

**Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

**Questions on Notice**

**Supplementary Budget Estimates, 17 October 2011**

**Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Portfolio**

QoN No.	Program/ Division or Agency	Senator	Broad topic	Question	Proof Hansard page & hearing date or Written Q	Date rec'd	Date tabled
1	CFD	Heffernan	Property leases	<p><b>Senator COLBECK:</b> I suppose you have given us some indication of where you are going through that process now with those AQIS duplications and IT duplications, human resources and financial services.</p> <p><b>Ms Mellor:</b> I think the key thing is to actually aggregate the staffing first and aggregate the functions and then have a look at what duplication can be cut out quickly and to start measuring that. For example, we have, as I say, a large portfolio of properties. We obviously have buildings in Canberra but we have buildings right around the country. We have properties at airports. We manage that at the moment out of two separate areas. We want to bring those two areas together, working with our property managers a lot better to see if we can reduce the cost of delivering property services. That is just a small example, although we do have a large portfolio. Step one is to identify the tasks and functions, then to bring people together and then each of the executive managers involved in this will start working through where the savings can be delivered.</p> <p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN:</b> Could you provide on notice a list of those properties which are rented, who they are rented to and what the rent is?</p> <p><b>Ms Mellor:</b> There are over 120 properties.</p> <p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN:</b> Thank you. Can you provide that on notice?</p> <p><b>Ms Mellor:</b> We will see how we go.</p>	8 17/10/11		

2	CPD	Colbeck	Social media policy	<p><b>Senator COLBECK:</b> Going back to the additional estimates in February, there has been no progress on that at all? You said in answer to question 234 that additional staff members at ABARES's Corporate Communications Branch have been given access to support the outlook conference in March. Have there been any further changes to that protocol?</p> <p><b>Ms Freeman:</b> I beg your pardon, Senator. I did not quite understand your question.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK:</b> I am going to the question on notice No. 234, which deals with access to social online media. Question 2 of that question asks, 'Have there been any changes to the staff who are permitted access to social media?' Your answer to that, at that stage, was, 'Yes'. That related to some people from ABARES and Corporate Communications Branch to support the outlook conference. I am just asking: have there been any further changes to access?</p> <p><b>Ms Freeman:</b> I would have to refer to my IT colleagues on the specifics of access for individual staff members, but, as was answered in question 234, the use of social media for those specific things—for example, the ABARES outlook conference and the Plague Locust Commission—was there and active. But I will hand over to my colleague Mr Gathercole.</p> <p><b>Mr Gathercole:</b> Access to social media is permitted within the department upon request. When an executive manager requests access for their staff it is given.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK:</b> How does that comply with the draft social media policy?</p> <p><b>Mr Gathercole:</b> I believe it complies with it.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK:</b> What is the time line for finalising that? It is obviously not an urgent issue.</p> <p><b>Ms Freeman:</b> I would have to take that on notice.</p>	8&9 17/10/11		
3	CSD	Milne	Fraud investigations	<p><b>Senator MILNE:</b> I just want to follow up on the issue of the fraud investigations. The allegation is that hundreds of fraud investigations were conducted inside the department during the past two years. Can you tell me how many fraud investigations were conducted in the department in the past two years?</p> <p><b>Mr Withers:</b> In 2010-11 the department received 23 allegations of fraud against departmental employees. In the 2011-12 year to date there have been three allegations of fraud against departmental employees.</p> <p><b>Senator MILNE:</b> And what about 2009-10?</p> <p><b>Mr Withers:</b> I do not have those figures, I am sorry.</p>	11&12 17/10/11		

				<p><b>Senator MILNE:</b> Then I will put that on notice, please. Going to the 23 allegations in 2010-11 and the three in 2011-12, can you break those up in terms of departments, as opposed to generic things like travel and credit cards? What about issues like procurement? Among the areas of agriculture, forestry and fisheries, how many relate to each of those departments?</p> <p><b>Mr Withers:</b> In 2010-11, six of those 23 matters proceeded to investigation., and all six matters were dismissed. There was no finding of fraud.</p> <p><b>Senator MILNE:</b> But which departments were they?</p> <p><b>Mr Withers:</b> They were all in this department.</p> <p><b>Dr O'Connell:</b> Perhaps Mr Withers has misunderstood. Senator Milne, you are asking for a split by parts of the department. Is that correct?</p> <p><b>Senator MILNE:</b> Yes, that is right. I am trying to understand the allegations in relation to forestry, agriculture or fisheries—within the department—pertaining to those fraud inquiries.</p> <p><b>Dr O'Connell:</b> We would have to take that on notice. I doubt that we have that break-up. Naturally we are a department, not three departments.</p> <p><b>Senator MILNE:</b> I understand there are generic issues like credit card use or whatever. When you come to procurement surely it would come down to specific departments.</p> <p><b>Dr O'Connell:</b> It would come down to specific areas, but we could take that on notice for you. I do not think that we would have that there, because it does not naturally break up like that. We would have to look at it.</p>			
4	CFD	Colbeck	Legal services	<p><b>Senator COLBECK:</b> I just want to finish on this particular topic that Senator Milne is talking about. Mr Withers, you said you had done an assessment of fees across the panel of lawyers who were providing services and there was a circumstance, the equine influenza, that caused an increase in demand and that that internal process had demonstrated value for money. Why is it then that the report itself said there were no documents to show that variation represented value for money? You are telling us that an assessment was done. Wouldn't there be some record of that process, if that were the case?</p> <p><b>Mr Withers:</b> I will have to take that question on notice in terms of what the record shows.</p>	14 17/10/11		

5	CSD	MacDonald	Legal services	<p><b>Mr Withers:</b> The move earlier this year to AGS as our legal services provider was on the basis of an open approach to the market, in which the fee structure was just one element of the procurement decision.</p> <p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD:</b> Could you tell me the blended hourly rate for Blake Dawson compared to the AGS? You might need that on notice.</p> <p><b>Mr Withers:</b> I will take it on notice.</p>	16 17/10/11		
6	CFD	MacDonald	Efficiency dividend	<p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD:</b> Getting back to the efficiency dividend, Dr O'Connell, has the efficiency dividend in any way curtailed your negotiations on the next workplace agreements? Has it impacted them? I think you told us last time that it had had an impact on your graduate intake.</p> <p><b>Dr O'Connell:</b> That was the previous year. It has had no specific and particular impact this year on the negotiations. It is part of the budget framework—the budget that we have to manage.</p> <p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD:</b> Will you end up with fewer staff as a result of it?</p> <p><b>Dr O'Connell:</b> As an overall part of the budget target we have, and that is \$32.8 million savings plus the dividends—\$11 million—we will obviously have to have some reductions in staffing levels over the forward estimates. That is an inevitable feature of managing that level of savings in appropriation. That is on the appropriation side, assuming there is no other new policy, which very often occurs during the period of the estimates. Of course, 60 per cent of our staff are cost recovered based, coming particularly out of the biosecurity area, and that comes from a different revenue stream and not from the appropriations. So, the overall numbers of staff will depend very much on the mix of appropriation and cost recovery staff.</p> <p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD:</b> Because time is short can you on notice tell me over the forward estimates—and I appreciate the qualification, as you say—where you would anticipate the staff cuts would come from?</p> <p><b>Dr O'Connell:</b> Yes.</p>	16 17/10/11		
7	CPD	MacDonald	Hospitality	<p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD:</b> Again on notice, can I get an update on the hospitality spend of the minister's and parliamentary secretary's offices and any departmental hospitality related to the minister or the parliamentary secretary.</p> <p><b>Dr O'Connell:</b> I think we can do that now, if you like.</p> <p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD:</b> Perhaps you can answer all of these questions at once. Was there a hospitality spend in relation to the New Zealand apple import</p>	16 17/10/11		

				<p>protocols and the impact risk analysis? I understand that you hosted New Zealanders or spent some time in New Zealand. I am particularly interested in what hospitality went into the decisions in relation to that.</p> <p><b>Ms Freeman:</b> I can comment in relation to hospitality spend for the minister and parliamentary secretary. In relation to that specific event, I might have to take that on notice.</p> <p><b>Dr O'Connell:</b> Our understanding, and we can confirm it, is that there was not any hospitality spend on that.</p>			
8	CFD	MacDonald	Carbon footprint	<p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD:</b> Because time is short and my colleagues want to ask questions, could I get all the answers on notice. Finally, question No. 5 taken on notice at the last estimates was about whether the department had done any specific work on the impact of a carbon price on portfolio industries. That is something I can raise the appropriate time in this estimates. But, as a corporate question, has the department done any assessments of its carbon imprint or how you could reduce carbon, such as shutting off lights, reducing travel, reducing overseas visits? That is one part of the question, but the final part of my final question is this. I note that you say ABARES was doing some work on sequestration and the potential for reforestation activities, but doesn't the department feel some obligation to do some sort of assessment of the impact of carbon pricing on all of the industries for which the department does indirect advocacy? There are several questions there.</p> <p><b>Dr O'Connell:</b> Yes. In terms of the footprint of the department, I think it would probably be best to take that on notice. We do record that according to the government's environmental and sustainability requirements, so we will get that on notice.</p>	17 17/10/11		
9	CFD	MacDonald	Electricity expenses	<p><b>Mr Withers:</b> I can make a couple of comments in relation to that. In terms of our electricity provision, we have an arrangement with ERM Power through the whole-of-government procurement arrangements for the supply of electricity, and that provider sources 10 per cent of the electricity from renewable green power sources. In addition to that, in terms of the way that our Canberra central office buildings are run, there are a range of environmental measures including movement sensor lights, energy efficient lighting, stormwater fed toilets throughout the building and other water-saving features like waterless urinals and hand activated taps in the bathrooms. We recycle our organic and other waste, including paper, glass and plastic, as well as</p>	17 17/10/11		

				<p>our printer and toner cartridges.</p> <p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD:</b> Do you have a measure of what that is reducing your carbon output by?</p> <p><b>Mr Withers:</b> No.</p> <p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD:</b> How are you going to know if any of that works? But, more importantly, from 1 July next year, according to all reports, increases in the price of electricity are going to be anywhere from 10 to 20 per cent. Have you budgeted for that? How are you going to pay for that increase? Perhaps I should ask: what is your total electricity spend per financial year and, secondly, how are you going to budget for any increase in the cost of electricity?</p> <p><b>Mr Withers:</b> I will have to take that on notice.</p> <p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD:</b> I will come back to you, Dr O'Connell, on the other part of the question, on the industry.</p>			
10	CFD	Adams	Electricity expenses	<p><b>Senator ADAMS:</b> There was a question on notice which I would like you to add to. What is the extra cost to the department of using 10 per cent green power? Could you put that in with Senator Macdonald's list, please?</p>	17 17/10/11		
11	CSD	Heffernan	Fraud investigations	<p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN:</b> But I want to know what Blake Dawson's thinking is. We are entitled to know that. I also confirm that I have put on notice that you will provide us with all details of all leases—including the rate per square metre, the title details, the owners and their ACNs—for all the properties you lease. The last thing I want to put on notice is: how many people have been disciplined or sacked in the last three years due to fraud, misappropriation or misinterpretation of procurement issues? How many have been investigated?</p> <p><b>Dr O'Connell:</b> I can answer the first part of that now: none.</p> <p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN:</b> How many have been investigated? You can take that on notice.</p>	18 17/10/11		
12	APD	Siewert	Research and Development	<p><b>Dr O'Connell:</b> Our Agricultural Productivity division looks after the research and development corporations in terms of their statutory funding agreements and other related issues, and that is the area you would be interested, I think, in looking at GRDC issues.</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT:</b> How do you keep an eye on that?</p> <p><b>Dr O'Connell:</b> Through them, really.</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT:</b> How does that process work? Have you had any reports about</p>	18 17/10/11		

				<p>concerns around undue influence on research? Let's use GM as an example.</p> <p><b>Dr O'Connell:</b> Not to my knowledge, but I might want to talk with my Agricultural Productivity people.</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT:</b> Can you take that on notice?</p> <p><b>Dr O'Connell:</b> We can do that, yes.</p>			
13	APD	Siewert	Research and development	<p><b>Senator SIEWERT:</b> I appreciate that they are the ones who specifically do it, but what I want to know is how the department keeps an eye on that overall to ensure that does not happen?</p> <p><b>Dr O'Connell:</b> As I say, the overwhelming amount of resources going to research is channelled through the research and development corporations and APD looks after that area in governance terms.</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT:</b> Can you take on notice how many reports you have had?</p> <p><b>Dr O'Connell:</b> We will do.</p>	18 17/10/11		
14	B-A	Back	New export arrangements	<p><b>Ms Cale:</b> There are about 14 supply chains across five exporters.</p> <p><b>Senator BACK:</b> So there are 14 occasions on which the new arrangements have been activated?</p> <p><b>Ms Cale:</b> There are 14 supply chains, but there have been more applications to export. Thirty-two notices of intention to export have been submitted. To date, the department has approved 26 of those.</p> <p><b>Senator BACK:</b> Perhaps you could take on notice then to give us the range over those 26 of just what has been the added time and what have been the added costs. Is it possible to do that?</p> <p><b>Ms Cale:</b> Certainly.</p>	20 17/10/11		
15	B-A	Back	New export arrangements	<p><b>Senator BACK:</b> Thank you. That then leads me to the question: has there been an allocation of more staff time to execute these compliance arrangements within the department?</p> <p><b>Ms Cale:</b> There have been staff taken offline to work on the implementation of the new regulatory framework. Those staff are also assessing the notices of intention to export. So there is extra effort.</p> <p><b>Senator BACK:</b> Again, could you take on notice to give us an indication of what that extra staff allocation has been.</p> <p><b>Ms Cale:</b> Sure.</p>	20 17/10/11		

16	CPD	Abetz	Freedom of information – live animal exports	<p><b>Senator COLBECK:</b> Let's go to something specific within the documents. We are talking about document 05806, minister's comments. That is a document whose critical date was 6 June. It was signed by the minister on 10 June. The minister's comments are redacted and, according to the documents here, are not relevant. How are the minister's comments in relation to this matter not relevant?</p> <p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN:</b> He didn't want to get the sack.</p> <p><b>Mr Withers:</b> They were not relevant as in they were not relevant to the scope of the request.</p> <p><b>Senator ABETZ:</b> Minister, are you able to tell us what was part of that which was obliterated, given that there is no legal reason why it cannot be made available?</p> <p><b>Senator Ludwig:</b> I will take that on notice and have a look at what I said.</p>	22 17/10/11		
17	LAE TF	MacDonald	Freedom of information – live animal exports	<p><b>Senator Ludwig:</b> No. It is an administrative instruction. Many of the documents throughout that period I added to the reading pack so that I had them electronically and so that I could then go back and recall them and reread them. I look at the flow of documents that come to me to see what the advice is and go back and recall earlier documents, particularly where a later brief might refer to an earlier brief. It is so I have the time series before me. That is not unusual, I would suspect. Maybe others might take different approaches, but I am happy to reread documents and reflect upon them again if there is a later brief that refers to them so that I can consider them again.</p> <p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD:</b> So you say that prior to 27 May you had fully read this brief?</p> <p><b>Senator Ludwig:</b> Yes.</p> <p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD:</b> When?</p> <p><b>Senator Ludwig:</b> I will take that on notice.</p>	26 17/10/11		
18	LAE TF	Colbeck	Freedom of information – live animal exports	<p><b>Senator COLBECK:</b> Let us go to 4741. Its critical date is 13 May. It is marked urgent. What was the date of preparation of the document and the date it was transmitted to the minister's office?</p> <p><b>Ms Evans:</b> This brief was prepared, finalised and transmitted to the minister's office on 29 April. I should clarify. We prepared the brief over a number of days, concluded it on 29 April and provided it to the minister's office that day.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK:</b> Minister, your signature does not appear on that document. Given it is part of the same process and there is also no note such as 'Add to reading</p>	27 17/10/11		



				<p>pack,' can you tell us when you read that document.</p> <p><b>Senator Ludwig:</b> As I recollect—but I am happy to check to confirm it—it was a document that was specifically requested by me but then was subsequently overtaken by events.</p>			
19	LAE TF	Abetz	Freedom of information – environmental exports	<p><b>Senator ABETZ:</b> It says 'please discuss'. That suggests a future action. If it said 'as discussed' that would suggest a past action. But you signed this, Minister, on 6 June, having been told that it was urgent. One week later, it has the lame notion 'please discuss', which suggests that it had not been discussed as of 6 June.</p> <p><b>Senator Ludwig:</b> And what I am clearly saying to you is that there was a range of discussions between me, my office and the department during this period. The time of signing and that notation was subsequent to those discussions. There would have been discussion, obviously, on 6 June when I signed off the brief. But there would have been discussions throughout that entire period.</p> <p><b>Senator ABETZ:</b> So why didn't you delete 'please discuss' and put an extra notation 'as discussed' so that we could read the documents and make sense of them? With great respect, Minister, this sounds like a reconstruction of events. You signed a document and circled 'please discuss'. Now you say, 'No, just because I circled please discuss does not mean that's what I meant, because I'd actually discussed the matter previously.' On what dates did you discuss the matter previously?</p> <p><b>Senator Ludwig:</b> Throughout that entire period from 30 May. There would have been discussion on 1 June and the following day.</p> <p><b>Senator ABETZ:</b> There would have been? You do not know. This is just plucking things out of the way, isn't it?</p> <p><b>Senator Ludwig:</b> No. There would have been discussions.</p> <p><b>Senator ABETZ:</b> Are there any minutes of those?</p> <p><b>Senator Ludwig:</b> I am sure that there are. I will take it on notice.</p>	29 17/10/11		
20	LAE TF	Abetz	Freedom of information – environmental exports	<p><b>Senator ABETZ:</b> Let us cut through it. That is the technical thing—so be it. Why can't that information be provided now to the committee without hiding behind the limitations of the FOI request?</p> <p><b>Dr O'Connell:</b> Which information is that? Could you reframe the question more clearly?</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK:</b> Basically the minutes of the discussions between the minister and the department as things 'evolved'.</p>	30 17/10/11		

				<p><b>Senator ABETZ:</b> Or were overtook.</p> <p><b>Dr O'Connell:</b> I think the minister took that on notice.</p> <p><b>Senator ABETZ:</b> But surely the minister and his office must have that available for us, given that they were given notice that we would be pursuing this issue.</p> <p><b>Senator Ludwig:</b> As indicated, I will take it on notice. I will have a look at what is available. Some of it will obviously be, as earlier indicated, legal advice. As you know, there is a longstanding convention not to release legal advice. I take it that you are not asking me for that.</p>			
21	LAE TF	Colbeck	Freedom of information – environmental exports	<p><b>Senator COLBECK:</b> You have talked about events moving and overtaking the advice you had received. Does that also relate to the legal advice you had received? Did events actually overtake that as well? So, was there any requirement for further legal advice as this process had continued?</p> <p><b>Ms Evans:</b> In relation to his particular brief, this was a particular set of options, and further advice that was different to the advice in this particular minute was obtained at other points in time as events proceeded.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK:</b> Can you give us the dates of those pieces of legal advice.</p> <p><b>Ms Evans:</b> I would have to take that on notice.</p>	31 17/10/11		
22	LAE TF	Colbeck	Four corners footage	<p><b>Senator COLBECK:</b> So <i>Four Corners</i> did not offer you, Minister, the opportunity to view the footage?</p> <p><b>Senator Ludwig:</b> They offered me, as I recollect, an opportunity to look at the footage not much earlier than that. I cannot quite recall the date but I can get it for you, but predicated on the basis that I then provide an interview as well. So it was conditional.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK:</b> How many days before the airing of the show were you provided that opportunity?</p> <p><b>Senator Ludwig:</b> I will check the records on that. It was not a long period.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK:</b> Was it a week?</p> <p><b>Senator Ludwig:</b> I will check the records.</p>	32		

