciate you have not done it, but you might be able to alert me to any work or where I might go to find out about that.</p>	97 21/02/11	12/04/11	
171	SRM/ AFMA	Macdonald	Structural adjustment & harvest strategy	<p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—If I may interpose again, Mr Chairman, there is a question that I meant to ask and did not. In the south east fishery the buyback and the harvest strategy were intended to improve the profitability of the fishery. Has this goal been achieved? Has it succeeded? Is it more profitable? If it has not— which I am told is the case—what can be done further to try and improve the profitability? If you can answer that now, please do; otherwise, take it on notice.</p> <p>Dr J Findlay—The first part of that is DAFF somewhat and/or DAFF and ABARE. The second part might be both of us.</p> <p>Mr Thompson—To answer the first part of your question, ABARE may have the detail but they may need to take it on notice. There was a study that we did on the impact of the buyback, which indicated that the buyback had been successful in reducing the effort, improving the catch per unit and improving the overall potential for profitability in the industry. I do not have the report with me, so I am not sure whether it improved the profitability of individual enterprises, but the overall capacity of the industry as a result of the buyback was in the positive direction. There were fewer fishers catching roughly the same amount or more fish with less effort, but individual</p>	99 21/02/11	12/04/11	

				<p>fishers could have been affected by a range of things, so profitability of an individual business may still be a problem in some cases. Are you familiar with the details?</p> <p>Dr Begg—That is consistent with the work that we have conducted. Our recent fisheries survey, which was released late last year, would have the details for part of that fishery and we can certainly provide you with that report.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—That would be good.</p>			
172	SRM/ AFMA	Colbeck	Upper-Slope dogfish management strategy	Can you provide an update on the dogfish management strategy in Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery?	Written	12/04/11	
173	SRM/ AFMA	Colbeck	Marine bioregional planning	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Can the Department detail meetings including dates and locations during which it met with SEWPaC officers to discuss the Marine Bioregional Planning. 2. Has the Department provided advice to the Department of Environment regarding the formation of a displaced effort policy in conjunction with the current program of bioregion plans. 3. Has the Department provided advice to the Fisheries Minister about draft plans for the South West Bioregion Plan and specifically about marine reserves within that bioregion? 	Written	12/04/11	
174	SRM/ AFMA	Colbeck	Aquaculture in Commonwealth waters	<p>The Incoming Government Brief from the Department notes “Aquaculture is also expanding in Commonwealth waters, which may require new legislation and/or management arrangements.”</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Can the Department provide an overview of the present and anticipated extent of aquaculture in Commonwealth waters? 2. What new legislation and/or management arrangements may be necessary and why? 	Written	12/04/11	
175	SRM/ AFMA	Siewert	Seabird management	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How does AFMA intend to ensure compliance with vessel management plans (VMPs) when each boat in the fishery has 	Written	12/04/11	

			plans	<p>a different plan?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Is AFMA able to provide an update on progress of VMPs? What proportion of the fleet now has a VMP in place? 3. How many albatross were caught by vessels in the SESSF trawl sector in 2010? Of these, how many had VMPs already in place? 4. Will the vessel management plans include clear, strong requirements for compliance with mitigation methods? 5. There is no requirement for the workplan to have implemented the mitigation measures once they have the VMP in place by a certain date. How will AFMA ensure compliance? 6. Can DAFF provide an update on their preparation of Australia's National Plan of Action for Seabirds? 			
176	SRM/ AFMA	Siewert	CSIRO consultancy - high seas benthic impacts	<p>The AFMA 2009-2010 Annual Report at page 157 cites a consultancy service to CSIRO Division of Fisheries to undertake an assessment of high seas benthic impacts for \$110,000. The justification noted is there was a need for independent research or assessment. I understand that at the recently held meeting of the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation Australia indicated this assessment would be completed by May 2011.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Can you please give some history to this process? What are the terms of reference for the consultancy? 2. Is this just for the South Pacific Ocean or will it also include the Southern Indian Ocean? 3. Will the CSIRO report be made public in May? Is there any other addition review process? 4. Will that be the final or will it be considered by Government? 5. Why has it taken so long for Australia to put this in place? 6. Is Australia in breach off its UN obligations by allowing high seas bottom fishing to take place although scientific assessment of impacts of any such fishing has not occurred? 	Written	12/04/11	

				<p>7. What guidelines or standards have CSIRO been advised to use in undertaking the assessment?</p> <p>8. Will the assessment be species based or ecosystem based?</p>			
177	SRM/ AFMA	Siewert	AMSA High Seas Vessel Register	<p>According to the AMSA High Seas Vessel register in 2010 nine vessels had high seas fishing permits.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many of these permits were for bottom trawling? 2. If yes, how many were for fishing in the Southern Indian Ocean and how many in the South Pacific Ocean? 3. What was the predominant catch? 4. What was the total catch for 2010? 5. What conditions were placed on the permits for bottom trawl in 2010? 6. Are details of fish catch available? Is by-catch data available? 7. Did observers note any contact with vulnerable marine ecosystems? 8. Was the move-on rule applied in any instance? 9. Were any interactions with threatened, endangered or protected species reported? 10. How many high seas fishing bottom trawl permits have been granted for 2011? 11. Has a benthic assessment of impacts of bottom fishing of the Southern Indian Ocean been undertaken? 12. If not why then has Australia allowed / issued a permit to the Austral Fisheries <i>Southern Champion</i> to bottom trawl fish? On what grounds of scientific evidence and the precautionary principle was the permit issued to the Southern Champion? 	Written	12/04/11	
178	SRM/ AFMA	Siewert	Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. When will Australia ratify SIOFA? 2. Can / will Australia take action to ensure a meeting of SOFIA is held as soon as possible? 3. Will Australia ensure that appropriate non-state parties are able to attend the first meeting of SIOFA? 4. Can Australia take action to ensure that as a matter of 	Written	12/04/11	

