

Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport

Questions taken on notice for the Additional Estimates hearings 14 and 16 February 2007

Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF)

Hansard page no	Division/ Agency	Question no	Senator	Subject & Question on Notice	Date reply received	Date to Senators	Tabling date	No
100	Australian Bureau of Resource Economics	ABARE01	McGauran	<p><i>(oil prices)</i></p> <p>Senator McGAURAN—When was the last time it was \$45? Dr Sheales—Probably about a year ago. I would have to look it up. I do not know exactly. But we have moved from there. Senator McGAURAN—It is 1990 prices you are predicting for 2011. Dr Sheales—In real terms? CHAIR—Yes, in real terms. Dr Sheales—It is probably a bit below that, but I would have to check.</p>				1
101	ABARE	ABARE02	Siewert	<p><i>(carbon cost modelling)</i></p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—How are you modelling the cost of carbon if you are not modelling any in some of the other predictive work that you are doing? Mr Glyde—I make a distinction between the work that we do in relation to forecasting and the very long run modelling that we do for looking at the various costs and benefits of different mitigation strategies. They are two quite separate activities. As you have seen in the various publications that ABARE has put out over the last few years, you can quite explicitly model various prices of carbon, various carbon taxes or emissions trading regimes. I can provide the references to you, if that would help. Senator SIEWERT—That would be useful.</p>				2
104	ABARE	ABARE03	McGauran	<p><i>(commodity outlook for live sheep and cattle trade)</i></p> <p>Senator McGAURAN—What about the live sheep and cattle trade? Dr Sheales—For the live sheep trade I do not have any numbers readily to hand. The main constraint on that, of course, is the availability of suitable sheep, particularly out in the west, and I think we were talking about four to five million head, but I would have to double-check that</p>				3

105	ABARE	ABARE04	Nash	<p><i>(commodity outlook for wool)</i></p> <p>Senator NASH—How far out have you forecast for? Dr Sheales—I am talking about this current season, to the middle of the year. Senator NASH—Have you done any work further out than that? Dr Sheales—We will be releasing that next month, but we have not done it yet so I cannot even hazard guess, to be perfectly frank with you. Senator NASH—You might like to supply the committee with the information when it comes to hand. Dr Sheales—We will be supplying everyone with the information when we have it ready.</p>					4
108	ABARE	ABARE05	O'Brien	<p><i>(commodity outlook for pork and chickens)</i></p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—What about pork and chickens? Dr Sheales—In relation to pork, despite high grain prices—and maybe partly because of that—pork prices have been a bit better in the past, say, 12 months than they were previously. That is mainly because production of pork is down. We are talking about production in the past 12 months being about 380,000 tonnes versus 390,000 the previous year, which is not a great difference, I admit, but average prices have been 260c a kilo versus 232c, so that is a pretty substantial increase. Some of that might be reflecting that pork is out there competing with beef, lamb and chicken in the one marketplace. If prices of some of the competing meats are bit higher or, more importantly, if the supply is a bit down, pork producers will benefit. Given that we import pork, I imagine that there is also an issue with the prices at which imports are coming in. They may be a bit higher, but I would have to check that.</p>					5
110	ABARE	ABARE06	O'Brien	<p><i>(research on ethanol)</i></p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—I think the last question I asked was about ethanol. Is there any work that has been published or is all the work you have done secret? Mr Glyde—No. The work that Dr Sheales referred to was published, and it was published as part of the Biofuels Taskforce report. It was also published separately. We are happy to give you a copy of that, if you like. Senator O'BRIEN—Yes, thank you.</p>					6
110	ABARE	ABARE07	O'Brien	<p>Mr Glyde—And, as Dr Sheales said, we are doing some work for Outlook as well, which we can provide you at that stage.</p>					7

110	ABARE	ABARE08	O'Brien	<p><i>(research on the impact of climate change)</i></p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—That was work done under the climate variability program, was it? There was a program run by this department on climate variability for agriculture. Was that the program that funded your research?</p> <p>Mr Glyde—I am not sure. That is probably a question best directed to the Natural Resource Management Division. We could probably take that on notice and find out what the funding sources are, if you like, but they would definitely have been one of the funders.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—Would you do that, because we said we did not need them, so—</p>				8
111	ABARE	ABARE09	O'Brien	<p><i>(national plantation based resource)</i></p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—What can you tell us—and you may not be equipped to today—about the national plantation based resource?</p> <p>Dr Sheales—I do not have any information to even help me answer that. We have a forestry group. It is very small. They tend to collect statistics and publish some of those. They may do a few other things, but I am not across that. I understand—and maybe I could be corrected—that the BRS collects some forestry statistics, which may in fact be what you are after, but you will have to ask that when the time comes, please.</p> <p>Mr Glyde—I can take it on notice, Senator.</p>				9
114	ABARE	ABARE10	Nash	<p><i>(GM grains – 'reasonable level of cleaning')</i></p> <p>Senator NASH—When ABARE said 'reasonable level of cleaning', what was your definition of 'reasonable level of cleaning'?</p> <p>Mr Glyde—I am afraid that I do not have that information.</p> <p>Senator NASH—Could you take that on notice for me.</p> <p>Mr Glyde—Yes</p>				10

115	ABARE	ABARE11	Nash	<p><i>(GM grains – truck queuing rules)</i></p> <p>Senator NASH—Okay. Give me two seconds. I have been really good all day. You may well have to take this on notice: Third, it is possible to alter which group of growers bears the additional costs through altering the truck queuing rules at the central receival site. If, for example, it is decided that GM grain growers should bear all the additional costs and not non-GM grain growers, then the queuing time could be lengthened for GM producers and shortened for other grain producers. Could you explain what that means and how the length of the queue is going to affect what your return is going to be? Mr Glyde—I knew we should have brought the author of the report with us. Senator NASH—I am sure my office indicated that I was going to ask questions around this. Mr Glyde—My apologies, because I was not aware of that. Senator NASH—That is okay. Maybe there was a miscommunication. Mr Glyde—I was not aware of that. Senator NASH—If you would not mind taking that one on notice as well for me?</p>				11
115	ABARE	ABARE12	Nash	<p><i>(GM grains- cost differences)</i></p> <p>Senator NASH—That sounds like a very good idea. I think the costs attributed—I do not have it with me—to one of the farms was \$331 and \$1,119 on two others. But it did not say what that cost was—whether it was per month, per year, or a one-off cost. Do you know what that might have been? Dr Sheales—You need further elaboration and we would be very happy to give it to you. Mr Glyde—I am sorry that we do not have the officer here.</p>				12

