

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates February 2010
Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: BSG 01

Division/Agency: Biosecurity Services Group – Strategic Projects Division,
Regional & Business Services Division

Topic: Planning Days, AQIS managers conference

Hansard Page: 10 (08/02/2010)

Senator Colbeck asked:

Senator COLBECK—At the last estimates we asked you a question on retreats and you gave us a list of a number of retreats that occurred in answer to a question on notice, CSD17. Can you give us some detail on the PIAPH planning day that cost \$26,320?

Ms Hazell—The answer is, Senator, I cannot. The line area would be able to give you more detail on that planning day.

Senator COLBECK—There is no one here that can help us with that? What was achieved in—

Dr O’Connell—No, perhaps when we get to the—

Senator COLBECK—The set strategic directions for 2008-09, 2009-10.

Dr O’Connell—I think when we get to the Biosecurity Services Group we should be able to help you then.

Senator COLBECK—So the same point would arise with the \$17,699 for the AQIS managers conference.

Ms Hazell—Yes, Senator.

Answer:

Product Integrity, Animal and Plant Health (PIAPH) Planning Day

The PIAPH all staff planning day was held on 9 May 2008, with approximately 130 staff in attendance. There were a number of objectives for the day, including:

- develop a shared agreement on the division’s objectives for 2008-09 and 2009-10 as part of the department’s planning cycle.
- increase awareness of the role of government and the policy and program tools government uses to achieve policy outcomes.
- increase the understanding of the work that is done across a diverse, expanding division and improve collaboration across areas.

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The cost for the PIAPH planning day was **\$26,319.80**. A breakdown of the cost (including GST) is as follows:

Facilitators*	\$16,382.00
Venue / Business Catering	\$9,937.80
Total Cost	\$26,319.80

* this cost included preliminary work and post planning day debrief, facilitation of the planning day, and development of charts and templates.

AQIS Managers Conference

On 29 April 2008 a one day meeting for 13 managers from the Compliance and Investigations Branch was held in Canberra to progress business planning for the 2008-09 financial year. The meeting was held in a meeting room within the department.

On the following two days (30 April and 1 May 2008) a total of 23 staff from the Compliance and Investigations Branch met for its annual business conference which was held in a venue outside the department. The purpose of this conference was principally professional development.

A total 14 staff travelled to Canberra from regional offices for the planning day and/or the conference. These travel costs totalled \$16,124.00.

The cost for both of these related meetings over three days was **\$17,698.54**. A breakdown of that cost is:

Travel	\$16,124.00
Venue Hire/Catering	\$1,574.54
Total Cost	\$17,698.54

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Question: BSG 02

Division/Agency: Biosecurity Services Group – Food Division

Topic: Emergency regulatory measure action on BSE in 2001

Hansard Page: 16 (08/02/2010)

Senator Back asked:

Senator BACK—So this was following this introduction of an emergency regulatory measure, as I understand it, in 2001?

Dr Clegg—I would have to confirm that, but I believe you are right that.

Senator BACK—Also, I would like you to confirm, if you would, under what legislation that emergency regulatory measure was undertaken.

Answer:

The Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) prevented European beef products from entering Australia from 8 January 2001 under the *Imported Food Control Act 1992*.

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Question: BSG 03

Division/Agency: Biosecurity Security Group – Food Division

Topic: Costs for DAFF – new BSE policy

Hansard Page: 20 (08/02/2010)

Senator Back asked:

Senator BACK—And what do you estimate those costs to be?

Dr Clegg—I am sorry; I would have to get back to you on that.

Answer:

The costs to the department associated with its involvement on the assessment committee chaired by Food Standards Australia New Zealand is estimated to be small. One officer would be involved occasionally in the assessment committee and there may also be a need for an officer to visit any country seeking to export fresh beef to Australia.

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Question: BSG 04

Division/Agency: Biosecurity Services Group – Plant Division

Topic: Officers visiting China - Apples

Hansard Page: 22 (08/02/2010)

Senator Nash asked:

Senator NASH—How many officers would have been on each of those visits?

Dr Findlay—At least two, but I would have to confirm that.

Senator NASH—Could you take that on notice so we can get the exact numbers?

Senator NASH—Could you take on notice which provinces were visited during each of those trip?

Dr Findlay—Yes.