23	B-A	Rhiannon	Salmonella in sheep	<p><b>Senator RHIANNON:</b> Thank you, Minister. Dr O'Connell, I have a question about salmonella and the sheep. Is it the case that otherwise healthy sheep carrying salmonella can be loaded undetected on to a live export vessel? I am also interested in the context, because I understand that there is a vaccine for salmonella registered for cattle that could be used for sheep prior to loading for export. If it was used, that would clearly reduce the suffering of animals with that disease. I am interested in progress in that area.</p> <p><b>Dr O'Connell:</b> I will pass that over the Dr Mark Schipp.</p> <p><b>Dr Schipp:</b> To answer the first part of your question, yes, it is possible that sheep that are not yet expressing salmonellosis will express it once they are put on board and are under stress. It is also possible for there to be rapid spread of salmonellosis within a stressed group of sheep. Once it starts in a pen, it is ideal to move affected sheep out to prevent spread to other sheep. I am not able to answer your second question on the vaccine. I do not know whether a vaccine registered for cattle is efficacious in sheep. I will have to take that on notice.</p>	37 17/10/11		
24	B-A	Rhiannon	Mortality rates	<p><b>Senator RHIANNON:</b> But I thought that was the whole issue with this disease—that at that point the sheep present healthy but can be loaded, and the export process starts, but the disease does not manifest itself until the animals are under the stress conditions.</p> <p><b>Ms Cale:</b> In cases in which we do hit the mortality rate, if you like—or exceed the acceptable mortality rate—then extra conditions are often placed on the subsequent consignments. There is also, as you alluded to, vaccines or additional measures that can be taken onboard when there are signs of outbreak. Animals can be fed extra chaff et cetera to try to manage the problem at the time. But subsequent to any mortality event there can be conditions placed on the subsequent NOIs.</p> <p><b>Senator RHIANNON:</b> Could you please take on notice and inform us of what those conditions are?</p> <p><b>Ms Cale:</b> Sure.</p>	38 17/10/11		

25	TMAD	Rhiannon	Animal welfare - stunning	<p><b>Mr Morris:</b> I know from my own experience in talking to Princess Alia and from communications with her that she has been a very good advocate for animal welfare and in particular for stunning in Jordan and more broadly in the Middle East. But, as you may be aware, a number of those countries in the Middle East have quite firm views about the consistency of stunning with halal slaughter practices. So while Jordan allows stunning, a number of those other countries do not currently allow stunning. Specifically on your question, there has been quite a bit of communication with Princess Alia over a number of years around these matters.</p> <p><b>Senator RHIANNON:</b> Could you take it on notice to provide the committee with an update on the nature of that communication—when it happened and what the essence of the communication was?</p> <p><b>Mr Morris:</b> We certainly can, yes.</p>	39 17/10/11		
26	B- F	Rhiannon	Animal welfare - stunning	<p><b>Senator RHIANNON:</b> Are you suggesting that the processed meat going into Kuwait, Qatar and Bahrain is sourced from unstunned animals?</p> <p><b>Mr Morris:</b> Unfortunately our data is not clear enough to indicate that for certain. We have looked at this question before. We certainly do export kosher slaughtered meat, which is unstunned meat, into Israel. At the moment, there is quite a bit of trade in unstunned slaughtered sheep, or meat, into that country. For the Middle East, we would have to see if we can double-check on exactly what the nature of the export is there, but it is possible some of it will be unstunned. Some of it may be stunned, but, as I understand it, we would have to take that on notice.</p>	39 17/10/11		
27	APD	Rhiannon	Animal welfare - stunning	<p><b>Mr Morris:</b> Just to clarify it, we do allow unstunned slaughter of sheep in Australia. For cattle, we do allow, for ritual slaughter purposes, stunning to occur after the cut has been done, so it is a post-cut stunning. We require it in fact. So there is a slightly different situation for cattle than for sheep in Australia.</p> <p><b>Senator RHIANNON:</b> So you will take on notice the quantities of the chilled Australian meat that are stunned and unstunned?</p> <p><b>Mr Morris:</b> We will try and identify it. We have looked at that question before. If we can identify it, we will certainly advise you.</p> <p><b>Senator RHIANNON:</b> I understand that the DAFF budget statements provide that 100 per cent of funds have been allocated to deliver capacity building and technical assistance projects to improve animal welfare in the Middle East and south-east Asian countries through the Live Trade Animal Welfare Partnership program. Could you</p>	39 17/10/11		

				provide details on how these funds have been allocated between those countries? <b>Ms Evans:</b> I can. <b>Senator RHIANNON:</b> I am happy if you take that on notice.			
28	B-A	Rhiannon	Animal welfare – live animal exports	<b>Senator RHIANNON:</b> What prosecutions, disciplinary proceedings or action of any substance have been undertaken by the federal department or its delegate, AQIS, in relation to breaches of live-export animal welfare standards prescribed by the department secretary? <b>Mr Morris:</b> We would have to take that on notice, because it would be quite a list in terms of actions that are taken in the event of problems with compliance for exports of animals. I would note, though, that this is the first time we have had a framework that applies in another country, in terms of the Indonesian framework. The actions to date have been around the existing policy framework, which involves the preparation and export up to the point of arrival in the importing country. <b>CHAIR:</b> We have run out of time, but I have agreed with Senator Colbeck that there are a couple of questions to be put on notice. Senator Abetz may have some.	40 17/10/11		
29	LAE TF	Colbeck	Freedom of information – live animal exports	<b>Mr Morris:</b> The relevant document was 5806. There was some information available at the time. Subsequent to the decision on the suspension being made, it was decided there needed to be more on-the-ground information as to the actual impact that the suspension was having as opposed to speculating about it, reading about it in the media or gathering it from other sources. We actually decided to go out, do the survey and collect some real on-the-ground information, and that was the basis of the ABARES survey, which would supplement information we were getting from other sources such as state and territory governments, industry and directly from the individuals affected. <b>Senator COLBECK:</b> On notice, could the minister consider the not relevant stuff in 5806 over the lunch break as well?	41 17/10/11		

30	B-A	Heffernan	Animal welfare	<p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN:</b> Okay, that's the answer. Have you, on behalf of Australia's taxpayers, the government and Australia's farmers, initiated any inquiry at all into the disgusting proposition that 600 to 800 cattle could starve to death under the supervision of a university? It was a good season and the cattle could have been agisted. It is a criminal offence, but no-one was charged, the RSPCA said, 'Oh, it's outside our jurisdiction, we didn't look at it,' and the government of the Northern Territory said, 'Oh, yeah, we were a bit late in bringing up the thing and the time expired.' Someone let 600 to 800 cattle starve to death and no-one has got into trouble. What sort of bloody disgrace is that?</p> <p><b>Dr O'Connell:</b> Shall I take on notice the issues surrounding it?</p> <p><b>CHAIR:</b> Whatever you do, can you do it quickly, Dr O'Connell?</p> <p><b>Dr O'Connell:</b> I'm happy enough to take the question on notice.</p> <p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN:</b> I'm asking whether you're doing anything about it.</p> <p><b>CHAIR:</b> With that, to the officers from Live Animal Exports: thank you, very much. We will now go to ABARES.</p>	44 17/10/11		
31	ABARES	Cormann	Climate change - modelling	<p><b>Senator CORMANN:</b> The reason being that Treasury told a committee of the Senate as late as 23 September that it was a matter for ABARES as to whether and to what extent the GTEM model would be released. Between 2000, when you first released the GTEM model for public use, and 2007, when you released an updated version, expecting to release further updates to the code and so on over the following months, what sorts of refinements took place in the period 2000 to 2007 and did any of those refinements involve Treasury in any way, shape or form?</p> <p><b>Dr Sheales:</b> I would have to take that on notice. I am not sure of the details. It was not in my area of responsibility and I am just not sure of the details.</p> <p><b>Mr Glyde:</b> Between 2000 and 2007 there would have been quite a bit of updating of data sets for particular jobs that we might have done. We would be better off taking it on notice and being precise about what happened and for what purpose.</p>	47 17/10/11		
32	TMAD	Milne	Free trade agreements	<p><b>Senator MILNE:</b> To come back to this issue of food security and trade, what advice or input has ABARES had into the current discussion about this trans-Pacific free trade agreement that is currently under negotiation?</p> <p><b>Dr Sheales:</b> We have had minimal input, as far as I know, but it is something I would have to check on for you.</p> <p><b>Senator MILNE:</b> Can I ask ABARES if anyone else can answer the question? Since</p>	51 17/10/11		

				<p>ABARES is there to talk about commodity forecasts and other projections in agriculture, surely you have something to say about the trans-Pacific free trade agreement.</p> <p><b>Mr Glyde:</b> I might be able to help out in a general sense. ABARES's mode of operation in relation to free trade agreements and the like is that it tends to provide advice to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade about the various consequences of options that might be on the table in relation to a free trade agreement, obviously in relation to agriculture. I would have to take on notice the extent to which we have been involved in that sort of manner in relation to the trans-Pacific free trade agreement discussions. I am afraid I do not think we have got anyone else here that would be able to provide that specific information.</p> <p><b>Senator MILNE:</b> Perhaps I could ask you to put on notice any advice that you have been asked for or given in relation to impacts on agriculture or any commodity from the trans-Pacific free trade agreement that is under discussion. I would like to now move on to energy issues.</p>			
33	ABARES	Boswell	Climate change - modelling	<p><b>Senator BOSWELL:</b> Mr Glyde, I want to refer to the evidence you gave before lunch in which you said that there was a meeting between Treasury and ABARES about the public release of the GTEM model. What dates were those meetings held and who was at the meetings?</p> <p><b>Mr Glyde:</b> Senator Cormann asked this question right at the start of this afternoon's proceedings.</p> <p><b>Senator BOSWELL:</b> What was the answer?</p> <p><b>Mr Glyde:</b> My recollection was that we thought that the timing of it was around late August, early September but we would have to take on notice the precise timing. We also observed that it was not just meetings; there were also telephone calls and email traffic on this matter.</p> <p><b>Senator BOSWELL:</b> Were Dr Gruen and Ms Quinn at the meeting?</p> <p><b>Mr Glyde:</b> I would have to take that on notice. I was not involved in the meeting.</p> <p><b>Dr Sheales:</b> Both have been involved at different points in discussions.</p>	51/52 17/10/11		
34	ABARES	Boswell	Exceptional circumstances	<p><b>Senator WILLIAMS:</b> In relation to the exceptional circumstances application for Delungra, they did not meet the criteria of having a severe downturn in their income. Did ABARES do a report for that application?</p> <p><b>Dr Sheales:</b> Yes, as far as I know, we did. Do not ask me the details because I do not</p>	52/53 17/10/11		

				<p>have them with me!</p> <p><b>Senator WILLIAMS:</b> I was just amazed, because they made the 0.5 percentile. It must be a severe downturn in income. We had three accountants come forward showing the figures of the severe reduction in income as well as two businesses. Did you see that second application by those accountants?</p> <p><b>Dr Ritman:</b> Apparently, yes, we did do a report. It was made publicly available.</p> <p><b>Senator WILLIAMS:</b> Yes, but after you did your report we put another application in on the grounds that we had three accounting firms backing up the downturn in income plus two of the small business men of the Delungra-Warialda area. Did you see that second application where we forwarded the accountants' figures?</p> <p><b>Mr McDonald:</b> The information you refer to is in letters of support from accountants. They followed the government's decision on the original application from the New South Wales government.</p> <p><b>Senator WILLIAMS:</b> Are you sure there wasn't a second case where they actually provided figures after the first rejection? I believe there was.</p> <p><b>Mr McDonald:</b> I am aware of the letters of support from the accountants <b>Senator WILLIAMS:</b> But you are not aware of further information put forward by accountants giving figures of the downturn in that district, and from businesses as well?</p> <p><b>Mr McDonald:</b> I cannot comment on further information beyond the letters of support provided by the accountants that I believe was forwarded by you and another senator.</p> <p><b>Senator BOSWELL:</b> Dr Sheales, you mentioned the meeting in late August or early September. Can you tell us on notice who was at that meeting, please?</p> <p><b>Dr Sheales:</b> That is not a problem.</p>			
35	B-P	Colbeck	Asian Honey Bee	<p><b>Senator COLBECK:</b> My recollection is that, post our last discussion about this on this committee, through the inquiry into the science underpinning the inability to eradicate the Asian honey bee, there was a decision by the government to put, I think, \$2 million over three years towards this.</p> <p><b>Dr Grant:</b> Two million dollars over two years.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK:</b> What are we getting for our \$2 million over two years? What are we spending the money on?</p> <p><b>Dr Grant:</b> I can go to that if you wish; it will take a bit of time.</p>	69 17/10/11		



				<b>Senator COLBECK:</b> Perhaps you could give it to us on notice.			
36	B-SP	Waters	Biosecurity Advisory Council	<p><b>Senator WATERS:</b> I will keep an eye on that one. Moving now to the Biosecurity Advisory Council, I am interested in the expertise of the members of that council. I would be happy to be dissuaded of the notion that there is only one member who has a good, strong ecological background and qualifications.</p> <p><b>Ms Mellor:</b> There is a member that has a very strong environmental background, but there are other members from different parts of the community that bring environmental thinking to the table as well. There are agriculturalists and scientists that also bring environmental thinking to the table.</p> <p><b>Senator WATERS:</b> What are the various backgrounds and expertise of the members of that council?</p> <p><b>Ms Mellor:</b> You will really stretch my thinking now. We have someone with an academic and practical background in veterinary science. I might just pause for a moment. We have recently lost a member of that council, who passed away in the last week—Peter Kenny.</p> <p><b>Senator WATERS:</b> My condolences.</p> <p><b>Ms Mellor:</b> He was a pastoralist and beef producer.</p> <p><b>Senator WATERS:</b> Yes. I know Peter.</p> <p><b>Ms Mellor:</b> So he had a very strong background in production and was a very active advocate for biosecurity. We have a former member of the Victorian government who has a very strong background in biosecurity and environment.</p> <p><b>CHAIR:</b> What I might do, Ms Mellor, if I could—</p> <p><b>Ms Mellor:</b> I can provide it on notice.</p>	76 17/10/11		
37	B-SP	Waters	Biosecurity Advisory Council	<p><b>Senator WATERS:</b> I was just trying to get at what proportion of the council are actually ecological experts. It seems as if there is one person who is, but perhaps they are not in the majority. But I will await that information. Just one final question: given the recognition that it is so important to involve the community in biosecurity, are there any policies or protocols in relation to engaging with the community and the NGO sector on environmental biosecurity issues generally?</p> <p><b>Ms Mellor:</b> We have a number of engagement strategies, depending on the focus area that we are looking at. We basically have a policy of wide engagement, depending on the issue and the focus.</p>	76 17/10/11		

				<p><b>Senator WATERS:</b> Could they be provided on notice?</p> <p><b>Ms Mellor:</b> Yes. We will see what we can find.</p> <p><b>Senator WATERS:</b> Thanks very much. That is it from me</p>			
38	B-F	Heffernan	Australian export meat inspection system charges	<p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN:</b> Is the department aware that the Australian Export Meat Inspection System charges are having a detrimental effect on smaller operators?</p> <p><b>Ms Mellor:</b> We certainly have new meat inspection charges under consideration in the parliament at the moment. I might ask Dr McDonald if she can specify in more detail.</p> <p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN:</b> To make it easier for you, I will give you an example. Are you aware that Broad's Poultry in Maryborough in Victoria, which has AQIS facilities at Maryborough, Geelong and Springvale, will see its AMEIS certification fees rise from \$7,500 before the 40 per cent rebate to approximately \$90,000 per financial year with no rebate?</p> <p><b>Ms McDonald:</b> I am not aware of that specific incident, no. to these people—and you may not be aware of this—it would render their business untenable and lead to the loss of an estimated 50 jobs. To go from \$7,500 to \$90,000 is a considerable increase.</p> <p><b>Ms McDonald:</b> I would prefer to take that up directly with the firm involved before we make any comments on that. That seems like a very significant jump.</p> <p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN:</b> It does seem so.</p> <p><b>Ms McDonald:</b> The other thing that I would really like to point out is that under the new service delivery model that is underpinned by these new fees and charges there are options for companies, individual establishments, to reduce their charges. There are options such as the use of AQIS authorised officers, which may or may not be applicable to this particular establishment—I am not sure. Through demonstrating sustained high level of performance they can decrease their audits, so there are substantial savings to be made in audit costs there.</p> <p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN:</b> How about I refer them to you.</p> <p><b>Ms McDonald:</b> Yes.</p> <p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN:</b> Obviously, we have been at this for many years and obviously there has been cooperation. Obviously the bigger operators are not as worried about it as some of the small guys, some of whom had a free service. Is the</p>	76/77 17/10/11		

				<p>department aware of Davisons Casing Pty Ltd in Ararat, who also state that their certification fee charges will potentially render their business, which employs four family members and four additional employees, untenable? I understand, Minister, that the local member, Dan Tehan, wrote to you about this on 21 September 2011. That is another one that I should perhaps refer to you.</p> <p><b>Ms McDonald:</b> Yes, I was just going to say that.</p> <p><b>Senator Ludwig:</b> We are happy to take those on notice and see what the individual circumstances are.</p>			
39	CSD	Heffernan	Interim inspector general of biosecurity	<p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN:</b> What inspector-general audits have you carried out thus far?</p> <p><b>Dr Dunn:</b> In this current role?</p> <p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN:</b> In the last two years.</p> <p><b>Dr Dunn:</b> I have submitted 10 audit reports.</p> <p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN:</b> Could you table them to this committee.</p> <p><b>Dr Dunn:</b> Yes, that can be done.</p> <p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN:</b> Okay. Roughly, what did they cover?</p> <p><b>Dr Dunn:</b> They were some continuing audits in relation to equine importation, an audit in relation to the procedures for the importation of plant nursery stock and an audit of the management of quarantine waste generated from international vessels at sea ports around Australia.</p> <p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN:</b> What about the myrtle rust thing? Are you trying to get into that?</p> <p><b>Dr Dunn:</b> I have not done anything on myrtle rust to date. That is subject to future considerations.</p> <p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN:</b> Did you have a look into the background of the importation of dirt, which I understand is—through the good work of the officers of the department—going back to China? Did you have a look at that?</p> <p><b>Dr Dunn:</b> That is on our work schedule for this year.</p> <p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN:</b> Are your reports available publicly as outlined by the Beale review?</p> <p><b>Dr Dunn:</b> Yes. As I said at the outset, reports go initially to the minister. Once the minister has dealt with those reports, they are posted on the web page for the interim Inspector-General of Biosecurity Australia, which is on the DAFF web site under</p>	80 17/10/11		

				<p>publications.</p> <p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN:</b> Have you done the Asian bee or New Zealand apples?</p> <p><b>Dr Dunn:</b> I will provide a list of those audits that have been done</p>			
40	B-F	Madigan	Imported food inspection scheme	<p><b>Senator MADIGAN:</b> Do you charge the same for Australian produce as you do for foreign produce coming into the country?</p> <p><b>CHAIR:</b> If you are not sure, just take it on notice.</p> <p><b>Ms Mellor:</b> We will take that on notice. The two schemes are quite different. Their costs are quite different.</p>	82	17/10/11	
41	B-P	Colbeck	Myrtle rust plan	<p><b>Dr Grant:</b> There is \$1.5 million on the table from the Commonwealth. Through the Cooperative Research Centre for National Plant Biosecurity there is a contribution of \$200,000, which is largely in kind, and through RIRDC, the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation, there is \$175,000 on the table—a commissioned piece of work from the forestry industry. So, we have that amount of work on the table. New South Wales is continuing to manage the incursion, where it can, and try to address it. New South Wales is also leading the group that is working to get the approval from APVMA.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK:</b> That is for the use of particular chemicals that might have been effective on the—</p> <p><b>Dr Grant:</b> Yes, and once again the final of the plan was agreed on Friday last week—this plan, as well as the Asian honey bee plan. As soon as we have tidied it up it will be made available. It will be publicly posted on the website but we are also happy to table it.</p>	83		
42	B-P	Colbeck	Myrtle Rust	<p><b>Dr Martin:</b> I would like to add that Queensland is also funding some research and activities for myrtle rust. That is \$850,000. Page 84 Senate</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK:</b> Do we have any sense of the breadth of spread at this stage?</p> <p><b>Dr Grant:</b> As far as we know, we think that it has not ranged outside of southern Queensland and up some of the Queensland coast and it is in New South Wales. It is not clear whether it is as far down as Canberra; it is between Wollongong and up towards, I suppose you would say, Rockhampton. It may be a bit further south than that.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK:</b> Are there particular species it is having a more significant</p>	84	17/10/11	