116	ABARE	ABARE13	Heffernan	<p><i>(Contracting of ABARE by GM growers)</i></p> <p>CHAIR—You have not been contracted by the GM growers, have you?</p> <p>Mr Glyde—Not that I am aware of.</p> <p>CHAIR—Could we find that out?</p> <p>Mr Glyde—Yes.</p> <p>Dr Sheales—Some work has been funded by GRDC and some work funded by our department. On this particular one, I am not sure.</p> <p>CHAIR—This is a nutcase scenario.</p> <p>Mr Glyde—We will give you the funding. I think it came through the National Biotechnology Strategy, but we will confirm that.</p>					13
7	Australian Fisheries Management Authority	AFMA01	O'Brien	<p><i>(expected impact of management plan)</i></p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—So, for each of the fisheries management plans that have been put into effect over the last decade, AFMA would have provided advice on the expected impact of that new management plan to the department and to the government?</p> <p>Mr McLoughlin—Yes, because the management plans are widely consulted through industry and publicly. The consolidated comments on the effect of the implementation of those plans—most of which have been very strongly supported by industry—are identified, because it is ministers during that period that have been signing off on those plans to turn them into law.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—Can we see copies of those views that were arrived at by AFMA in relation to the expected impact of the management plan?</p> <p>Senator Abetz—If it is advice to government, I dare say not, but we can take that on notice and see what the protocol around that is.</p>					14
9	AFMA	AFMA02	O'Brien	<p><i>(revenue from levies and licence fees)</i></p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—The annual report talks about the subsidised levies, does it, and the PBS talks about actual levies?</p> <p>Mr McLoughlin—The budget for fisheries management would be as outlined in the annual report. The funds that come through from levies, which are administered funds, would be—</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—It is the budget for revenues from levies and licence fees that I was talking about.</p> <p>Mr McLoughlin—I do not have the annual report with me, but I can provide you on notice with a breakdown of where the funding has gone.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—Thank you for that.</p>					15

9	AFMA	AFMA03	O'Brien	<p><i>(projected drop in revenue)</i></p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—The forward estimates for 2009-10 on page 122 of the PBS show a drop in projected revenue of more than \$11 million. Why is that?</p> <p>Mr McLoughlin—Page 122?</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—You will see the out years drop down from \$66 million to \$54.68 million.</p> <p>Mr McLoughlin—Senator, that reflects the phasing down of the \$21 million over that period of three years. That is what I believe to be the case, but can I confirm that. Given that that \$64 million in the forward estimates for 2007-08 reflects the fact that we are still in a levy subsidy and research subsidy period, that phasing down will be what that represents. But I need to confirm that for you, and that can be part of the additional advice that I provide.</p>				16
11	AFMA	AFMA04	O'Brien	<p><i>(attribution of compliance costs)</i></p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—Can we get a breakdown of how our compliance expenses are expended?</p> <p>Mr McLoughlin—By each fishery?</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—Not necessarily by each fishery, but if that is simpler than an aggregated one, that will be fine.</p> <p>Mr McLoughlin—I can take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—I presume the higher cost of monitoring the foreign fishery is due to the costs of remote surveillance.</p>				17
12	AFMA	AFMA05	O'Brien	<p><i>(statistics on inspections)</i></p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—Again in the annual report, the total number of trips and landings in Commonwealth fisheries for 2005-06 was 9,689; the total number of inspections was 664; 6.8 per cent of all trips were inspected by Fisheries officers; and the number of offences detected was 104 from 664 inspections, or 16 per cent. Perhaps you could advise us on notice how that compares with the previous three years.</p> <p>Mr McLoughlin—I will have to take that one on notice, Senator.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—Is that normally a statistic in your annual reports?</p> <p>Mr McLoughlin—You have got me there.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—You can take that on notice. What I am leading to is that if it is easier to go further back than that I would appreciate it.</p> <p>Mr McLoughlin—I will certainly check that.</p>				18

13	AFMA	AFMA06	O'Brien	<p><i>(inspections and detection of offences)</i></p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—What sorts of offences were discovered, given that 38 per cent of inspections—that small number of inspections—detected offences?</p> <p>Mr McLoughlin—I do not have the data in front of me but, given that it is a complex management system, my guess would be that they are mostly administrative offences.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—Can you take that on notice and give us a more confident answer?</p> <p>Mr McLoughlin—Yes I can.</p>				19
15	AFMA	AFMA07	O'Brien	<p>Mr McLoughlin—We also do random inspections in ports via fisheries officers where there is, as I indicated earlier, a secondary set of documents that we put in place for quota managed fisheries. We have a cash disposal record system, and the first receiver of the fish off the boat has to sign a document stating the amount of fish received, where it came from and the dates and times it was received. If people are going to undertake a fraud or an attempted fraud at the boat level, it is another thing to try to then include the next stage up in the supply chain. If offences have occurred, they are fraud against the Commonwealth and they are treated as such.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—How many convictions have you obtained recently for that type of offence?</p> <p>Mr McLoughlin—In terms of fraud offences against the Commonwealth, there has been one already this year in the state of Victoria. We do not have that data with us, but we can provide it on notice.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—Yes, if you can. The claims that fudging is not uncommon need to be balanced against what your success rate is in proving such fudging. One this year is all that you can recall.</p>				20

16	AFMA	AFMA08	O'Brien	<p><i>(AMFA staffing and contracting)</i></p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—According to this chart, there are no contractors, in the annual report: observer program, three positions, three core staff, no temporaries, no contractors—three total staff.</p> <p>Mr McLoughlin—Yes, that is in those groups. The observers themselves are contractors.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—Why don't they appear as contractors in this chart?</p> <p>Mr McLoughlin—I do not have it in front of me. It relates to the staffing of AFMA. We do not see that contractors are recorded as core staff, other than the ones that are in those groups.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—No, but you have a column for core staff, you have a column for temporaries and you have a column for contractors.</p> <p>Mr McLoughlin—I will have to provide clarification for you, given that I do not have the annual report in front of me. In terms of the staffing of AFMA, for the period of that annual report, I can provide clarification around those comments.</p>				21
17	AFMA	AFMA09	O'Brien	<p>Senator O'BRIEN—How many people are actually in core staff positions?</p> <p>Mr McLoughlin—I will have to take that on notice, as of today, because it changes. Obviously staff turnover is an issue for us.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—All right. Do you have any of those figures available or will you have to take any questions on this matter on notice?</p> <p>Mr McLoughlin—As I said, the staffing that we are budgeting for at the present time is 220, and that is changing as we pick up staff.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—No, I know what you are budgeting for. I am actually asking how many people you have got. The budget might be for twice as many; I do not know. I would just like to know how many people are actually on the payroll at the moment or are contractors.</p> <p>Mr McLoughlin—I can take that on notice—to let you know the total staffing as of today.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—Well, it can be as of 1 February or 31 January, whichever is the easiest payroll date.</p> <p>Mr McLoughlin—I can certainly do that.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—It does not have to go across pay periods, if that is inconvenient. Something contemporaneous would be useful.</p> <p>Mr McLoughlin—I will provide that information on the last payday for AFMA, from today's date.</p>				22

written	Australian Fisheries Management Authority	AFMA10WRITTEN	Ludwig	<p><i>(staffing)</i> For the years 2005-06, please indicate:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Not including those employed in policy functions, the number of Full-Time Equivalent positions assigned to the following areas: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Border compliance; b. The development of technology or programs designed to augment, replace or assist any of the above functions; 2. For each of the categories in (1), please indicate: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The breakdown of APS classifications for those personnel; b. The total wages cost of all personnel under that category; 				23
65	Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority	APVMA01	Heffernan	<p><i>(objectipns to withdrawal of 2,4-D)</i></p> <p>CHAIR—So who objects mostly to the withdrawal of it? Dr Smith—I guess the most strenuous input we have had on this issue has been related to grain growers. CHAIR—But what weed are they after? Dr Smith—I would have to take that on notice. CHAIR—Could you make available to the committee your lead objections? Do they detail what they are after in terms of what weed they are after? It is hard to make a constructive appraisal unless they tell us they are after— Dr Smith—I could take that on notice and provide you with information on the specific weed or weeds that they are interested in treating. CHAIR—I would be interested to see that. Then I will tell you the difference in the price if you do that for me. Dr Smith—Okay. We will provide that.</p>				24