Answer:

Australian officials have undertaken three verification visits in China, visiting seven provinces/regions specifically in association with the import risk analysis for apples from China.

- Four officers from the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) visited apple orchards and packing houses in Shandong province from 24-25 July 2006.
- Two DAFF officers visited apples orchards and packing houses in Shaanxi, Hebei and Shandong provinces from 17-27 September 2008.
- Two DAFF officers visited apples orchards and packing houses in Shanxi, Gansu, Liaoning provinces and Beijing from 23-30 April 2009. Two additional officers were present for the first day of the field visits in Shanxi.
- One officer participated in both the 2006 and 2009 visits, one officer in both the 2008 and 2009 visits and another officer visited most locations during all three trips.
- In addition, the Australia Quarantine and Inspection Service send inspectors to export pear production areas and packing sheds each year in the provinces of Hebei, Shandong, Shaanxi and Xinjiang to audit and inspect export fruit under the pre-clearance arrangement program.

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Question: BSG 05

Division/Agency: BSG – Plant Division

Topic: Officers visiting China - apples

Hansard Page: 23 (08/02/2010)

Senator Nash asked:

Senator NASH—I am happy for you to take this on notice: when you outline all those visits that you had, can you also outline any unscheduled visits?

Senator NASH—Historically, then, perhaps if you could provide for the committee the minimum length of time from request to actual visit and the maximum length of time from request to actual visit. That would be useful.

Answer:

1. During a visit to China in September 2008, in association with the import risk analysis for apples from China, the Australian delegation requested that the itinerary include some additional orchards and packing houses. This request was accommodated on the same day. During a visit in April 2009, DAFF officers made unscheduled visits to three apple orchards in Shanxi and Gansu. This request was also accommodated while en route to those scheduled for the verification visit.
2. The length of time from request to actual visit varied from 31 to 75 days.

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Question: BSG 06

Division/Agency: Biosecurity Services Group – Food Division

Topic: Cost Recovery Impact Statements for the Export Certification Reform Package

Hansard Page: 26 (08/02/2010)

Senator Colbeck asked:

Senator COLBECK—What about their release to the industries themselves, though? That was a criticism that occurred during the process before, that the industry players themselves had not seen the cost recovery impact statements and considered them as part of the reform package. Now, I know that we have moved on significantly, but part of the discussion that the opposition had with the government at the time was around cost recovery impact statements for each industry sector and for them to be released publicly. I am just interested to see where we are with that.

Mr Read—I will take that question on notice just to confirm the process they are exactly at and just what the next step in terms of broader disclosure is.

Answer:

The Cost Recovery Impact Statements for changes to export fees and charges that came into effect in December 2009 are available on the department's website. Copies also made available upon request.

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Question: BSG 07

Division/Agency: Biosecurity Services Group – Food Division

Topic: Food Control Act

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Back asked:

1. Under the Food Control Act has a determination been made to revoke the earlier determinations which would have prevented the importation of certain food products
2. Was an emergency order made by the Minister in 1996 under the Australian New Zealand Food Authority Act 1991 Section 37 to prevent the imports of certain beef products because of BSE?
3. If so, does the Minister intend to revoke this emergency determination and if so how?
4. Does the Minister intend to revoke any existing determinations that these foods are high risk?
5. If so, what are these?

Answer:

1. No.
- 2-3. Please refer all questions relating to Food Standards Australia and New Zealand to the Parliamentary Secretary for Health who has responsibility for these matters.
4. No. The Minister amends the Imported Food Control Order identifying risk food based on advice from Food standards Australia New Zealand.
5. Not applicable.

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Question: BSG 08

Division/Agency: Biosecurity Services Group – Food Division

Topic: AQIS 40% rebate

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Back asked:

1. What is happening with the AQIS 40 percent rebate reform?
2. Have all the industries done a business plan? Have these been signed off by the Minister?
3. Are the reforms on track?

Answer:

1. In line with the recommendations of the independent review of quarantine and biosecurity arrangements, *One biosecurity: a working partnership* (the Beale Review), the 40 percent government contribution towards AQIS export certification functions lapsed as scheduled on 30 June 2009.