				<p>effect on than others?</p> <p><b>Dr Grant:</b> Can I take that on notice. Quite a lot of work is being done on this and there are some pretty graphic photographs of various impacts on various species, but I do not have available the details of which ones are more susceptible than others</p>			
43	APD/ WEA	Nash	Wheat Exports Australia	<p><b>Senator NASH:</b> I am very happy for you to take this on notice. Could you supply on notice the reasons that you are giving for the fact that the Sumitomo-Emerald link was not sufficient to require an access undertaking, as you have just said. You are saying that the way Emerald operates—I am assuming that in some way, shape or form it is ring fenced from the Sumitomo shareholder—</p> <p><b>Mr Woods:</b> I am sure we will be able to provide you with something along those lines.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH:</b> That would be really useful. When did Sumitomo surrender their accreditation? I think last time we spoke you said it was a few months ago, but what was the actual date?</p>	85 17/10/11		
44	APD/ WEA	Nash	Wheat Exports Australia	<p><b>Mr Woodley:</b> We are more comfortable with where they are at. We still get regular information and they are still required to inform us if there is any adverse change in their circumstances. Those arrangements remain. But the actual process of renewal has now become far more routine than it was originally.</p> <p>Another example would be in auditing. Three years ago we regularly did audits on all companies. Now, it is not quite so necessary for us to do that, in a general sense. So, we are being a little bit more targeted in terms of what we undertake. Through those sorts of measures we see that as a lighter touch. It is lighter touch in terms of our costs and our involvement, but it is also lighter touch in terms of our impact on the costs of the accredited exporters.</p> <p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN:</b> You being here is the equivalent of having a copper living in town, if you are a country town, instead of living in the city next door. Just the presence—the speed camera effect, if you know what I mean. What you are not allowing for there is that, given that the speed camera disappears, there will be more cowboys entering the industry.</p> <p><b>Mr Woodley:</b> I think this has been a transition process. It is a transition from a fully regulated market to a fully deregulated market.</p> <p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN:</b> But you still have to have someone to keep everyone driving on the right side of the road.</p>	90/91 17/10/11		

				<p><b>Senator NASH:</b> On notice could you give us a detailed outline of the lighter touch. I appreciate that you have tried to give us a bit of a sense here, but I am looking for a comparison between what happened previously and what will happen now. You mentioned that there is a difference in administration—in the way you used to do it to the way you do it now. Again, if you would not mind giving us some comparative information on that. I think you said that the companies are required to notify you of any adverse changes. Could you just give the committee a sense of what any of those adverse changes are and how often they have been supplied to you in the past, when there have been instances of that occurring, and will the notification of adverse changes still apply under the potential future regime of just having the Trade Practices Act and the ACCC?</p>			
45	CCD	Nash	International climate change meetings	<p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD:</b> I promised I would ask one question before I go elsewhere for the time being. Minister or Secretary, how many of your department are going to go to Durban for the climate change conference?</p> <p><b>Senator Ludwig:</b> Not I.</p> <p><b>Ms Gaglia:</b> There will be no officers from DAFF going to that.</p> <p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD:</b> Okay.</p> <p><b>CHAIR:</b> Does anyone else have any single questions for Climate Change before I go to Senator Colbeck?</p> <p><b>Senator NASH:</b> Can I ask a quick follow-on from Senator Macdonald? Has DAFF attended any of the previous meetings?</p> <p><b>Ms Gaglia:</b> We have been to quite a number of the negotiations, but we did not go to the last one, in Mexico, and we will not be going to Durban. We had one officer in Copenhagen.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH:</b> Can you take on notice for me the reasons why you attended earlier ones but not Mexico?</p> <p><b>Ms Gaglia:</b> Not a problem.</p>	91 17/10/11		
46	CCD	Back	Exceptional circumstances exit grants	<p><b>Senator BACK:</b> What I am asking is: at what point did you advise the department executive and the minister that applicants were still going through the pre-assessment process with Centrelink but that your expectation would be there would be no money to actually assist them with exceptional circumstances grants?</p> <p><b>Mr McDonald:</b> As I said before, up until the budget—I will have to take on notice when it occurred—Centrelink, who administers this or delivers this program on</p>	94		

				<p>behalf of the department, wrote to all those who had expressed interest in the program, so those people who may have sought a pre-assessment indication of their eligibility, and said that the program was scheduled to end on 30 June 2011. Up until that point that is what the advice was to those applicants. The applications were open to the end of the financial year, and that is what we assumed most people would have been working off when they made their applications up until the end of the financial year.</p>			
47	CCD	Back	Exceptional circumstances exit grants	<p><b>Senator BACK:</b> Right. Could you take on notice and please advise us how many farmers you are aware of, based on pre-assessment and based on their hope or expectation, sold farms and subsequently missed out on their ECE grants. Can you tell us that now or do you need to take that on notice?</p> <p><b>Mr McDonald:</b> I can tell you some of that now. All those who met the requirements of the program are having their applications considered. There are a number of people who did not need meet the requirements of the program, which is the cohort that you are referring to. They did not get applications in or have not completed the sale and settlement of their farm. It is quite important to emphasise that all of those who had submitted applications up until 10 August 2011 are having their applications considered.</p>	94 17/10/11		
48	CCD	Williams	Exceptional Circumstances exit grants	<p><b>Senator WILLIAMS:</b> I will table these two documents and you will see the changes in them. It says: Important information While this program has been extended for 12 months, the overall program funds are capped and as a result, the program may close earlier than scheduled. This was added to what was on your web site. This Mr Craft auctioned his place on 26 June. To him, when the auctioneer clapped his hands and said, 'Sold', his property was sold. But it was not settled before 1 July. If he had known that you were going to change the rules, he would have auctioned it earlier so it was settled before 31 June. Now he is out of the loop, if I could call it that. Is this one of the ones you will be looking at again?</p> <p><b>Mr Aldred:</b> We are quite happy to take the details of any individual cases that you have on notice. Minister Ludwig has asked us to go through a process to determine the circumstances of people who believe that they have been disenfranchised by the decision. If you have specific information, we are more than happy to take it on</p>	95 17/10/11		

				notice and answer it.			
49	CCD	Milne	Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement (TCFA)	<p><b>Senator MILNE:</b> I asked this previously: as a result of the deeds of agreement being offered for the Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement, a number of the grants that were made were not able to be pursued by the government. You told me last time that three of them were able to be pursued. Can you tell you what is the resolution of those—have we got the money back?</p> <p><b>Mr Aldred:</b> I will ask Mr Talbot to provide the details. I think we have recovered some funds on one of them. We are listed as an unsecured creditor on another.</p> <p><b>Mr Talbot:</b> There are two that we are still pursuing at the moment, and there is one that we have recovered some money on.</p> <p><b>Senator MILNE:</b> Perhaps you could take that on notice, because we are under the pump for time.</p> <p><b>Mr Talbot:</b> I will take it on notice, and if I find it I will make a note at the meeting.</p>	96 17/10/11		
50	CCD	Milne	Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement (TCFA)	<p><b>Senator MILNE:</b> I would also like to know how many of the recipients of grants actually went broke or were sold within the three-year time frame and were not able to be pursued because the deed of agreement was altered in their favour. I will put that on notice.</p> <p><b>Mr Talbot:</b> Yes, I would have to take that on notice.</p> <p><b>Mr Aldred:</b> If you put that on notice perhaps you could make those circumstances about changing of deeds and so on clear so that we can track through those.</p> <p><b>Senator MILNE:</b> The Australian National Audit Office, in its audit, halfway through the program pointed out that the department changed the deeds of agreement that would normally apply under federal law under this program and, as a result, compromised the ability to get the money back. I want to know how many of those deeds actually—</p> <p><b>Mr Aldred:</b> Thank you, Senator. I understood from the question that you thought we</p>	96 17/10/11		



				had changed them subsequent to signing or something of that nature. <b>Senator MILNE:</b> No. I am sorry. I was referring to the Auditor General's report.			
51	CCD	Milne	Forestry - Tasmania	<p><b>Senator MILNE:</b> No. I am sorry. I was referring to the Auditor General's report. I would now like to go to the intergovernmental agreement. You may or may not have heard that in recent times the Tasmanian government has allocated more than a million dollars to subsidise the transport of logs from the south to the north. Can you give me a guarantee that that money is not federal government funding or that there is no federal government funding towards subsidising moving logs from the south to the north for chipping?</p> <p><b>Mr Aldred:</b> Funds have been provided under the intergovernmental agreement for the Tasmanian government to implement the agreement. I am not aware that any of those funds have been allocated for that purpose. I am happy to take it on notice and make inquiries of the Tasmanian government. In that sense I cannot give a guarantee at the moment. I am happy to make inquiries. I do not believe that that is the case.</p> <p><b>Senator MILNE:</b> Okay, so perhaps you could take on notice whether that million came out of either the intergovernmental agreement or the \$17 million that was given to Tasmania towards the end of last year to keep the wheels turning. I would just like to know that it is not federal money.</p> <p><b>Mr Aldred:</b> Certainly in relation to the \$17 million you are referring to, those funds were disbursed by the Commonwealth direct to contract or to recipients. Those funds were not provided to the Tasmanian government. I can give you an assurance on that.</p> <p><b>Senator MILNE:</b> Thank you, and perhaps you could pursue that.</p>	96/97 17/10/11		
52	CCD	Colbeck	Forestry - Tasmania	<p><b>(from P 98)Senator COLBECK:</b> Why are the Institute of Foresters not involved in the process in any way?</p> <p><b>Mr Aldred:</b> It is obviously difficult to get a full range of players on that, so in establishing the independent verification group we have looked across a range of skills sets. There is a forest person with considerable forest expertise in the verification group.</p> <p><b>(from P 99)Senator COLBECK:</b> Who made the final decision as to who was going to be sitting around the table? Was the decision made by the chair of that group?</p>	98/99 17/10/11		

				<b>Mr Aldred:</b> I do not believe it was. I will take it on notice and confirm for you the exact decision-making process.			
53	CCD	Siewert	Western Australian drought pilot	<p><b>Senator SIEWERT:</b> In terms of where we are at now, the WA pilot was extended to June next year, with Building Farm Businesses to continue to 2014. That is correct, isn't it?</p> <p><b>Mr Aldred:</b> That is right.</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT:</b> Can you tell me what the uptake has been since the May estimates, when we went through the figures? Can you give me the latest update of the figures, please?</p> <p><b>Mr McDonald:</b> We have a table here that we are happy to present for the committee's benefit.</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT:</b> That would be great. That has all the usual things that I ask about, such as what the take-up is?</p> <p><b>Mr McDonald:</b> It does.</p>	100 17/10/11		
54	CCD	Siewert	Western Australian drought pilot	<p><b>Mr Aldred:</b> At the risk of dragging this out, it was not just about after farming. It is about people who have left farming dealing with farmers who are making the difficult decision.</p> <p><b>Dr O'Connell:</b> It was intended to assist that exodus of the adjustment.</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT:</b> I will put my next question on notice. I appreciate your point, but how do you make the farm exit strategy or program deal better with those non-monetary values? If you could take that on notice and provide your thoughts, that would be great.</p>	101 17/10/11		
55	APD/ APVMA	Colbeck	Agricultural chemicals	<p><b>Senator COLBECK:</b> So is the report that was sponsored by Earth Open Source a new report or an old report?</p> <p><b>Dr Bennet-Jenkins:</b> I know the report that you are talking about, but I am not sure whether I know when it was actually published, so I will take that on notice. We can certainly get back to you in terms of what parts of that report we have examined. It has not had any impact in terms of the regulatory status of glyphosate from our perspective at this stage.</p>	102 17/10/11		

56	APD/ APVMA	Waters	Agricultural chemicals	<p><b>Dr Bennet-Jenkins:</b> Diuron is a chemical that has been registered for a number of years. I do not believe the current use patterns are as high as 75 kilos.</p> <p><b>Senator WATERS:</b> I certainly hope not.</p> <p><b>Dr Bennet-Jenkins:</b> I am not quite sure. We can take on notice what the highest use rate is if you would like to know what that is.</p> <p><b>Senator WATERS:</b> Thank you. And also the highest rate that you have approved, as well as the actual current rate.</p>	104 17/10/11		
57	CCD	Colbeck	Land Sector Package	<p><b>Senator COLBECK:</b> You can put your interpretation on it, that is fine. My question is: how do farmers access the package? You have talked about a \$1.7 billion package; I want to know how farmers access it and how it is going to assist them.</p> <p><b>Dr O'Connell:</b> The specifics of the package we should have dealt with under the climate change division when the people who were dealing with that were here. We can take those questions on notice, if that helps, on the specifics of accessing the package.</p>	107 17/10/11		
58	APD	Colbeck	National food plan	<p><b>Senator COLBECK:</b> In relation to the national food plan, you had a webcast on 18 August. How many people participated in that process, do you know?</p> <p><b>Mr Glyde:</b> I know I was involved—that is one! I might ask Mr Souness to answer. He might be able to provide the details of the number of people who participated and the number of people who joined in the discussion.</p> <p><b>Mr Souness:</b> We were advised that there were about 180 to 200 people online at any one point in time during that webcast.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK:</b> Was there a registration process or did people just log in?</p> <p><b>Mr Souness:</b> People were asked to register. They could do that online through the department's website.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK:</b> How many did register?</p> <p><b>Mr Souness:</b> I do not know. The people that provided the online connection monitored those that were online. That is where we got the figure of 180 to 200.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK:</b> So you do not know whether more registered than came on?</p> <p><b>Mr Souness:</b> No, we did not seek that information.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK:</b> But you gave them the opportunity to register.</p> <p><b>Mr Souness:</b> Yes.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK:</b> So you can check it.</p>	107/108 17/10/11		

				<b>Mr Souness:</b> Yes, we can take that on notice.			
59	TMAD	Siewert	International research	<p><b>Senator SIEWERT:</b> I will skip back to the <i>International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development</i>. Did we manage to track down whether the agency has done any work on that.</p> <p><b>Mr Glyde:</b> We are still in the process of tracking down exactly what DAFF's involvement in that has been. I understand that it is a World Bank project.</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT:</b> There is a collection of international agencies that have been working on it. Australia was one of the countries that did not sign up to the report, as I understand it.</p> <p><b>Mr Glyde:</b> AusAID are part of it and they are probably the best place to go to get an answer to the question of what our level of involvement is. In the time that we have had, we have not been able to determine what they do. But they would be the best people to go to. They could explain the participation in that.</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT:</b> Thank you. Could you take on notice what involvement DAFF has had as part of the Australian involvement.</p> <p><b>Mr Glyde:</b> Sure.</p>	110 17/10/11		
60	APD	Rhiannon	Animal welfare	<p><b>Senator RHIANNON:</b> I am particularly interested in the selection process, because I understand that, unlike how it has often been done in the past—but that is no reason to continue doing it—you are no longer selecting members on the basis of representing certain groupings but on the basis of their skills. Could you tell me who the members are and how they were selected? And, if it was on the basis of skills, what are the skills that you attempted to identify in those people?</p> <p><b>Senator RHIANNON:</b> Did you set out the skills you were looking for when you determined the people you were selecting? Can you provide that to the committee, please?</p> <p><b>Mr Murnane:</b> Yes, Senator. I will have to provide that to you on notice.</p>	110 17/10/11		

61	TMAD	Nash	Free trade agreements	<p><b>Senator NASH:</b> I think my question was more about how this is actually going to work. I would be happy if you would take it on notice, if you do not mind, to give us a more detailed briefing on how this new world will look. Simplistically, is it a case that those countries who did not want to play the game have still got their tariffs in place and it is just going to be: 'Okay, we'll forget about Doha; we'll leave those to one side. We will collect all the countries who are happy to free trade in its purest form and somehow work within just those countries'? I am interested in how that is going to work if there are still tariffs in place, particularly when it comes to agriculture. Will we have a different regime for those countries who will not play ball in terms of their imports into Australia? It is hard to get a sense of how this will actually work.</p> <p><b>Ms Evans:</b> The detail around this are really matters for the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to answer. However, to give you a sense of it, the kinds of things we are working towards are a WTO ministerial-level pledge for antiprotectionism and a package of measures for the least developed countries. This is where you try to create the tariff reductions that support the products that the least developed countries are working on.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH:</b> Didn't we do that 10 years ago?</p> <p><b>Ms Evans:</b> These negotiations are incredibly difficult. One of the things I should stress is that, even though there is a recognition that it has reached this impasse, there is no diminution of the importance that we place on getting an outcome through it. It is still incredibly significant for Australia if we can get an outcome from the WTO Doha Round.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH:</b> So are we talking about bilateral free trade agreements?</p> <p><b>Ms Evans:</b> In terms of the alternatives?</p> <p><b>Senator NASH:</b> Yes.</p> <p><b>Ms Evans:</b> The idea they are working with is that you can keep negotiating the Doha issues and implement as many of them as soon as you can, where that is possible, and in parallel with that you would work with select agreements within the round. That may be bilateral arrangements, or it might be that you get some plurilateral agreements emerging that support the general direction of the round or any combination of agreements that can push forward the work.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH:</b> Would you mind taking that on notice for us. I do accept that,</p>	112 17/10/11		
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62	TMAD	Milne	Free trade agreements	<p><b>(from P 112) Senator MILNE:</b> I want to begin by asking some questions about the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement. I understand it is being negotiated between the United States, Australia and seven other countries and that the ninth round of the negotiations is set to start in Peru on 19 October.</p> <p><b>(from P 113, excerpt from Mr Ross, starting P 112)</b> As part of each negotiating round, there is a stakeholder forum which is managed by the country that hosted that round of negotiations so that stakeholders have an opportunity to present their views and receive information from the negotiators.</p> <p><b>Senator MILNE:</b> The stakeholders for something like that include the environment groups, of course. Are any of those involved in these stakeholder meetings?</p> <p><b>Mr Ross:</b> I am sorry—I do not have that detail. I do not know who may have participated.</p> <p><b>Senator MILNE:</b> Could you take notice for me whether any environment groups or even unions or social justice groups have had any consultation about the text? I am aware that they have written to ask for access to the text and have not been granted it to date.</p>	112/113 17/10/11		
63	TMAD	MacDonald	Free trade agreements	<p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD:</b> Didn't the free-trade agreement with the United States have in place some sort of long-term wind down of tariffs on American imports of other people's sugar?</p> <p><b>Ms Evans:</b> I would have to take that on notice. I do not believe so, but I will confirm it.</p>	114 17/10/11		

64	TMAD	MacDonald	Trade-strawberries	<p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD:</b> Can you put on notice a case study on, say, strawberries, which I understand we export to America but import in the off season?</p> <p><b>Mr Ross:</b> To clarify what you are asking, are you saying a case study on strawberries in terms of the trade that is occurring between the two countries?</p> <p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD:</b> Yes, and any tariffs on either end.</p> <p><b>Mr Ross:</b> Okay.</p>	114/115 17/10/11		
65	SRM	Nash	Caring for our Country	<p><b>Senator NASH:</b> Okay. So how much money actually came out of Caring for our Country for it?</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson :</b> I do not have that figure to hand.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH:</b> So what is the Gillard government's support though Caring for our Country that the minister is referring to?</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson :</b> That would be the money that was provided through the national reserves system for the purchase of Pembury station. That program has bought a range of stations and properties from vendors over the years.</p> <p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD:</b> It is in fact the Director of National Parks who is in charge of it.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH:</b> Yes, I get all that. So, in terms of the funding, you do not have that with you?</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson :</b> I do not have that detail.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH:</b> At all, or can you supply it for me on notice?</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson :</b> We can supply it on notice but we would have to get it from SOPAC</p> <p><b>Senator NASH:</b> I don't care where you get it from! But if you could, that would be great. All right, I will leave it there.</p>	115 17/10/11		
66	SRM	MacDonald	Caring for our Country	<p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD:</b> I was told in the other committee that there was \$71 million going to Caring for our Country. Could you collaborate with them and make sure that the ones you have talked about are included with those 71 projects in the answer to the question I put on notice.</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson:</b> Yes, we can do that. That is the number of competitive grants that included projects aimed at weed and pest control.</p> <p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD:</b> If they were competitive grants, then you are saying there were other grants outside—</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson:</b> There were other grants through regional base level funding which</p>	116 17/10/11		