70	APVMA	APVMA02	O'Brien	<p><i>(client satisfaction surveys-results)</i></p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—Does the APVMA undertake client satisfaction surveys of clients who register products?</p> <p>Dr Smith—We do.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—Are you able to summarise the results?</p> <p>Dr Smith—In general terms, we publish the findings or the key issues that are raised from our client satisfaction surveys on our web site. The last one that we published I recall was around October or November last year. I do not have specific numbers with me, but the sorts of issues that our clients indicate where they believe we could improve our performance relate to factors such as timeliness in processing applications—and that is an issue you have already touched on—and concerns about consistency in advice that they get from different people within different parts of the APVMA. I would be happy to take that on notice and provide you with the summary that we have prepared from previous surveys.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—That would be good, thank you.</p> <p>Dr Smith—It is publicly available, so I am quite happy to do that.</p>					25
64	AQIS	AQIS01	Milne	<p><i>(Devil Facial Tumour Disease)</i></p> <p>Senator MILNE—Will you take on notice a question to the Tasmanian department: at what point did they know that a devil with Devil Facial Tumour Disease was found dead in proximity to the park? When did they get that information? How did they get it? How did they give the Commonwealth false information? Let us establish first when and how they knew that that dead animal was near the park.</p>					26
64	AQIS	AQIS02	Milne	<p>Senator Abetz—People always like to be provocative for a headline with words like 'false information'. It may well be that it was simply incorrect without the implication of the conspiracy and other things. Let us just keep it relaxed and find out. We might also take on notice what 'in proximity' actually means.</p> <p>Senator MILNE—Exactly where was the dead animal? I am very happy to know that.</p> <p>Mr Yuile—We can ask that of the Tasmanian authorities.</p>					27

85	AQIS	AQIS03	Heffernan	<p><i>(rejections of prawn consignments)</i></p> <p>CHAIR—The one thing that you can be sure of is that this committee will continue to throw its weight around with regard to protecting Australia’s clean, green and free status. Just as an aside, do we have any statistics on rejections of prawn consignments?</p> <p>Mr Yuile—Yes, we do. In relation to the current testing program?</p> <p>CHAIR—Yes, I probably would like to include in that, which is somebody else’s job I suppose, the antibiotic part of it.</p> <p>Mr Yuile—We can get you that information, Senator.</p> <p>CHAIR—I did get some recently.</p> <p>Mr Yuile—We would have the data with respect to white-spot syndrome because of the testing regime there. I can see what other data we have. My memory is about 80-odd per cent of consignments are clear and 20 per cent are rejected, but I will double-check that for you.</p>				28
written	Australian Quarantine Inspection Service	AQIS04WR ITTEN	Ludwig	<p><i>(staffing)</i></p> <p>For the years 2005-06, please indicate:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Not including those employed in policy functions, the number of Full-Time Equivalent positions assigned to the following areas: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The screening, holding and clearance of post arriving in Australia (not including the Torres Strait); b. The screening, holding and clearance of sea cargo arriving in Australia (not including the Torres Strait); c. The screening, holding and clearance of air cargo arriving in Australia (not including the Torres Strait); d. The screening, holding and clearance of persons arriving in Australia by air (not including the Torres Strait); e. The screening, holding and clearance of persons arriving in Australia by sea (not including the Torres Strait); f. The development of technology or programs designed to augment, replace or assist any of the above functions; 2. For each of the categories in (1), please indicate: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The breakdown of APS classifications for those personnel; b. The total wages cost of all personnel under that category; 				29

written	AQIS	AQIS05WR ITTEN	Ludwig	<p><i>(staffing)</i></p> <p>For the years 2005-06, please indicate:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Not including those employed in policy functions, the number of Full-Time Equivalent positions assigned to the Torres Strait region. 2. For each of the categories in (1), please indicate: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The breakdown of APS classifications for those personnel; b. The total wages cost of all personnel under that category; 					30
written	AQIS	AQIS06WR ITTEN	Wong	<p>Below is a list of active campaigns that were tabled on 30 October 2006 at Senate Estimates, what were the actual costs for those which have been completed as relevant to each department and agency in the Minister's portfolio?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bushfire Preparedness- AGD • People Trafficking- AGD • Family Law Reform- AGD/FACSIA • Bird Flu (05/06)- AQIS • Quarantine Matters! (Jul 06 – Dec 06)- AQIS • 30% Childcare Tax Rebate- ATO • Defence Force Recruiting (2006-2007)- Defence • Skills For the Future- DEST • Welfare to Work- DEWR • Citizenship (06/07)- DIMA • T3- DOFA • Eliminating Violence Against Women (2006)- FACSIA • Financial Literacy- Treasury 					31
78	Biosecurity Australia	BA01	Heffernan	<p><i>(eminent scientists group)</i></p> <p>CHAIR—But let us agree that if there is four on the panel and one bloke says, 'I think the rest of you are wrong for all of these reasons,' then for the greater good the rest of Australia ought to know his reasons. Otherwise, why be on the damn panel?</p> <p>Mr Cahill—I am not disagreeing with you.</p> <p>CHAIR—Can we get that nailed down somewhere?</p> <p>Mr Cahill—The procedural arrangements, the way in which the eminent scientists go about their task, is a matter for the eminent scientists group.</p> <p>CHAIR—Could someone give us some advice to the effect that that would be possible without getting that person the sack or feeling that it is a waste of time in the process?</p> <p>Mr Cahill—We will convey that to the eminent scientists group.</p>					32

95	Biosecurity Australia	BA02	O'Brien	<p><i>(IRA for bee semen)</i></p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—We had better ring the contact and find out whether it is as you suspect or in the expectation that there will be an approval of or an IRA for bee semen.</p> <p>Mr Burns—We will follow that up.</p>				33
95	BA	BA03	O'Brien	<p>Senator O'BRIEN—How long has this process been going on bee semen?</p> <p>Dr Martin—I would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—Perhaps on notice you can tell us what the issues are with the importation of that product.</p> <p>Dr Martin—There are pests and diseases—diseases of bees. We can give you a list of those.</p>				34
119-120	BRS	BRS01	O'Brien	<p><i>(Signposts for Australian Agriculture project)</i></p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—Thank you. What are the aims of the Signposts for Australian Agriculture project?</p> <p>Dr Grant—Signposts for Australian Agriculture is a program that originated out of Land and Water Australia. We took a contract from them to produce a database of information that can give an indication of how an industry is going. We chose in the first instance, with some assistance from the relevant R&D corporation, to look at the fishing industry, and from there it has blossomed to looking at a number of industries. We have looked at the grains industry and we are subsequently now looking at the dairy and, I think, pork industries. I can take on notice as to which particular industries.</p>				35
121	BRS	BRS02	O'Brien	<p><i>(BRS contracts)</i></p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—Can the committee receive on notice the detail of the contracts which can be accounted for in that \$15 million additional expenditure?</p> <p>Mr McGovern—Yes, we will provide it on notice.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—Thanks for that.</p>				36