The government is funding the Export Certification Reform Package (ECRP), worth \$127.4 million to mid 2011 to provide regulatory and supply chain reform as well as transition funding for the meat, live animal, horticulture, grain, fish and dairy export industries. It includes a new set of export fees and charges to return industry to full cost recovery. The new export fees and charges commenced in December 2009.

Transitional funding from the ECRP will be used to provide a 40 percent offset of the full cost impact on export industries of the new export fees and charges to 30 June 2011. The 40 percent offset commenced in December 2009.

2. Each of the six joint industry-AQIS ministerial taskforces (dairy, fish, grain, horticulture, live animal and meat) developed a broad reform agenda that was presented to the minister in June 2009. Following the recommencement of the reform process at the end of November 2009, the ministerial taskforces are developing more detailed work plans to implement their respective reform agendas.
3. Implementation of the Export Certification Reform Package has commenced and will continue through to 30 June 2011.

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Question: BSG 09

Division/Agency: Biosecurity Services Group – Strategic Projects

Topic: Beale Review

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Back asked:

1. What was the final cost of the Beale Review?
2. How many of the Beale Review Recommendations have now been implemented? Do all of the recommendations still have ‘in principle support’ from the government?
3. How many will now not be implemented?
4. On page 205 of the Beale Review it states: ‘In addition, the Panel is recommending a remediation investment of approximately \$225 million over a number of years to upgrade information technology and business systems for the National Biosecurity Authority.’ Has any provisions been made in the budget to upgrade technology and business systems with AQIS and Bio-Security Australia?
5. When will these upgrades begin and how much funding is being provided?
6. When will the Beale Review recommendations be adopted in full?
 - a) Isn't it a fact the Beale Review Recommendation 73 states; The Commonwealth should increase its bio-security investment by an amount in the order of \$260 million per annum, subject to a full costing by departments, to meet the recommendations of this report.?’
 - b) Is it a fact that the Minister in a media release announcing the release of the Beale Review stated ‘the Rudd Government had accepted all 84 recommendations in-principle’?
 - c) Does the Government have any intention of adopting Beale Recommendation 73?
 - d) What Beale Recommendations is the Government adopting in 2009-10? How much will these measures cost to implement? When is it the Governments intention to adopt implement all of 84 of the Beale Review Recommendations?
 - e) Page 205 of the Beale Review states; ‘It is impossible to escape the conclusion that the agencies are significantly under-resourced, putting Australia’s economy, people and environment at significant risk.’ Does the Government concur with that view?
 - f) When will the Government be implementing the Beale Review recommendations?
 - g) Given the fact that the Beale review states ‘Without these additional resources, the National Biosecurity Authority will not be able to deliver the

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One Biosecurity: a working partnership model envisaged by the Panel.' Does the Government believe it can implement any recommendations from the Beale Review without increasing funding by \$260 million per annum?

Answer:

1. The final cost of the review was \$1,741,789.
2. The Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry's press release of 23 September 2009 restates the government's in-principle support for all of the recommendations of the Beale Review. The minister's press release is available at www.maff.gov.au/media/media_releases/2009/september/progress_continues_on_reforms_to_strengthen_australias_biosecurity. The Beale Review recommendations are being progressively implemented.
3. See response to question 2.
4. Refer to Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2009 Question on Notice, BSG 56. [See BSG 09 attachment]
5. Refer to Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2009 Question on Notice, BSG 56. [See BSG 09 attachment]
6. a) See response to question 2.
b) See response to question 2.
c) See response to question 2.
d) See response to question 2.
Activities underway to progress the Beale review's recommendations in 2009-10 include:
 - developing new biosecurity legislation to replace the *Quarantine Act 1908* and other relevant pieces of legislation;
 - developing an intergovernmental agreement on biosecurity with state and territory governments to implement a working partnership for biosecurity activities;
 - first pass approval for scoping options for updated information technology systems and future post-entry quarantine arrangements through the government processes;

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- implementing interim administrative arrangements, such as the appointment of the interim Inspector General of Biosecurity, the appointment of an eminent economist to the Eminent Scientists Group, the establishment of the Biosecurity Advisory Council and the creation of the Biosecurity Services Group in preparation for the establishment of a national biosecurity authority;
 - implementing compliance agreements that recognise the food safety management systems of importing businesses;
 - delivering biosecurity materials as part of a higher education program;
 - returning the export certification function to 100 per cent cost recovery; and
 - implementing risk based intervention activities to replace mandatory intervention non-risk related targets.
- e) Refer to Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2009, Question on Notice, BSG 59. [See **BSG 09 attachment**]
- f) See response to question 2.
- g) Refer to Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2009, Question on Notice, BSG 61. [See **BSG 09 attachment**]

