

**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:** RPI 01

**Division/Agency:** Rural Policy and Innovation

**Topic:** Funding for New Industries Development Program

**Hansard page:** 125 (14/02/07)

**Senator O'Brien:**

**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.

**Senator O'Brien**—All but \$100,000. So where is the other \$100,000 coming from?

**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.

**Answer:**

The \$100,000 referred to in the question, that was part of the increase to the New Industries Development Programme, came from the Australian HomeGrown Campaign programme. The reduction to the Australian HomeGrown Campaign programme is shown in Table 1.3 on page 17 of the Portfolio Additional Estimates Statements 2006-07.

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**Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry**

**Question no:** RPI 02

**Division/Agency:** Rural Policy and Innovation

**Topic:** Distribution of CWA funds

**Hansard page:** 125 (14/02/07)

**Senator O'Brien asked:**

**Senator O'Brien**—Do you have a breakdown, by EC declared region, of where this money has been spent?

**Mr Koval**—No, we do not.

**Senator O'Brien**—How is the expenditure acquitted?

**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.

**Senator O'Brien**—Can the committee receive that information?

**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.

**Senator O'Brien**—That would be fine

**Answer:**

For the details of funding expended by the Country Women's Association between 1 November 2006 and 31 January 2007, please refer to **Tables 1 and 2:**

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**Table 1: CWA Emergency Drought Aid Funds Distributed up to 31 January 2007**

State or Territory	2006-07 Initial Allocations	5% Admin Fee	Total Grants	No. of Community Grants	No. of Individual Grants
	\$	\$	\$		
New South Wales	950,000	47,500	1,017,206	40	726
Victoria	440,000	22,000	446,927	45	278
Queensland	440,000	22,000	346,552	17	477
Western Australia	90,000	Nil	90,000	2	64
South Australia	60,000	Nil	49,047	1	48
Tasmania	10,000	Nil	-	Nil	Nil
Northern Territory	10,000	Nil	-	Nil	Nil
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,000,000</b>	<b>95,500</b>	<b>1,949,733</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>1593</b>

Please note, New South Wales and Victoria have provided additional funds from other sources to cover additional grants paid.

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**Table 2: Breakdown of Grants Provided by the CWA up to 31 January 2007**

<b>State or Territory</b>	<b>Community Events</b>	<b>Utilities</b>	<b>Other Household Expenses</b>	<b>Medical Expenses</b>	<b>School Expenses</b>	<b>Motor Vehicle Expenses</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Total</b>
	\$	\$	\$	\$		\$	\$	
New South Wales	88,088	564,595	101,830	46,984	53,221	112,989	2,000	1,017,206
Victoria	86,385	133,746	69,722	18,576	64,072	41,331	11,095	446,927
Queensland	34,707	138,669	76,313	14,111	26,862	51,849	4,041	346,552
Western Australia	531	39,991	10,642	22,762	6,408	9,666		90,000
South Australia	3,000	19,964	20,467	1,784		3,833		49,047
Tasmania	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Territory	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>212,711</b>	<b>896,965</b>	<b>278,974</b>	<b>104,216</b>	<b>150,562</b>	<b>219,668</b>	<b>17,136</b>	<b>1,949,733</b>

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**Question no:** RPI 03

**Division/Agency:** Rural Policy and Innovation

**Topic:** Public publications on biotechnology

**Hansard page:** 127 (14/02/07)

**Senator O'Brien asked:**

**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?

**Answer:**

The following items, commissioned or prepared by DAFF using funds from the National Biotechnology Strategy, have been made available to the public on the internet, though some of the older reports and pamphlets have since been removed (see [www.daff.gov.au/agbiotech](http://www.daff.gov.au/agbiotech)). Copies can be ordered by phone, by post or by email.

ABARE publications are available at  
[http://www.abareconomics.com/publications\\_html/news/news.html](http://www.abareconomics.com/publications_html/news/news.html).

*Gene Flow Study – Implications for the release of Genetically Modified crops in Australia* (2002) Bureau of Rural Sciences

*Review of technologies for detecting genetically modified materials in commodities and food* (2002) Australian Government Analytical Laboratories

*Agricultural Biotechnology: What is happening in Australia?* (pamphlet 2002) Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry<sup>+</sup>

*Gap Analysis in relation to Quality Management for the Supply Chain Management of GM Products* (2003) Tasmanian Quality Assured Inc

*Market Access Issues for GM Crops – implications for Australia* (2003) Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics

*GM inputs to feedlot beef – a scoping study* (2003) Bureau of Rural Sciences

*Canola Mapping Study* (2003) Bureau of Rural Sciences

*Herbicide tolerant crops in Australia* (pamphlet 2003) Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

*GM Crops: Issues for Farmers* (pamphlet 2003) Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry<sup>+</sup>

*Liability issues associated with GM crops in Australia* (2003) D Dalton, B Jones and B Maxwell

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*Development of a protocol for accreditation of non-GM grain produced in a designated non-GM region* (2005) Eyre Regional Development Board and Seed Quality Management Australia Pty Ltd

*Segregating GM and non-GM grain in the Australian grain storage system* (2005) J Viljoen et al.

*What's In The Pipeline? Genetically Modified Crops under Development in Australia* (2005) Bureau of Rural Sciences

*Genetically Modified Crops in Australia – the next generation* (2005) Bureau of Rural Sciences

*Biosafety Protocol – implications of the documentation regime* (2006) - Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics

*A Farmer's Choice? Legal Liability of Farmers Growing Crops* (2006) Australian Centre for Intellectual Property in Agriculture (ACIPA). Two information sheets were also produced:

- Farmer's liability and GM crops
- Thinking of growing GM crops?

*GM grains in Australia – identity preservation* (2006) Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics#

*Market acceptance of GM canola* (2007) Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics#

<sup>+</sup> these items are no longer current and have been removed from the DAFF website  
<sup>#</sup> available on the ABARE website.

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**Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry**

**Question no:** RPI 04

**Division/Agency:** Rural Policy and Innovation

**Topic:** Research into lignocellulose and ethanol

**Hansard page:** 127-128 (14/02/07)

**Senator Nash asked:**

This may well not fall under you at all in terms of research, but have you done any work on lignocellulose and ethanol?

**Answer:**

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry provided a Pilot Commercialisation Project grant of \$96,800 to Southern Pacific Petroleum in April 2002. The grant was to develop the design data needed to construct a full-scale woody biomass to ethanol facility in Australia to produce renewable liquid fuels.

Several rural Research and Development Corporations (RDCs) including Rural Industries, Grains and Forest and Wood Products RDCs are individually and collaboratively undertaking scoping of the issues around biofuel production including the use of lignocellulose.

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**Question no:** RPI 05

**Division/Agency:** Rural Policy and Innovation

**Topic:** Database on agriculture and climate change R&D

**Hansard page:** 119 (14/02/07)

**Senator O'Brien asked:**

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.

**Answer:**

The Primary Industries Standing Committee (PISC) has requested the Industry Development Committee (a subcommittee of PISC) to investigate the appropriate mechanisms for coordination of cross-cutting R&D issues important to primary industry, in particular climate change and biofuels. The work to coordinate a compendium of current climate change and biofuels activity is being done by a Research and Development Taskgroup which reports to the Industry Development Committee. This work has commenced.