				<p>also went towards managing weeds and pests. Many of those projects often have mixed objectives, but that would be in addition to the \$71 million.</p> <p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD:</b> Perhaps on notice you can give me details of those programs.</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson:</b> Yes, we can do that.</p>			
67	SRM	MacDonald	Caring for our Country – rabbit projects	<p><b>Mr Thompson:</b> There are, again, a range of funding sources that go to rabbit control. Caring for our Country is providing support for a project in the Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre for extending work on rabbit haemorrhagic viral disease. That gets \$1.5 million from Caring for our Country. Then, through the pest animal program within ABARES, there are some smaller projects relating to PestSmart, which is a toolkit for information on best practice management for rabbit control. We contribute through that same program to FeralScan, which is a web-based tool for monitoring the occurrence of rabbits, and there is a project where we are working with land managers looking at the resurgence of rabbits that has occurred following the rains to bring to the forefront information about the best methods and cost-effective methods for rabbit control. Caring for our Country has something in the order of \$1.5 million, as I understand it, for focused rabbit management on the ground, plus other projects have rabbits as part of their control—for example, a project might be about fox and rabbit control but the aim of the project is really about protecting bird breeding habitat and rabbit control is a tool they are using to protect the habitat.</p> <p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD:</b> Is the \$1.5 million program a separate program?</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson:</b> The \$1.51 million is a number of projects within Caring for our Country grants. The biggest component is a single \$993,000 project in Western Australia.</p> <p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD:</b> Could you give me some details of those on notice if there is anything more to add.</p>	116 17/10/11		
68	SRM	Back	Caring for Our Country	<p><b>Senator BACK:</b> You mentioned fires. My only other question is about the west Arnhem Land fire abatement scheme. Is the scheme finished for this year now, it being an early dry season program? Can you tell us what the success or otherwise of</p>	119 17/10/11		



				<p>it was for this year?</p> <p><b>Ms Lauder:</b> Of the fire management program?</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson:</b> We do not have that information. We will have to take it on notice.</p> <p><b>Senator BACK:</b> Perhaps it is not within this portfolio.</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson:</b> There is an Indigenous fire management program that is part of Caring for our Country that is run in conjunction with the Working on Country program by SEWPaC.</p> <p><b>Senator BACK:</b> So you are or you are not able to answer?</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson:</b> I am not able to answer it here but it is something we could take on notice.</p> <p><b>Senator BACK:</b> I would also ask that in taking it on notice you extend the courtesy, please, by advising me of anything you know of a proposed East Kimberley fire abatement scheme which is in development, based I think on the west Arnhem Land program. The west Arnhem Land program, as I remember, over the last few years has successfully been able to document I think it is 100,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas equivalent saved as a result of controlled early-season burning. In return for that I think Conoco-Philips has paid to the managers of that program a million dollars each year.</p> <p><b>CHAIR:</b> A very good program.</p> <p><b>Senator BACK:</b> An excellent program. I understand it is to be extended or it least there is an objective to extend it into the East Kimberley region. Could you take that on notice and advise any information you might have on that as well.</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson:</b> Yes, Senator.</p>			
69	ABARES	Colbeck	Aerial survey	<p><b>Senator COLBECK:</b> No. You said it was the second highest on record. So when was the previous high?</p> <p><b>Dr Begg:</b> 1993.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK:</b> That document was held prior to this process. When will that be published?</p> <p><b>Dr Begg:</b> Now that the commission meeting is over, all those papers can be provided. We can get you a copy of that.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK:</b> That would be great, thanks.</p>	123		

70	SRM	Siewert	Fisheries	<p><b>Senator SIEWERT:</b> When is SIOFA's next meeting?</p> <p><b>Dr J Findlay:</b> I am not sure.</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT:</b> It will be tabled through their process, so obviously we will not get to see that until it has been tabled.</p> <p><b>Dr J Findlay:</b> Not normally, but we can follow up for you on notice to see whether we can provide that to you.</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT:</b> That would be appreciated. Thank you.</p>	124 17/10/11		
71	APD/ GRDC	Nash	GRDC funds	<p><b>Senator NASH:</b> Could you take on notice to give us just a ballpark figure of the quantum of growers' funds through the GRDC that were wasted?</p> <p><b>Mr Perrett:</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH:</b> 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?</p> <p><b>Mr Perrett:</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH:</b> As and where information is available on the impact, could you supply that to the committee?</p>	125/126 17/10/11		
72	APD/ GRDC	Siewert	Wheat Quality Australia review	<p><b>Mr Harvey:</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT:</b> Who is being consulted during that process?</p> <p><b>Mr Harvey:</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT:</b> How many submissions has the process received?</p>	126/127 17/10/11		

				<p><b>Mr Harvey:</b> I would have to ask them.  <b>Senator SIEWERT:</b> Could you take that on notice for me?  <b>Mr Harvey:</b> Yes.</p>			
73	LAE-TF	Edwards	Live cattle suspension-departmental costs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is the total unbudgeted operational cost as a result of the Ministers ban of the live cattle exports from 7th June to 6<sup>th</sup> July 2011 of the Department?</li> <li>2. What interdepartmental budget/s were impacted and to what value, to cover these extraordinary costs?</li> <li>3. Please detail the total cost to the Department (and it's agencies) from: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Intervention into on ground Indonesian slaughter operations by the Department, the Australian Government or any official on behalf of the Department or Australian Government.</li> <li>b) If any officers (from or on behalf of the Department of the Australian Government) went to Indonesia : <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) In the 6 months prior to 6 June 2011</li> <li>ii) After 6 June 2011 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2011</li> </ol> </li> <li>c) What was the objective of this travel?</li> <li>d) For this travel, what was the total cost of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Airfares</li> <li>ii) Accommodation</li> <li>iii) Travel allowance</li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p>And any other items</p> </li> </ol>	Written	21/10/11	
74	CCD	Edwards	Live cattle suspension-departmental costs	<p>Could the department make available updated figures provided in response to a question on notice from the Chair of the Standing Committee on Rural Affairs and Transport – References committee, dated 9 September 2011. Specifically on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Live Export Business Assistance Package: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Business Assistance Payment of \$5000</li> <li>b) Business Hardship Payment of up to \$20,000</li> </ol> </li> <li>2 Income Recovery Subsidy <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Income Recovery Subsidy payments for loss of income, and</li> <li>b) Priority assistance through Job Services Australia for those who have been retrenched as a result of the trade suspension.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	Written	21/10/11	

				<p>3 Access to Rural Financial Counselling Service through Rural Financial Counselling Service South Australia (RFCSSA)</p> <p>4 Subsidised Interest Rate (on loans of up to \$300 000)</p> <p>5 Grants for financial advice and training of \$5500</p> <p>For questions 1-5 data should be supplied on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) the number of persons, companies and entities who have accessed the varying levels of assistance to date as outlined above, and</li> <li>b) the total cost, to date, of providing this assistance.</li> <li>c) the number of individuals that could potentially apply for each of the different assistance measures.</li> <li>d) the number of applicants that the Department anticipates will apply by the close of each of the assistance measures.</li> <li>e) the number of applicants who have applied for the assistance but have been ineligible and the reason(s) for their ineligibility.</li> </ol> <p>Please note at 13 September 2011 the Department stated the Subsidised Interest Rate and Financial Advice and Training grant were being finalised with the Governments of Queensland, Northern Territory and Western Australia.</p> <p>Can the Department please provide:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 The result of the discussions with these Governments.</li> <li>2 If the NT, Qld or WA Governments have contributed financially, how much have they provided, if they are providing 'in-kind' support what the nature of this support will be.</li> <li>3 The date when the following were made available: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Subsidised Interest Rate</li> <li>b) Financial Advice and Training grant</li> </ol> </li> <li>4 What is the estimated administrative cost of implementing the range of assistance measures?</li> </ol>			
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75	CCD	Edwards	Exceptional circumstances exit grants	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 What was the total budgeted amount for the Exit Package assistance?</li> <li>2 The scheme closed within 6 weeks of becoming open, how long did the Department anticipate the funding would last for?</li> <li>3 How many grants were awarded?</li> <li>4 How many applications for the Exit Package were received but were denied: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Due to a shortfall in funding?</li> <li>b) Due to ineligibility? What were the main reasons applicants were ineligible?</li> </ol> </li> <li>5 How many applications did the Department anticipate/project would be received for the Exit Grant?</li> <li>6 What have been the discussions post the closure of the Exit Package with regard to additional funding for this?</li> <li>7 How does the Department anticipate assisting farmers who <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) were already in the process of selling their farm?</li> <li>b) had already sold their farm?</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	Written	21/10/1 1	
76	B-A	Rhiannon	Animal welfare – live animal exports	Who was the AQIS-accredited veterinarian on the ‘Al Messilah’ voyage that had to return to Adelaide in August this year?	Written	21/10/1 1	
77	B-A	Rhiannon	Animal welfare – live animal exports	Was an AQIS inspector present at the loading of the ‘Al Messilah’ in Adelaide in August last year?	Written	21/10/1 1	
78	B-A	Rhiannon	Animal welfare – live animal exports	Does AQIS attend every loading of live sheep onto ships for export from Australia, and if not, why not?	Written	21/10/1 1	
79	LAE-TF	Rhiannon	Animal welfare – live animal exports	On the recent ‘Al Messilah’ voyage, AQIS claimed that the number of sheep who died (289 or 0.44%) was not a Notifiable Incident. The rate of ‘accepted mortalities’ for a voyage of sheep is set at 2% and this is enshrined in Australian legislation. What is the basis for determining this rate of ‘accepted mortalities’ for sheep and cattle?	Written	21/10/1 1	

80	CC	Rhiannon	Live cattle suspension-assistance package	Of the funding allocated to assist farmers after live export to Indonesia was suspended what portion went unclaimed? What will the unclaimed portion be reallocated for? Will it be used to help farmers transition away from live exports to local processing or training for other industries?	Written	21/10/1 1	
81	TMAD	Rhiannon	Live Trade Animal Welfare Partnership – in-country assessments of effectiveness	As part of the Live Trade Animal Welfare Partnership, what assessments have been undertaken in importing countries by government officials to determine the effectiveness of funded initiatives?	Written	21/10/1 1	
82	TMAD	Rhiannon	Live trade animal welfare partnership – advice to government	On what basis does DAFF advise government on what improvements are being made and the appropriate investment of funding?	Written	21/10/1 1	
83	LAE TF	Rhiannon	Live animal exports-OIE guidelines	What action has the government taken when presented with evidence of non-compliance with the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) guidelines in importing countries?	Written	21/10/1 1	
84	B-A	Rhiannon	Live animal export-slaughter procedures	How can a comprehensive independent assessment of animal handling and slaughter procedures in Indonesia be conducted as a desk top exercise?	Written	21/10/1 1	
85	LAE-TF	Rhiannon	Animal welfare-stunning	Apart from live cattle and sheep, what other species of live export animals are subject to slaughter without pre-stunning. Where? And in what numbers?	Written	21/10/1 1	
86	LAE-TF	Rhiannon	Live cattle suspension-cattle to Indonesia	Were any and, if so, what steps taken by the Department [as co-regulator of the live export trade with LiveCorp] to protect the some 100,000 Australian cattle on the ground in Indonesia exported before June's trade suspension?	Written	21/10/1 1	
87	LAE-TF	Rhiannon	New export arrangements	Is humane [as distinct from <i>less inhumane</i> ] handling and slaughter of Australian animals in foreign export markets likely, having regard to – a) the cessation of Australia jurisdiction once the animals are disembarked dockside;	Written	21/10/1 1	

				b) the cultural attitudes to animals in foreign export markets?			
88	LAE-TF	Rhiannon	New export arrangements	The Festival of Sacrifice will take place in Middle Eastern countries in the first part of November. Is it proposed that the purchase of live sheep in these foreign export markets be prohibited so that well-documented unsympathetic handling and unskilled butchery of the animal's throat can be ended?	Written	21/10/11	
89	APD	Rhiannon	NT Abattoir	Is it the case that the major live cattle exporter to Indonesia, AACo, has been considering since an announcement in October 2010 the establishment of an abattoir at a cost of some \$50 million south of Darwin?	Written	21/10/11	
90	TMAD	Rhiannon	Indonesian live cattle market	Is it the case that Indonesia has not enforced weight specifications in respect of Australian live export cattle, and that if it were to do so, it would have a serious impact upon the trade as Australian cattle are viewed as too large?	Written	21/10/11	
91	LAE-TF	Rhiannon	Indonesian live cattle market	By a media release dated 6 June 2011 Meat & Livestock Australia, Cattle Council of Australia, and Australian Livestock Exporter's Council nominated only five Indonesian facilities "...as using stunning effectively...", despite claiming a preliminary audit of the 100 abattoirs. The Indonesian Beef Producer and Lot Feeder Association and Meat & Livestock Australia were reported on 11 July 2011 ( <i>The Australian</i> , p.2) as claiming there were then 11 facilities that used stunning. Recent reports claim as many as 20. With the suspension of the trade, there was a doubling or quadrupling of abattoirs using stunning. Why then in the previous 20 years had the federal department of agriculture, LiveCorp and Meat & Livestock Australia only secured five Indonesian abattoirs "...as using stunning effectively..."?	Written	21/10/11	
92	LAE-TF	Rhiannon	New export arrangements	LiveCorp has apparently committed \$1M over the next year to improve animal welfare in Indonesia, and over the last ten years has invested almost \$4M [Four Corners, 'A Bloody Business', transcript 30 May 2011 with Cameron Hall, CEO LiveCorp]. Can this be viewed as remotely adequate in view of the scale of the challenge to secure humane handling and slaughter of Australian cattle (in respect of a trade worth some \$300M)?	Written	21/10/11	

93	B-A	Rhiannon	New export arrangements	Is it the case that those most concerned to perpetuate the live export trade are left to police it, in particular, LiveCorp and Meat & Livestock Australia?	Written	21/10/11	
94	APD	Rhiannon	Live animal exports-department advice and minister's office	Is it the case that the federal department of agriculture handed to Senator Ludwig eight months before the Four Corners program screened on 30 May 2011 a Red Book noting that "if not appropriately handled", animal welfare concerns could threaten the long term viability of several livestock industries in the live export trade? What was the basis of the federal department's concerns about animal welfare?	Written	21/10/11	
95	B-A	Rhiannon	OIE guidelines	The World Health Organisation for Animal Health (known also as OIE) publishes a <i>Terrestrial Animal Code</i> of standards and recommendations for animals for its member nations. Chapter 7.5, ' <i>Slaughter of Animals</i> ', of the Terrestrial Code by Article 7.5.7 deals with stunning methods and is replete with diagrams of methods of stunning. Can it not be inferred from the heavy emphasis upon stunning methods in Article 7.5.7 that the clear preference of the OIE is for pre-stunning and that the reference to methods of slaughter without pre-stunning is no more than an acknowledgement that the OIE's 178 member nations include many 'developing' or 'third world' countries where pre-stunning is not employed?	Written	21/10/11	
96	B-A	Rhiannon	Live animal exports-OIE guidelines	Further, that being so, how can such recommendations by the OIE be talked up into "international welfare standards" with which Australia's live animal export trade comply, where no-one in government or industry has been heard to say that slaughter without pre-stunning is humane?	Written	21/10/11	
97	B-A	Rhiannon	New export arrangements	Why did the department grant an export permit (as distinct from the annual export licence) for the <i>Hereford Express</i> to sale from Darwin's Easter Arm Wharf on Wednesday 1 June 2011 for Cilacap in South Western Java and a further export permit for the loading and departure from Broome WA of another full load of live cattle of <i>Sahiwal Express</i> on Thursday 2 June 2001, in circumstances where these shipments were undertaken before new orders could be prepared and take effect to suspend the trade in animals to 12 designated Indonesian abattoirs? Why did the federal department not refuse to grant the export permits when such serious concerns about the cattle's welfare were entertained at the time, leading to the suspension of the trade only a few days later? Is it the case that [according to the <i>The Australian</i> (2 June 2011, p.4) the federal minister refused to answer questions on whether he had	Written	21/10/11	



				authorised export permits for the two cattle shipments, and if so, why? Is it the case that the shipping agent, Dubai-based Gulf Agency Company, refused to comment on the <i>Hereford Express</i> shipment, and that the ship owner, Vroon, said the shipment was commercial-in-confidence?			
98	TMAD	Rhiannon	Animal welfare-restraint boxes	The Chief Veterinary Officer has now determined that the Mark 1 Box breaches international guidelines. Can you explain how DAFF approved government funding on a device that has been determined inhumane and unacceptable?	Written	21/10/11	
99	TMAD	Rhiannon	Animal welfare-restraint boxes	What measures is the government taking in Indonesia to address the welfare problems that have been created – including now for local cattle - by the installation of the government/industry funded Mark 1 boxes? What guarantee do the Australian public have that Mark 1 restraint boxes have been removed?	Written	21/10/11	
100	LAE TF	Rhiannon	Animal welfare-restraint boxes	Did any official from DAFF view the Mark 1 Box in operation? If so, when and who and was their view provided to government?	Written	21/10/11	
101	LAE TF	Rhiannon	Animal welfare-restraint boxes	Has any official from DAFF viewed the Mark 4 Box in operation? If so, when and who and was their view provided to government?	Written	21/10/11	
102	LAE-TF	Rhiannon	Animal welfare-stunning	On what basis does DAFF provide advice to government in relation to requiring stunning of Australian animals in importing countries?	Written	21/10/11	
103	TMAD	Rhiannon	Animal welfare-stunning	How much government funding is being provided for restraint devices or infrastructure to facilitate un-stunned slaughter?	Written	21/10/11	
104	TMAD	Rhiannon	Animal welfare-stunning	How much government funding is being provided on restraint devices or infrastructure to facilitate slaughter with stunning?	Written	21/10/11	
105	B-A	Rhiannon	Animal welfare – live animal exports	Is there a time limit on voyages? For example, voyages to Turkey can take up to 41 days and voyages to and from multiple ports can take up to 35 days.	Written	21/10/11	
106	B-A	Rhiannon	Animal welfare – live animal exports	The Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock (ASEL) are effectively guidelines only and unenforceable. Has there ever been a circumstance where an exporter has had a statutory fine imposed or a suspension of licence and if so, what were the details?	Written	21/10/11	

107	APD	Siewert	Genetically Modified wheat crops	If any of the current field trials of experimental GM wheat found their way into the human or animal food supply would a cleanup be required?	Written	21/10/1 1	
108	APD	Siewert	Genetically Modified wheat crops	Who would pay the costs of a clean up?	Written	21/10/1 1	
109	APD	Siewert	Genetically Modified wheat crops	Has the government in any way agreed to limit the liability of those responsible for such contamination?	Written	21/10/1 1	
110	APD	Siewert	Genetically Modified wheat crops	Has DAFF conducted any assessment or analysis of the effect on Australia's wheat export markets should any of the current field trials of experimental wheat find their way into Australia's wheat exports and is detected? a) If yes, please describe the effects and table any relevant documents b) If no, what effect do you think it would have on Australia's wheat exports and wheat export markets?	Written	21/10/1 1	
111	APD	Siewert	Genetically Modified wheat crops	Has the Department assessed the likely costs both in terms of lost exports, cancelled contracts and lost markets? a) If not, what is your estimate of the likely costs to our wheat export industry? b) If yes, please describe the likely effects and table any documents.	Written	21/10/1 1	
112	APD	Siewert	Genetically Modified wheat crops	Supposing that current field trials of experimental GM wheat find their way into Australian conventional wheat export crop, has the Department assessed what measures would need to be taken in order to fully remove the GM wheat from the wheat supply – including costs and clean up time?  If not, what measures do you think would be needed and how much would it cost and how long would it take to get the GM wheat out of the wheat supply?	Written	21/10/1 1	
113	APD	Siewert	Genetically Modified wheat crops	If any of the current field trials of experimental GM wheat found their way into Australia's conventional wheat, who would pay the costs of cleaning it up? And who would pay the costs of compensating farmers for their losses?	Written	21/10/1 1	