				<p>priority “interim measures” are put in place to cover the Southern Indian Ocean?</p> <p>5. When will Australia ratify the SFRFMO?</p> <p>6. Does Australia support a 50 kilo trigger before the move-on rule applies?</p> <p>7. On what scientific basis is this trigger amount made?</p>			
179	SRM/ AFMA	Siewert	UN General Assembly resolutions on sustainable fisheries	<p>1. Will Australia be participating in the workshop to review implementation of measures to ensure measures are in place to ensure adverse impacts from bottom fishing do not arise?</p> <p>2. Will Australia provide a public report on its implementation of UNGA resolutions and the Interim Measures of the SPRFMO intended to ensure vulnerable marine ecosystems of the high seas are protected from bottom fishing activities?</p>	Written	12/04/11	
180	TMA	Colbeck	Free trade agreement negotiations	<p>1. Can you provide an update on DAFF’s involvement in all FTA negotiations since the Supplementary Budget Estimates and can you detail any developments?</p> <p>2. Can you provide a current status of all FTA negotiations as at present?</p>	Written	12/04/11	
181	TMA	Colbeck	WTO negotiations	Can you provide an update on DAFF’s involvement in WTO negotiations and the present status of these negotiations?	Written	12/04/11	
182	TMA	Colbeck	Department’s engagement with international organisations	Can you provide details of the Department’s engagement with international organisations in the past 6 months and the coming year including details of dates, organisations and issues dealt with?	Written	12/04/11	
183	TMA	Colbeck	Technical market access issues	Can you provide details of all technical market access issues dealt with in the past 6 months and issues that are ongoing?	Written	12/04/11	
184	TMA	Colbeck	Rock lobsters	1. Can the Department provide trade figures (quantity and value) for Australian lobsters sent to China for the following months/years:	Written	12/04/11	

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ November – 2008, 2009, 2010 ○ December – 2008, 2009, 2010 ○ January – 2009, 2010, 2011 ○ February – 2009, 2010, 2011 ○ March – 2009, 2010, 2011 <p>2. If possible, can the trade figures for these same periods be cross-referenced with the Chinese port by which the lobsters entered?</p> <p>3. To what factors does DAFF attribute the drop off in trade of lobster exports to China during November-December 2010?</p>			
185	TMA	Colbeck	Placement of international staff	<p>1. Can you provide details of placements of staff outside Australia, the numbers of staff, where located and their roles?</p> <p>2. Can you provide a comparison over the past 5 years?</p>	Written	12/04/11	
186	TMA	Milne	Free trade agreements	<p>Senator MILNE—The issue again for me is that, as you rightly said, they will be balancing what they perceive to be the national interest and there will be trade-offs all over the place for access for services and all sorts of things, not just primary industry. Given what the Productivity Commission has had to say about the effectiveness of these free trade agreements, ought DAFF not be more proactive in doing some real analysis of just what cost-benefits are going to come to primary producers, or are we going to end up with a situation where we are on the back foot fighting all this through the quarantine and biosecurity process?</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN—Ambush us.</p> <p>CHAIR—Who is the question to, Senator Milne? Help me out, sorry.</p> <p>Senator MILNE—To anyone who wants to answer it.</p> <p>CHAIR—Could someone answer it, please, so it stops the interruptions from Senator Heffernan.</p> <p>Mr Glyde—I think analysis is undertaken at every stage of the process of negotiation, because we have to determine what other countries are offering and what we are prepared to accept. So</p>	107 21/02/11	12/04/11	

				we, DAFF, are heavily involved in those processes and they sit within the government. What we can provide to you is our listing of the benefits that have come from both free trade agreements that we have engaged in and also the technical market access gains that we have made. We are more than happy to provide that on notice to you. We are heavily involved with our colleagues in DFAT in understanding what it is that we can get out of these negotiations and indeed what sometimes we can lose if we are not careful.			
187	TMA	Colbeck	Free trade agreements	<p>Senator COLBECK—When did we announce that we were going to start a process of free trade agreements? The reason I ask—and I am not trying to be silly or anything—is that I did a trade mission to Japan in 2005 to talk to them about a free trade agreement and the inclusion of agriculture.</p> <p>Mr Glyde—The usual process is that there are discussions and then there is an agreement to commence negotiation, so we will just have to take on notice the specific request you have made. We have just got here when the formal negotiations started.</p>	114 21/02/11	12/04/11	
188	TMA	Nash	Tariff on imported rice	<p>Senator NASH—What is the current tariff on imported rice into Japan? I am pretty sure that is not a Foreign Affairs one.</p> <p>Ms Evans—No, I have that. It will just take me a moment to find it.</p> <p>Senator NASH—While you are at it, you might want to do the tariff on wheat.</p> <p>Ms Evans—While I find them, would you like to go on with your other questions?</p> <p>Mr Glyde—It is very large. We are going to struggle, I think, to come up with the exact percentage.</p> <p>Senator NASH—Do you want to have a crack at a ballpark figure for me, Mr Glyde?</p> <p>Ms Evans—It is 600 or 700 per cent. It is very high. I will get the exact figure for you so we do not mislead you.</p> <p>Senator NASH—That is fine. It would be good if you can find</p>	115 21/02/11	12/04/11	

