

Senate Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2011

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: 273

Division/Agency: TMAD - Trade and Market Access Division

Topic: Seafood trade with China – invoice pricing

Proof Hansard Page: 7-8 (24/05/11)

Senator Colbeck asked:

Senator COLBECK: My understanding is that the numbers through Hong Kong have changed significantly now. Have you had anything put to you about the Chinese deeming an invoice price?

Ms Evans: We have anecdotally heard of that type of behaviour from the industry, but for us to actually see any evidence of that we would need to see an import bill or something that actually referred to these kinds of charges. Other than that, our official inquiries have confirmed that the only charges being applied are the tariff at 15 per cent and the VAT charge at 13 per cent.

Senator COLBECK: I do not think there is any dispute about that—that the tariffs are being charged at that rate—but the feedback that I have had is that everything going in at the moment is deemed at a price of \$70, when the invoice price here is something like \$50 to \$55 or lower. That exacerbates the competitive issues with, say, New Zealand who already have a step down to their tariff and are obviously operating under different circumstances.

Ms Evans: We have had some discussions around that issue but I cannot recall the specific details of it. If it is okay, I will take it on notice to come back and confirm what it is that we have discussed.

Answer:

In late November 2010, DAFF officials at the Australian Embassy in Beijing contacted the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (China Customs) over reports from importers that China was applying a minimum value for all shipments of rock lobsters for the purposes of calculating the tariff. China Customs advised that the customs value of the imported goods is determined consistent with World Trade Organization (WTO) rights and obligations.

China Customs also confirmed that their usual valuation method was transaction value. However, where there is doubt about the value of a particular shipment, customs officials have advised that they may, in consultation with the importer, apply another method. This could include the transaction value of identical or similar goods.

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Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: 274

Division/Agency: TMAD – Trade and Market Access Division

Topic: International agricultural cooperation

Proof Hansard Page: 10 (24/05/11)

Senator Colbeck asked:

Senator COLBECK: On the issue of international agricultural cooperation, the incoming government brief says:

While the department supports activities to further international cooperation and believes there is a strong case for targeted expansion in this area, we often have to argue against new activities with trading partners because we cannot pursue most of them without additional resources.

Can you give us an example of where, in recent times, you have had to argue against new activities?

Mr Glyde: I am struggling to come up with an example off the top of my head, but I think what often happens in the negotiations will be the expectation from the other side, usually about capacity-building activities and the like, and given that that has been done in the past where we have come to arrangements under free trade agreements or under bilateral cooperation on agriculture, there is that expectation that we will be able to do that. If you have a larger budget for those things and you can come to more agreements and be able to agree to that. In some cases we have not been able to do that. In some cases we have had to try to keep the discussions and the ongoing planning for international cooperation on the basis of exchange of information and things we can afford rather than detailed capacity-building projects and the like. If you like, I could reflect on that and provide that under notice but nothing comes to mind recently.

Senator COLBECK: I would appreciate it if you could take that and give me something on notice to get a sense of what the particular constraints might be.

Answer:

Examples of international cooperation activities that would require additional resources include significant investments in infrastructure or arrangements to support trade, research programs, and commitments to assist in the development of new systems, processes or regulation.

Examples of activities that can be supported within existing resources are training, study tours, scoping studies, funding of developing country participation in standard setting bodies, and activities associated with bilateral working groups.

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Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: 275

Division/Agency: TMAD – Trade and Market Access Division

Topic: Live trade animal welfare partnership 2009/10 final report

Proof Hansard Page: Written

Senator Coonan asked:

The May 2010 report, “Live Trade Animal Welfare Partnership 2009/10 Final Report” identified animal management, slaughter facilities and animal welfare standards as points for improvement in animal welfare - stunning during slaughter was identified as a ‘priority’ and that stunning was accepted in Indonesia. The report said it had not been possible to implement a stunning trial in 09/10.