122	BRS	BRS03	Siewert	<p><i>(classification of fish species)</i></p> <p>Dr Bygrave—For example, it would not be fair to say that all of the nine species that were unclassified in 2004 have gone into other classifications in 2005.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—What does that mean then? Does that mean you did not classify them at all this time?</p> <p>Dr Bygrave—I would have to take that on notice. But my guesstimate at this stage would be that it reflects that we have not focused our energies on those particular species and that we have focused our energies in particular on those high-value stocks.</p>					37
21	BRS	BRS04	Siewert	<p><i>(research into orange roughy)</i></p> <p>Mr McLoughlin—Yes, that has been done. I think all the separate areas of orange roughy fishing have been looked at genetically.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—Is that information publicly available?</p> <p>Mr Hurry—I would assume it would be. I would have to check, but I cannot see any reason why it would not be.</p>					38
119	BRS	BRS05	O'Brien	<p><i>(publications on climate change)</i></p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—What are you publishing, if anything?</p> <p>Dr Ritman—We are publishing in the area of climate change and those models.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—Perhaps you can give us on notice a list of the material you have published.</p> <p>Dr Ritman—That we have published?</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—Yes, and what you are intending to publish as well.</p> <p>Dr Ritman—We have undertaken reports on farming profitably under climate change. We have a <i>Science for Decision Makers</i> on climate adaptation and we have in plan some others which we will take on notice too.</p>					39

13	Corporate Policy	CP01	O'Brien	<p><i>(superannuation fund investment in rural economy)</i></p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—Does the department have any information about the level of superannuation fund investment in rural economy?</p> <p>Mr Grant—No. Not that I am aware of.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—Do you collect all the media clippings on matters relating to the rural economy?</p> <p>Mr Grant—Yes. We do.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—So if the department is not aware, then there probably are not any media clippings about that. Is that right?</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>				40
15	Corporate Policy	CP02	O'Brien	<p><i>(managed investment projects)</i></p> <p>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?</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—Could you advise us on notice what activities the department has had in relation to these particular projects, if any?</p> <p>Mr Grant—Of course.</p>				41

93	Corporate Policy	CP03	O'Brien	<p><i>(Role of QEAC in IRA appeals process)</i></p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—How long have QEAC had this role in the appeals process?</p> <p>Ms Anderson—From memory, since at least 1998, but I would need to check that for you to make sure that is correct.</p>				42
4		CP04	O'Brien	<p><i>(Notification of the transfer of water responsibility between portfolios)</i></p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—Was there any advance warning to the department that water was going to environment?</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan—Do you mean in advance of the Prime Minister's announcement?</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—Yes.</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan—No; not to the department.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—Do you know when the minister was informed?</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan—I am not aware whether the minister had any prior information or not.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—Can the department take on notice the question of when the minister was informed, and when the department was informed?</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan—I have answered the question with regard to the department. I can ask that question of the minister.</p>				43
7		CP05	O'Brien	<p><i>(Change in Administrative Arrangements Order)</i></p> <p>Mr Pahl – Senator O'Brien, you asked a question earlier about when the administrative arrangements orders were changed. They were signed on 30 January.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN— Are you going to give us information about when the department knew?</p> <p>Mr Pahl — Certainly</p>				44
written	CP	CP06WRIT TEN	Wong	<p><i>(Opinion Polls/ Market research)</i></p> <p>What sum was spent on opinion polls, focus groups or market research in 2006 by each department and agency in the Minister's portfolio?</p>				45
written	CP	CP07WRIT TEN	Wong	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 portfolio?				46
written	CP	CP08WRIT TEN	Wong	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?				47
written	CP	CP08WRIT TEN	Wong	What benefit-cost assessments have been done which assess the returns from opinion polls, focus groups of market research?				48

written	CP	CP09WRIT TEN	Wong	<i>(Advertising campaigns)</i> What sum was spent on each of the active advertising campaigns for each department and agency in the Minister's portfolio?					49
written	CP	CP11WRIT TEN	Wong	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?					50
51	Food and Agriculture	F&A01	Heffernan	<i>(qualification guidelines for 'Made in Australia' labelling)</i> CHAIR —So 50 per cent of the costs could be distribution and the mark-up? Mr Souness —There are guidelines that the ACCC have as to what can be counted and what cannot be counted. CHAIR —You might provide those for us? Mr Souness —Yes, I am happy to.					51
53	F&A	F&A02	O'Brien	<i>(sugar industry restructure package – total expenditure and access)</i> Senator O'BRIEN —Now that the sugar industry restructure package is about at its end, can the committee be provided with an update on the total expenditure under each element of the program and the numbers of people who have successfully gained access to each element of the program and by region, if possible? Senator O'BRIEN —Can you supply us with a complete document on that? Mr Robinson —Yes, Senator. Senator O'BRIEN —Thanks.					52

28	F&A	F&A03	O'Brien	<p><i>(surveillance of country of origin labelling laws)</i></p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—I note the recent introduction of country of origin labelling laws. Has the department undertaken any monitoring or surveillance to determine whether there has been an improvement in the labelling of fresh produce?</p> <p>Mr Hurry—It is more an issue for the Food and Agriculture Division. But I understand that the work on country of origin labelling again is a state based responsibility.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—Dr Samson, can you take that question on notice?</p> <p>Dr Samson—I will, Senator.</p>				53
96	F&A	F&A04	O'Brien	<p><i>(world wine trade group-agreement on labelling)</i></p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—Will this decision impact on all winemakers or just those who export their product?</p> <p>Mr Burns—I imagine it would be of most significance for the exporters, but again it might be better if we take that on notice and refer it to the food and agriculture group.</p>				54
96	F&A	F&A05	O'Brien	<p>Senator O'BRIEN—Perhaps you can at the same time find out whether Australia's main international competitors in the industry, such as Chile and South Africa, also signed up to the treaty.</p> <p>Mr Burns—If they are members of that group, I think they would have, but we will confirm it.</p>				55
96-97	F&A	F&A06	O'Brien	<p>Senator O'BRIEN—Further, the minister's press release says that the World Wine Trade Group member nations account for 47 per cent of Australia's wine exports. Can we get a list of which nations are members and which are not.</p> <p>Mr Burns—Yes, that is easily done.</p>				56
97	F&A	F&A07	O'Brien	<p>Senator O'BRIEN—The minister also said that the implementation of this treaty would mean a cost saving of \$25 million a year for the Australian industry. Can we get details of how that figure was calculated.</p> <p>Mr Burns—Yes. I know that people from the Wine and Brandy Corporation were involved in those discussions. Again, I am only talking off the top of my head, but I think that figure came from them. However, I will confirm that.</p>				57

28	F&A	F&A08	O'Brien	<p><i>(possible provision of PMR report)</i></p> <p>Senator Abetz—In brief, you would like the document made available?</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—I am not asking for it to be produced to the estimates—let me be clear. It could not be produced confidentially to the estimates. I am asking the minister to give consideration to producing that confidentially to this committee in another forum.</p> <p>Senator Abetz—That is exactly what I was going to suggest. We can take that on notice, if you like, rather than explore it now, and then the minister can indicate what reasons there are for his decision.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—He could not provide it confidentially to the estimates, that is clear, so it would have to be to another forum.</p> <p>CHAIR—I read that out at the beginning.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—Yes. I ask the minister to indicate whether, in another forum, he would be prepared to consider such a request.</p> <p>Senator Abetz—Yes, we will take that on notice.</p>				58
5	F&A	F&A09	O'Brien	<p><i>(contingent funding for the tobacco industry)</i></p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—When we were dealing with the PBS last May, this item, \$10 million, described as 'other decision yet to be announced', was in fact about a decision which had been taken to allocate \$10 million to assist the tobacco industry or the restructuring or some other activity in the tobacco industry?</p> <p>Dr Samson—I repeat, it certainly had not been announced. I am not personally aware at what point the decision was made. We can check that and verify it in the course of the morning.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—So the \$10 million was about the tobacco industry. You are going to confirm whether a decision had formally been made at the time of the budget hearing where we asked these questions.</p> <p>Dr Samson—Yes.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—You are going to find out when the decision was made.</p>				59