114	APD	Siewert	Genetically Modified wheat crops	Has there been a review of Australia's wheat export markets to find out whether or not our customers want or will accept genetically modified wheat? If so, when was that review and what were the results?	Written	21/10/11	
115	SRM	Siewert	Fisheries	Is the Department monitoring the status of the Western Rock Lobster Fishery in WA?	Written	21/10/11	
116	SRM	Siewert	Fisheries	Has the Department been involved in any research into the causes of the declining stocks of the Western Rock Lobster?	Written	21/10/11	
117	SRM	Siewert	Fisheries	Has the Department provided any advice to SEWPAC about the management of the Western Rock Lobster stock as part of the bioregional planning process?	Written	21/10/11	
118	SRM	Siewert	Fisheries	Has the Department provided any advice to SEWPAC about the valuation of Western Rock Lobster stock as part of the bioregional planning process?	Written	21/10/11	
119	B-P	Williams	Food exports	A series of Export Information Workshops were held in Adelaide, Toowoomba, Melbourne, Perth and Newcastle from the 27 <sup>th</sup> of September to the 20 <sup>th</sup> of October. Was any consideration given to holding a workshop in regional centres such as Narrabri or Tamworth, as most exporters in that area could not afford the time or cost travelling to Newcastle? Will a regional centre be included in the future?	Written	21/10/11	
120	APD/ WEA	Nash	Wheat Exports	With regard to Sumitomo and their 50 percent ownership of Emerald Group Australia – can you please explain why Emerald could continue to trade bulk wheat exports while the port terminal access undertaking for Melbourne Port Terminal took place?	Written	25/10/11	
121	APD/ WEA	Nash	Wheat Exports	As Emerald Group Australia was already an accredited exporter under the WEMA, why didn't Emerald Group Australia surrender their accreditation until an access undertaking was in place for MPT?	Written	25/10/11	
122	CCD	Nash	Carbon Capture	Does the Government see funding Carbon capture more desirable than food production?	Written	25/10/11	
123	SRM	Williams	Funding for Erosion control works	I understand the Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA have lodged an application for funding for further erosion control works on Bannockburn Creek north of Inverell. Can you tell me if or when this will considered and what funding round?	Written	25/10/11	
124	SRM	Colbeck	Western Australian shark	1 Is the Minister aware of the issues associated with two Western Australian shark fisheries which have effectively been shut down due to the WA	Written	27/10/11	

			fisheries	<p>Department of Fisheries not undertaking the process of assessment under the EPBC Act?</p> <p>2 What action has been taken / is planned to address the situation and damage to this export fishing industry?</p>			
125	SRM	Colbeck	Landcare	<p>1 The Caring for our Country review included input from community and Landcare Groups. What feedback was received from these groups, particularly with regard to the regional process and regional delivery model?</p> <p>2 The Caring for our Country program finishes in 2013, what process has the Government put in place for a transition to a new program?</p> <p>3 What back ground information has been gathered to support planning for a new program and what lessons have been learnt from the recent review that will be considered in the new program design and delivery model?</p> <p>4 What specific outcomes from the expenditure of the Caring for our Country program will be able to be included in the next State of Environment Report?</p> <p>5 Please detail the average regional body transaction costs as a percentage of the on ground delivery costs.</p> <p>6 What are the range of transaction costs as a percentage of the on ground delivery costs for regional bodies across Australia?</p> <p>7 What are the KPIs for transaction costs as a percentage of on ground delivery costs?</p> <p>8 What are the KPIs for on ground delivery costs as a percentage of funding provided?</p> <p>9 What percentage of regional bodies are meeting these KPIs?</p> <p>10 What benchmarking and / or financial auditing of the 52 regional bodies is planned to assess the efficacy of the current program?</p> <p>11 What assessment has been undertaken of using other groups, such as Landcare, productivity groups, community groups to deliver on ground outcomes?</p> <p>12 Many of the Australian Government Landcare Facilitators are badged and branded by the regional bodies hosting them. Are these people Regional or CMA Landcare facilitators or Australian Government facilitators? What is their role, and who manages them?</p> <p>13 The National Landcare Facilitator is on his second contract. Please explain</p>	Written	27/10/11	

				the tender process for his employment, what are his key performance indicators and the terms of employment?			
126	SRM	Colbeck	Weeds of National Significance	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Please provide details of the new Weeds of National Significance program.</li> <li>2 When will this program be announced?</li> <li>3 Why is it that the new weeds of national significance have not been agreed on, but coordinators are already developing papers on these weeds?</li> <li>4 What was the cost saving of prematurely halting the national coordination of a weed like willows and reducing down to 0.3FTE other weeds before we have new weeds decided?</li> <li>5 Are all States in agreement with the new program?</li> <li>6 Please explain the process and the methodology used to determine the new weeds of national significance.</li> <li>7 Please provide documentation that supports the process and demonstrates how the decisions on the new weeds of national significance were selected.</li> <li>8 What is the annual cost of running the Australian Weeds Committee, and has their value been assessed through an independent review?</li> <li>9 What financial contribution or in kind contribution in dollar terms is the Australian Government expecting from the States for the WONS program and the Australian Weeds Committee.</li> </ol>	Written	27/10/11	
127	SRM	Colbeck	Retailers and MSC	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Both Coles and Woolworths have identified a preference for seafood suppliers to be MSC certified. How many Australian fishers hold this level of certification?</li> <li>2 What are the average annual costs with attaining and maintaining MSC certification?</li> <li>3 Has the government had further correspondence on this matter with Coles and Woolworths, and if so what is the current state of play?</li> </ol> <p>1 It is apparent that decision making by the retailers is significantly influenced by public opinion, what strategies has the government in place to communicate the revised status of Orange Roughy (for example) from “overfished” in the 2009 Fisheries Status Report to not subject to overfishing in any of the AFMA-managed Orange Roughy fisheries?</p>	Written	27/10/11	

128	SRM	Colbeck	Australia's Harvest Strategy Policy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Have the terms of reference for the review of the Commonwealth Fisheries Harvest Strategy been released yet?</li> <li>2 If so, provide details.</li> <li>3 Has a formal timeline for the review been determined yet?</li> <li>4 If so, provide details of the milestones and key activities.</li> <li>5 Has a list of individuals and organisations to be consulted been determined yet?</li> <li>6 If so, provide details.</li> </ol>	Written	27/10/11	
129	SRM	Colbeck	Staff turnover	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 The staff turnover in the Fisheries Branch was reported as being ~10% over a 12 month period (QON 260 May 2011)</li> <li>2 Has this changed?</li> <li>3 How does this compare with staff turnover figures for other branches and departments?</li> </ol>	Written	27/10/11	
130	SRM	Colbeck	European Union Catch Certification	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 At last report negotiations were still "stalled" and exports were continuing under paper based system. What discussions or negotiations have been undertaken with the EU to have their reporting requirements reviewed?</li> <li>2 Why are the internal Australian systems not able to be recognised as sufficient with the opportunity for EU inspectors to verify compliance through audits of our systems?</li> </ol>	Written	27/10/11	
131	LAE TF	Colbeck	Live Export	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 In response to the bans on live cattle export to Indonesia, did the Minister review any other live export programs and associated regulations and standards?</li> <li>2 Did the Minister enforce a number of "sleeping" regulations and / or standards?</li> <li>3 How was enforcement of these "sleeping" regulations or standards clearly communicated to those likely to be affected?</li> <li>4 NSW Farmers Association wrote to Minister Ludwig on 4 August detailing issues with the enforcement of Standard S3.9 from the Australian Standards for Export of Livestock, which prohibits the live export of pastoral and station sheep to the Middle East from May to October. It has been reported that the Minister's office advised personnel following up on this correspondence there was an "initial 3 week waiting period" from when correspondence is received. Is this correct?</li> </ol>	Written	27/10/11	

				<p>5 Does the Minister's office have a system for prioritising incoming correspondence and issues?</p> <p>6 If so, why was the sheep export issue not dealt with in a more timely manner?</p> <p>7 What information do the Minister and department have regarding the financial implications of the enforcement of the regulation prohibiting the live export of pastoral and station sheep from south western region of NSW?</p> <p>8 What responsibility does the Minister have for ensuring adequate communication of the Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock (ASEL)?</p> <p>9 Much of country affected by the enforcement of this ban is considered by many to be sheep and wheat country and not pastoral. What are the criteria for classifying land?</p> <p>10 What is the department doing to review the classification of the land in question?</p>			
132	TMAD	Colbeck	International Agricultural Cooperation	<p>The department has indicated (response to QON 274 May 2011) areas where international cooperation activities cannot be pursued because of insufficient resources include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Infrastructure or arrangements to support trade</li> <li>• Research programs</li> <li>• Commitments to assist in the development of new systems, processes or regulation</li> </ul> <p>1 Provide more information on the scale of the resource constraints?</p> <p>2 Are requests for assistance assessed from a cost:benefit perspective or are they rejected earlier than this?</p> <p>3 What opportunities exist with other departments and funding sources to progress these projects (eg AusAid, commercial partners)?</p> <p>4 What role does the department have in redirecting requests to other potential funding sources?</p>	Written	27/10/11	
133	TMAD	Colbeck	Trade benefits	<p>What have been the most significant trade benefits achieved since Budget Estimates?</p>	Written	27/10/11	

134	TMAD	Colbeck	Overseas staff	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Have there been any changes in overseas staffing numbers or placements since Budget Estimates?</li> <li>2 If so provide details?</li> </ol>	Written	27/10/11	
135	CCD	Colbeck	Live Exports Assistance	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 How many people/businesses have applied for live exports assistance package?</li> <li>2 How many have been successful?</li> <li>3 How much money has been provided in assistance and under what elements of the assistance package?</li> <li>4 Has there been any assessments of whether the assistance is helping all those that have been hit by the export ban.</li> <li>5 Has the unilateral decision by our government impacted on trade relations with Indonesia?</li> <li>6 Has the Minister spoken to or sent any correspondence to the Indonesian government in order to apologise for the unilateral decision to suspend trade or in an attempt to improve relations? If so what was the nature of this communication.</li> <li>7 Given that Hugh Borrowman first assistant secretary of the Southeast Asia division of DFAT said at Supplementary Senate Estimates in October:  <i>“There is no doubt that the issue could have been somewhat better handled”</i>  what action has the Government and DAFF taken to ensure a better approach to trade relations with important trading partners and what action has been taken to reconcile with Indonesia?</li> </ol>	Written	27/10/11	
136	CSD	Colbeck	Staffing	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Provide details of where Ministerial personal staff and DLOs are based.</li> <li>2 For the year 2010-11, how many employees have been employed on contract and what is the average length of their employment period?</li> <li>3 For the year YTD, how many employees have been employed on contract and what is the average length of their employment period?</li> </ol>	Written	27/10/11	
137	CFD	Colbeck	Efficiency dividend	In response to a request for information regarding the impact of the co-ordinated procurement savings on the Agricultural Productivity Division (QON 253, Estimates May 2011), the following response was provided:	Written	27/10/11	



				<p><i>“Potential savings to Agriculture Productivity Division will not be known until the procurement arrangements are finalised”.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Are the co-ordinated procurement arrangements finalised?</li> <li>2 If so, what is the impact on the Agricultural Productivity Division?</li> <li>3 If not, what is the current situation and when will they be finalised?</li> </ol>			
138	CFD	Colbeck	Efficiency dividend	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Please provide details of all expiring programs.</li> </ol> <p>In response to QON 181, 183, 184 and 186 May 2011, the following response was received:  “<i>The efficiency dividend will focus the department in consolidating and streamlining our organisation, in an effort to eliminate red tape and duplicate functions across our corporate functions</i>”.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 Please provide specific details of the impact, in practical terms, of the efficiency dividend for each of the departmental divisions, including Corporate Finance Division, Biosecurity Services Group, Agricultural Productivity, ABARES, APVMA, AFMA and Sustainable Resource Management.</li> </ol>	Written	27/10/11	
139	CFD	Colbeck	Contractor expenditure	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 The Corporate Policy and Corporate Finance Divisions increased their spending on contractors in the 2009 – 10 financial year. Provide specific details of the contractor spending and services purchased for Corporate Policy and Corporate Finance Divisions.</li> <li>2 The Agricultural Productivity, Sustainable Resource Management, Climate Change and Trade and Market Access programs experienced a decrease in contractor spending in the 2009 – 10 financial year. Provide specific details of the cost savings achieved compared to the previous financial year.</li> <li>3 Provide finalised figures for the 2010 – 11 financial year and specific details of where and how cost savings have been achieved.</li> </ol>	Written	27/10/11	
140	CFD	Colbeck	Travel expenditure	<p>In response to QON 169 May 2011 the Government advised that, to 17 June 2011 the departmental spend on travel was \$11.6 million and yet the table included with the answer to that question actually showed the travel expenditure to be closer to \$12.6 million.</p>	Written	27/10/11	

				<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Which figure is correct?</li> <li>2 What was the final figure for the 2010 – 11 financial year?</li> <li>3 What was the focus of Minister Ludwig’s trip to Indonesia between 8 and 13 March 2011 and when will the trip report be available (QON 198)?</li> <li>4 In response to QON 230, the Minister advised that “the cost recovered portions for 2008-09 are not available”. Why is this information not available?</li> <li>5 What are the contract management and administrative fees for the department’s travel service provider? How are these determined? Is it a percentage of total spend?</li> <li>6 What proportion of travel is taken using discounted tickets and what are the cost savings due to discounts?</li> <li>7 What is the travel policy regarding class of air tickets and size of hire car for different employment levels?</li> </ol>			
141	CFD	Colbeck	Biosecurity cost recovery	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 At Estimates 23/5/11, Ms Mellor indicated that she believed it would be in the order of 60 to 65 per cent. More information was requested (QON 171) and indicates the cost recovered component for Outcome 1 was approximately 17% and for Outcome 2 was approximately 40% for 2010-11. Please explain the difference between the information provided verbally at Estimates that that provided in response to QON 171.</li> </ol>	Written	27/10/11	
142	CFD	Colbeck	underspends	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 The Department has provided details of administered underspend of \$22 million across a range of portfolios (QON 176, May 2011). The stated reasons for some underspend in the fishing and horticulture industries was “completion with less cost than initially anticipated”. Please provide details of what was completed and how the underspend was achieved.</li> <li>2 What, if any, options did the fishing and horticultural sectors have to utilise this underspend?</li> <li>3 The Department also identified an underspend of \$3.5 million in departmental appropriation underspends, primarily the result of the Export Certification Reform Package (QON 176). Provide specific details of the savings in relation to the reform package.</li> <li>4 Portfolio underspends are reported to be \$14.4 million (QON 176, May</li> </ol>	Written	27/10/11	

				<p>2011). The rationale for savings of \$1.2 million saving for Wheat Exports Australia was “lower spending on accreditation and monitoring related activities and no expenditure in exporters cost recovery for external audits and Ministerial Investigations”. Do these savings related to reduced exports, reduced external auditing and Ministerial Investigations or some other factors? Please provided details.</p> <p>5 Portfolio underspend also shows saving of \$0.6 million from Australian Fisheries Management Authority attributable to “decline in illegal fishing vessel apprehensions”. Does this equate to a decline in the number of illegal fishing vessels or a reduction in resources allocated to surveillance and apprehension?</p>			
143	CPD	Colbeck	Communication Programs	<p>1 Two communications programs undertaken by the Department were the Australia’s Farming Future (AFF), which incorporates the Carbon Farming Initiative (CFI) and the Western Australian Drought Program (QON 188 May 2011). Provide details of the spend for these communications programs by electorate.</p> <p>2 How was this break up of expenditure determined?</p> <p>3 The reason for the underspend of \$7.6 million in the Australia’s Farming Future – Climate Change area (QON 176 May 2011) is stated as “demand driven program dependant on uptake”. Specifically how was this component of the AFF program communicated to producers?</p> <p>4 Where were advertisements placed, how frequently and over what time frame?</p> <p>5 What assessment has been undertaken into the efficacy of communication with producers?</p> <p>6 What analysis has been undertaken to determine why demand for funding through the Climate Change program did not meet budget allocations?</p> <p>7 With regard to promoting Biosecurity Quarantine Operation through <i>Shipping News</i>, how does the \$33,481 paid for 4 pages of advertising and a presence on a “subscribers only” website equate in terms of value for money compared with other advertising and promotions options?</p> <p>8 How was <i>Shipping News</i> selected as the most appropriate publication for the Biosecurity Quarantine Operation?</p>	Written	27/10/11	

				9 What is the policy for deciding where to place advertisements and how is the value proposition assessed?			
144	CPD	Colbeck	Board Appointments	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 What strategies are in place to increase the proportion of women on Government appointed Boards and Councils, particularly Boards such as FRDC, Recreational Fishing Advisory Council, Forest Industries Development Fund Advisory Committee, Wine Australia Corporation Selection Committee and Grains Research and Development Corporation Selection Committee?</li> <li>2 What are the selection criteria for Government appointed Boards and Councils?</li> <li>3 What consideration has there been of the principles for sound and effective Board performance as outlined by the Australian Institute of Company Directors and the ASXCGC <i>Corporate Governance Principles and Recommendations</i>?</li> </ol>	Written	27/10/11	
145	CPD	Colbeck	Release of additional estimates briefing.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 In response to QON 200, May 2011, the government advised it took 708.25 hours to create a redacted version of the Incoming Government Brief. The request to provide a redacted version of the briefing material provided for the Minister for Additional Estimates was estimated to take 200 hours and was rejected as an unreasonable diversion of resources for the department.</li> <li>2 Please provide details of how such requests are assessed and how 200 hours is considered unreasonable while 708.25 hours is not.</li> </ol>	Written	27/10/11	
146	CSD	Colbeck	Communication devices	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Provide details of the departmental policy regarding provision of mobile phones, iPads and Blackberrys.</li> <li>2 Provide details of the policy regarding provision of mobile phones, iPads and Blackberrys to Ministerial staff and Department Liaison Officers.</li> <li>3 In March 2011 the department had 1875 mobile phones, by 17 June 2011 this number had decreased to 1350. Has there been a similar reduction in the mobile phone bill? Please provide comparative data.</li> <li>4 What are the numbers of iPads and Blackberry devices (or equivalent) over the same time period?</li> </ol>	Written	27/10/11	
147	CFD	Colbeck	Tenders for stationery and office supplies	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 On 17 June 2011, the Department of Finance and Deregulation released a Request for Tender for the provision of Stationery and Office Supplies for the Whole of Government. What is the status of this tender process?</li> </ol>	Written	27/10/11	

				<p>2 How many expressions of interest were received?</p> <p>3 Has the tender been let?</p> <p>4 What were the specific criteria for assessment of the tenders received?</p>			
148	CSD	Colbeck	Graduate program	<p>1 What obligation does the Department have to offer ongoing employment to graduates participating in this program?</p> <p>2 The Graduate Development Program includes 5 days in industry. What are the expected outcomes of this component of the Development Program?</p> <p>3 What assessment has been undertaken to determine if the industry placement is achieving these outcomes?</p> <p>4 What are the selection criteria for graduates participating in this program?</p> <p>5 What consideration is given to industry experience in the selection process?</p> <p>6 The retention rates for the program are around 46% after 3 years. How many of the graduates that didn't continue were let go by the department?</p> <p>7 How do the retention rates compare to other similar graduate programs?</p> <p>8 The department does not have any KPIs for the graduate recruitment or Graduate Development Program, without this how is the success or otherwise of the program measured?</p> <p>9 What feedback has been provided by participants, including those who have not continued with the department?</p>	Written	27/10/11	
149	CSD	Colbeck	Staff movements	<p>1 Of the 31 redundancies for BSG reported in February 2011, for which the average severance payout per person was \$118,000 (QON 233 May 2011), how many are now employed in essentially the same role in industry?</p> <p>2 QON 233 May 2011 requested specific information regarding the funding budgeted for redundancies related to BSG (QON 233). The response provided stated "some ECRP funding has been retained to enable the full implementation of the Australian Export Meat Inspection System". How much money has been retained?</p> <p>3 How much money has been budgeted in forward estimates?</p> <p>4 What was the turnover of permanent staff (%) for 2010-2011?</p>	Written	27/10/11	
150	CSD	Colbeck	Workplace compensation	<p>The Department has provided information indicating that the Central East Region, South West Region and South East Region Biosecurity Services have had the most incidents reported involving workplace injuries (QON 236, May 2011).</p>	Written	27/10/11	