				it. If you cannot, take it on notice, but we will go around that 700. Have we potentially got a situation here, given the minister's comments. I certainly do not want to verbal him but from the reporting that we have seen he has said that it will not be a deal-breaker to reduce the tariffs in terms of the agreement.			
189	TMA	Nash	Reduction in tariffs	<p>Senator NASH—...I am very interested to know: if it is indeed correct that Dr Emerson has not said that reduction in tariffs is a deal-breaker, are we likely to be in an environment where we have got several hundred per cent tariff on imported rice remaining in place?</p> <p>Ms Evans—I am sorry, I feel very uncomfortable being asked to comment on the details of negotiations when the lead on those negotiations is the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.</p> <p>Senator NASH—I am sure you do, especially with that sort of question. Perhaps, on behalf of the committee, you would not mind asking the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to furnish us with an answer. That would be most useful.</p> <p>Ms Evans—Sure. We can do that.</p>	116 21/02/11	12/04/11	
190	TMA	Xenophon	Office Internationale de Epizooties (OIE) guidelines	<p>Dr Carroll—I can answer that. The OIE guidelines are not mandatory unless they are written into the law of another country. So the OIE issues standards and guidelines which members endeavour to take up to the best of their ability.</p> <p>Senator XENOPHON—So it's voluntary, it's not mandatory and there is no enforcement regime?</p> <p>Dr Carroll—There is no enforcement regime within the OIE.</p> <p>Senator XENOPHON—Can you table a copy of the standard MOU between countries that you refer to?</p> <p>Dr Carroll—We would take that on notice, sorry, Senator.</p>	50 21/02/11	12/04/11	
191	TMA	Xenophon	Cattle restraint boxes in Indonesia	<p>Senator XENOPHON—Finally—and I will put a number of questions on notice, so we are getting through a lot, Chair—at what abattoirs have cattle restraint boxes been installed in</p>	50 21/02/11	12/04/11	

				Indonesia? Dr Carroll —We would have to take that on notice as well.			
192	TMA	Siewert	Restraint boxes and animal welfare	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why has the recent report into cattle handling and slaughter in Indonesia failed to document the risks to animal welfare posed by the restraint boxes installed under the MLA/Livecorp program? 2. Given the Indonesia cattle report was completed in May 2010 why has it taken so long for it to a) to be released; and b) action to be taken in relation to some of the report's recommendations? 3. The evidence in the report indicates that the vast majority of cattle observed were subjected to multiple adverse and potentially painful experiences prior to and during the slaughter process. Why was the serious nature of the evidence documented in the report not reflected in the report summary or its recommendations? 4. Why are mark 1 restraint boxes being installed in Indonesia when their risks to animal welfare are well known and improvements to this design have been available? 5. Why have steps not been taken to examine the feasibility of restricting the slaughter of Australian cattle to facilities using stunning? 6. During the time the Australian Government has been providing funds in efforts to improve animal welfare overseas, what has been the total decline in abattoir jobs within Australia? 7. The festival of Eid al Adha will start in early November this year. Over the past several years, there has been video evidence of extreme cruelty to the animals which are slaughtered in the Middle East during that time. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) What will the Department do differently this year to ensure that destination countries importing Australian animals will comply with the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) standards for the handling and slaughter of 	Written	12/04/11	

				<p>animals?</p> <p>b) Is the Department considering strategies to ensure that Australian animals are not sold to individual buyers but are slaughtered only at specified abattoirs during the Eid al Adha?</p> <p>8. Australia has recently begun exporting large numbers of cattle to Turkey for slaughter. What is the Department doing to ensure that Australian animals exported to Turkey will be handled and slaughtered humanely?</p> <p>9. What is the Department's long-term plan to raise animal welfare standards in the Middle East and Indonesia?</p> <p>10. What are the measurable animal welfare outcomes this plan aims to achieve and what are the timeframes?</p> <p>11. Who will be assessing whether or not these outcomes have been achieved? When will this information become available?</p>			
193	TMA	Xenophon	Cattle slaughter in Indonesia	How many abattoirs slaughter Australian cattle in Indonesia?	Written	12/04/11	
194	TMA	Xenophon	Welfare of animals exported to the Middle East	<p>1. As the ASEL does not include standards for post arrival facilities or handling, how can we be assured that <u>all</u> animals exported to the Middle East will have their basic welfare needs met?</p> <p>2. If we cannot ensure their welfare needs, is the Australian Government supplying animals to a region, knowing that they may be subjected to cruelty that we would consider illegal here?</p>	Written	12/04/11	
195	TMA	Xenophon	Office Internationale de Epizooties (OIE) Guidelines	<p>You indicated that signatories of the OIE are obliged to comply with the OIE guidelines and also that Australia has signed 10 Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) with 10 different importing countries.</p> <p>With which countries has Australia signed an MoU?</p>	Written	12/04/11	

196	TMA	Xenophon	Office Internationale de Epizooties (OIE) Guidelines	<p>The OIE Animal Welfare Guidelines have been designed to prompt improvement in those countries with inadequate animal welfare laws. These guidelines are not internationally enforceable, therefore the OIE, to be effective in improving animal welfare internationally, encourages OIE members to leverage for compliance with these guidelines in forming the basis of bilateral trade agreements.</p> <p>Does Australia's continued willingness to export animals to OIE member countries, which are not complying with OIE guidelines (i.e countries within the Middle East), undermine the effectiveness of these guidelines?</p>	Written	12/04/11	
197	BSG – SP	Heffernan	Beale Review	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. When will the government release a comprehensive response on the Beale Review which was commissioned by the Labor Government? 2. Can you give an indication of the progress of the reforms in each industry and whether they will be completed by the time the subsidy is removed. The industries are <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Horticulture • Meat – Industry based certified inspectors • Dairy • Grains • Fish • Organics 3. Live animals certification is currently paper based and industry requested an online IT system with automatic approval of Export Plans so industry can put the required protocols in place and get on with their business. Why has the government only adopted the recommendation for cutting funding when the review found that our border defences are significantly under-resourced, putting Australia's economy, people and environment at significant risk? 	Written	12/04/11	

