

Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates February 2008

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: BRS 01

Division/Agency: BRS

Topic: Use of NAMS

Hansard Page: 122 (18/02/2008)

Senator Milne asked:

Senator MILNE—I would be very interested in knowing about how NAMS has settled down in terms of how many people are regularly using it, or some sort of reflection of its usefulness.

Dr Grant—I might just ask Dr Ritman: do you know that answer?

Dr Ritman—No. We produce monthly web statistics across all our online web services, which we can provide.

Dr Grant—NAMS is in the tens of thousands though, but I would have to give you the exact figure.

Senator MILNE—Have you any way of breaking that down by state?

Dr Ritman—Yes, we do it by—

Senator MILNE—I would be interested to know how many Tasmanians or how many Northern Territorians are using and accessing that system.

Dr Ritman—From memory, there is some geographical breakdown. There is also a breakdown of: is it a .com, .org, .gov; so we can tell whether it is a page download, so it is not just Google pinging the site and we know they are genuine users.

Senator MILNE—What I would like is just an analysis by state of access to NAMS over a period of time, a few years, and that breakdown so that I can get a sense of who are the farmers or the community, more than the government access of it.

Dr Grant—We will certainly do that. We will not be able to give you whether they are a farmer or not. What we can do is we can give—

Senator MILNE—So long as they are non-government, yes.

Dr Grant—Usually the responses or the requests coming in come from a .org or a .gov, and a .gov is one of the governments.

Senator MILNE—Yes, if we could have that split just to get the sense of non-government.

Dr Grant—Yes, we can do that.

Answer:

The National Agricultural Monitoring System (NAMS) has consistently averaged around 120,000 hits per month since it was launched in April 2006.

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NAMS has been accessed from servers with Internet Provider (IP) addresses located in the states and territories in the following proportions:

	2007	2006
ACT -	31%	29%
NSW -	17%	20%
QLD -	24%	18%
VIC -	13%	13%
SA -	5%	7%
WA -	4%	5%
NT -	1%	2%
TAS -	5%	6%

NAMS has been accessed by government (.gov.au) and non-government IP addresses during 2007 and 2006* in the following proportions:

	2007	2006
Government -	27%	38%
Non-government -	73%	62%

BRS is unable to record the access by individual user groups, like farmers, from IP addresses.