				<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 What analysis has been undertaken of why these regions have the most reported incidents of workplace injuries?</li> <li>2 What are the nature of the injuries?</li> <li>3 What investigations have taken place?</li> <li>4 What is the % injury to number of employees?</li> <li>5 Is this higher than the average?</li> <li>6 Is this higher than accepted levels?</li> <li>7 Provide details of the range and average times of compensation payment.</li> </ol>			
151	CSD	Colbeck	Recruitment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Information has been provided regarding external recruitments costs for Adcorp, Australian Federal Police (AFP), Medibank and the Gazette (QON 239 May 2011). Why is DAFF “only able to report on” these external expenditures?</li> <li>2 What services to do these organisations provide?</li> <li>3 What is the per head external recruitment cost for the last three financial years?</li> </ol>	Written	27/10/11	
152	ABARES	Colbeck	Forecasts for forest products	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 The Department advised that there would be consideration of developing forecasts for forest products at a meeting in July 2011. Has this meeting taken place and was the need for developing forecasts for forest products discussed?</li> <li>2 What was the outcome?</li> <li>3 What length of time would forecasts cover?</li> </ol>	Written	27/10/11	
153	ABARES	Colbeck	Plantations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Given the reduction in Australia’s plantation estate (ABARES media release 31 August 2011) and 2010 seeing the smallest area of new plantations established since the 1990s, what projections have ABARES made regarding the ability of Australia to service its domestic requirements for wood and wood products?</li> <li>2 Has ABARES undertaken any analysis of the impact of the Tasmanian Forests IGA, with regard to the ability of Australia to service its domestic requirements for wood and wood products?</li> <li>3 What research has ABARES undertaken in relation to the impact of diminishing domestic timber supplies on the global timber market and the sustainability of global timber supplies?</li> </ol>	Written	27/10/11	
154	ABARES	Colbeck	Agricultural	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 The Agricultural commodities data for the 2011 September quarter shows</li> </ol>	Written	27/10/11	

			commodities	<p>farmers' terms of trade as negative 4.1% for 2011-12 compared to 2010-11. What impact is this having on the overall sustainability of farming in Australia?</p> <p>2 Has any assessment been undertaken of environmental and social consequences of these sorts of results?</p> <p>3 The Agricultural commodities data for the 2011 September quarter shows a 4.8% downturn in employment in agriculture, forestry and fishing for 2010-11 compared to 2009-10. What are the key factors contributing to this downturn in employment?</p> <p>4 What are the employment changes for each sector?</p> <p>5 What assessment has ABARES undertaken into the impact of the domestic retail market on terms of trade for Australian farmers?</p> <p>6 What assessment has ABARES undertaken into the impact of the domestic retail market on employment in the agricultural sector?</p> <p>7 The report highlights price falls for vegetables and milk. What was the extent of these price falls?</p> <p>8 How have these reductions impacted on the returns to primary producers?</p> <p>9 The projected increase of 5.9% in export earnings for forestry products relates to what type(s) of timber products?</p> <p>10 The report suggests that significant volatility in the Australian exchange rate is likely to continue and that it is important for primary producers and exporters to manage the risks associated with fluctuations in the Australian exchange rate. What specific advice does ABARES or other departments have for primary producers and exporters in this regard?</p> <p>11 What resources / programs does the government have to assist primary producers and exporters?</p>		1	
155	ABARES	Colbeck	Research and development and food security	<p>1 Dr Terry Sheales (Acting Deputy Executive Director ABARES) claims that public investment in broadacre R&amp;D and extension can generate average returns as high as 47% a year. Given the magnitude of the impending global food task, and the opportunity for significant returns, why is government R&amp;D funding increasing in actual terms by only about 1% a year?</p> <p>2 How can Australia position itself to do as Paul Morris (previous Deputy Executive Director of ABARES) suggested and make effective contributions</p>	Written	27/10/11	

				<p>to global food security by providing technical assistance to improve agricultural productivity in developing countries if R&amp;D dollars are reducing in real terms?</p> <p>3 Can the Minister explain how, against this decline in investment in Australia's food supply, it is possible to be so confident that the food security of the nation is assured (media release 18 May 2011 "Economic prosperity and trade guarantee Australia's food security").</p> <p>4 Can ABARES explain how they can be so confident that Australia does not have a food security issue when others are suggesting the self sufficiency picture being painted is incorrect?</p> <p>5 What analysis has been undertaken regarding Australia's current and projected ability to provide the variety of food currently available to Australian consumers, not just wheat and beef?</p> <p>6 What analysis has been undertaken of Australia's current and projected ability to produce enough food to meet the population's nutritional requirements?</p> <p>7 What analysis has been undertaken of the ability of Australia's horticultural sector to meet current and projected domestic dietary requirements?</p> <p>8 ABARES Agricultural Commodities report for the 2011 September quarter states that Vietnam experienced a 34% year on year increase in food price increases, which have significantly affected the annual inflation rate (23%). What consideration has ABARES given to the potential for civil unrest and the impact that could have on food security?</p>			
156	ABARES	Colbeck	Live exports	<p>1 In June 2011, ABARES were optimistic of an improved financial position for beef producers for the 2010-11 financial year. Did this result eventuate?</p> <p>2 Where there any flow on impacts to southern producers, who were also set for a better year?</p> <p>3 Has any reforecasting taken place to account for the ban on live exports?</p> <p>4 What are the forecasts for the 2011- 12 financial year?</p> <p>5 Has ABARES undertaken any analysis of the impact of the disruption of live exports to primary producers and to the terms of trade and employment figures in this sector?</p> <p>6 What information is available regarding impacts on associated industries and</p>	Written	27/10/11	



				communities of the live exports ban?			
157	ABARES	Colbeck	Marine Parks	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Has the socio-economic assessment of the south-west bioregion been completed?</li> <li>2 If so, what were the key findings?</li> <li>3 This assessment involves extensive consultation with industry, state agencies and other stakeholders, please provide details of how this consultation is taking place, who has been approached to be involved, who has been involved and whether what proportion of meetings were confidential or closed meetings.</li> <li>4 The Media Release 20 July 2011 asked for people to contact the ABARES research team. Which media outlets used this release?</li> </ol>	Written	27/10/11	
158	ABARES	Colbeck	Fisheries statistics	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Was the 3% fall in value of wild catch, reported in the <i>Australian fisheries statistics 2010</i>, due to lower returns or lower catch volumes?</li> </ol>	Written	27/10/11	
159	ABARES	Colbeck	Vegetable Industry survey	<p>The ABARES survey found the average cash income for vegetable farmers rose to \$200,000 even though vegetable prices fell. Mr Bowen in an ABC interview said this shows it was the better season not the better prices that drove the increasing farm income.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 What analysis has ABARES done on regarding returns required to sustain vegetable growers through the years when the season is less than favourable?</li> <li>2 In this year's survey growers expressed worries about rising input costs like labour, fuel and fertiliser and marketing, what analysis has ABARES done in this area?</li> </ol>	Written	27/10/11	
160	SRM/AFMA	Colbeck	Dolphin protection	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Dolphin closures are in addition to the Sea Lion closures – there is some overlap with the Australian Sea Lion (ASL) closures.</li> <li>2 What has been industry's response to the Sea Lion and Dolphin closures?</li> <li>3 What are the triggers for closures? Is it number of encounters, % change in number of encounters?</li> <li>4 What analysis has been undertaken to determine the cause(s) for the increase in encounters?</li> </ol>	Written	27/10/11	

				<p>5 The information on the web states that there are “significant discrepancies” between the independent observer data and the data from fishing logbooks, and that “some fishers are underreporting the level of interactions with threatened, endangered and protected species”. What data is available to support these assertions?</p> <p>6 What are the likely causes of the discrepancies in reporting?</p> <p>7 There is an opportunity for gillnet fishers to move to approved hook methods for the period of the temporary order if they can “demonstrate a significant level of effort during the period May 2009 to June 2011”. What constitutes a “significant level of effort”?</p> <p>8 What are the “approved hook methods”?</p> <p>9 What consideration has been given to the OH&amp;S issues related to manually baiting hooks?</p>			
161	SRM/ AFMA	Colbeck	North West Slopes Trawl Fishery	<p>1 Why weren’t the negotiated changes to prevent Commonwealth trawl fishers entering the North West Slopes Fishery actually implemented?</p> <p>2 What are the issues?</p> <p>3 Why has the government not been able to rectify this situation in a timely manner?</p> <p>4 As the last voluntary closure of this fishery lapsed on 1 October the fishery is currently unprotected. What is being done to resolve this situation in a timely manner?</p>	Written	27/10/1 1	
162	SRM/ AFMA	Colbeck	Marine Bioregional planning	<p>1 Why has the Department not provided advice to the Environment Minister regarding the Displaced Effort policy or with regard to the Marine Bioregional Planning process? (QON 259 May 2011)</p>	Written	27/10/1 1	
163	APD	Colbeck	National Food Plan	<p>Please provide an analysis of the issues raised during the National Food Plan webcast and an analysis of the registrants and participants.</p>	Written	27/10/1 1	
164	APD	Colbeck	National Food Plan	<p>1 Why did the Minister not call for Expressions of Interest in the Working Group (QON 14 May 2011)?</p> <p>2 What are the specific areas of expertise of each member of the Working Group?</p> <p>3 How did the Minister determine the number of working group members?</p> <p>4 What are the Terms of Reference of the Working Group?</p>	Written	27/10/1 1	

				<p>5 How often is the group expected to meet?</p> <p>6 Where are the costs of the Working Group accounted for within the Department?</p> <p>7 What costs have been incurred since responding to QON 14 May 2011.</p>			
165	APD	Colbeck	COAG Reforms	<p>1 The COAG reform deadline is being sought from June 2011 to December 2011. Is the department confident this deadline can be met?</p> <p>2 In response to QON 13, May 2011 the department advised that the remaining activities were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A preferred regulatory model</li> <li>• Funding model</li> <li>• Inter-governmental agreement.</li> </ul> <p>What progress has been made and what remains to be done?</p>	Written	27/10/11	
166	APD	Colbeck	Milk Pricing	<p>Queensland Dairyfarmers' Organisation is reporting lower milk production due to natural disasters and the supermarket 'milk price war.'</p> <p>1 Given Minister Ludwig advised, in response to QON 17 from Senator Heffernan, that the department was continuing to monitor the situation regarding milk prices and the Coles situation, what does the Minister make of this report?</p> <p>2 Is the Minister considering any actions as a consequence of this information?</p> <p>3 If so, what are they?</p> <p>4 If not, why not?</p>	Written	27/10/11	
167	APD	Colbeck	Regional Food Producers Program	<p>1 Has there been any change in the amount of money uncommitted through this program?</p> <p>2 Is the department interested in hearing from any regional food producers who could make use of the remaining ~\$3million within the existing timeframe of the program?</p> <p>3 Would the department consider extending the program or permitting efforts to be made through regional networks to utilise the remaining funding?</p>	Written	27/10/11	
168	APD	Colbeck	Murray- Darling Basin Plan	<p>1 Please provide an update on DAFF's involvement in the Murray-Darling Basin Plan since Estimates?</p>	Written	27/10/11	

169	APD/ APVMA	Colbeck	Agvet chemical regulation reform	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 QON 30 May 2011 indicated that a Bill was being drafted for consultation with states and territories and other stakeholders. What is the status of this Bill?</li> <li>2 Who are the “other stakeholders”?</li> <li>3 Are public meetings being held as part of the consultation and if so, what is the schedule for these meetings?</li> <li>4 Will there be any increase in costs to farmers or registration costs due to the reform of the APVMA?</li> <li>5 Will these reviews consider the recurring issue of lag periods between the outbreak of new pests and diseases and the ability for producers / land managers to deal with it?</li> </ol>	Written	27/10/1 1	
170	APD/ APVMA	Colbeck	Sunland Hatchery	<p>The Noosa News 7 October 2011 reported that results of tests in June “did not prove conclusive evidence to warrant a ban on the use of agri-chemicals on macadamia farm next door.” One of the task force vets has weighed in and is “imploing the Federal Government to intervene”</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 What requests has the Minister had with regard to intervention on this issue?</li> <li>2 In response to QON 31, May 2011, the APVMA advised) that information was being assessed and had not yet determined whether pesticides were involved and/or whether regulatory action was warranted. Please provide an update on the status of this assessment.</li> </ol>	Written	27/10/1 1	
171	APD/ APVMA	Colbeck	Product review process	<p>How does the Department intend to address the inadequate data protection for data submitted to the APVMA for products under review?</p> <p>How does the Department intend to address the issue that APVMA is precluded from considering the environmental impacts associated with removal of a product. For example, if removal of a product is likely to result in mechanical weed control (tillage) the environmental impacts of topsoil erosion, sediment loss and greenhouse emissions are not considered?</p> <p>The risk assessments conducted by the APVMA analyse the risks associated with ‘worst case’ scenarios that are unrealistic and do not reflect the genuine risk associated with use. Does this approach over estimate true risk and result in excessive restrictions on use by farmers?</p>	Written	27/10/1 1	

172	APD/ APVMA	Colbeck	Duiron	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 What application rates were used in the risk assessment?</li> <li>2 Why were the interim report results so different from the final findings?</li> <li>3 How could companies know they need to provide data into the review of Diuron when the interim findings were for rates of 900 grams which many thought were acceptable and did not need to provide data, yet the final report finds a much lower rate is acceptable?</li> <li>4 Do the monitoring levels differentiate between free Diuron in water as opposed to that bound to sediment?</li> <li>5 What evidence is there that Diuron bound to sediment has different impact on plants and algae and has this been taken into account?</li> <li>6 Table C22 on page 49 indicates that for sugarcane, the risk assessment application rate was between 1.8 and 3.6 kg/ha. However Canegrowers have submitted additional data to the APVMA to suggest that current practices are that application rates are well below 1.8kg/ha. Have these current rates been taken into consideration?</li> <li>7 The risk assessment assumed that birds obtained all their food from the area treated with diuron (paragraph 1.13.1, page 51) and that contaminated food is not avoided. Is this realistic?</li> <li>8 Herbicide treatment will generally only occur once, or maybe twice each year – and dietary exposures for the remainder of the year would be much less and so would not the impact on the diet also be much less?</li> <li>9 The environmental risk assessment considers that there is an unacceptable risk to aquatic plants and algae in primary streams (page 56-57). What is the definition of a primary stream?</li> <li>10 What is the definition of a secondary stream?</li> <li>11 The 95<sup>th</sup> percentile is used for preserving pristine natural environments, streams in agricultural systems are regularly highly modified after decades of agriculture and are far from the state that they would have been in prior to agriculture commencing why wouldn't a 90<sup>th</sup> percentile protection level be acceptable?</li> <li>12 If the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile was adopted as the appropriate protection level, what rates would be acceptable for Diuron application?</li> <li>13 The risk assessment recognises that for barley and wheat applications, the</li> </ol>	Written	27/10/1 1	
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				<p>risk to algae and aquatic plants in primary streams remains unacceptable (p57). The report also acknowledges that these streams are often dry. How can there be a risk to aquatic plants and algae if the streams are dry?</p> <p>14 The Queensland government has initiated additional controls including setbacks from water courses, maximum annual application rates and other use restrictions. Have these been taken into account?</p> <p>15 These restrictions could have an impact on the risks to aquatic plant life could they not? If so, why not take the results of these additional restrictions into account?</p> <p>16 Will the APVMA review the runoff concentrations from the new restrictions before finalising their position?</p> <p>17 Which area of the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities is responsible for providing the advice to the APVMA on the environmental impacts of Diuron?</p>			
173	CSD	Colbeck	AQIS and costs	<p>1 Is it correct that AQIS is considering a new name?</p> <p>2 Given AQIS's push for full cost recovery, how would the costs associated with such a change be funded and justified?</p>	Written	27/10/1 1	
174	B-F	Colbeck	AQIS chemical residue testing	<p>1 Last comprehensive analysis of imported food inspections was July – December 2008. Why has this analysis ceased?</p> <p>2 This showed 97.5% compliance of inspected foods, with incorrect labelling being the area of greatest non-compliance, accounting for some 63% of non-compliances. Is the situation similar now?</p> <p>3 Are chemical residues in excess of MRLs an area of significant non-compliance?</p> <p>4 What is the significance of testing for Endrin, Chlorfenvinphos and Disulfoton?</p> <p>5 How often are these three chemicals detected?</p> <p>6 When determining the risk profile of produce to be tested, what sources of information are used?</p>	Written	27/10/1 1	
175	B-QO	Colbeck	Risk Assessment imported goods	<p>1 What assessment has been undertaken of the potential for declarations regarding the suitability of food products imported to Australia to be false or otherwise misleading?</p> <p>2 How many forged Certificates of Assurance did AQIS uncover for Chinese</p>	Written	27/10/1 1	

				<p>products earlier this year?</p> <p>3 How was this fraud uncovered?</p> <p>4 What changes to processes or procedure changed as a result of this discovery and of the way in which the fraud was uncovered?</p> <p>In response to QON 134, May 2011, the department responded  “Fraudulent documentation provided by importers and overseas suppliers may bypass some profiles but may be picked up by other sampling processes”.</p> <p>5 Do you have any data on how often fraudulent documentation does bypass AQIS systems, for example is reported by people in the community or found by chance?</p>			
176	B-P	Colbeck	Myrtle rust	<p>1 The department identified the following areas of research into Myrtle Rust:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identifying the potential species affected through a more detailed survey</li> <li>• Identifying the taxonomy of the rust</li> <li>• Investigating breeding resistant species</li> <li>• Seeking approval for agricultural chemicals for use in emergencies</li> </ul> <p>How will the latter two strategies assist in protecting native flora, particularly that in national parks or used for commercial logging operations?</p> <p>2 What assessment has been undertaken into the potential environmental and financial impacts of this disease?</p> <p>3 Has ABARES now done any work on the impact of this disease on the forestry industry?</p> <p>4 How many commercial industries have been impacted so far, for example Tea tree?</p> <p>5 What is the current estimate of the impact of Myrtle rust on Australian flora?</p> <p>6 What work has been done on the impact of myrtle rust on native fauna?</p> <p>7 Has there been any resistance from any Myrtaceae species to Myrtle rust?</p> <p>8 Has any study been done as to the impact on Myrtaceae species, or the impact on our carbon stores for native vegetation due to Myrtle rust?</p> <p>9 What lessons has the DAFF learnt from the outbreak of Myrtle rust?</p> <p>10 What is the extent of the Myrtle rust outbreak in hectares and the extent of the spread by location?</p>	Written	27/10/11	

177	B-P	Colbeck	Asian honey bee	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 In response to QON 121, May 2011 the department stated a copy of the pilot program for the management of Asian Honeybee will be made publicly available. Is this now available? Where?</li> <li>2 Summarise the data and evidence that supports the view that the AHB cannot be eradicated.</li> <li>3 Has any new data come to hand during the current field season which has bearing on the eradicability of the AHB?</li> <li>4 Where any new techniques introduced during the current field season which improved capacity to detect and destroy nests of AHB? If so, what were they?</li> <li>5 Have pesticide baits been deployed?</li> <li>6 Have any potential attractants been identified and deployed?</li> <li>7 What will be the impact on incidental pollination services by the spread of AHB?</li> <li>8 What will be the impact on paid pollination services by the spread of AHB?</li> <li>9 What honeybee related export services/products such as queen bees and package bees, have been adversely impacted by the declaration that the AHB is endemic?</li> <li>10 What is the value of these export services/products?</li> <li>11 Will there be other flow-on adverse impacts of the declaration on national services, such as diminished capacity to provide queen bees to Australia's beekeeping industry?</li> </ol>	Written	27/10/11	
178	B-F	Colbeck	AQIS Fees and Charges	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 What is the status of the review of AQIS fees and charges and negotiations with industry sectors, particularly horticulture?</li> <li>2 Response to QON 107, May 2011 indicated no additional appropriation required for travel but an inability to separate out travel as a budget item. Why can't the department separate out travel expenses?</li> <li>3 Was information such as this used when calculating the budget for Export Certification Reform Package?</li> </ol>	Written	27/10/11	
179	B-P	Colbeck	Kiwi Canker	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Please provide more information regarding why fresh kiwifruit is not considered a pathway for the pathogen when the pathogen is "known to be spread by infected planting material, wind, wind-driven rain and mechanically".</li> </ol>	Written	27/10/11	