198	BSG – OP	Heffernan	Imported prawns	<p>Senator HEFFERNAN—Yes, I understand that. The imported prawns that got out—no-one got their head cut off. I suppose he had a glass of wine and said, ‘Oh, gee, that was a mistake.’—went to the various outlets, could have been Coles and Woolies. We do not know whether they were used as fish bait, we do not know whether they were in Coles when they got washed to sea in Brisbane. There is a risk, is there not, that those prawns would get into the system?</p> <p>Mr Chapman—The risk was assessed as being extremely low.</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN—Based on what?</p> <p>Mr Chapman—Based on the assessment of who the prawns were sold to and based on the fact that they were generally prawn cutlets, that they were high-end, quite expensive prawns. They were actually sold to restaurants and to the catering industry so the assessment was that it was extremely unlikely, extremely low risk, that they would be—</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN—Did you say they were prawn cutlets? They were not raw, green, peeled prawns?</p> <p>Mr Chapman—There were a range of products but they were, as I said a high—</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN—Could you give us the details of the range of products?</p> <p>Mr Chapman—Yes, we can provide that.</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN—Thank you. Could you also give us the outlets that they were sold to? Because, if you do not know, you have not done your job, and we want to know because we are going to do our job.</p>	28 21/02/11	12/04/11	
199	BSG – OP	Colbeck	Protocols for cruise ships	<p>Senator COLBECK—Is there anywhere that we could access on the department’s website what those protocols might be for dealing with those materials off a cruise ship?</p> <p>Ms Mellor—The waste management?</p> <p>Senator COLBECK—Yes.</p> <p>Mr Chapman—We can provide information on the waste management protocols. I don’t believe we have got them on the</p>	49-50 21/02/11	12/04/11	

				<p>website but we have a range of compliance agreements and stipulated protocols.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK—So are they negotiated individually with the shipping companies or are they something that we have got in the bottom drawer? What is the process for updating those for emerging issues?</p> <p>Mr Chapman—No, they are not negotiated individually. We have protocols which apply to airlines, to arriving international vessels. We are currently in the process of updating waste management protocols and they are quite broad in their application—so not designed to look at particular vectors or particular diseases but to manage the spectrum of risks which might occur because of the waste of various materials onboard vessels or onboard aircraft.</p>			
200	BSG – P	Heffernan	Asian honey bees	<p>Senator HEFFERNAN—How many traps did you put out?</p> <p>Ms Ransom—Initially there were very few traps. Trapping technology has improved through the program.</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN—How many is a few? Two?</p> <p>Ms Ransom—I would have to ask Queensland for the exact numbers over the period of time. These bees are not strongly attracted to traps and so they are very difficult to pick up.</p>	31-32 21/02/11	12/04/11	
201	BSG – P	Milne	Asian honey bees	<p>Senator MILNE—Will you table or make available to the committee the technical report from those who say it is not eradicable as well as the technical report or evidence given by the entomologists who say that it is too early to say whether it is eradicable or not? History will show what the cost of this decision will be.</p> <p>Ms Hinder—There is a report from the consultative committee on emergency plant pests. We will take that question on notice, but I imagine there would be no difficulties in providing that to the committee.</p>	33 21/02/11	12/04/11	
202	BSG – P	Milne	Jatropha Curcas	<p>Senator MILNE—I do not know if there is any imported; I am</p>	44	12/04/11	

				<p>assuming there is not. I am assuming it is just interstate, but I will check on that with the various states. The second thing is: I understand that a number of airlines have been talking up the possibility of growing—and I will spell it—it is j-a-t-r-o-p-h-a c-u-r-c-a-s, which has been identified as a weed in the Australian context. There is a lot of pressure on to reverse the ban on this weed coming into Australia in order to grow it as a biofuel. I understand it is banned in Western Australia and the Northern Territory currently and I just want to get a reassurance from you that the ban will continue and it will remain illegal to import this particular plant, especially since Air New Zealand’s CEO was estimating that, if 300,000 square kilometres of northern Australia were planted out with this, it would make a big difference. Indeed, it would make a big difference to the biodiversity; as to what happened in biofuels, I do not know. Can you give me an answer on whether there has been an application to overturn the ban? If so, what action have you taken?</p> <p>Mr Magee—Thanks, Senator Milne. As we have indicated, we will probably get you a full answer on that on notice, but this issue has been around for some time.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK—Sorry, what is it called?</p> <p>Mr Magee—Jatropha. I think a lot of it is centred around whether the jurisdictions where it is present have taken any steps on official control. So, unless there was a clear position that it was under some sort of active control, the ban would remain in place, but we will get you a full answer on that.</p>	21/02/11		
203	BSG – P	Colbeck	Apples from China	<p>Senator COLBECK—About 24 containers of apples have come?</p> <p>Ms van Meurs—That is correct.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK—There must be a purchaser for these things for them to come in, I would have thought. So do we know who the consignees are?</p> <p>Ms van Meurs—At the moment we have issued 16 import</p>	46 21/02/11	12/04/11	

				<p>permits, for various importers.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK—Are the names of the importers public?</p> <p>Ms van Meurs—It is commercial-in-confidence information.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK—Why is it commercial in confidence?</p> <p>Ms van Meurs—When we issue an import permit, it is confidential information between the importer and AQIS. We could consider issuing the information, but—</p> <p>Dr Grant—This is about competitiveness. Who is buying what is something that is about market share and market competition, so I do not think it is our business to provide information about that.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK—We are not asking you to say how much they are paying for it or anything like that;we just want to know who is bringing stuff in.</p> <p>Dr Grant—I will take it on notice but, as we have said, there are 16 permits that have been issued.</p>			
204	BSG – P	Colbeck	Importation of potatoes into New Zealand	<p>Senator COLBECK—Which countries does New Zealand accept potatoes from?</p> <p>Dr Findlay—I will have to take that on notice. I do not know what New Zealand’s import conditions are and which countries they import from.</p>	48 21/02/11	12/04/11	
205	BSG – P	Heffernan	Kiwifruit and bacterial canker	<p>Kiwi fruit – bacterial canker</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Can you update us on the breakout out of Bacterial canker in New Zealand? 2. Have we suspended or reviewed quarantine arrangements from infected countries? 3. Do we have a national response plan for an outbreak? 	Written	12/04/11	
206	BSG – P	Heffernan	Asian honey bees	<p>Asian honey bee</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Can you explain the committee system process for overseeing the management of this eradication program? 2. Does a bureaucratic committee system provide the best mechanism for the management of pests such as the 	Written	12/04/11	

