

**Senate Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**  
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2011  
**Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry**

**Question:** 71

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

**Topic:** GRDC funds

**Proof Hansard page:** 125/126

**Senator NASH asked:**

**Senator NASH:** Could you take on notice to give us just a ballpark figure of the quantum of growers' funds through the GRDC that were wasted?

**Mr Perrett:** It is hard to say what has been wasted because there is the quantum of funds which have gone through to the research. How much we have been set back and how much we have lost are difficult to determine at this stage.

**Senator NASH:** I imagine it would be. Perhaps you could look at it and just give us as much detail as possible. Have there been any prosecutions?

**Mr Perrett:** It is still the subject of police investigations. I believe charges have now been laid against three people, but I cannot confirm that. That has been managed by the CSIRO. We actually contract CSIRO to manage the work and do the trials. At their request they took over managing the incident, working with the police and other authorities. We are one step removed, fortunately or unfortunately.

**Senator NASH:** As and where information is available on the impact, could you supply that to the committee.

**Answer:**

CSIRO has advised that direct estimated losses from the incident are \$568 011, comprising \$212 311 in GRDC funds.

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**Topic:** Wheat quality Australia review

**Proof Hansard page:** 126/127

**Senator SIEWERT asked:**

**Mr Harvey:** Wheat Quality Australia is working on that review. I believe they are hoping to finish that review over the next six months, and this is just one aspect of the review.

**Senator SIEWERT:** Who is being consulted during that process?

**Mr Harvey:** There was a meeting held, I think about six weeks ago, where they got all the key industry players together, including growers, marketers and people involved in bulk handling. A lot of the discussion at that meeting was around how you move from a regulated to a deregulated environment and how the classification system should work in a deregulated environment.

**Senator SIEWERT:** How many submissions has the process received?

**Mr Harvey:** I would have to ask them.

**Senator SIEWERT:** Could you take that on notice for me?

**Mr Harvey:** Yes.

**Answer:**

Wheat Quality Australia Ltd has advised that submissions were not sought as part of the review process.