5	F&A	F&A10	O'Brien	<p><i>(Variations in the PAES)</i></p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—We will return to that, I suspect, with Food and Agriculture. On page 17 of the PAES, in table 1.3 under 'Other variations' there is minus \$10 million in the current financial year and minus \$4.1 million in the coming financial year. Is the \$10 million there the one we have just been discussing in tobacco?</p> <p>Mr Bridge—Yes, it is.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—Can you tell me what the \$4.1 million saving for 2007-08 relates to?</p> <p>Mr Bridge—My understanding is it is the same, but I will confirm that for you later this morning.</p>				60
3	Fisheries and Forestry	F&F01	O'Brien	<p><i>(funding for fisheries research)</i></p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—My recollection is that in the mid-nineties, probably better described as the late nineties, the government withdrew funds from fishery research. Is my recollection correct?</p> <p>Mr McLoughlin—I would have to check that. I was not a member of the Commonwealth fisheries, the Public Service, at that time, but I can take that one on notice.</p> <p>Mr Hurry—I would be reasonably sure that that is not the case, Senator, but I am happy to check it for you.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—I recall a Senate inquiry about just that fact, but perhaps I have imagined it. It will not take much to look up the inquiry.</p> <p>Mr Hurry—I am happy to do that, and I will also go back and check the main sources of supply of fisheries research from Commonwealth funding, but I think it is still reasonably robust, because it is a mix of Commonwealth, institutional and state agency funding that goes into fisheries research and trying to develop a better understanding of stock structures in Australia.</p>				61

7	F&F	F&F02	O'Brien	<p><i>(restructure/adjustment packages over the last 10 years)</i></p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—How many of these adjustment or restructure packages have been put into effect in the last 10 years?</p> <p>Mr Hurry—I think this is the third package. There was one for the Southern Shark Fishery, there was one for the South-East Trawl Fishery, and then there is the major package that is under way at the moment, the Securing Our Fishing Future one. One of those may have been before that 10-year period, but I have a sense that one of them was around the time of the creation of AFMA.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—What about the Northern Prawn Fishery?</p> <p>Mr Hurry—I would need to check that. There may well have been one for the Northern Prawn Fishery, but it may well have been before then.</p> <p>Mr Talbot—There was one for the South-East Non-Trawl Fishery at the same time as the Southern Shark Fishery</p>				62
7	F&F	F&F03	O'Brien	<p>Senator O'BRIEN—On notice, can you refer us to where we will find the details of those packages, or provide them?</p> <p>Mr Hurry—What if we provide you with the details of them and then if you have any further questions, we can follow them up for you.</p>				63

25	F&F	F&F04	O'Brien	<p><i>Securing our Fishing Future – buybacks)</i></p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—With regard to the \$220 million Securing Our Fishing Future program, I understand that \$148.58 million has been spent on licence buybacks. Can the government advise how many vessels and entitlements have been purchased and what price was paid in each case?</p> <p>Mr Talbot—We have put up a table publicly of all the licences bought, in categories. If I were able to get you a copy of that, would that be sufficient?</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—Yes, that is fine.</p> <p>Senator Abetz—We are not going to divulge what individual fishermen got in relation to their particular buyout.</p> <p>Mr Talbot—That is right.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—Individual skippers and crew or individual boat owners?</p> <p>Senator Abetz—Skippers and crew. That is a lump sum. It is certain. If you qualify, everybody knows what you got—and it was not, if you like, a tender process there. All you had to do was qualify for the five-year employment period that was specified. But the other is a request for tender and there are commercial matters pertaining to that, so somebody may have been willing to buy—</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Senator Abetz—What we can do is provide you with the broad detail, and that has already been made public. We can provide you with that, and we will take on notice what further consideration we ought to give to the issue of privacy and commercial-in-confidence.</p>				64
28	F&F	F&F05	O'Brien	<p><i>(Australian Seafood Hotline – complaints)</i></p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—Can we receive a report, at least, on the number of complaints, investigations and prosecutions arising from these 1800 hotline calls?</p> <p>Mr Hurry—Yes. We will prepare you a report, based on the monthly reports and what we understand from follow-ups from the state agencies. But it is the state agencies' job to follow these up.</p>				65

30	F&F	F&F06	O'Brien	<p><i>(Recreational Fishing Community Grants – panel)</i></p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—John Cleary is?</p> <p>Senator Abetz—He is a former minister for fisheries and a very keen amateur fisherman—and also now the Secretary of RecFish Australia?</p> <p>Mr R Murphy—I am not sure, quite frankly.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—Is he the only one with a political background?</p> <p>Senator Abetz—He is on the board of RecFish Australia—</p> <p>Mr Hurry—Let me check that, but I am pretty sure that is right.</p>					66
30-31	F&F	F&F07	O'Brien	<p><i>(Recreational Fishing Community Grants)</i></p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—In the round 1 and 2 total, I understand Queensland got 39; New South Wales, 26; Victoria, 23; South Australia, 13; Western Australia, 11; Tasmania, 6.</p> <p>Senator Abetz—We could go back and check whether those figures are correct.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—Perhaps the department can tell us how many applications were received by state in each of the rounds.</p> <p>Senator Abetz—Yes.</p> <p>Mr R Murphy—We can do that for round 1, 2 and 3.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—Round 1, 2 and 3 separately, yes.</p> <p>Senator Abetz—Yes. I am happy to do that.</p>					67
31	F&F	F&F08	O'Brien	<p>Senator O'BRIEN—Perhaps the department can tell us how many applications were received by state in each of the rounds.</p> <p>Senator Abetz—Yes.</p> <p>Mr R Murphy—We can do that for round 1, 2 and 3.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—Round 1, 2 and 3 separately, yes.</p> <p>Senator Abetz—Yes. I am happy to do that.</p>					68

37-38	F&F	F&F09	O'Brien	<p><i>(conditions of Scottsdale industry and community development fund)</i></p> <p>Senator Abetz—The Prime Minister wrote to the Premier on 13 February: ‘Therefore, as a condition of offering the \$10 million Scottsdale industry and community development fund, I ask that your government fully fund its west coast transport subsidy and give consideration to extending it to underwrite the shipment of softwood from the Bass Strait islands.’</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Senator O’BRIEN—Is it possible to get a copy of the Prime Minister’s letter?</p> <p>Senator Abetz—Yes.</p> <p>Senator O’BRIEN—Thank you.</p> <p>Senator Abetz—Wait a minute. I had better be careful on that. I will take that on notice. I dare say that Premier Lennon would be happy to give it to you.</p> <p>Senator O’BRIEN—He might.</p> <p>Senator Abetz—But, given that it is from the Prime Minister to the Premier, I had better not make the call. That is the Prime Minister’s call.</p>				69
38	F&F	F&F10	O'Brien	<p><i>(forestry MIS's)</i></p> <p>Mr Hurry—We did. We worked with Treasury on some consultation on MIS issues for forests.</p> <p>Senator O’BRIEN—To your knowledge, who else was involved apart from Treasury?</p> <p>Mr Hurry—I would need to check who was involved in it. We were involved, but Tony Bartlett, who is the general manager of Forests, was heavily involved in this as a process. Tony is away overseas at the moment, so I am happy to take that on notice and come back to you. We were party to quite a number of discussions on this issue.</p>				70