				<p>2 How is the department confident fresh fruit is safe?</p> <p>3 How can the department be confident that the current quarantine checks taking place on entry to Australia are sufficient, given the often very cursory questioning of incoming passengers who have declared that they have been on a farm or rural area outside Australia in the previous 30 days?</p>			
180	B-P	Colbeck	Plant biosecurity cooperative research centre funding	1 What is the status of the review of CRC funding for the Plant Biosecurity CRC?	Written	27/10/11	
181	B-QO	Colbeck	Importing food from Korea	<p>1 Goods from Korea have been found in Australia without having met AQIS requirements (QON 134 May 2011). Were these meat products?</p> <p>2 How were they imported into Australia?</p> <p>3 Was it through the post?</p> <p>4 15 investigations were initiated and 14 Quarantine Act search warrants were executed. What is the status of these investigations?</p> <p>5 Given the number of investigations and the fact sheet focus on the Korean business community, is there any suggestion this may not be have been random acts by the general community?</p> <p>6 What risk did these importations have with regard to introducing foot and mouth to Australia?</p>	Written	27/10/11	
182	B-A	Colbeck	Environmental Biotech	<p>1 AQIS have recently rejected an application for importation of an environmental bioremediation agent due to it containing a dairy based carrier. Given this product has been imported into Australia for about 16 years, how did AQIS just become aware of the presence of the dairy carrier?</p> <p>2 What risk did the importation of this product have with regard to introducing foot and mouth to Australia?</p>	Written	27/10/11	
183	B-QO	Colbeck	Inspecting frozen goods	In response to QON 134, May 2011 the department advised that “AQIS may direct imported frozen cargo of interest to Quarantine Approved Premises”. What are the triggers or criteria for so doing?	Written	27/10/11	
184	B-QO	Colbeck	White Spot Syndrome Virus	1 On 28 September 2010 the Interim Inspector General of Biosecurity commenced a review of what caused a consignment of imported raw peeled prawns that tested positive for prawn disease White Spot Syndrome Virus (WSSV) to be erroneously released into Australia by the BSG, there were	Written	27/10/11	

				<p>seven recommendations. Have these been implemented?</p> <p>2 Have there been any further breaches?</p> <p>3 In view of the recent “near-miss” where raw Saudi prawns were imported into Australia without testing following an assessment by Biosecurity Australia that Saudi prawns were free of white-spot, followed shortly by a devastating outbreak of white-spot virus in Saudi Arabia that resulted in up to 25,000T of lost production in a single season alone, what modifications to the assessment process have been undertaken by Biosecurity Australia to properly protect Australia’s aquatic fauna and the livelihoods of prawn fishermen and farmers from imported viruses?</p> <p>4 With white spot outbreaks occurring on a regular basis worldwide causing huge economic and job losses, what measures is the Australian government taking to ensure that infected stock does not arrive in Australia?</p> <p>5 Is the government increasing the number of tests on imported cooked and green prawns?</p> <p>6 Has the government considered an immediate ban on imported green prawns? What were the key factors in the decision making process?</p>			
185	B-F	Colbeck	Tasmanian export certifications	<p>1 Is it correct that there are plans to have export certificates and other documentation for Tasmanian exporters produced in Victoria?</p> <p>2 What is the justification for this?</p> <p>3 How much money will it save AQIS?</p> <p>4 Will this affect timeliness of Export Certifications being available?</p> <p>5 Are fees for Certificates as to Condition (EX 188) expected to increase again on top of the \$55 increase in July 2011?</p>	Written	27/10/11	
186	B-A	Colbeck	Tropical fish	<p>1 Where is Biosecurity Australia up to with its intentions to batch test all imports of certain tropical fish?</p> <p>2 How have the species to be batch tested been selected – particularly given the viruses being tested for (Megalocytiviruses) have not been found on some of the species to be tested?</p>	Written	27/10/11	
187	B-F	Colbeck	AQIS export reforms	The Motion put forward by the Coalition passed by Parliament on 13 October 2011 asked for the continuation of rebates until reforms have been delivered, and that the Government carry out a legitimate costs of government study what will the department/Minister do to respond to this motion.	Written	27/10/11	

				<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 With regard to a legitimate cost of government study, the Ernst and Young report did not analyse whether there were legitimate costs that government should pay in association with export certification as there was a broader public benefit. When will the Government undertake an independent study that examines whether there are such costs as promised by the former Agricultural Minister Tony Burke?</li> <li>2 Did the same consultant organisation do the review of all six industries on the AQIS rebate reforms?</li> <li>3 Were industries given a choice in consultants?</li> </ol>			
188	B-F	Colbeck	Meat Industry Export Reforms	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 AQIS has issued approximately 345 export licenses; about 150 of these licensees are responsible for less than 2% of total production or exports. Were all these small operators consulted regarding the reform process?</li> <li>2 What was the nature of the consultations?</li> <li>3 What notice were these small operators given on the changes to the fees and charges structure?</li> <li>4 What notice were all the affected industry players for the meat industry given of the final fee structure?</li> </ol>	Written	27/10/11	
189	CFD	Colbeck	Post entry quarantine arrangements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Please provide an update on the planned changes to the Post entry quarantine arrangements?</li> <li>2 Is the preferred government model to reduce the number of quarantine facilities?</li> <li>3 In answer to QON 133, May 2011 the department stated that the revised rent on the facility is expected to be negotiated in late 2011, please provide an update.</li> <li>4 How much more expensive will the new lease be?</li> <li>5 Why was the rent not negotiated as part of the agreement to extend the leased for a further five year option, wouldn't this give DAFF a better bargaining position?</li> <li>6 Given that the Department has agreed to extend the lease before agreeing to the value of the rent how can it negotiate the best possible price?</li> <li>7 Why did they take this approach?</li> <li>8 Given the user pays structure, does the department have a responsibility to negotiate the best possible pricing for leasing arrangements?</li> </ol>	Written	27/10/11	

				<p>9 Is the approach taken by the department considered the best possible approach?</p> <p>10 Is it true that the leases will be backdated for nearly 12 months?</p> <p>11 Given that those that have used the facilities during this “backdated” period, who will pay for any shortfall in the revenue received compared to the rent paid?</p> <p>12 Why is Spotswood not being considered as an option and is this quarantine facility currently vacant?</p>			
190	CCD	Colbeck	Rural Financial Counselling Service	<p>1 Why did it take so long for the Government to reassure the national Rural Financial Counselling Service that there would be ongoing future funding for these organisations?</p> <p>2 Please provide specific details, by state and territory, of the annual budget allocations for the Rural Financial Counselling Service for the next four years.</p> <p>3 Are the annual amounts that will go to the RFCS organisations less than they have been in previous years?</p> <p>4 If so, does this represent a drop back to core funding?</p> <p>5 Please provide details, by state and territory, of funding allocated for programs to be delivered by the Rural Financial Counselling Service in addition to core funding.</p>	Written	27/10/11	
191	CCD	Colbeck	Forestry IGA	<p>1 What were the selection criteria for the members of the Independent Expert Group?</p> <p>2 What is the decision making process for this group – majority, consensus, does the Chair have the casting vote?</p>	Written	27/10/11	
192	CCD	Colbeck	Illegal logging	<p>1 What is being done through the Asia-Pacific Forestry Skill and Capacity Building Program to encourage the development of appropriate certification systems that can be used by small land holders and in businesses with lower literacy levels?</p> <p>2 How many people attended the ForestWorks training in forest certification in the Solomon Islands? What level of ongoing support has been offered and what are the outcomes so far?</p> <p>3 Given the predictions that the timber supply in the Solomon’s has only a few years left, what is the Government doing to assist in the development of</p>	Written	27/10/11	

				<p>country-specific guidelines to support the legality of timber products from this country?</p> <p>4 What is the Government doing to assist with the specific risk of corruption related to the authorisation of timber harvest in the Solomon Islands?</p> <p>5 What is the budget for Phase II of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Skill and Capacity Building Program?</p> <p>6 When does this program start? Response to QON 148, May 2011 indicated the Department was in the process of finalising funding contracts, is this complete?</p> <p>7 The promotion of the program states that it will fund a smaller number of longer term projects that “aim to build capacity for delivering sustainable forest management that supports efforts to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation”. Specifically are / have the projects been chosen?</p> <p>8 What were the selection criteria?</p> <p>9 Provide a current list of projects underway and planned, including location, budget and expected outcomes.</p>			
193	CCD	Colbeck	World Forestry Congress	<p>The Minister confirmed the 2009 World Forestry Congress was attended by an Embassy Official with no particular forestry-related knowledge or skills, and that this person attended as an observer and made “no formal intervention at the congress”.</p> <p>1 Has there been a report? If so, please provide a copy.</p> <p>2 What recommendations and insights were made by the Embassy Official who attended the Congress</p>	Written	27/10/11	
194	CCD	Colbeck	Reducing emissions from livestock research program	<p>1 Please provide details an update on the status of the CSIRO Livestock Industries project into the development of a methane measurement system for Australian livestock.</p> <p>2 Please provide details of the expected completion date of this project.</p> <p>3 This project is funded by a range of partners, please provide details of the annual contributions by each partner and total Commonwealth contribution.</p> <p>4 The “Reducing emissions from livestock” research program contains a number of fundamental research projects involving such matters as rumen microbial profiling and manipulation of rumen microorganisms. Please provide details of the extension and communication activities that will</p>	Written	27/10/11	

				support the dissemination of the results of these projects			
195	CCD	Colbeck	Soil Carbon Research Program	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Please provide details of the total commitment of Commonwealth funds to the “Soil Carbon” research program.</li> <li>2 What is the Commonwealth contribution to the Tasmanian based project investigating Tasmanian vegetable and dairy systems?</li> <li>3 Given the fluctuations in soil carbon related to cultural practices and the need to understand the longer term soil carbon trends, what are the timeframes for funding commitments for each of the projects in this program: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soil carbon research program overarching project</li> <li>• South eastern SA cereals, sheep and beef systems and Australia wide perennial sheep pastures</li> <li>• South west Western Australia; Cereal, sheep and beef systems</li> <li>• Victoria dairy, sheep, cereal and beef systems</li> <li>• Northern rangelands beef systems</li> <li>• Queensland cereals and sugar</li> <li>• New South Wales cereals, cotton, sheep and beef systems</li> <li>• New South Wales cereals and beef</li> <li>• Tasmanian vegetables and dairy systems.</li> </ul> </li> <li>4 What budget allocations have been made to support research into the impacts of orchards and viticultural enterprises?</li> <li>5 Please provide details of the extension and communication activities that will support the dissemination of the results of these projects.</li> </ol>	Written	27/10/11	
196	CCD	Colbeck	Promoting Forest Products	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 What is the Department doing to promote the merits of timber and timber products?</li> </ol>	Written	27/10/11	
197	CCD	Colbeck	National Drought Policy Reform- – WA pilot review	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 What are the outcomes and recommendations of the review?</li> <li>2 Does the Department agree with the findings that there is an ongoing need for an income support safety net, ongoing social support services and access to farm business planning similar to that already provided under Exceptional Circumstances?</li> </ol>	Written	27/10/11	

198	CCD	Colbeck	Carbon tax and CFI	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Research into the impact of a carbon price on Australian farm businesses has been conducted by independent researchers at the Australian Farm Institute. Has the Climate Change division undertaken similar research?</li> <li>2 If not, why not?</li> <li>3 Wouldn't this sort of research be part of a regulatory impact assessment process?</li> <li>4 We note that the biodiversity funding commitment escalates dramatically in 2013-14, at the same time as the present Caring for our Country program ceases, why does the funding ramp up so dramatically at this time?</li> <li>5 The CFI and associated assistance packages are a one off injection of funds over a short timeframe. How will producers be compensated for losses of up to 5.4% in the longer term?</li> <li>6 What work has been undertaken by the Climate Change Division regarding the carbon tax since the announcement of the carbon price?</li> <li>7 Is the CFI focussed only on requiring uptake of new practices rather than recognising and supporting good practices already underway?</li> <li>8 What consideration has been given to that fact that this approach does not encourage producers that are not yet up to "common practice"? How are these people encouraged to uptake "common practice"?</li> <li>9 What is the process for selecting the "Domestic Offsets Integrity Committee"?</li> <li>10 Has this committee been selected, and if so, who is on it?</li> </ol>	Written	27/10/11	
199	CCD	Colbeck	Exceptional Circumstances Exit Grants	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Who made the decision on the announcement of funds running out and how long after the Minister was briefed on the issue was the decision made?</li> <li>2 What was the advice for the Minister from the department regarding farms that had entered into irreversible sale contracts by August 10 and would qualify for the exit grant yet would miss out due to lack of funds?</li> <li>3 What communication was there between the department and Centrelink, the agency responsible for distributing the funds?</li> <li>4 What warning was Centrelink given on the funds running out?</li> <li>5 Are you aware of the 31 cases of farmers in Victoria who missed funding cited by the Rural Financial Counselling Service - 19 had sold their properties and were waiting for the settlement and 12 more had finalised their</li> </ol>	Written	27/10/11	

				<p>settlements?</p> <p>6 Have these cases been investigated and what have been the results of the investigations?</p> <p>7 How many more cases are you aware of there from other states where farmers had entered into irreversible sale contracts by August 10 and would have qualified for the exit grant yet would miss out due to lack of funds?</p> <p>8 What has been done to address these cases?</p>			
200	SRM	Fawcett	Caring for our Country – rabbit research investment	The European wild rabbit is known to cost Australia over two hundred million dollars a year through impacts on agriculture, including grazing, cropping, horticulture and forestry. Given this high cost, what is DAFF doing to support state and territory governments by ensuring adequate research investment into control methods, particularly biological control?	Written	27/10/11	
201	SRM	Fawcett	Rabbit future research in rabbit controls	As rabbits are developing resistance to rabbit calicivirus, and there is a lead time of about 10 years to carry out research for introducing new biological controls, what is being done in regard to the next biological control agent to maintain this aspect of bio-security and food security for Australia?	Written	27/10/11	
202	SRM	Fawcett	Rabbit future research in rabbit controls	Scientific evidence shows clearly that rabbit densities of greater than one per hectare prevent the recruitment and survival of many palatable species of native flora and the semi-arid and arid parts of Australia. A recent survey suggests that 25% of remnant native vegetation in south-eastern Australia is under threat in this way even though technically the problem can be resolved using standard rabbit control measures. What plans or actions are proposed to reduce and hopefully minimise this impact?	Written	27/10/11	
203	APD	Fawcett	Shortage of young scientists	There is a serious shortage of young scientists seeking to make careers in agriculture and natural resource management research. The science of rabbit control is a good example where most of the scientists in this field are of retirement age and beyond, with little prospect of younger qualified people taking their place. Is the seriousness of this situation recognised and if so, what is being proposed to address the problem?	Written	27/10/11	
204	B-P	Heffernan	Export inspection reports (Fumigation of prescribed goods)	<p>1 It is my understanding that prescribed goods includes various grains and plant products and according to certain destination country requirement fumigation is required as part of the import permit according to the country of destination. Why is it that there is different interpretation of the Orders and Act which makes Registered Export establishments UNPACK containers ready for shipping when the goods could be effectively fumigated with a</p>	Written	27/10/11	



				<p>registered fumigate within the container certified by a registered fumigator without being unpacked . Isn't this a prohibitive cost to the registered packing Premises?</p> <p>2 And why, in some cases in certain regions, are some prescribed goods allowed to be fumigated in containers and other Prescribed goods are not, if it's all covered by the same Orders?</p> <p>3 Why if the goods are inspected prior to packing into containers and found to be insect free are they not allowed to be packed into containers and fumigated after being packed?</p> <p>4 The legislation for prescribed goods hasn't changed since 2005 and is still governed by Export Control Act 1982 and the Prescribed Goods General Orders and the Grains Plants and Plant Product Orders 2005. Fumigation as far as the Plant And Plant Protection Orders 2005 is not an area of control that AQIS are meant to determine HOW the fumigation should be conducted. Why then has AQIS imposed regulation on how fumigation should take place on Industry?</p>			
205	B-P	Heffernan	Export Inspection Report	Current Export Documentation in the form of a an EIR ( Export Inspection Report) usual initiated by the registered export establishment and finalised by the AQIS Authorised Officer ( AQIS Employee or contractor) has nowhere on this document to verify that the AQIS Approved Inspector (Industry Person) has taken the sample as per the Registered establishments approved arrangement . Seeing this is such a critical document in AQIS's documentation and audit process why has this been left off the document?	Written	27/10/11	
206	B-F	Heffernan	Registered Exports establishments and insect inspections	Why is it some registered Exports establishments can be put on suspension not allowing them to export or conduct export business when it has been found that they have live insects on site ( the live insect being ants or large beetles) when other registered export establishments have forged documents and only received warning ? These misinterpretations and inequalities between premises cost Industry dearly!	Written	27/10/11	
207	B-P	Heffernan	Prescribed goods Orders	<p>1 Are Mungbeans included in prescribed goods OR are they do they have their own Orders?</p> <p>2 If mungbeans are under the Prescribed Goods Orders 2005 as it was legislated, why are there still specific instances where mungbean export</p>	Written	27/10/11	

				<p>packing establishments are singled out to have higher degrees of hygiene above other prescribed goods?</p> <p>3 Why is there segregation of at least 1mtr ( a pallet width) required between stored goods in a registered establishment when the goods are both prescribed goods under the same legislation and there is no way of cross contamination when the products are in sealed bags .</p> <p>4 Employee’s communicably disease policy –instituted on Mungbean sheds but is not found anywhere in Plant &amp; Plant Orders 2005 – why?</p>			
208	B-P	Heffernan	Export Certification Reform	<p>G Mullen – Grains Industry Project Manager for AQIS produced a 58 page document called “EXPORT CERTIFICATION REFORM PACKAGE – GRAIN WORKPLAN SUMMARY.</p> <p>1 Within this summary I believe there is consistent referral to Industry Involvement - who is Industry that this document refers too? There are over 600 Registered Grain Packing premises throughout Australia – How many and how often have you consulted with or held meetings with this part of the Industry which is the focal point of all AQIS legislative requirements?</p> <p>2 These are the Industry people who have to comply, not the exporters or major Industry parties who are the only ones who have had some form of participation? Why? If these are the portion of Industry who is most effected by the changes envisaged?</p> <p>3 Within AQIS there are field officers who have direct contact with these registered Export establishments how often has the MTF consulted with or meet with these regional officers who are dealing with the legislation on a day by day basis?</p> <p>4 Within the new introduction and proposed new scheme <b>why</b> is control being taken away from the regional offices where AQIS officers control</p> <p>a) Booking for Inspections</p> <p>b) Documentation</p> <p>c) Potential closure of offices in the bush</p> <p>d) Travel arrangements – Officers now try and do inspections within a travelled route . NOW with control being taken away it means that they</p>	Written	27/10/11	