				<p>honeybee when there is a definite public good for eradicating such pests?</p> <p>3. We are hearing rumours that the eradication program was hindered by the need to extract money from stakeholders. It is a fairly loaded question of do you want us to eradicate this pest if so show us the money.</p> <p>There are lots of industries that would benefit from the eradication they may not immediately see the benefits. So shouldn't the government take a more of role in funding this as it will for example impact on native bee populations and the pollination of crops and native vegetation?</p>			
207	BSG – P	Heffernan	Varroa mite in bees	<p>Industry tell us that with varroa mite resistant strains in the population it will take about two years to recover which will have a dramatic impact on the pollination of vegetation and crops (in the order of billions of dollars).</p> <p>1. Does the department have a view on how to be ready for such an outbreak? Please provide a detailed answer.</p>	Written	12/04/11	
208	BSG – P	Heffernan	Myrtle Rust	<p>Myrtle Rust</p> <p>1. Explain the spread of the disease and explain how this would have been handled differently if it was handles as if it was Guava Rust.</p> <p>2. Is it true that while you were trying to eradicate the disease you allowed bees to be moved from NSW to Queensland and that the disease has now spread to that state?</p> <p>3. Does the department think it would have been eradicated if the National response plan was implemented as though it was Guava Rust?</p> <p>4. Is the committee system process for overseeing the management of this eradication program the same as the Asian Honeybee?</p> <p>5. Does a bureaucratic committee system provide the best mechanism for the management of pests such as the honeybee when there is a definite public good for eradicating</p>	Written	12/04/11	

				<p>such pests?</p> <p>6. We are hearing rumours that the eradication program was hindered by the need to extract money from stakeholders. It is a fairly loaded question of do you want us to eradicate this pest if so show us the money. There are lots of industries that would benefit from the eradication they may not immediately see the benefits. So shouldn't the government take a more of role in funding this as it will for example impact on native forests?</p> <p>7. Given the spectacular failure of the eradication program for Myrtle rust and the Asian Honeybee is the department going to review its strategy?</p> <p>8. Have they found myrtle rust on Eucalypts yet and what level of checking has been done to check?</p>			
209	BSG – P	Heffernan	New Zealand potatoes	<p>1. Are New Zealand potatoes to be imported into Australia for processing?</p> <p>2. What processes need to be undertaken from a bio-security point of view before this can happen?</p> <p>3. What safeguards are there?</p> <p>4. What guarantees do we have if this was to go ahead that the disease Zebra Chip could not get out of the processing plant by for example one employee taking home a potato and planting it in the back garden or waste from the processing being dumped in the open air?</p>	Written	12/04/11	
210	BSG – P	Heffernan	New Zealand apples	<p>New Zealand apples</p> <p>1. Do you have scientists skilled in fireblight advising on the Import risk analysis?</p> <p>2. Are there to be inspectors on the ground in New Zealand to check that apples are not coming from fire blight infected trees? (there is concern that there will not be enough on ground inspections by our AQIS staff under new protocols)</p> <p>3. Is there a national response plan to deal with the outbreak of fireblight?</p>	Written	12/04/11	

				<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Who provides funding for any required eradication program? 5. Is there a public good in eradicating diseases like fireblight and therefore a need to publicly fund it? 6. We have been told that with the Asian honeybee and Myrtle rust that the need to get industries to provide funding has played a significant role in the failure of the eradication programs so do we need to re-look at our strategies? 7. Is it true that New Zealand can import produce that has been sourced from other countries without the same rigour in its testing procedure? (ie New Zealand imports do not test for all the chemical that we do on imports) 			
211	BSG – P	Heffernan	Chinese apples	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Industry were not so concerned with the import of Chinese apples as they thought that they could not compete cost wise however the increase in the value of the dollar and the reduction in the availability of domestic apples has seen the dynamic change with Chinese apples now competitive How many tonnes of Chinese apples have been imported 2. How many more tonnes of apple imports have been approved? 3. What are the Quarantine arrangements surrounding the import of these apples? 	Written	12/04/11	
212	BSG – P	Heffernan	Dimethoate and Fenthion	<p>Dimethoate and Fenthion- fruit fly - DAFF OCCPO/Plant Biosecurity</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Will these changes result in higher levels of use of these chemicals during the current season? 2. Will this higher use lead to the same residual problems leading for the chemicals to be banned altogether? 3. Will this higher use lead to impact on the natural and introduced predators of the fruit fly which growers were using, through a more natural holistic approach to minimise chemical use and lead to even greater chemical use? 4. The current system for control of fruit fly prescribes the use of these chemicals in Regulation. 	Written	12/04/11	