1. How many licensed Halal facilities are there and where are they?
2. What does the annual certification process involve?
3. Noting at Estimates it was stated it was possible to use stunning and still be Halal, how real are cultural issues referred to in Estimates?
4. How many locations are stunning trials being conducted at? Where are they?
5. How are they being done?
6. Who is doing them?
7. Who is evaluating the outcomes?
8. The May 2010 report says of the 2 trial sites, they identified one who objected to stunning on the basis of it may cause death. Has it been possible to demonstrate otherwise to that site in the last year?
9. Funding was identified as a barrier to stunning. Is it correct that the government matches MLA funding dollar for dollar?
10. What funding has the Department allocated for this purpose in this financial year and next?
11. Noting that the sum of \$550,000 was allocated for the Live Animal Trade Partnership as part of Program 1.13 “International Market Access” how much of that budget has been used to promote the humane treatment of animals in Indonesia? Please provide a breakdown of the expenditure to date.

Answer:

1. The department does not have information on the number of Halal facilities in Indonesia.
2. The Halal certifying body in Indonesia is the Indonesia Ulema Council (MUI). The department understands that the MUI conducts annual inspections of slaughter facilities in order to issue Halal certification.
3. The department understands that a range of views continue to exist in Indonesia and amongst other trading partners on whether pre-slaughter stunning is consistent with Halal principles.

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Question: 275 (continued)

Questions 4 to 7

Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA) contracted a consultant in January 2011 to deliver a stunning project in Indonesia. MLA advises that as of 27 June 2011, two abattoirs have implemented stunning as a result of the project. These facilities are located in the provinces of Banten and West Java. A further three sites are being sought to participate in the project. The outcomes of the project are being judged by Indonesian butchers and their customers.

8. MLA advises that it has not been possible for it to address the objections of that particular site in the last year.
9. Through the Live Trade Animal Welfare Partnership, the Australian Government and the Australian live export industry are investing a total of \$3.2 million on a 50:50 co-contribution basis in projects which enable better animal welfare outcomes in the handling, transport and processing of livestock in importing countries.
10. The government approved a total of \$550 000 in Commonwealth funds to deliver four projects under the Live Trade Animal Welfare Partnership in 2010-11. An amount of \$550 000 is available in Commonwealth funding for the Live Trade Animal Welfare Partnership in 2011-12. These amounts are matched by industry.
11. In 2010-11, the government approved \$125 000 under the Live Trade Animal Welfare Partnership for a project to improve post-arrival animal welfare conditions for Australian cattle in Indonesia. This funding is matched by industry. In accordance with the funding agreement, the department has made one payment of \$50 000 to date. On 31 May 2011 the department suspended funding under this project for the installation of any new Mark I restraining boxes using Commonwealth funds. The department has asked MLA to provide a proposal for alternative use of the funds that would result in demonstrable improvements in animal welfare.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2011

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: 276

Division/Agency: TMAD – Trade and Market Access Division

Topic: Diplomatic measures – introduce animal welfare laws

Proof Hansard Page: Written

Senator Coonan asked:

What diplomatic measures has the Government taken to persuade the Indonesia government to introduce regulations to give effect to animal welfare laws?

Answer:

The Republic of Indonesia has regulations which require animals to be treated in accordance with World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) standards.

The Australian Government is committed to working with trading partners and the live export industry to improve animal welfare in countries that import Australian livestock. The government makes representations to the Indonesian Government on a range of issues, including animal welfare, as part of its bilateral activities. The department also has a permanent Counsellor (Agriculture) based in Jakarta whose work includes liaising with Indonesian authorities on all agriculture matters, including animal welfare.

In addition, the government has provided international leadership on the development of a Regional Animal Welfare Strategy for Asia, the Far East and Oceania (RAWS) since 2007. The RAWS supports World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) member countries in the Asia Pacific, including Indonesia, to promote, adopt and implement OIE animal welfare standards through activities including education, legislation, regulation, research and development.

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Budget Estimates May 2011

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: 277

Division/Agency: TMAD – Trade and Market Access Division

Topic: In-country officers

Proof Hansard Page: Written

Senator Back asked:

1. Where does DAFF have in-country officers located? Provide detail on where and how many?
2. Are they all currently in place?
3. With the announcement last week by Minister for Trade, Craig Emerson announced that Austrade would be closing “small offices in Europe and North America’ and will be rationalising staffing in some locations” – does DAFF have any similar plans? If so, what are they?
4. What work are these officers currently undertaking? Provide details of what project / work programs they are conducting?
5. Does this include BSE IRA?