39	F&F	F&F11	O'Brien	<p><i>(National Indigenous Forestry Strategy)</i></p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—How does this program work? It is a series of projects that are funded, is it?</p> <p>Mr Wilson—They tend to be projects that we facilitate with other agencies, as opposed to directly funding them ourselves.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—You said the clearing of fallen timber in the cyclone?</p> <p>Mr Hurry—Yes. Some of the cyclone work was done by some of the teams as part of an Indigenous engagement.</p> <p>CHAIR—Like a CDEP sort of thing?</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—No, they work for money, do they not?</p> <p>Mr Hurry—I would need to check this fully, but my understanding is that the company contracted some of the Aboriginal labour to help because there was not a lot of labour available up there, and they came in and set up teams and worked with some of the companies on the clearing and recovery of timber as part of the cyclone project.</p>				71
39	F&F	F&F12	O'Brien	<p>Mr Hurry—Senator, it might be helpful if we provide a list of these.</p> <p>Senator Abetz—We can provide that to you in the briefing we are talking about.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—This is the sort of stuff I would want on the record rather than in a briefing. Is that all right?</p> <p>Senator Abetz—Yes, fine.</p>				72
39-40	F&F	F&F13	O'Brien	<p><i>(funding for Planting for a Sustainable Future plan)</i></p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—The government committed \$69,000 to the Planting for a Sustainable Future plan launched last July by you, Minister. Has it all been spent?</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Mr Hurry—Can we take that one on notice. I do not have any details on that one.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—Was all the \$69,000 spent on this plan's development?</p> <p>Senator Abetz—I think so, but allow us to take that on notice to get the detail to you.</p>				73

40	F&F	F&F14	O'Brien	<p><i>(Planting for a Sustainable Future plan)</i></p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—Which of the other 21 private forestry development committees has the department talked to about this plan?</p> <p>Senator Abetz—About the Central Victorian one?</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—The Planting for a Sustainable Future plan.</p> <p>Senator Abetz—We can get you some information on that. I have met with a number of them around the country.</p> <p>Mr Hurry—There are 21 of them. What sort of period are you looking for?</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—How long has the program been running?</p> <p>Mr Hurry—If it was announced in July then you want us to go back to July?</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—Yes.</p> <p>Mr Hurry—The ones we have talked to about this project or this program specifically?</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—Yes.</p> <p>Mr Hurry—Okay.</p>				74
42	F&F	F&F15	O'Brien	<p><i>(staffing- forest branch)</i></p> <p>Mr Hurry—No, but we have a section in the forest branch that deals with international forest issues, of which illegal logging is very much high on its agenda.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—How many staff in that branch?</p> <p>Mr Hurry—I think there are seven. I can check, but I am pretty sure it is about seven.</p>				75
43	F&F	F&F16	O'Brien	<p><i>(new Forest and Wood Products Australia)</i></p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—What is the intention for the amount of money to be spent on R&D compared to the current company?</p> <p>Mr Hurry—I assumed it did not change. The formula actually should be the same coming across. I can take that on notice and be sure about it, but my understanding is that the organisational structure changed, not the levy base. But there will be additional moneys coming in, because we are increasing the hardwood sawn log levy from 22c to 29c a cubic metre, and there is 5c a cubic metre on logs sold by forest growers to mill operators. There will be more money coming in from the new levies, but my understanding is that the old base will remain the same as it comes across.</p>				76

44	F&F	F&F17	O'Brien	<p><i>(Australian Forestry Standard)</i></p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—What proportion of our timber industry receives certification under the AFS?</p> <p>Mr Hurry—I would have to get the exact figure for you, but quite a number of the states are now trading under the AFS banner.</p>				77
written	F&F	F&F18WRI TTEN	O'Brien	<p><i>(Forestry Managed Investment Schemes)</i></p> <p>With Regard to Forestry Managed Investment Schemes and the December 2006 changes to Forestry managed Investment Schemes can the Department answer the following questions?</p> <p>a) What consultations were undertaken prior to this decision being made?</p> <p>b) What form did this consultation take?</p> <p>c) How long was the consultation process?</p> <p>d) Which industry participants were involved in consultation?</p> <p>e) Which other Departments or agencies were involved in consultation?</p> <p>f) Were the changes announced in December 2006 in line with any of the options discussed with industry during consultation?</p> <p>g) Has there been criticism from any industry participants about the consultation process being disconnected from the actual policy announcement in December?</p> <p>h) Did the Department receive any feedback from those consulted?</p> <p>i) Does the Department believe that a better policy outcome was achieved due to the consultation?</p> <p>j) Does the Department believe that no consultation would have lead to an inferior policy outcome?</p> <p>k) Was the Minister regularly briefed on the consultation process and did he take an interest in the outcomes of consultation?</p> <p>l) Did the Minister direct the Department to undertake consultation with industry?</p> <p>m) Would the Department see it as unusual if consultation was not undertaken prior to a major policy change</p>				78

written	F&F	F&F19WRI TTEN	O'Brien	<p><i>(Planting for a Sustainable Future)</i> With regard to the programme Planting for a Sustainable Future could the Department answer the following questions?</p> <p>a) The Government committed \$69,000 to this plan's development. Has all of this \$69,000 been spent on this plan's development? b) What has happened to any remaining unspent money? c) Has the Central Victorian Farm Plantations started implementation of the plan? If not, when will the plan be implemented? d) How long will it take for the plan to be implemented? e) Which of the other 21 Private Forestry Development Committees has the Department talked to about this plan?</p>					79
written	F&F	F&F20WRI TTEN	O'Brien	<p><i>(Forest and Wood Products Australia)</i> With regard to <i>Forest and Wood Products Australia</i> can the Department indicate how much funding is intended to go into R&D and how this compares to the <i>Forest and Wood Products Research and Development Corporation</i>, and how much funding the new entity will use in its marketing and promotion activities?</p>					80
57	International Division	ID01	O'Brien	<p><i>(live export agreement with Egypt)</i> Senator O'BRIEN—I am just wondering, given that that is common in a whole range of Middle Eastern markets, why that phenomenon was not contemplated in the agreement reached—or maybe it was and the Egyptians would not come to any agreement; I do not know. Which is the case? Did we make any claims or proposals in relation to protocol applying to private purchase, or did they resist those? Mr Burns—I will have to check. I was not directly involved in that. Senator O'BRIEN—Who did that, then? Was it this department? Mr Burns—It was this department but— Senator O'BRIEN—Another officer. Mr Burns—Yes. Senator O'BRIEN—Can you contact that officer and find out what went on, or have they gone? Mr Burns—No, I can contact them. I know that they are not here this week. So we might have to take it on notice and get back to you</p>					81