[BSG 09 – Attachment]

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Question: BSG 10

Division/Agency: BSG – Food Division

Topic: Key Performance Indicators - Zero markets lost

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Back asked:

1. Budget Related Paper No. 1.1, Portfolio Budget Statements 2009 -10, Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Portfolio, page 71, Program 2.1 Key Performance Indicators states that in 2008-09 'zero markets lost'. Does the Government stand by this claim?
2. Does the Government not consider the disruption during the year to the Russian red meat market as a market lost?
3. Have all companies, including kangaroo exporters who lost markets in Russia again exporting to Russia?
4. What was the reason for the suspension of access for red meat exporting companies to Russia?
5. What impact has the lost market access in Russia had on the Kangaroo industry?
6. What work is the Government undertaking to combat the spurious claims of animal activists, such as the NSW executive director of Animal Liberation, Mark Pearson who are using data collected illegally and under highly dubious circumstances to disrupt and discredit the kangaroo industry in Europe and China?

Answer:

1. The key performance indicator for Program 2.1 is 'Zero overseas markets are lost as a consequence of failed export certification systems'.

Between 1 July 2008 and 30 June 2009, no markets were lost to Australia's food exports as a consequence of failed export certification systems.

2. While the Australian Government recognises the impact on those establishments which have been suspended from exporting to Russia, the majority of meat exports from Australia to the Russian Federation has continued unaffected.
3. No. On 7 September 2009, the department received notification from Russian authorities of the re-approval of six red meat establishments that were temporarily suspended from exporting to Russia. On 5 February 2010, the department received notification from Russian authorities of the re-approval of a further four meat establishments and on 27 February 2010 another establishment was reapproved. There are six red meat establishments that remain suspended, the reapproval of which remains a priority.

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4. Between June 2008 and July 2009, Russian authorities temporarily suspended thirteen Australian red meat establishments from exporting to the Russian Federation due to the detection of consignments that were non-compliant with Russia's import requirements. A further five establishments were suspended from 10 July 2009, based on findings that Russian auditors made during an audit of these establishments conducted in February 2009.
5. The suspension by Russia of all kangaroo meat imports from 1 August 2009 has resulted in five of the ten export registered establishments temporarily ceasing operations.
6. The Australian Government continues to work, with the kangaroo industry, to reassure importing country competent authorities of the safety of kangaroo meat and of the high animal welfare standards practiced. The Government has met and written to relevant authorities to alleviate any concerns with regard to Australia's kangaroo meat production system.

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Question: BSG 11

Division/Agency: Biosecurity Services Group - Animal Division

Topic: Australian Animal Health Laboratory, Geelong

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Back asked:

1. What activities are undertaken at the Australian Animal Health Laboratory, (AAHL)?
2. Has routine diagnostic surveillance for classical swine flu or any other diseases been increased in 2008-09 or will be increased in 2009-10?
3. Has the diagnostic workload of the AAHL increased in 2007-08, and 2008-09?
4. Why has the government failed to recognise the vital role AAHL plays in disease diagnostics and research not only here in Australia, but internationally as well?
5. Why has the government failed to increase its contribution in real terms to the operating costs of the AAHL, with an increase of just \$21,000 in 2009-10?
6. How many graduates are employed at AAHL under the department's graduate program?

Answer:

1. The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) funds AAHL to undertake work in nine areas of activity:
 - Diagnostic services: provision of timely, quality assured diagnostic service for emergency animal diseases, including exotic and new and emerging diseases.
 - Emergency response: in the event of an emergency animal disease, provision of a diagnostic service as part of an agreed national emergency response.
 - Technical advice: provision of expert advice and support on all diagnostic laboratory issues to DAFF and national animal health bodies.
 - Education and training: provision of specialised training to Australian veterinarians and diagnosticians in emergency animal disease recognition and diagnosis.
 - Research: undertaking an agreed program of research to support and improve AAHL's diagnostic capability and the understanding of emergency animal diseases.