Answer:

1. DAFF currently has the following in-country officers in thirteen overseas locations:

Post	Australian-Based (A-Based) Officers	Locally Engaged Staff (LES)
Bangkok	1 x Counsellor	1
Beijing	2 x Counsellors	2
Brussels	1 x Minister-Counsellor	1.5
Dubai	1 x Consul	1
Jakarta	1 x Counsellor 1 x Project Manager	4.5
Moscow	Nil	1
New Delhi	1 x Counsellor	1
Paris	Nil	1
Rome	1 x Minister-Counsellor	1

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Question: 277 (continued)

Post	Australian-Based (A-Based) Officers	Locally Engaged Staff (LES)
Seoul	1 x Counsellor	1
Taipei	Nil	0.5
Tokyo	1 x Minister-Counsellor 1 x Counsellor	2.5
Washington	1 x Minister-Counsellor	1.5
TOTAL:	13	19.5

2. All staff are currently in place with the exception of one LES vacant position at Dubai post which will be filled in the coming months with the change-over of Consul.
3. DAFF does not have any current plans to rationalise staffing in any overseas locations.
4. The department pursues Australia's agricultural interests abroad through the use of its overseas network. DAFF's overseas officers play a major part in Australia's efforts to remove or lower market access barriers, facilitate trade, resolve quarantine issues and respond to strategic issues such as international food security.
5. DAFF's overseas officers have not directly undertaken work on the BSE IRA. Prior to the decision to invoke the 'stop the clock' provision, DAFF officers had met from time to time with officials from relevant host governments and provided updates on progress as necessary.

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Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: 278

Division/Agency: TMAD – Trade and Market Access Division

Topic: Visits to slaughter facilities

Proof Hansard Page: Written

Senator Coonan asked:

1. Who are the officer (s) who have ‘made several visits’ to see the facilities in operation.
2. When and where did the visits take place; what did he/they report about slaughters observed and in particular the operation of the Mark 1 boxes?

Answer:

1. The DAFF Counsellor (Agriculture) and locally engaged staff have visited feedlot facilities in Indonesia. One of these facilities also has an abattoir with restraint boxes. No departmental officers have observed this abattoir in operation. At least two delegations, one in August 2008 and one in December 2010, have also visited this facility.
2. No slaughters have been observed or reported on by DAFF staff.

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Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: 279

Division/Agency: TMAD – Trade and Market Access Division

Topic: Live animal exports - stunning in Indonesia

Proof Hansard Page: 74 (24/05/11)

Senator Coonan asked:

Senator COONAN: So how many slaughter facilities have stunning in Indonesia?

Perhaps I should ask: how many slaughter facilities are there in Indonesia?

Ms Evans: I would have to take that on notice. In terms of the advice we have had from industry in terms of where Australian animals are slaughtered, the advice is that it can be in excess of 100 facilities. I would not be able to answer how many abattoirs there are in Indonesia.

Answer:

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, in 2008 there were 800 officially registered slaughter facilities in Indonesia.¹

While we are aware that a number of abattoirs use stunning in Indonesia we are not aware of any official numbers available on how many facilities routinely use stunning.

¹Abattoir Development - Options and Designs for Hygienic Basic and Medium-Sized Abattoirs. www.fao.org/docrep/010/ai410e/ai410e00.htm
Animal Production and Health Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, 2008

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Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: 280

Division/Agency: TMAD – Trade and Market Access Division

Topic: Live animal exports - stunning in Indonesia

Proof Hansard Page: 74 (24/05/11)

Senator Coonan asked:

Senator COONAN: Take that on notice. I am perfectly happy with that. So how many of the identified facilities to which Australian cattle are sent have stunning facilities?

Ms Evans: I would have to take it on notice to confirm, but my understanding is that there are three facilities currently operating with stunning and that there are two others that the industry is working on. Again, I will come back to you to confirm that my memory is not inaccurate on that.

Senator COONAN: It is not meant to be a memory test. Of course, by all means check. The difficulty of course is that they would need to be halal certified to also be able to use stunning facilities.

Ms Evans: In terms of halal certification in Indonesia, our understanding is that it is possible to use stunning and still be accepted as halal.