				<p>will be subject Inspections at one end of the region then the next at a completely remote location , whilst there could be two or three smaller inspections along the same route</p> <p>5 Fees for Industry have already been increased, yet the new process hasn't started THERE IS NO DEMONSTRATED SAVING TO INDUSTRY. Please explain Department's position/policy.</p> <p>6 Why has not Industry (being the registered Export Grain premises) been given a draft or blueprint of what the NEW model is?</p> <p>7 Where will Industry be trained in this new model? Will it be on site or will they have to travel to capitol cities and take time off work to be educated on this new system?</p> <p>8 What percentage of your own staff (AQIS) have been trained or have been given a copy of the manual that will the operation of the new Model?</p>			
209	APD/ APVMA	Heffernan	Durion	<p>1 Is the APVMA considering the fact that farmers are now only using 1.8 to 1.3kg/ha of diuron for weed and grass control when making their considerations?</p> <p>2 What research, information and advice is the APVMA relying on in making a decision on the banning of diuron?</p> <p>3 With no affordable replacement for diuron currently on the market, are APVMA taking into consideration that farmers will have to return to old farming practices for weed and grass control in their crops, therefore raising the amount of erosion and sediment run-off into our waterways?</p> <p>4 Would the APVMA consider a longer phasing out period for diuron to 2020, to give time for new products to be developed and tested for the sugar industry?</p>	Written	27/10/1 1	
210	APD/ APVMA	Heffernan	Industry programs	Is the APVMA taking into account that industry programs, like Reef Rescue worth \$200million, have not yet been fully realised, no new testing of waterways since introduction of packages.	Written	27/10/1 1	
211	APD/ APVMA	Heffernan	Introduction of new chemicals	What is the APVMA and Federal Government doing to promote the introduction of new chemicals into the market place.	Written	27/10/1 1	

212	B-F	Heffernan	AEMIS certification fees	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Is the department aware that the AEMIS certification fee changes are having a detrimental impact on operators in the Australian meat export sector?</li> <li>2 Is it aware for example that Broads Poultry in Maryborough in Victoria, which has AQIS registered facilities in Maryborough, Geelong and Springvale, will see its AEMIS certification fees rise from \$7,500 (before the 40 percent rebate) to approximately \$90,000 per financial year with no rebate?</li> <li>3 Is the department aware that this could render the business untenable and lead to an estimated 50 jobs lost?</li> <li>4 Is the Department also aware of Davidson’s Casing Pty Ltd in Ararat who also state that the AEMIS certification fee changes will potentially render their business that employs 4 family members and 4 additional employees untenable? (The Member for Wannon, Dan Tehan MP has written to Minister Ludwig on both of these issues – on 21 September 2011 on Davidson’s Casing Pty Ltd and on 10 October 2011 on Broad’s Poultry - so the Department should be aware of them)</li> <li>5 Has the Department had representations from other businesses in the meat export sector raising similar issues and if so, can they please detail the names of these companies and the estimated cost impacts on their businesses.</li> <li>6 Could the Department please detail what streamlining has occurred within the AQIS meat inspection system to bring costs down?</li> <li>7 Could it please provide a detailed list of the areas where this streamlining has occurred and detail the specific cost savings which have been made as a result?</li> </ol>	Written	27/10/11	
213	B-F	Heffernan	Kangaroo meat	<p>Kangaroo shooters from NSW have had significant issues with obtaining information from AQIS requesting information on the safety and viability of kangaroo meat harvested in the bush.</p> <p><b>Questions:</b></p>	Written	27/10/11	

				<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 I understand that in 2010 a multi-state survey of over 400 kangaroos was undertaken by AQIS to investigate the effect of age on the microbiological load of field harvested kangaroos. Is this correct?</li> <li>2 Could I have a copy of the results and the report from this survey and any other surveys undertaken in 2010 in relation to kangaroo meat?</li> <li>3 Have any surveys been undertaken in 2011? If so, can I have copies?</li> <li>4 Is the information gathered during this survey publicly available? If so where and how is it accessible and if not, why not?</li> <li>5 A NSW constituent was counselled by the Food Authority in July 2011 that AQIS was unwilling to release the results of this survey. Have other members of the public been declined the information from this survey and other surveys?</li> <li>6 Under what conditions was this survey undertaken? Provide details.</li> <li>7 What issues, if any, were reported from this survey and what has AQIS done to ensure that these risks are reduced?</li> </ol>			
214	CSD	Heffernan	Industrial action by AQIS inspectors	<p>I refer to recent industrial action by AQIS inspectors in Australian export abattoirs like V&amp;V Walsh in Bunbury, Western Australia and the negative impact this is having on throughput, business viability, and the incomes of workers.</p> <p><b>Questions:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 What action has the Department/Minister taken to resolve the dispute?</li> <li>2 What impact does the Department/Minister consider this industrial action is having on abattoir management, abattoir economics, and workers incomes?</li> </ol>	Written	27/10/11	
215	SRM	MacDonald	Bio-regional planning	<p>Are you aware of the bio-regional planning process in the Gulf of Carpentaria? Please explain your agency's part in the process?</p> <p>What Fisheries Management plans are in place in the Gulf?</p>	Written	27/10/11	
216	SRM/AFMA	MacDonald	Report on the Coral Sea Fishery	<p>Can you give me up an up to date report on the Coral Sea Fishery, advising the number of licensees, tonnage of catch and other relevant information.</p> <p>What consultation has there been with AFMA by other Commonwealth agencies with regard to proposals to limit fishing activity in the Coral Sea?</p>	Written	27/10/11	

217	B-P	Waters	Pest incursions	<p>Per Hansard of 17 October 2011 Dr Grant advised the committee that over the last 12 months the Australian Government has responded to 35 detections of new plant pests or diseases, with only two—chestnut blight and coco pod borer—resulting in a cost shared eradication program, 25 animal disease incidents and five marine pest detections.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Please explain the discrepancy between these figures and the Department’s 2010-11 Annual Report which said that there were more than 50 newly detected plant pests managed under the emergency plant pests response deed alone.</li> <li>2 Also, please explain the reasoning by which the vast majority of detected incursions was deemed to not be “of economic significance or it has been considered that their eradication is not technically feasible and/or beneficial” (language of the Department’s Annual Report). What is the process by which a decision ‘not to eradicate’ was taken in all but 2 of the 35 (or 50) incursions?</li> <li>3 In relation to this process, please advise: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) How many incursions of any sort were detected and investigated in 2010-2011? What were the species involved in 2010-11?</li> <li>b) What was the decision made in respect to each of those detected incursions? How was each decision made? Which of those incursions were regarded as a potential threat to industry? Which to human health or amenity?</li> <li>c) Which of the detected incursions were regarded as a potential threat to the environment? What are the criteria by which you determine this?</li> <li>d) What environmental assessments were conducted to assess the likelihood or level of threat? Please provide copies of these. In decision-making about incursions what method do you use to rank environmental, economic and health threats?</li> <li>e) Who provides technical advice on eradicability? What are the criteria applied? Please provide examples of eradicability assessments for incursions in 2010-2011.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	Written	27/10/11	
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218	B-SP	Waters	Funding for Biosecurity research	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 What funding did the Australian Government provide in 2010-2011 and propose for 2011-2012 for each of the categories of biosecurity-related research, contingency planning, and emergency responses through the following entities: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Primary industries research and development corporations or other industry research bodies – which ones and approximately how much was dedicated to biosecurity-related projects (please specify these projects)</li> <li>b. 2 Plant Health Australia (core funding and special projects to be specified)</li> <li>c. 3. Animal Health Australia (core funding and special projects to be specified)</li> <li>d. 4. Universities, CSIRO and Cooperative Research Centres (projects identified)</li> <li>e. 5. State governments (projects identified)</li> <li>f. 6. Other</li> <li>g. 7. Federal-state emergency incursion responses</li> </ol> </li> <li>2 Outline the funding arrangements (federal, state and industry contributions) for all current national pest incursion responses. How was the level of funding determined? Please provide a copy of the documents outlining the basis for funding levels.</li> <li>3 What federal funds have been allocated to emergency pest eradications/control under national arrangements each year for the past 5 years? If available advise what funding / action industry has contributed towards these efforts?</li> <li>4 How much funding per year for the past 5 years has been allocated for emergency pests with potential environmental impacts? Which species are these?</li> </ol>	Written	27/10/11	
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				<p>5 Estimate is the proportion of total federal biosecurity funding for contingency planning and implementation and emergency responses that go to environmental threats?</p> <p>6 On the DAFF website, it says of foot and mouth disease that ‘Since the UK outbreak, the Australian Government has committed to invest more than half a billion dollars to prepare for and manage the FMD threat.’ What is the annual level of federal government expenditure for FMD preparation and how is it being spent?</p> <p>7 What is the estimated dollar value of primary production lost to weeds, pests and disease in Australia each year?</p> <p>8 What is the estimated level of public funding in Australia provided to assist in controlling these threats to primary industries and preventing new threats?</p>			
219	B-SP	Waters	Biosecurity Staffing	<p>1 How many ecologists are employed by Biosecurity Australia?</p> <p>2 How many technical committees are convened by the Department? Of those how many deal with the technicalities of primary production pests? How many deal with environmental pests?</p> <p>3 With how many primary production corporations and industry groups does the Department have regular contact? With how many environment groups does the Department have regular contact?</p> <p>4 From which primary production corporations and industry groups does the Department seek policy advice? From which environment groups does the Department seek policy advice?</p> <p>5 Animal Health Australia and Plant Health Australia are structured to facilitate government and primary industry cost-sharing in the event of emergency pests and disease incursions through their respective deeds. What body is responsible for safeguarding the Australian environment from exotic pests and diseases?</p>	Written	27/10/11	



				6 What are expected to be the improved outcomes for the Australian environment from the Intergovernmental Agreement on Biosecurity and National Environmental Biosecurity Response Agreement?			
220	B-SP	Waters	National Environmental Biosecurity Response Agreement (NEBRA)	<p>In response to Senator Waters questions on 17 October (p.75) Ms Mellor appeared to suggest that there had been no engagement with ENGOS in the development of the National Environmental Biosecurity Response Agreement (NEBRA).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Is this correct?</li> <li>b. Why were environment groups not involved? How will environment NGOs be involved in implementation of the NEBRA?</li> <li>c. What does DAFF regard as the role and functions of the environmental NGO sector in the various functions of biosecurity? Please provide any Departmental guidance documents setting out how the Department intends to engage with the ENGO sector, particularly in relation to biosecurity.</li> <li>d. What consultation did the Department have in 2010-2011 on biosecurity issues with primary industry groups, community groups with a special interest in the environment and other community groups?</li> <li>e. What provisions for consultation will be contained within the new biosecurity legislation?</li> <li>f. What was the purpose of the Department's 3 year "Engaging in Biosecurity" project? What was the actual cost? What were the outcomes? Which community groups and which environmental NGOs were involved in the project? If the level of involvement of community environment groups was low, was this due to the project's focus on 'on farm' biosecurity?</li> <li>g. Is the Department undertaking any work to ensure that the Department's dominant focus on primary production issues doesn't undermine the Department's ability to drive strong environmental outcomes through the biosecurity work of the Department? If so, what work is being undertaken?</li> </ol>	Written	27/10/11	
221	B-P	Waters	Biosecurity incursion threats	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 How many contingency plans are in place for potential biosecurity incursion threats to industry? How many contingency plans are in place for potential incursion threats to the environment? What are they?</li> <li>2 What work has the Department undertaken to identify the top (for example)</li> </ol>	Written	27/10/11	

				20 incursion threats for the environment? Please advise findings. What is Australia's level of preparedness for these threats? For how many of these are there contingency plans?			
222	B-SP	Waters	New biosecurity legislation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 When is the exposure draft of the new biosecurity legislation expected to be released?</li> <li>2 What new funding will be required to implement the provisions of the new legislation?</li> <li>3 Which Beale recommendations aimed at improving biosecurity outcomes for the environment will be reflected in the legislation?</li> </ol>	Written	27/10/11	
223	B-SP	Waters	Animal Health Australia National Biosecurity Forum	<p>On October 17 Animal Health Australia (AHA) posted on their website a summary of the recent National Biosecurity Forum held on 11 October in Canberra, and reportedly attended by senior government officials, livestock industry leaders and other stakeholders.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. How is the Department involved in this forum?</li> <li>b. One of the reported outcomes was an agreement to establish a government-industry working group to consider the development of a national biosecurity framework. Why is a new national biosecurity framework needed so soon after the Beale review?</li> <li>c. Why was such an important forum initiated by a corporation dedicated to support of animal industries?</li> <li>d. Who represented the needs of the environment in the forum?</li> <li>e. What is the nature and extent of the involvement of community groups, especially environmental NGOs, in considering the development of this national biosecurity framework?</li> </ol>	Written	27/10/11	
224	APD/ APVMA	Waters	Diuron	<p>With regard to APVMA's decision making framework regarding whether or not to reduce or ban usage of diuron –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Can APVMA take into account the fact that current best practice diuron usage (according to Cane growers) is 900g/ha/application, and that 160g/ha/application may not be able to do the job required of it? Is that it wouldn't be effective, and could potentially encourage weed resilience?</li> </ol>	Written	27/10/11	

				<p>b. Is APVMA obliged to ban usage all together if an <i>effective</i> herbicide is way above environmentally safe levels?</p> <p>c. Where APVMA is considering requiring lower application rates of diuron, does APVMA assess and / or consider the difficulties states and territories may have in ensuring compliance with that lower application rate on the ground? Is does APVMA consider the likely practical environmental outcomes of the regulatory change, or does it simply assume full compliance with the new requirements?</p>			
225	APD/ APVMA	Heffernan	Chemical assessment requirements	<p>1 How does APVMA assess the amount of off-site vapour drift which occurs after completion of spraying and more specifically, what audit and compliance monitoring does the APVMA undertake and/or include in their assessment requirements for the continued registration of AGVET chemicals and their reviews?</p> <p>2 What environmental monitoring data requirements are included in the registration, reviews and assessments of AGVET chemicals, and with regard to trichlorfon specifically – what percentage of this chemically breaks down into dichlorvos in a real life situation, such as spraying of a macadamia orchard?</p> <p>3 What label controls has the APVMA put in place to avoid off-site movement of vapour and specifically for how long after trichlorfon application is it unsafe for pregnant orchard workers and their toddlers to be exposed to trichlorfon and dichlorvos?</p> <p>4 If you do not know the answer to questions 2 and 3 with regard to trichlorfon, how do you assess the actual risk of harm to humans, animals and fish, especially with regard to pregnant women?</p> <p>5 Does the APVMA consider that an unborn foetus has a different susceptibility to AGVET chemicals than an adult, and specifically, how are the effects of chemical mixtures and endocrine disrupting chemical mixtures allowed for with regard to the protection of a foetus?</p>	Written	27	

				<p>6 How does APVMA ensure that there is protection to developing foeti ?</p> <p>7 What laboratories in Australia are able to measure AGVET chemicals in human blood for those citizens that have been adversely affected by exposures during spraying in both agricultural and urban environments?</p> <p>8 What advice and support is provided to the medical profession by the APVMA when patients present to them with an AGVET chemical exposure and are suffering adverse reactions?</p>			
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## Transferred QoNs

APD	Siewert	GM wheat crops	What monitoring or surveillance system is in place to determine if GM wheat has found its way off site or into the human or animal feed supply?	Written Transferred to DoHA 27/10/11	21/10/11	
APD	Siewert	GM wheat crops	During 2006-2007 a large portion of the American rice harvest (which is non-GM) was contaminated with several experimental GM rice varieties, including varieties not approved for human consumption. The cause of that contamination is still not known – Bayer are reported to have claimed that the cause was an ‘Act of God’. US rice growers lost contracts, crops and livelihoods. Many markets were closed to them. Clean-up is estimated to have cost over US \$1 billion. In this context, what guarantees can you make that there will be no contamination of our non-GM wheat supplies?	Written Transferred to DoHA 27/10/11	21/10/11	
APD	Siewert	GM wheat crops	Are you aware of any examples from anywhere in the world of experimental GM crops finding their way into the human or animal food supply?	Written Transferred to DoHA 27/10/11	21/10/11	
APD	Fawcett	Invasive Animals CRC	The Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre appears to be the only entity in Australia receiving substantial Commonwealth funding for work on invasive animals including the European wild rabbit. What assurance can be given that the Invasive Animals CRC will continue to receive funding in the future?	Written Transferred to DIISR 31/10/2011	27/10/11	

SRM/ AFMA	Colbeck	Marine Reserves	<p><b><u>6 abd South West Bioregion (SWB)</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Please provide details of any changes to the original SWB marine reserves network proposal put to the fishing industry by SEWPac in May 2011.</li> <li>2 What is the consultation process regarding changes to the original SWB marine reserves network?</li> <li>3 What consultations have taken place with industry regarding changes to the original SWB marine reserves network?</li> <li>4 Provide details of the science and other data that support to the location of the original SWB marine reserves network and of any proposed changes to the original proposal.</li> <li>5 What is the anticipated cost of implementing these marine reserves?</li> <li>6 What is the total expected compensation cost?</li> <li>7 What is the anticipated value of the compensation package for the Rock lobster industry?</li> <li>8 How were these expected compensations costs calculated?</li> <li>9 Has the fishing industry and other affected industries agreed to those calculations?</li> <li>10 What are the ongoing annualised costs of administering these reserves, including the costs of ensuring compliance with the reserves?</li> <li>11 How will these costs be recouped?</li> <li>12 Have any agencies or organisations been approached regarding the administration and compliance monitoring of these reserves?</li> <li>13 If so, at what stage are the negotiations?</li> </ol>	Written  Transferred to SEWPAC 31/10/2011	27/10/11	
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ABARES	Colbeck	Mining boom forecasting	<p><b><u>Minerals and resources boom</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 The record commodity earnings projected for 2011-12 are largely due to increases in earnings from energy and minerals (ABARES media release 21 June 2011), what forecasting has ABARES done regarding the longer term horizon for this boom?</li> <li>2 What are the likely longer term impacts on infrastructural developments and the impact of infrastructural developments focussed in on mining?</li> </ol>	Written Transferred to BREE 31/10/2011	31/10/11	
SRM	Nash	Government investment in Henbury Station	In relation to Henbury Station - on what grounds has the Government funded the investment by RMW Agricultural Holdings?	Written Transferred to SEWPAC 1/11/2011	25/10/11	
SRM	Nash	Government investment in Henbury Station	Who stands to profit from the Henbury Station/RMWAH investment?	Written Transferred to SEWPAC 1/11/2011	25/10/11	
SRM	Nash	Government investment in Henbury Station	How will the taxpayer benefit from the Governments RMWAH investment?	Written Transferred to SEWPAC 1/11/2011	25/10/11	
SRM	Nash	Government investment in Henbury Station	Will this type of Government investment opportunity (RMWAH) be available to other small private operators, in the Northern beef industry?	Written Transferred to SEWPAC 1/11/2011	25/10/11	

SRM	Nash	Government investment in Henbury Station	Does the Government intend funding further baseline audits to allow other organisations to develop similar proposals, such as the RMWAH deal, for their business?	Written  Transferred to SEWPAC 1/11/2011	25/10/11	
SRM	Nash	Government investment in Henbury Station	Did the Government undertake any research into the likely impacts on profitability of the remainder of the beef industry in the same region as Henbury Station? Ie. Leaving those still operating in the area to bear a proportionately higher cost of service industry overheads. If research was conducted, can this be provided?	Written  Transferred to SEWPAC 1/11/2011	25/10/11	
SRM	Nash	Government investment in Henbury Station	Did the Government research what impacts the Henbury Station contraction of local industry may have on the capital value of the other properties in the same area? ie. Given that profitability will be reduced and that reduced social strength will make the region less attractive to investment by traditional food producers. Could this research be provided?	Written  Transferred to SEWPAC 1/11/2011	25/10/11	
CCD	Colbeck	Centrelink Rural Officers	<b><u>Centrelink Rural Officers</u></b> 1 Please outline the changes to the Centrelink Rural Officers network? 2 Have Rural officer numbers been reduced? 3 If so, by how many and where have these cuts been made? 4 How has the national "Drought Bus" been staffed; through external recruitment or internal secondment?	Written  Transferred to Centrelink 2/11/2011	27/10/11	
ABARES	Colbeck	Household consumption	<b><u>Household consumption</u></b> 1 Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) used to compile statistics on apparent consumption of selected food in Australia every ten years, but the latest available data for vegetable consumption is 1998-99. 2 Why did this information cease being compiled? 3 Who has responsibility for this information now?	Written  Transferred to ABS 8/11/2011	27/10/11	