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- Reagent supply: provision of specialised diagnostic reagents for emergency animal diseases for those agreed diagnostic activities that will be undertaken in state/territory laboratories and appropriate private laboratories.
- International activities: provision of scientific and diagnostic expertise to support Australia's national interests in the region and beyond.
- Surveillance and molecular epidemiology: provision of molecular data on emergency animal diseases for epidemiological studies.
- Management of laboratory support services: including engineering services, microbiological security operations, central monitoring services operations, information technology services, occupational, health and safety, and general support services.

Questions relating to other activities undertaken by AAHL should be addressed to the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research.

2. There is no routine diagnostic surveillance program for classical swine influenza at AAHL.
3. The total number of annual sample submissions to AAHL and tests performed on samples are provided below.

Year	Submissions	Tests
2006–07	3986	41196
2007–08*	4876	46830
2008–09	4511	38333
2009–10**	2870	29066

* The increase in 2007–08 was associated with the equine influenza outbreak in 2007

** Figures to end February

4. The government continues to recognise the important role that AAHL plays in emergency animal disease preparedness and response. AAHL provides agreed diagnostic and research services in accordance with a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between CSIRO and DAFF. With DAFF's support, AAHL serves as a World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) reference laboratory for a number of animal diseases (i.e. Hendra and Nipah viruses, bluetongue, avian influenza, Newcastle disease, epizootic haematopoietic necrosis, and yellowhead disease). AAHL is also an OIE Collaborating Centre for new emerging diseases and undertakes a range of collaborative research projects, supported through funding sources such as AusAID, in the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) region.

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5. Questions relating to AAHL budget funding should be addressed to the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research.
6. There are no graduates employed at AAHL under the department's Graduate Development Program.

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Question: BSG 12

Division/Agency: Biosecurity Services Group – Animal/Food/Plant/Quarantine Operations Division, Trade & Market Access Division

Topic: IRSs, Agricultural products held up and / or rejected by AQIS

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Back asked:

1. What Import Risk Assessments IRA's on Chinese, Russian, Indian, Indonesian, Philippine, Brazil, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay and South African products are currently under way? Are they close to being finalised?
2. Can the department provide a list of all new and existing import applications for food and agriculture/fisheries/forestry products from China, Russia, India, Indonesia, Philippine, Brazil, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay and South Africa?
3. What agriculture/food products are currently imported from China, Russia, India, Indonesia, Philippine, Brazil, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay and South Africa? Please provide a country by list of all imported food and agriculture products.
4. What Australian agricultural/fisheries/forestry products are currently seeking permission from the Chinese, Russian, Indian, Indonesian, Philippine, Brazil, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay and South African Government to import products into China, Russia, India, Indonesia, Philippine, Brazil, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay and South Africa?
5. How much funding is being made available to industry to help under take all aspects of accessing the Chinese, Russian, Indian, Indonesian, Philippine, Brazil, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay and South African markets? Please provide a breakdown of which industries/commodities are receiving funding and how much funding they are receiving?
6. Please provide a country by country breakdown in percentage terms and the number of tests conducted on food products (fresh and manufactured) being imported into Australia from China, Russia, India, Indonesia, Philippine, Brazil, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay and South Africa?
7. Please update the previous list of all food inspected by AQIS during the 2008/09, and 2009/10 financial year provided in during the last Senate Estimates Committee Hearing from China? Please provided the same list for Russia, India, Indonesia, Philippine, Brazil, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay and South Africa.
8. How many of the items from China, Russia, India, Indonesia, Philippine, Brazil, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay and South Africa inspected by AQIS were rejected? What were the reasons for rejecting the shipments? Have any prosecutions been launched?
9. How many shipments of agriculture products were held up and or rejected by AQIS last year because of breaches to Australia's Quarantine rules in 2008/09?

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10. What was the nature of these breaches? How many of the breaches resulted in the goods not being allowed into Australia? What happened to the goods? Have any prosecutions been launched? How many of these prosecutions were successful?

Answer:

1. For plants/plant products there are two regulated import risk analyses (IRAs) underway. The apples from China IRA is an expanded IRA and is due to be completed by September 2010. The table grapes from China IRA is a standard IRA and due to be completed by August 2010.