Answer:

While we are aware that a number of abattoirs use stunning in Indonesia we are not aware of any official numbers available on how many facilities routinely use stunning.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2011

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: 281

Division/Agency: TMAD – Trade and Market Access Division

Topic: Live animal exports – stunning in Indonesia

Proof Hansard Page: 76-77 (24/05/11)

Senator Coonan asked:

Senator COONAN: Would you be able to take on notice and let me have a breakdown of where the Mark 1 boxes are and when they were installed? Are we still supplying them, for example, or do we only now supply Mark 4? What is the position?

Ms Evans: There is another round of the Live Trade Animal Welfare Partnership program for the coming year where we have not yet finalised the projects themselves. But it is fair to say that there are still opportunities to put in Mark 1 boxes where that would have a substantial animal welfare improvement. They are still in the mix of the kind of activities that could be considered under the program.

Senator COONAN: Is that in places where there are some other countervailing reasons why you would not put in a more superior model?

Ms Evans: I think that would be a fair description.

Mr Glyde: Where there is no power for example.

Senator COONAN: If I could have a breakdown I would appreciate that.

Answer:

Since 2006, 109 Mark I restraint boxes have been installed in Indonesia under the Live Trade Animal Welfare Partnership and its predecessor, the Live Animal Trade Program. The boxes were installed at abattoirs in the Indonesian provinces of Jakarta, Riau, Lampung, East Java, West Java, Banten, Nangroe Aceh Darussalam, South Sumatera, North Sumatera, West Sumatera, Bengkulu and Jogjakarta.

At the direction of the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, the department has implemented a moratorium on the installation of any new Mark I restraint boxes using Commonwealth funds. In addition, the Australian Chief Veterinary Officer is coordinating an independent, scientific assessment of the on-going appropriateness of both Mark I and Mark IV restraint boxes. The review will inform any changes to the current system.

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Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: 282

Division/Agency: TMAD – Trade and Market Access Division

Topic: Restraint boxes

Proof Hansard Page: 77 (24/05/11)

Senator Coonan asked:

Senator COONAN: Yes. Perhaps for the purposes of your area of knowledge I would appreciate it if you would take on notice to give me a list of the projects in Indonesia and how they were implemented—in other words, whether consultants did it or whether LiveCorp did it, or whoever—and where.

Ms Evans: From our perspective there are two projects in Indonesia, both of which were implemented by Meat and Livestock Australia. I think you might be asking about where, within each one of those projects, a whole series of activities were undertaken. That would be something we would have to ask MLA or take on notice.

Senator COONAN: But it is basically the partnership that carries it out, the practical side of it.

Ms Evans: That is correct.

Answer:

The Live Trade Animal Welfare Partnership has funded two projects in Indonesia to date. The projects were delivered by Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA) through subcontractor arrangements.

The first project was funded in 2009–10. It sought to improve animal welfare at the point of slaughter by upgrading abattoir infrastructure and providing training for animal handlers in standard operating procedures. The project also funded an independent study of animal welfare conditions for cattle from point of arrival from Australia to slaughter. These activities were primarily delivered in Java and Sumatera.

The second project was funded in 2010–11 and is currently underway. The project aims to build on the animal welfare improvements delivered in 2009–10 by upgrading and maintaining abattoir infrastructure and delivering training to operational staff. On 31 May 2011 the department suspended funding under this project for the installation of any new Mark I restraining boxes using Commonwealth funds. The department has asked MLA to provide a proposal for alternative use of the funds that would result in demonstrable improvements in animal welfare.

Senate Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2011

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: 283

Division/Agency: TMAD – Trade and Market Access Division

Topic: Restraint boxes

Proof Hansard Page: 78 (24/05/11)

Senator Coonan asked:

Ms Evans: As part of the original project in 2009-10 there was an independent assessment, so not by the department.

Senator COONAN: Who did it?

Ms Evans: I would have to take that on notice to go back and check.

Answer:

The independent study was conducted by a panel of experts comprising:

- Professor Ivan Caple, Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Melbourne.
- Dr Penelope McGown, beef cattle veterinarian.
- Professor Neville Gregory, Royal Veterinary College, University of London.
- Dr Paul Cusak, Director, Australian Livestock Production Services.

