

Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates February 2007

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question no: CP 01

Division/Agency: Corporate Policy Division

Topic: Superannuation fund investment in rural economy

Hansard page: 13 (14/2/07)

Senator O'Brien asked:

Senator O'Brien—Does the department have any information about the level of superannuation fund investment in rural economy?

Mr Grant—No. Not that I am aware of.

Senator O'Brien—Do you collect all the media clippings on matters relating to the rural economy?

Mr Grant—Yes. We do.

Senator O'Brien—So if the department is not aware, then there probably are not any media clippings about that. Is that right?

Mr Grant—We do have a range of meetings with the industry across the board. Where they would be reported as superannuation investments contributing to agricultural growth and prosperity, that would be reported to us, and we would take notice of that, of course.

Mr Quinlivan—Senator, these questions that you have asked about research and knowledge within the department, to the best of the knowledge of the people at this table, Mr Grant's answers are all correct, but I think we should just confirm them with ABARE. We will do that through the morning just to check whether ABARE have not been doing some more work in this area, and it is quite possible they have been, that we are not aware of. We will confirm that.

Answer:

The Australian Bureau of Agriculture and Resource Economics (ABARE) has not undertaken any research on this topic.

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Question no: CP 02

Division/Agency: Corporate Policy Division

Topic: Managed Investment Projects

Hansard page: 15 (14/2/07)

Senator O'Brien asked:

Senator O'Brien—I also take it that the department has not made any specific arrangements, nor has it in relation to visiting specific managed investment projects such as the Great Southern organic olives project in Brookton, Western Australia, the Oak Valley truffle project in Manjimup, Western Australia, the Macquarie almond project in Robinvale or the Elliston, South Australia, abalone project; that has not been the work that this department has done?

Mr Grant—We have not had a detailed program of visiting MIS companies but that is not to say that officers from around the department who travel extensively in looking at regional issues might not have visited some of those companies as part of those visits. I do not have that information.

Senator O'Brien—Could you advise us on notice what activities the department has had in relation to these particular projects, if any?

Mr Grant—Of course.

Answer:

There is no record of the Department of Agriculture Fisheries & Forestry having visited the Great Southern organic olives project in Brookton, Western Australia, the Oak Valley truffle project in Manjimup, Western Australia, the Macquarie almond project in Robinvale or the Elliston, South Australia, abalone project.

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Question no: CP03

Division/Agency: Corporate Policy Division

Topic: Involvement of Quarantine Exports Advisory Council in import risk analysis appeal process

Hansard page: 93 (14/02/07)

Senator O'Brien asked:

How long have QEAC had this role in the appeals process?

Answer:

QEAC's role in the appeals process arose from the Government response in 1997 to the report *Australian Quarantine - a shared responsibility* (1996). The Government agreed to convene an appeals panel to be chaired by the Chairman of QEAC. The panel's membership and role was set out in the 1998 Import Risk Analysis Handbook.

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Question no: CP 04

Division/Agency: Corporate Policy Division

Topic: Notification of the transfer of water responsibility between portfolios

Hansard page: 4 (14/2/07)

Senator O'Brien asked:

Senator O'Brien - Was there any advance warning to the department that water was going to environment?

Mr Quinlivan - Do you mean in advance of the Prime Minister's announcement?

Senator O'Brien - Yes.

Mr Quinlivan - No; not to the department.

Senator O'Brien - Do you know when the minister was informed?

Mr Quinlivan - I am not aware whether the minister had any prior information or not.

Senator O'Brien - Can the department take on notice the question of when the minister was informed, and when the department was informed?

Mr Quinlivan - I have answered the question with regard to the department. I can ask that question of the minister.

Answer:

The Hon Peter McGauran MP, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry was advised of the decision on 23 January 2007.

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Question no: CP 05

Division/Agency: Corporate Policy Division

Topic: Change in Administrative Arrangements Order

Hansard page: 7 (14/2/07)

Senator O'Brien asked:

Mr Pahl – Senator O'Brien, you asked a question earlier about when the administrative arrangements orders were changed. They were signed on 30 January.

Senator O'Brien— Are you going to give us information about when the department knew?

Mr Pahl — Certainly

Answer:

23 January 2007.

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Question no: CP 06

Division/Agency: Corporate Policy Division

Topic: Opinion Polls and Market Research

Hansard page: Written

Senator Wong asked:

What sum was spent on opinion polls, focus groups or market research in 2006 by each department and agency in the Minister's portfolio?

Answer:

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and each agency within the Minister's portfolio reports on the conduct of opinion polls, focus groups and market research as part of its Annual Reporting requirements.

For the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, information on opinion polls, focus groups and market research is reported on pages 363-367 of its 2005/06 Annual Report.

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Question no: CP 07

Division/Agency: Corporate Policy Division

Topic: Opinion Polls and Market Research

Hansard page: Written

Senator Wong asked:

Will the Ministers provide a list of the opinion polls, focus groups, or market research agencies what are used by department and agencies in the Minister's office?

Answer:

Refer to CP 06.

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Question no: CP 08

Division/Agency: Corporate Policy Division

Topic: Opinion Polls and Market Research

Hansard page: Written

Senator Wong asked:

How much of the opinion polls, focus groups or market research expenditure of agencies or departments was conducted at the request of the Minister's office?

Answer:

No opinions polls, market research or focus group research was conducted at the request of the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

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Question no: CP 09

Division/Agency: Corporate Policy Division

Topic: Opinion Polls and Market Research

Hansard page: Written

Senator Wong asked:

What benefit-cost assessments have been done which assess the returns from opinion polls, focus groups or market research?

Answer:

Market research for government communication campaigns is conducted in accordance with the guidelines of the Government Communications Unit of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. Assessments of the benefits of opinion polls, market research or focus group research are a requirement.

For other quantitative and qualitative studies, assessments of the benefits of opinion polls, market research or focus group research are a normal requirement of project management.

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Question no: CP 10

Division/Agency: Corporate Policy Division

Topic: Advertising campaigns

Hansard page: Written

Senator Wong asked:

What sum was spent on each of the active advertising campaigns for each department and agency in the Minister's portfolio?

Answer:

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and each agency within the Minister's portfolio reports on the conduct of advertising campaigns.

For the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, information on polling, and market research is reported on pages 363-367 of its 2005/06 Annual Report.

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Question no: CP 11

Division/Agency: Corporate Policy Division

Topic: Advertising campaigns

Hansard page: Written

Senator Wong asked:

For Campaign Advertising in each department and agency in the Minister's portfolio, what is the:

- (a) cost;
- (b) frequency; and
- (c) type/medium (e.g. print, television, radio) of campaign advertising for this financial year?

Can this information be provided on a monthly basis for the financial year?

Answer:

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and each agency within the Minister's portfolio reports on the conduct of advertising campaigns.

For the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, information on advertising and market research is reported on pages 363-367 of its 2005/06 Annual Report. Information on expenditure for 2006/07 will be reported in the 2006/07 Annual Report.

To break this information down into monthly expenditure would require a significant diversion of resources.