				<p>How do we propose to manage this?</p> <p>5. The only alternative, irradiation is around 10 times the cost and doesn't kill fruit fly it only sterilises them. Will this option be acceptable to industry and destination countries?</p> <p>6. Why hasn't the government foreseen these changes and implemented and funded a national response much earlier?</p>			
213	BSG – P	Heffernan	Plague locusts	<p>Locusts</p> <p>1. Has there been a review on the commission performance and specifically has there been a review of the plague in Northern Victoria?</p> <p>2. What work is being carried out to manage the latest hatchings?</p> <p>3. Where are these hatchings?</p> <p>4. How is the budget going?</p> <p>5. Do you have enough funds to continue locust management after a costly year?</p>	Written	12/04/11	
214	BSG – P	Nash	Locust plague	<p>What is the current condition of the locust plague in Australia and what impact have recent rains had on the breeding activity of locusts?</p> <p>Have the current locust management strategies been effective?</p> <p>Has the group identified any problems in delivering locust plague support and advice to farmers?</p> <p>Has the group encountered any difficulty in sourcing adequate supplies of pesticide?</p>	Written	12/04/11	
215	BSG – P	Nash	Chinese apples	<p>Given that China's quarantine agency audits and registers apple packing houses and orchards in preparation for export; what specific criteria and auditing systems are used in these audits?</p>	Written	12/04/11	
216	BSG – P	Nash	Imported Chinese nursery stock	<p>Is there any Australian oversight of the inspection and monitoring of Chinese imported nursery stock? If so, what measures are in place? If not, why not?</p>	Written	12/04/11	

217	BSG – A	Boswell	White spot syndrome virus in prawns	<p>Senator BOSWELL—How long can white spot remain active in prawns? What is the time limit there?</p> <p>Ms Mellor—We do not have an answer to that here.</p> <p>Senator BOSWELL—You do not have an answer?</p> <p>Ms Mellor—No.</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN—But can you provide an answer?</p> <p>Ms Mellor—Yes, we will try—</p>	37 21/02/11	12/04/11	
218	BSG – A	Xenophon	Complaints from AQIS accredited vets	<p>Senator XENOPHON—...The question is: how many AQIS-accredited veterinarians have complained to AQIS, including AQIS Compliance WA, about being pressured by exporters to revise live export mortalities downwards?</p> <p>Ms Schneider—We would have to take that on notice, I think.</p>	50 21/02/11	12/04/11	
219	BSG – A	Xenophon	Cattle exported to Egypt	<p>Senator XENOPHON—Okay. Let's move on. Is AQIS in possession of information that a shipment of Australian cattle were exported into Egypt during the period that the federal government suspension of the live trade with Egypt was in place or since then in contravention of the subsequent Australian meat and livestock industry export of livestock to Egypt order of 2008?</p> <p>Ms Schneider—We would have to take that on notice too.</p>	50 21/02/11	12/04/11	
220	BSG – A	Colbeck	PIMC – Working Group on safety of imported and domestically produced pet food	<p>PIMC – Working Group on safety of imported and domestically produced pet food:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the total of expenses incurred by the working group since its inception in May 2009? 2. What is the breakdown of these costs? (travel, accommodation, remuneration for participating members etc.) 3. When will the working party's discussion paper be finalised? 4. Will there be an opportunity for the general public, including pet owners, to review and make submissions on the discussion paper? 5. Why has it taken 21 months for the working party's 	Written	12/04/11	

				<p>discussion paper to be drawn up?</p> <p>6. What work and actions were conducted between the working group's meeting on September 11, 2009, and the next meeting on June 22, 2010?</p> <p>7. Why did the working party not meet during this nine month period?</p> <p>8. Why has the PIMC not considered this matter in-session since May 2009?</p>			
221	BSG – A	Xenophon	Documentation for live animal exports	<p>1. How does AQIS check that the claimed number of animals for which there is export documentation is the actual number of animals loaded?</p> <p>2. Is this independently verified, or does AQIS rely entirely on the declarations by the exporter?</p>	Written	12/04/11	
222	BSG – A	Xenophon	Breaches of ASEL	How many exporters have had statutory penalties applied for breach of ASEL (and details)?	Written	12/04/11	
223	BSG – A	Xenophon	Live animal exports	What evidence does AQIS have of loading of animals on live export vessels beyond the number of animals authorised to be loaded?	Written	12/04/11	
224	BSG – A	Xenophon	Breaches of ASEL	<p>1. How many AQIS mortality investigation reports have identified possible breaches of ASEL?</p> <p>2. What were those possible breaches?</p> <p>3. What actions have been taken against the exporters responsible for those breaches?</p>	Written	12/04/11	
225	BSG – A	Xenophon	Deaths on sea voyages	For 'high mortality incidents' what is the proportion of deaths which occur during the sea phase of the voyage and what is the proportion of deaths which occur while discharging or immediately afterwards?	Written	12/04/11	
226	BSG – A	Xenophon	Sea voyages for live animal exports	<p>1. How long does a 'voyage' last under ASEL?</p> <p>2. Does it include the time spent discharging animals at intermediate ports and at the final port of destination?</p>	Written	12/04/11	

				3. Is there a requirement for reporting on every day of a 'voyage', including the days spent discharging animals from the ship?			
227	BSG – A	Xenophon	Sea voyages for live animal exports	As the load of animals can exceed 100,000 (eg sheep on some voyages) on a live export voyage, how can the fitness of these animals for export be assessed?	Written	12/04/11	
228	BSG – A	Xenophon	Sea voyages for live animal exports	In those circumstances, how can there be compliance with ASEL, which requires the health and welfare of those animals be monitored daily on board a live export vessel?	Written	12/04/11	
229	BSG – A	Xenophon	Sea voyages for live animal exports	There is a requirement under s57AA of the Australian Meat and Live-stock Act 1997 that the names of exporters be reported to parliament for each live export voyage and that actions taken by DAFF be reported. Have these requirements been complied with, in particular, where there is more than one consignment (ie more than one exporter) per voyage, have all exporters been named in the report to parliament?	Written	12/04/11	
230	BSG – A	Xenophon	Sea voyages for live animal exports	On how many occasions has heat stress been identified as the cause of a 'high mortality incident'?	Written	12/04/11	
231	BSG – A	Xenophon	Sea voyages for live animal exports	What evidence is there that the heat stress model allows high mortality incidents caused by heat stress to be avoided?	Written	12/04/11	
232	BSG – A	Xenophon	Sea voyages for live animal exports	You indicated that for 100 per cent of livestock consignments, AQIS veterinarians assess whether the animals are fit enough to travel prior to export. Animal welfare groups, Stop Live Exports and Animals Angels, have both regularly observed that at the Fremantle Port in Western Australia the AQIS veterinarian, or AQIS accredited veterinarian assesses the animals' fitness to travel by watching the animals run up the loading ramp onto the	Written	12/04/11	