There are no country specific animal IRAs. Freshwater ornamental finfish IRA (a review of the biosecurity risks associated with gourami iridovirus and related viruses) is generic analysis covering all countries. As a regulated standard IRA it is due to be completed by September 2010. The prawns and prawn products IRA is also generic covering all countries (commenced before regulated IRAs). This IRA is at the final step with the Director of Animal and Plant Quarantine considering a policy determination.

2. The following new and existing applications are from the Import Market Access Advisory Group's priority list (December 2009):

PRIORITY A

Apples	China
Cherries	China
Mangoes	Philippines (other region)
Mangosteens	Indonesia
Summerfruit (nectarines, peaches, apricots, plums)	China
Table grapes	China
Table grapes	India
Taro	all countries
Bovine and ovine casings	Chile
Bovine embryos	Brazil, Argentina, South Africa
Ruminant semen	South Africa
Salmon and trout imported from Australia, processed and exported to Australia	China

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PRIORITY B

Avocados	Chile
Chestnuts (raw, unprocessed)	China
Mushrooms	all countries
Pears	China
Horses	South Africa
Ovine and caprine embryos	South Africa
Preserved duck eggs	China

PRIORITY C

Apples	Brazil, South Africa
Apples	South Africa
Bitter gourd	India
Blackberries	Chile
Blueberries	Chile
Citrus	China, Brazil, South Africa
Coffee	all countries
Cucumbers	India
Gherkins	India
Grapes	Brazil
Kiwifruit	Chile
Mangoes	Brazil
Melons	Brazil
Okra	India
Papayas	Brazil, India,
Philippines	
Peas	India
Pears	South Africa
Pomegranates	India
Pulses	all countries
Raspberries	Chile
Red and black currents	Chile
Sapota	India
Sunflower seeds (for sowing via open quarantine)	Argentina, South Africa
Table grapes	South Africa
African penguins	South Africa

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Alpacas and llamas	Chile
Grey nurse sharks	South Africa
Horses	Argentina
Horses	Brazil
Horses	Chile
Silkworm larvae	India / China
Zoo bovids	South Africa
Zoo deer	Philippines

3. Agricultural/food products imported from China, Russia, India, Indonesia, Philippine, Brazil, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay and South Africa are provided at Attachment A below.

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ATTACHMENT A

	China	Russia	India	Indonesia	Philippines	Brazil	Chile	Argentina	Uruguay	South Africa
Alcoholic beverages	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Grains/flours	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
Highly processed foods	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Dairy products	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y
Coffee/tea	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Fruit	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y
Nursery products	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y
Nuts	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Vegetables	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	N
Processed and preserved fruit or vegetables	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Herbs and spices	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
Tobacco	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y
Eggs	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Fats and oils	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y
Hides and skins	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y
Honey	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N
Inedible animal products	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	Y
Live animals	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	Y
Silk	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N
Wool	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N
Cotton	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Seafood	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Sugar	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Confectionery/ cocoa products	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y

Source: Based on ABS, International Trade, Australia, cat. no. 5465, Canberra. (Y=Yes, N=No)

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Question: BSG 12 (continued)

4. China: table grapes, summerfruit, cherries, apples, wine grape cuttings, kangaroo meat, donkey meat and skins, tripe, tallow, poultry, pork, possum

Chile: kangaroo meat

India: meat, live seafood

Indonesia: other offals

Philippines: kangaroo meat

5. **China**

The department notes the same Question on Notice was put and answered following the February 2009 Additional Budget Estimates, May 2009 Budget Estimates and October 2009 Supplementary Budget Estimates. The department's response includes updated information.

Five Australia–China Agricultural Cooperation Agreement (ACACA) delegations of four people have travelled from Australia to China in 2009-10 and one delegation is yet to travel. The department funds business class airfares, single-entry visas, gifts and incidentals at an average value of \$30 000 per delegation. China's Ministry of Agriculture will fund the remaining expenses for the delegations when in China.

Successful ACACA applicants in 2009-2010 were from the following industries:

- olives
- seed
- sheep meat
- wheat
- cherry
- forestry

Although not solely for the purpose of improving market access, the department also administers the Australia–China Agricultural Technical Cooperation (ATC) Program, which funds capacity building projects with a longer-term view of maintaining and improving market access for Australian agricultural exports. Capacity building projects have been in areas such as supply chain and quarantine management. The ATC Program is a four-year (2006-2010), \$5 million initiative. Approved projects for the 2008-2009 funding round are in the areas of food safety and standards setting, seafood and horticulture supply chains, and natural fibre processing. In 2009-10 an animal diseases project was also approved.

