

Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates February 2009

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: BRS 01

Division/Agency: Bureau of Rural Sciences

Topic: Ernie Dingo

Hansard Page: Written

Senator COLBECK asked:

1. At whose direction was Ernie Dingo asked to appear as an entertainer at the Plant Health Australia National Biosecurity Forum held September 17, 2008 in Canberra? Who authorised his engagement?
2. Was Mr Dingo asked to provide his services free of charge, in the interest of the serious topics at hand and Mr Dingo's personal interest in the area, as stated by the Department at the October Estimates?

Answer:

1. Ernie Dingo was not asked to appear as an entertainer at the Plant Health Australia National Biosecurity Forum.

Dr Anna Carr from the BRS Social Sciences program organised the engagement of Ernie Dingo as a panel member at the forum. Ernie Dingo talked about:

- community engagement and communication tools
- biosecurity perspectives of the community
- the importance of the community and government working together to address biosecurity issues – noting work undertaken on the electric ant campaign.

2. No. Factual corrections to the October Estimates Hansard, outlining the cost of Ernie Dingo's services were provided by the Department to the Senate Standing Committee in November 2008.