				<p>ship. There is a concern that this practice does not sufficiently assess the animals - especially as the veterinarian can only see one side of the animal. In addition Stop Live Exports and Animals Angels, have both regularly observed that the AQIS veterinarian or AQIS accredited veterinarian is not always present.</p> <p>For animals loaded at Fremantle Port, does the AQIS veterinarian or AQIS accredited veterinarian assess the animals in an additional way besides simply watching the animals go up the loading ramp onto the ship?</p>			
233	BSG – A	Xenophon	Sea voyages for live animal exports	Was an AQIS veterinarian, or AQIS accredited veterinarian, present for the full duration of the loading at Fremantle Port on 23 December 2010?	Written	12/04/11	
234	BSG – A	Xenophon	Sea voyages for live animal exports	Since the introduction of the ASEL, how many shipments have been penalised for not meeting the standards?	Written	12/04/11	
235	BSG – A	Xenophon	Sea voyages for live animal exports	<p>You indicated that an AQIS accredited stockman must accompany each voyage and an AQIS accredited veterinarian must accompany each voyage to the Middle East.</p> <p>Who pays the wages of the AQIS accredited veterinarian or AQIS accredited stockman?</p>	Written	12/04/11	
236	BSG – A	Xenophon	Sea voyages for live animal exports	Are the reports received by AQIS from the onboard stockperson or veterinarian as prescribed by the ASEL available to the public?	Written	12/04/11	
237	BSG – F	Xenophon	Pesticide testing of imported plant products	<p>Senator XENOPHON—Can you advise, on notice, how many consignments in 2010 were tested and, of those, how many failed?</p> <p>Dr Clegg—Sure. Yes, we can do that.</p>	35 21/02/11	12/04/11	

238	BSG – F	Xenophon	Pesticide testing of imported plant products	After AQIS conducts testing of import consignments, what analysis does Biosecurity Australia carry out in response to these tests? For example, if a trend emerges of a certain chemical being increasingly present above the maximum level, does Biosecurity Australia review its policy on this chemical?	Written	12/04/11	
239	BSG – F	Xenophon	Pesticide testing of imported plant products	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Of the failed consignments in 2010, can you advise why they failed? 2. Did they show traces of banned chemicals? 3. Were the traces above the maximum allowable level? 4. Please provide a breakdown by numbers. 	Written	12/04/11	
240	BSG – F	Xenophon	Pesticide testing of imported plant products	What testing for chemicals is done on frozen fruit and vegetable products?	Written	12/04/11	
241	BSG – F	Heffernan	Kangaroo meat exports	<p>Questions following up to Answers to Question on Notice BSG 16, Supplementary Budget Estimates, October 2010</p> <p>Funding</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Answer 3 (A3) stated that an additional \$400,000 was allocated to the kangaroo harvester training programs by the Hon Tony Burke MP. How much of these funds have been spent on these training programs to date? Please list the programmes and recipients. 2. What future funding plans are in place for these programs if regulatory changes and retraining fail to ensure the Russian export market for kangaroo products is regained? <p>Hygiene Standards</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Answer 6 states that the new processing requirements (as per AQIS Meat Notice 2009/18) apply to export-registered game processing establishments only. Given the hygiene concerns that prompted Russia's banning of Australian kangaroo imports, why are non-export-registered establishments exempt from the new processing requirements, regardless of the intended market for the processed meat? I.e. why do the 	Written	12/04/11	