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Other Countries

With regard to Russia, India, Indonesia, the Philippines, Brazil, Chile, Argentina Uruguay and South Africa, while there are no specific funding arrangements the department (in consultation with industry) undertakes an ongoing range of activities including representations, bilateral meetings and targeted technical visits in support of market access.

6. The Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) import management system only contains data on food referred to the imported food inspection scheme from the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service. Food is referred to the scheme at rates varying from 5-100% depending on the food's risk classification and past compliance history. Specific information on total imports of food by country may be available from the Australian Bureau of Statistics. The table below details the number of tests applied to food under the inspection scheme for each nominated country between 28 October 2009 and 8 February 2010.

Country	Number of tests
Argentina	132
Brazil	71
Chile	67
China	2361
India	1032
Indonesia	617
Philippines	411
Russia	61
South Africa	368
Uruguay	6

In the same period, the AQIS Import Management System records that a total of 204 consignments of raw prawns (marinated and non-marinated) from China (154), India (3) and Indonesia (47) were imported. Of these, all 141 consignments of non-marinated prawns were tested for quarantine purposes, as set out in the table below.

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Country	Number of consignments tested	Percentage of consignments tested/number of consignments imported from each country
China	97	63%
India	3	100%
Indonesia	41	87%

7. Please note the two attached reports are produced from the AQIS Import Management System (AIMS). These reports contain data from the Customs and Border Protection Service's integrated cargo system (ICS), which have been entered by customs brokers or importers. If data has been entered incorrectly in the ICS, AQIS is unable to correct it in AIMS. AQIS assesses consignments based on accompanying documentation not the information in AIMS.

Question 1.

Attachment 1 is a report from AIMS listing foods for human consumption from China inspected by the AQIS between 28 October 2009 and 8 February 2010 under the Imported Food Inspection Scheme.

Question 2.

Attachment 2 is a report from AIMS listing foods for human consumption from Russia, India, Indonesia, Philippine, Brazil, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay and South Africa inspected by AQIS between 28 October 2009 and 8 February 2010 under the Imported Food Inspection Scheme.

8. Question 1

In the period between 28 October 2009 and 8 February 2010, 1863 foods were inspected under the Imported Food Inspection Scheme from the above countries, of which 151 failed inspection.

Question 2.

Attachment 1 identifies the product and reason for failure.

There have been no prosecutions for these failures. When an imported food is found to be non-compliant with Australian food standards, it is required to be treated, destroyed or re-exported when under AQIS control.

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9. A total of 56,353 shipments (which included agricultural products) of a total 474,422 consignments referred to AQIS were held up or rejected in the period 1 July 2008 to 31 June 2009 because of breaches to Australian Quarantine rules requiring the following treatments or processes:

Treatment	Number
Destruction	7162
Devitalisation	57
Fumigation	24292
Heat Treatment	1089
Irradiation	2972
Other treatments Includes treatments such as cleaning, disinfection, removal of bark and/or cold storage	19119
Re-Export	1662
Total	56353

10. a) The consignments were held up and or rejected because they did not meet quarantine requirements.
- b) Please refer to table in Answer 1.
- c) Please refer to table in Answer 1.
- d) There were 4 prosecutions launched in relation to these matters.
- e) There were 4 successful prosecutions in relation to these matters.

[BSG 12 (7) Attachments 1 & 2
BSG 12 (8) Attachment 1]

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Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: BSG 13

Division/Agency: Biosecurity Security Group – Food Division

Topic: Export Certification Reform Package

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Colbeck asked:

1. What is the status of the 6 Export Certification Reform Program Ministerial Taskforces since the reform process was restarted?
2. Can you please give a list of meetings that have occurred since the restart and those attending the meetings? And also a list of planned meetings?
3. Can you provide a run-down the work plans for each of the 6 taskforces?
4. Has AQIS determined the level of redundancies that will occur? (\$26 million allocated)
5. What feedback has been received from small meat processors following the additional funding?
6. What audits has DAFF carried out of the ECRP process since November? What have been the findings/outcomes of these audits?
7. Can you please give an update on the audit being carried out by Ernst & Young? When will this document be made public?
8. Can you give a full breakdown of current and projected levels of the industry liability accounts for the next 2 years?
9. In QsON, DAFF advised an additional \$2.85 million in fees was collected before the disallowance motion was moved on 15 September. Can you please advise on the status of these funds? Can you please provide the legal advice which allows DAFF to retain these funds?