Senate Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2011

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: 284

Division/Agency: TMAD – Trade and Market Access Division

Topic: Restraint boxes

Proof Hansard Page: 78-79 (24/05/2011)

Senator Coonan asked:

Senator COONAN: I just have two more questions. Does the department conduct any on-site inspections to assess the effectiveness in animal welfare terms of the funding that is allocated?

Mr Glyde: The program has been running for a number of years; I would probably have to take that on notice to examine the extent to which we have done that.

Senator COONAN: Do it by all means, but I am particularly interested in the past two years in how many on-site inspections of these projects have been undertaken by the department.

Mr Glyde: I understand the question.

Answer:

No on-site inspections have been undertaken by the department.

Senate Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2011

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: 285

Division/Agency: TMAD – Trade and Market Access Division

Topic: Closed loop systems

Proof Hansard Page: 80 (24/05/11)

Senator Siewert asked:

Ms Evans: The closed loop facility is the one facility that the Australian government does inspect. We do that jointly with MLA. We did that before it opened to make sure it met the requirements we were looking for and the OIE standards. We do that on a random basis regularly under its operation.

Senator SIEWERT: How much was invested in that?

Ms Evans: In terms of Australian government funding, I would have to take it on notice. There was a small amount provided for the ear-tagging system.

Senator SIEWERT: Is there consideration being given to anymore?

Ms Evans: There is at this point one other facility that is looking for accreditation, but it has not yet been approved.

Answer:

The department provided \$63 800 (GST inclusive) in 2008–09 for the delivery and installation of a handling crush and for Radio Frequency Identification scanning equipment in Egypt, and testing of this equipment.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

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Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: 286

Division/Agency: TMAD – Trade and Market Access Division

Topic: Egypt – live animal trade ‘closed system’

Proof Hansard Page: 81 (24/05/11)

Senator Sierert asked:

Senator SIEWERT: What restraint boxes were they using, if they were using any, in Egypt?

Ms Evans: In the closed systems?

Senator SIEWERT: Previously.

Ms Evans: I would have to take that on notice.

Answer:

The department does not have information on specific designs or types of boxes but understands that restraint boxes were in use in Egypt before the ‘closed system’ was implemented.

Senate Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2011

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: 287

Division/Agency: TMAD – Trade and Market Access Division

Topic: Slaughter operations in Indonesia

Proof Hansard Page: 83 (24/05/11)

Senator O'Brien asked:

Senator O'BRIEN: In relation to slaughter methods, FAO says that halal in Indonesia accepts stunning. Is there a government-to-government dialogue between Australia and Indonesia about the slaughter methods, the export of Australian cattle and the implementation of animal welfare standards?

Ms Evans: In short, yes, there is a government-to-government dialogue. I mentioned before that we have a councillor on the ground in Jakarta and we also have delegations from time to time who travel and discuss animal welfare issues. So that is an ongoing dialogue, and when there is an appropriate opportunity to raise stunning we do use those opportunities.

Senator O'BRIEN: Can you, perhaps on notice, supply the committee with what the government has in relation to the regulatory arrangements, if any, that apply to slaughter operations in Indonesia.

Mr Glyde: It is the Indonesian regulatory arrangements.

Senator O'BRIEN: Yes—obviously the English version, please.

Ms Evans: Okay, we can take that on notice, thanks.

Answer:

Indonesia's Presidential Law 18/2009 regarding Animal Husbandry and Animal Health contains references to the slaughter of animals including a requirement under Article 61, paragraph 1b that slaughter methods meet principles of animal welfare. The Law provides the following definition of animal welfare under Article 1, paragraph 42:

Animal welfare is all matters pertaining to the physical and mental condition of animals according to the natural behaviour standard of animals which must be applied and enforced in order to protect animals from unsuitable treatment by every person against animals being utilised by humans.

Law 18 also contains a specific article on animal welfare (Article 66).

A copy of the authorised translation of Law 18/2009 is **attached**.

Indonesian Ministerial Decrees also operate as additional sources of law to Presidential Laws/Acts.

In this regard, the department is aware that Indonesian Ministerial Decree 13/2010 also makes reference to animal welfare. Article 4 a) states that animals should be slaughtered under the three principles of animal welfare, veterinary public health and religious rule.

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Question: 287 (continued)

The department is seeking a complete English version of Decree 13/2010, and will provide it to the committee once received.