58	ID	ID02	O'Brien	<p><i>(Live trade in the Middle East)</i></p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—So with those countries which we do not have agreements with, or are not making progress, what sort of trade have we got—live trade, that is.</p> <p>Ms Gordon-Smith—With live trade we are constrained. We are required to have an MOU with countries with which there has been no trade since 2002. So before we can commence trade we need to have an MOU in place and we would be actively, as I have described to you in the previous list, pursuing those. I might need to take that question on notice and provide you with a comprehensive list.</p>				82
59	ID	ID03	Heffernan	<p><i>(regulations for feedlots)</i></p> <p>CHAIR—In relation to the beef cattle that go to Indonesia to Australian owned feedlots, are there any different regulations for Australian owned feedlots as opposed to the foreign owned feedlots?</p> <p>Mr Burns—Not that I am aware of. We would have to check on that.</p>				83
96	International	ID04	O'Brien	<p><i>(Official Development Assistance expenditure and activities)</i></p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—I expect you will take this on notice: I want full details of the Official Development Assistance eligible expenditure and activities undertaken by the department since the 2000-01 financial year to date.</p> <p>Mr Burns—We should be able to provide that, on the basis that we do have to report it to AusAID anyway.</p>				84
96	ID	ID05	O'Brien	<p><i>(increase in UN Food and Agriculture organisation contributions)</i></p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—Which exchange rate have you underestimated, the US dollar or the euro, or do you get a choice?</p> <p>Mr Burns—I think the estimates come from the department of finance. We do not make that estimate.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—So you do not know which currency they are estimating?</p> <p>Mr Burns—No. I could find out, but I do not know off the top of my head.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—If you could. I am trying to understand it, when our currency, I would have thought, has appreciated against the US dollar.</p> <p>Mr Burns—But not against the euro.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—With the euro, there has not been a major change, but I do not know what has been involved. If you can get the details of that, I would appreciate it.</p>				85

60	ID	ID06	O'Brien	<p><i>(live trade agreement with Egypt – domestic treatment of animals)</i></p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—What is their position about the domestic activities, if I can put it that way, with people taking the animals home, apparently trussing them with wire in some circumstances and putting them in boots of cars, with high temperatures, or tying them to the roofs of cars?</p> <p>Mr Yuile—I am not aware of any Egyptian government statements along those lines, or part of negotiations, but perhaps we can take that on notice if there is anything that we do have—unless others at the table—</p>				86
4	Management Services	MS01	O'Brien	<p><i>(PAES preparation)</i></p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—Okay. I am interested to know when the work was completed on the contents of the PAES prior to printing. Do you know that?</p> <p>Dr Samson—As Mr Quinlivan said, we would be making a best guess if we answered you now. We will get those details for you.</p>				87
written	MS	MS02WRIT TEN	Wong	<p><i>(Recruitment agency spending)</i></p> <p>What sum was spent on recruitment agencies in 2006 by each department and agency in the Minister's portfolio?</p>				88
written	MS	MS03WRIT TEN	Wong	Will the Minister provide a list of the recruitment agencies which are used by the department and agencies in the Minister's portfolio?				89
written	MS	MS04WRIT TEN	Wong	What functions do recruitment agencies perform for departments and what would be the likely impact on departmental outcomes from reduction in recruitment spending on external agencies?				90
written	MS	MS05WRIT TEN	Wong	What benefit-cost assessments have been done which benchmark internal recruitment processes and/ or on utilising on line recruitment portals?				91
written	MS	MS06WRIT TEN	Wong	<p><i>(Water use in departments and agencies)</i></p> <p>Is there any requirement to provide details of how much water is used and how much water is saved in the annual reports of each department and agency in the Minister's portfolio?</p>				92
written	MS	MS07WRIT TEN	Wong	Is water usage monitored for each department and agency in the Minister's portfolio?				93
written	MS	MS08WRIT TEN	Wong	What is the water usage for each department and agency in the Minister's portfolio?				94
written	MS	MS09WRIT TEN	Wong	For each department and agency in the Minister's portfolio, can information be provided on whether dual flush toilets are in place in the buildings they occupy?				95

written	MS	MS10WRIT TEN	Ludwig	<p><i>(Grants)</i></p> <p>With regard to all grants allocated by the department/agency from 1 January 2002, could a table detailing the following information be provided:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The name of the grant program The name of the grant recipient The ABN of the grant recipient (where available) The value of the grant awarded The date the grant was awarded The state of the grant recipient The postcode of the grant recipient 					96
54	NRM	NRM01	Heffernan	<p><i>(grants for research and development into water and land in Northern Australia)</i></p> <p>CHAIR—If you are going to preach, you had better not. I have a question about grants. Could you supply the committee with the details of all grants in the last five years perhaps?</p> <p>Mr Robinson—Grants for which purposes, Senator?</p> <p>CHAIR—That relate to research and development into water and land in the north. There has been, I understand, a series of grants. Is that inappropriate?</p> <p>Mr Mortimer—That is fine.</p>					97
47	Natural Resource Management	NRM02	Heffernan	<p><i>(National Landcare Program- funding)</i></p> <p>CHAIR—Would you be able to give us a figure for how much actually went into something to do with the earth, rather than something to do with the computer, the car and the coordinator?</p> <p>Mr Aldred—Yes.</p> <p>CHAIR—That would be interesting to know.</p> <p>Mr Aldred—We can provide you with any costs that have been incurred by the state governments.</p>					98
47	NRM	NRM03	O'Brien	<p>Senator O'BRIEN—How much is committed but unannounced?</p> <p>Mr Shaw—The commitment, as I said, is about \$6.6 million, which relates to the priority national projects, innovation grants, and Sustainable Industry Initiatives.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—That is not quite an answer to my question, but perhaps you can take it on notice.</p> <p>Mr Shaw—Certainly, Senator.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—Thank you.</p>					99