				<p>new requirements not apply at all game meat processing establishments?</p> <p>4. As stated in Answer 7, all wild game harvesters must comply with the Australian Standard for the Hygienic Production of Wild Game Meat for Human Consumption (AS 4464:2007). This standard, concerning the slaughter, harvesting, dressing, chilling and storing, differs significantly from the Australian Standard for the Hygienic Production and Transportation of Meat and Meat Products for Human Consumption (AS 4696:2007) (but not significantly from the Standard for the Hygienic Production of Pet Meat [PISC Technical Report 88 – Amended 2009] as it pertains to wild game harvesting). Given the loss of the Russian export market due to meat contamination, are these standards for wild game still considered appropriate for the year-round processing of wild game carcasses for human consumption? [<i>Differences in the Australian Standards are outlined below</i>]</p> <p><i>Current Australian Standards:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>For the processing of meat and meat products (not including game or wild game) such as cattle, sheep etc. intended for human consumption require carcasses whole or in part to be placed under refrigeration within 2 hours of stunning, and deep muscle temperature to be no greater than 7°C within 24 hours of stunning.</i> - <i>For wild game, including kangaroos, carcasses whole or in part are to be placed under refrigeration within 2 hours of harvesting if harvested during daylight, or within 2 hours of daylight if harvested at night, and deep muscle temperature must be no greater than 7°C within 24 hours of being refrigerated.</i> <p>5. How often are inspections performed on harvesters and processors for compliance to reporting requirements, and compliance to hygiene standards?</p>			
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				<p>6. As per Answer 8 and A9, exactly what safeguards are in place to ensure the data gathered by harvesters and processors are accurate and have not been tampered with?</p> <p>7. Are all kangaroo carcasses microbiologically tested and temperature-monitored to ensure compliance with the time-temperature and hygienic parameters? If not, why not, and what are the benchmark sampling ratios for harvesters and processors?</p> <p>8. Why are there no additional measures in place for summertime harvesting, in which environmental conditions may result in the carcass not being effectively chilled within the required time-temperature parameters?</p> <p>9. A10 states that all animal carcasses intended for human consumption must be effectively chilled to no greater than 7°C “within 24 hours”. According to the respective Australian Standards, this means within 24 hours of slaughter for non-game meat; for game and wild game meat, this means within 24 hours of refrigeration, which may legally be up to 12 hours after slaughter. These standards do not take into account Australian environmental conditions, in which carcasses may remain unrefrigerated overnight in high summer temperatures. Given the loss of the Russian market due to contaminated meat and the legitimate associated concerns regarding hygienic production of kangaroo meat, why do these discrepancies exist between the hygienic production of game meat and non-game meat for human production?</p> <p>10. For optimum hygiene and to limit microbial growth in a nominally warm and humid environment, non-game meat is skinned, dressed and placed under refrigeration within 2 hours of slaughter. As stated above, this is not the case with game meat. Carcasses can legally remain field-dressed for a significant period of time between slaughter and processing, in comparison to non-game carcasses. Why are hygienic regulations less stringent for game meat in comparison to</p>			
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				<p>game meat intended for human consumption?</p> <p>11. Given the above discrepancies, is the Australian Standard for the Hygienic Production of Wild Game Meat for Human Consumption, in regards to slaughter/harvesting, transport, and hygienic processing of kangaroo carcasses, appropriate for meat intended for human consumption, and does it comply (as per A10) with international hygienic standards for meat intended for human consumption?</p> <p>12. Answer 13 states that the requirements for game and non-game meat for human consumption are equivalent, with regards to hygienic harvesting and processing. The loss of the Russian export market due to contaminated meat, and the discrepancies stated above, would suggest that this is not the case. These discrepancies also suggest that harvesting and processing standards for game meat, not the reporting thereof, may be inappropriate for meat intended for human consumption. If the new reporting regulations (as required by AQIS Meat Notice 2009/18) and Federally-funded retraining fail to regain the Russian market, does AQIS intend to change the game meat harvesting and processing standards to comply with the non-game meat standards with a view to regain the Russian market and to ensure optimum hygiene and production safe for human consumption? If not, why not?</p>			
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Questions on notice taken at Additional Estimates hearing on Monday 21 February 2011 – and answered later in the hearing

Q no.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard page & hearing date or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
	CPD - Corporate Policy	Colbeck	Myrtle Rust	<p>Senator COLBECK—Can you give us specific details of what you are doing on the myrtle rust?</p> <p>Ms Freeman—Certainly. I might take that one on notice, if that is all right. I can get that to you by the end of today, though, if you like.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK—Yes, that would be fine; if we can come back and perhaps deal with that when we get back to myrtle rust, which I am sure we will get to.</p> <p>Ms Freeman—Yes, certainly.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK—And Asian honey bees?</p> <p>Ms Freeman—Yes.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK—Do the same. If we can get details of the rest on notice, that would be fine; not necessarily today, but on notice.</p> <p>Ms Freeman—Yes.</p>	14		<p>Tabled at hearing on 21/02/11</p> <p>Tabled doc 2 –Q2</p>
	CC	Colbeck	Tasmanian forests statement of principles to lead to an agreement	<p>Mr Aldred—Yes, and we are aware of that. So one of Mr Kelty's tasks is to seek to have the signatories better define the statement of principles.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator COLBECK—So his guiding statement of instruction is the government's response. So that is the key guiding document for him.</p> <p>Mr Aldred—No, the statement of the Prime Minister assists. He has a terms of reference document.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK—He has terms of reference?</p> <p>Mr Aldred—Yes.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK—Is that a public document?</p>	68		<p>Tabled at hearing on 21/02/11</p> <p>Tabled doc 2 –Q3</p>

				Mr Aldred —I was hoping to have it on the website today. I thought it was a public document, but I am sure we can provide you with a copy.			
CC	Colbeck	Funding support for the International Year of the Forests	<p>Senator COLBECK—So in dollar terms how much are we putting in?</p> <p>Mr Aldred—I think there is \$20,000 at this stage.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK—That is \$20,000 for Why Forests, for the conference?</p> <p>Mr Aldred—Can I take that on notice and give you the specific details?</p> <p>Senator COLBECK—Could you give me specific details of what your commitments are.</p> <p>Mr Aldred—I will try and get those back to you today.</p>	71		<p>Tabled at hearing on 21/02/11</p> <p>Tabled doc 2 –Q1</p>	
CC	Bob Brown	Forestry Industries Development	<p>Senator BOB BROWN—To go back to the Export Finance and Insurance Corporation, do you or does anybody in the department have information on talks having taken place between Gunns or potential investors with that organisation?</p> <p>Mr Aldred—There was a meeting between the secretary of the department, the chairman of Gunns and the CEO of EFIC. I would need to look at the date, but it was a general discussion about the Gunns strategy and no details of EFIC activities.</p> <p>Senator BOB BROWN—No details?</p> <p>Mr Aldred—No details of EFIC’s activities other than that EFIC had been approached by Gunns.</p> <p>Senator BOB BROWN—Was there talk about a joint venture partner at those talks?</p> <p>Mr Aldred—There was mention of a joint venture partner and no individual company was mentioned.</p> <p>Senator BOB BROWN—When did those talks take place?</p> <p>Mr Aldred—I will take it on notice so I can provide the date. Again, I can chase it up relatively quickly.</p> <p>Senator BOB BROWN—Thank you. That was this year?</p> <p>Mr Aldred—I cannot recall whether it was late December or</p>	71		Answer given at p. 74 of Proof Hansard	

				early January. I will find you the date.			
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