[Attachment]

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Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: 288

Division/Agency: TMAD – Trade and Market Access Division

Topic: Slaughter operations in Indonesia

Proof Hansard Page: 83 (24/05/11)

Senator O'Brien asked:

Senator O'BRIEN: With the facilities where there has been Australian assistance with the slaughter process, can you tell us how many such facilities exist?

Ms Evans: In Indonesia?

Senator O'BRIEN: In Indonesia, yes.

Ms Evans: The number of facilities where we have worked is around 100 or 109. It is in that order.

Senator O'BRIEN: Are they widely spread—Java, Sumatra et cetera?

Mr Glyde: We will probably have to take that on notice, Senator, to give you a precise answer rather than a stab at it now.

Answer:

Industry advises that they have conducted animal welfare assessments at 91 abattoirs in Indonesia, covering 109 restraining boxes. The abattoirs are in the Indonesian provinces of Jakarta, Riau, Lampung, East Java, West Java, Banten, Nangroe Aceh Darussalam, South Sumatera, North Sumatera, West Sumatera, Bengkulu and Jogjakarta.

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Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: 289

Division/Agency: TMAD – Trade and Market Access Division

Topic: Indonesian farm and animal welfare law

Proof Hansard Page: Written

Senator Coonan asked:

1. Is the Dept aware of the Indonesian Farm & Animal Welfare Law passed in the National Parliament 18 months ago?
2. Is the Dept aware there are no regulations to support those laws?

Answer:

1. Yes, the department is aware of Indonesia's Presidential Law 18/2009 regarding Animal Husbandry and Animal Health.
2. Yes.

Senate Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2011

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: 290

Division/Agency: TMAD – Trade and Market Access Division

Topic: Animal welfare

Proof Hansard Page: Written

Senator Coonan asked:

1. Since the receipt by the Department of the May 2010 report, has the Government acted on the recommendations or investigated areas of concern over animal welfare issues?
2. Please identify the number of meetings that the Department or Minister held with MLA to discuss concerns over animal welfare issues since the release of the report.
3. Were any conclusions or recommendations drawn from the meetings?
4. If so what were they?

Answer:

1. Yes. The department met with industry representatives on 23 June, 13 August 2010 and 22 October 2010 to discuss the independent report and other projects funded under the Live Trade Animal Welfare Partnership in 2009-10. It was agreed that industry would develop and publicly release a set of actions to address the recommendations made in the independent study. It was also agreed to release the report publically and to brief the RSPCA on the process and outcomes of the report.
2. Animal welfare issues in the live export trade have been an ongoing concern for the Federal Government.

The Minister has consistently raised these concerns in order to provide the industry with a sustainable and secure future.

On 30 November 2010, the Minister met with representatives of the industry to discuss animal welfare issues in the live export trade.

Following on from this meeting, the Minister wrote to industry on 17 January 2011. This letter was addressed to the Australian Livestock Exporters' Council (ALEC) and was copied to LiveCorp. In this letter, the Minister made it clear that he was seeking industry support and advice on systems to improve the animal welfare outcomes achieved in the live trade generally and in particular during the Eid-ul-Adha festival.

On 24 January 2011, the Minister received a response from ALEC which was copied to LiveCorp. This letter made clear that after my involvement ALEC,

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Question: 290 (continued)

LiveCorp and Meat and Livestock Australia were taking steps to deliver better animal welfare outcomes through the trade.

On 21 March 2011, the Minister again wrote to ALEC reiterating his support for the industry and again asking for proposals to improve welfare outcomes across the trade.

On 22 March 2011, the Minister received a response from ALEC. This response again made it clear that as a result of the Minister's engagement, the industry – ALEC, LiveCorp and Meat and Livestock Australia – had commenced a process to deliver better animal welfare outcomes

All these letters are matters of public record and were tabled in Parliament by the Minister on 4 July 2011.

3. Yes.
4. Formal conclusions and recommendations from these meetings include: agreement on a process for reviewing the Live Trade Animal Welfare Partnership (LTAWP) program, discussion and recommendations on variations to financial year 2010–11 projects under LTAWP, consideration of projects under the LTAWP for recommendation to the Minister and agreement to prepare a formal assessment report on LTAWP projects financial year 2011–12.