49	NRM	NRM04	Heffernan	<p><i>(grants for research in Northern Australia)</i></p> <p>CHAIR—Have you tagged grants that you have given for research in Northern Australia?</p> <p>Mr Aldred—We can certainly supply a range of material and I understand that is likely to be done.</p> <p>CHAIR—We just do not want to reinvent the wheel on a lot of this.</p> <p>Mr Aldred—Yes.</p> <p>CHAIR—Thank you. It would be handy if you could.</p>				100
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86-87	PIAPH	PIAPH01	O'Brien	<p><i>(testing for exotic diseases in the marine environment)</i></p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—What testing has the Australian government done to assess whether exotic diseases have been transferred into the marine environment?</p> <p>Mr Cahill—You have probably reached the limit of my technical knowledge, so I might invite one of my colleagues—</p> <p>Mr Yuile—It is more likely that it has been at a state level in terms of their responsibilities for waterways.</p> <p>Mr Cahill—That is really a matter for the Product Integrity, Animal Plant and Health Division.</p> <p>CHAIR—It is the same question. There is no—</p> <p>Mr Cahill—We can take it on notice—</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—So has there been any testing of wild stocks here in Australia to determine whether white spot or any other virus has become established in the wild?</p> <p>Dr Martin—My understanding is that there has been some surveillance done for white spot, but we can get further information for you from the product integrity area.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—I would like to find out when it was most recently done.</p> <p>Dr Martin—The work that I am aware of was done, I think, back in about 2000.</p> <p>... ..</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—I note the government introduced a testing regime for white-spot virus back in 2001. Can we be provided with the results of the tests on imported prawns since that time? Is there some information that you can provide us?</p> <p>Mr Yuile—I think I have taken that on notice.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—You have taken that on notice already.</p> <p>Mr Yuile—That is what I understood you were asking earlier. So the outcome of the testing regime in terms of white-spot virus?</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—Yes</p>				101
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125	Rural Policy and Innovation	RPI01	O'Brien	<p><i>(funding for New Industries Development Program)</i></p> <p>Mr Thompson—That is on the same page. There is an increase in the New Industries Development Program of \$250,000 and then a further \$250,000. The money from the Industry Partnership Program actually comprises some of that.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—All but \$100,000. So where is the other \$100,000 coming from?</p> <p>Mr Thompson—I do not administer the New Industries Development Program. I would not be able to provide that information. I would have to take that on notice.</p>				102
125	RPI	RPI02	O'Brien	<p><i>(distribution of CWA funds)</i></p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—Do you have a breakdown, by EC declared region, of where this money has been spent?</p> <p>Mr Koval—No, we do not.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—How is the expenditure acquitted?</p> <p>Mr Koval—The process we went through with the CWA was that there was a donation to the CWA. We sat down with the president of the CWA and all the state presidents and went through the process of saying, 'There's \$2 million allocated by the Australian government. How would you like it to be allocated between the states?' One of the ways that it could be done is pro rata, depending on the EC declared area that their state represents from a national average. The state presidents and the national president agreed that that was the process to go through, so we allocated the funds to each of the states based on that formula. The CWA then distributed the funds to drought-affected families. They do not provide us with the postcode data to break it down and say how much of these funds went to this area or that area. We get a monthly report from them, and that report tells us the number of applications, the amount of funding provided to those applications and the types of expenses that that was used for.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—Can the committee receive that information?</p> <p>Mr Koval—The next reports are due tomorrow. We can take that on notice and provide you with the latest information that we receive later this week.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—That would be fine</p>				103

127	RPI	RPI03	O'Brien	<p><i>(public publications on biotechnology)</i></p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—Where can we find a list of the material that has been prepared to build public confidence in the use of biotechnology, or can you supply us with such a list?</p> <p>Mr Thompson—If we do not have it here tonight, we can supply you with a list of the projects that we have funded or completed; and the communications material that Biotechnology produce on behalf of the government as a whole is available on their website.</p>					104
127-128	RPI	RPI04	Nash	<p><i>(research into lignocellulose and ethanol)</i></p> <p>Senator NASH—This may well not fall under you at all in terms of research, but have you done any work on lignocellulose and ethanol?</p> <p>Ms O'Flynn—I cannot give a comprehensive answer as to what research in that area might have been done by one or more of the research and development corporations or companies but there is certainly nothing that I am readily aware of that falls into that area at the moment. We could certainly take it on notice and let you know.</p> <p>Senator NASH—That would be great.</p>					105
119	RPI	RPI05	O'Brien	<p><i>(database on agriculture and climate change R&D)</i></p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—At the supplementary estimates, Ms Hewitt told the committee that the primary industries standing committee had commissioned work to put together a database of all R&D related to agriculture and climate change. What has happened about that? Are you doing it? If so, where is it? It is not modelling, it is a database of all research and development related to agriculture and climate change.</p> <p>Dr Samson—Rural Policy and Innovation, which is coming up next, may be the area, but I am not 100 per cent sure.</p> <p>Dr Grant—I am not sure if we are at cross-purposes, but it may be that it is the extension of the national agricultural monitoring system into irrigated agriculture. I am not aware that we are working on assembling a total dataset on climate change. That would be a fairly mammoth task. I think it is an interpretation, trying to understand exactly what was—</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—It is on page 145 of the <i>Hansard</i> of 31 October 2006, in the middle of the page.</p> <p>Dr Samson—We will have to take that on notice. It may be something that is being pursued in the industry development committee of the primary industries standing committee.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—Okay. I would obviously like to know what has happened. Ms Hewitt thinks something is happening.</p>					106

20	Wheat Export Authority	WEA01	Heffernan	<p><i>(impact of Geneva desk on the growers pool)</i></p> <p>CHAIR—It is one of the great unknowns out there. I have not struck a grower who could tell me what a most recently retired pool actually returned. I have not found a person who can tell me that. We do not know, and there is no mechanism for us to know, what impact the Geneva desk and associated activity for the shareholders has on the pool.</p> <p>Mr Besley—We do look at the sales that AWB Geneva makes, and there are other offices, of course. They have just opened one in England.</p> <p>CHAIR—But you are not obliged to figure that because it is AWBL.</p> <p>Mr Besley—Only to the extent that it could affect the operation of the pool.</p> <p>CHAIR—That was my first question. How the hell do you make that determination?</p> <p>Mr Besley—Only by getting information from AWBI.</p> <p>CHAIR—Would it be possible for you to give to the committee an exercise in that? Or would that be some sort of commercial in-confidence issue?</p> <p>Mr Besley—I think we could put something down theoretically. We have some statistics on how much wheat AWB Geneva has sold and of what origin over the years. Since it started operating I think there have only been two occasions on which AWBI has vetoed a sale in the interests of the pool. It has occasionally sold Australian wheat into situations where the credit risk was too high for AWBI to take on. That was the explanation given to us. It has also sold wheat of other origin to retain a customer when there was not enough Australian wheat to sell to that customer. We could give you a sort of theoretical picture of the way in which AWB Geneva operates without necessarily giving confidential information.</p>				107
26-27	WEA	WEA02	Heffernan	<p><i>(minutes of AWB(I) board meeting)</i></p> <p>CHAIR—Could we have a copy of those minutes?</p> <p>Mr Woods—That is legal advice to the WEA.</p> <p>CHAIR—No. Is it improper for this committee to ask for those minutes of the board meeting that made the actual decision ‘Yes we’re going to have this cosy little break-free?’</p> <p>Mr Besley—They are minutes of AWB(I). We would have to get permission to do that.</p> <p>CHAIR—Well, you might apply for permission. I would love to see them.</p> <p>Mr Besley—We can ask.</p>				108

39	WEA	WEA03	O'Brien	<p><i>(AWB(I) - costs reduction)</i></p> <p>Mr Besley—They have announced in specific terms where the costs are reduced and we can provide that to you; it is a public document. I do not know if we have one here with us, but it certainly can be provided. It is a detailed list of the cost productions that have been given effect to to bring the base fee down to \$39.5 million. Their chairman, Brendan Stewart, has foreshadowed further cost reductions.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—We look forward to more than an outline, but a detailing of those</p>				109
44	WEA	WEA04	O'Brien	<p><i>(2004 services agreement – default mechanism)</i></p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—So default is AWB(L) being unable to be party to the agreement because of some breach of Australian law in part?</p> <p>Mr Besley—That would be one of the reasons.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—What other reasons?</p> <p>Mr Besley—We specifically asked, actually, whether a breach of an Australian law would constitute a default within the terms of the meaning of the agreement between the two parties and our understanding following our advice is that it would. I am not sure how many other default triggers we have or had, and I would need to look back to see whether there was a catalogue of those. If there is, we would be happy to take that on notice and provide it.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—Thank you very much for that.</p>				110