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Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: 291

Division/Agency: TMAD – Trade and Market Access Division

Topic: Live trade animal welfare partnership 2009/10 final report

Proof Hansard Page: Written

Senator Coonan asked:

When did the Department and the Minister become aware of the May 2010 report?

Answer:

The department was provided with a copy of the *Independent study into animal welfare conditions in Indonesia for cattle from point of arrival from Australia to slaughter* on 21 June 2010.

Information about the report was provided to the Minister's office on 15 December 2010. A copy of the report was provided to the Minister's office on 17 January 2011, prior to its public release on 27 January 2011.

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Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: 292

Division/Agency: TMAD – Trade and Market Access Division

Topic: Live exports

Proof Hansard Page: Written

Senator Coonan asked:

Noting that it was January 2011 when the Minister wrote to industry to bring forward a plan as he had heard concerns at “the last additional estimates”, what was the date of that letter, to whom was it sent and what did it say?

Answer:

See answer to Question 290 (TMAD).

[Attachment]

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Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: 293

Division/Agency: TMAD – Trade and Market Access Division

Topic: Live trade animal welfare partnership 2009/10 final report

Proof Hansard Page: Written

Senator Coonan asked:

What other action did the Department and/or the Minister take between first becoming aware of the May 2010 report and the letter to industry in January 2011?

Answer:

The department was provided with a copy of the *Independent study into animal welfare conditions in Indonesia for cattle from point of arrival from Australia to slaughter* on 21 June 2010.

The department met with industry representatives on 23 June, 13 August 2010 and 22 October 2010 to discuss the independent report and other projects funded under the Live Trade Animal Welfare Partnership in 2009–10. It was agreed that industry would develop and publicly release a set of actions to address the recommendations made in the independent study. It was also agreed to release the report publicly and to brief the RSPCA on the process and outcomes of the report.

The department met with the RSPCA, Professor Ivan Caple (chair of the independent panel) and industry representatives on 15 December 2010 to discuss the report and industry's response. The department also met separately with the RSPCA on several occasions in early 2011 to discuss the report and other animal welfare issues.

Information about the report was provided to the Minister's office on 15 December 2010. A copy of the report was provided to the minister's office on 17 January 2011, prior to its public release on 27 January 2011.

Senate Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2011

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: 294

Division/Agency: TMAD – Trade and Market Access Division

Topic: Government meetings in Indonesia on welfare

Proof Hansard Page: Written

Senator Coonan asked:

1. Referring to the government to government meetings in Indonesia in March 2010 which broadly discussed welfare issues, what specific issues were raised either by the Department or the Minister and with whom?
2. In particular what concerns were raised about the humane treatment of Australian cattle in Indonesia abattoirs and/or feedlots?

Answer:

1. As answered by Minister Ludwig during estimates, the discussions during his visit to Indonesia in March 2011 were predominantly around trade. Animal welfare was referred to broadly in highlighting the importance of the live animal trade and the need to continue to work together to improve animal welfare outcomes. Minister Ludwig made the same general point in his letter to Minister Suswono following the visit.
2. The discussion remained at a general level.

Senate Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2011

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: 295

Division/Agency: TMAD – Trade and Market Access Division

Topic: Accreditation on abattoirs

Proof Hansard Page: Written

Senator Coonan asked:

In relation to the MLA “Australian cattle industry provides animal welfare solution” publicly released on June 6 2011 please advise:

1. The location of the 25 selected abattoirs for accreditation and what category each is in:
 - a. Those currently using stunning
 - b. Those able to introduce stunning in the near future
 - c. Those that can be gradually introduced
2. What is the timeframe for accreditation of each of these proposed facilities?
3. What are the criteria for accreditation?
4. Will it be to OIE standards (which doesn't mandate stunning) or Australian standards?
5. Who is able to independently audit the abattoirs for current status and verify compliance with upgrades?
6. When will the ‘closed system’ commence?
7. What is going to happen in the meantime as no-one seems clear on this thus far?

Answer:

Questions 1–5

The details required to answer these questions in relation to the proposal put forward by Meat & Livestock Australia on 6 June 2011 were not provided to the department.

6. Revised export control orders lifting the suspension were issued by Minister Ludwig on 6 July and came into effect on 7 July 2011. Indonesia announced it would issue import permits on 8 July 2011.
7. See response to question 6 above.

Senate Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2011

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: 296

Division/Agency: TMAD – Trade and Market Access Division

Topic: Stunning

Proof Hansard Page: Written

Senator Coonan asked:

I refer you to the independent report dated May 2010 Live Trade Animal Welfare Partnership 2009/2010 conducted by MLA and Livecorp and in particular Milestone 2 – Stunning Trial which noted that ‘there are currently four abattoirs licensed to use pre-slaughter stunning. These facilities are licensed by the Halal certifying body – Indonesia Ulema Council (MUI) to use stunning prior to slaughter (pg4).

1. Please identify the names and locations of these licensed facilities?
2. Has the stunning trial now proceeded?
3. If not why not?

Answer:

1. While we are aware that a number of abattoirs use stunning in Indonesia we are not aware of any official numbers available on how many facilities routinely use stunning.

Questions 2–3

The stunning trial did not proceed under the Live Trade Animal Welfare Partnership *Indonesia point of slaughter improvements project* in 2009–10, as the industry advised it was not feasible to implement a stunning trial at that time.

Senate Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2011

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: 297

Division/Agency: TMAD – Trade and Market Access Division

Topic: Closer economic arrangement

Proof Hansard Page: 23-24 (23/05/11)

Senator Heffernan asked:

Senator HEFFERNAN: You are aware we have a closer economic arrangement?

Dr O'Connell: Yes, I am aware of that. It is a question of what it is precisely around biosecurity.

Senator HEFFERNAN: When it refers to agriculture, what are the main lines of interaction between a closer economic arrangement and your department? What things does it influence?

Dr O'Connell: Our department, with its relationship?

Senator HEFFERNAN: Yes, DAFF.

Dr O'Connell: I am not sure that it—

Senator HEFFERNAN: What input did you have into the arrangements behind the closer economic arrangement?

Dr O'Connell: Well, the arrangements, that would be—

Senator HEFFERNAN: If you would talk up a little bit—do not be frightened.

Dr O'Connell: That would be going back into history and I would have to take that on notice. That goes back a long way—the development of the closer economic relationship.

Senator HEFFERNAN: But you have the basic knowledge that—

Dr O'Connell: I am happy enough to have that search done, if that is useful to you.

Senator HEFFERNAN: Yes.

Senator HEFFERNAN: ...In theory this fresh pig meat that is being imported into New Zealand can come into Australia because of the closer economic arrangements.

Senator Ludwig: If that is a question we will take that on notice for tomorrow and deal with it in Biosecurity Australia.

Senator HEFFERNAN: My question is: does the closer economic arrangement allow that to happen? That is an administrative matter; it is not a biosecurity matter. It is a matter for DAFF surrounding the closer economic arrangement we have with New Zealand.

Dr O'Connell: On the biosecurity side of the question, we can answer that for you tomorrow. On the issue around the specifics on the closer economic relationship, we would have to take that on notice, but we could probably provide—the broad structure is very clear. What it means for pork I would have to have somebody look at. The biosecurity component we can answer tomorrow. We probably also need to look to our colleagues in Treasury and PM&C to see whether closer economic relationships develop.

Answer:

The Australia-New Zealand Closer Economic Relations Trade Agreement (CER) came into effect on 1 January 1983. The objectives of the CER Agreement, set out in Article 1 of the Treaty, include:

- to strengthen the broader relationship between Australia and New Zealand
- to develop closer economic relations between Australia and New Zealand through a mutually beneficial expansion of free trade between the two countries

Senate Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2011

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: 297 (continued)

- to eliminate barriers to trade between Australia and New Zealand in a gradual and progressive manner under an agreed timetable and with a minimum of disruption.

Nothing in the CER impacts on Australia's right to take its own measures to protect animal and plant health within its territory. Under the CER Australia treats imports of animal and plant products from New Zealand in the same manner as imports from other World Trade Organization members.

Article 18 of the CER states:

Exceptions

Provided that such measures are not used as a means of arbitrary or unjustified discrimination or as a disguised restriction on trade in the Area, nothing in this Agreement shall preclude the adoption by either Member State of measures necessary:

(c) to protect human, animal or plant life or health, including the protection of indigenous or endangered animal or plant life...