Answer:

1. Following the restart of the reform process at the end of November 2009, the six joint industry-AQIS ministerial taskforces (dairy, fish, grain, horticulture, live animal and meat) have all reconvened.
2. A list of the meetings held by each of the six ministerial taskforces since the restart of the reform process together with a list of the taskforce membership is provided at **Attachment 1** below. A schedule of future meetings is being developed.

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3. These are being finalised.
4. No, a final determination has not been made.
5. The Australian Meat Industry Council (AMIC) which represents all processors on the Meat Export Ministerial Taskforce has expressed general satisfaction with the funding available to the meat sector under the Export Certification Reform Package worth \$127.4 million.
6. No audits have been carried out by DAFF at this stage.
7. Ernst and Young was engaged by the Meat Export Ministerial Taskforce as part of its reform agenda to conduct a review to examine the appropriateness of the current AQIS cost base. Ernst and Young is finalising its report.
8. Current and projected balances to 30 June 2011 in industry liability accounts (ILAs) for the export program are shown in the table below. Forward projections reflect: end of year projections for each program as at 28 February 2010; the assumption that each program will achieve a balanced result for the remainder of the period; and expected transfers from the Export Certification Reform Package. All transfers to the ILAs are made at the end of each financial year.

Sector	Current status (at 30 June 2009)	Projected status at 30 June 2010	Projected status at 30 June 2011
Dairy	-\$106,881	\$0	\$0
Fish	\$38,107	\$160,553	\$160,553
Grain	\$359,784	\$1,025,138	\$1,025,138
Horticulture	\$34,823	\$95,313	\$95,313
Live animal	\$759,973	\$527,578	\$527,578
Meat	-\$3,823,175	\$0	\$0

9. Apart from the three exceptions set out below, the disallowance did not invalidate fees for services provided in the period 1 July to 15 September 2009. All revenues for services provided during 1 July and 15 September 2009 remain recoverable by AQIS.

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The disallowance did effect those annual, monthly or weekly services/charges collected between 1 July and 15 September 2009. These fees and charges are considered to have been collected for services which extend beyond the date of disallowance.

- In the case of annual charges; any revenues recovered against the 1 July to 15 September 2009 rates are invalid and must be credited. Services are to be recharged at the 'old' rate for the entire annual period.
- In the case of monthly charges; any revenues recovered against the 1 July to 15 September 2009 rates for the month of September 2009 are invalid and must be credited. Services are to be recharged at the 'old' rate for the entire month of September 2009.
- In the case of weekly charges; any revenues recovered for services provided in the period 14-18 September are invalid and must be credited. Services are to be recharged at the old rate for the week 14-18 September.

AQIS has made the necessary arrangements to identify and credit fees and charges that fall into these three categories.

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Question: BSG 13 (continued)

Attachment 1 – Meeting schedule for Ministerial Taskforces

MEMBERSHIP – DAIRY MINISTERIAL TASKFORCE

Dairy Australia	Wes Judd (Co-chair))
Dairy Australia	Helen Dornom
Fonterra Australia	Carol Bate
Murray Goulburn Co-operative	John O'Regan
Australian Dairy Products Federation	Peter Stahle
Australian Dairy Products Federation	John Williams
Dairy Food Safety Victoria	Anne Astin
Safe Food Production Queensland	Barbara Wilson
Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service	Greg Read (Co-chair) Col Hunter Dean Merrilees Mark Schipp Faye McLarty

Meetings that have occurred since the recommencement of the Export Certification Reform Package on 25 November 2009:

- 30 November 2009
- 22 December 2009
- 20 January 2010
- 22 February 2010

MEMBERSHIP – SEAFOOD MINISTERIAL TASKFORCE

Seafood Export Consultative Committee	Alex Ziolkowski (Co-chair)
Seafood Export Consultative Committee	Ted Loveday
Seafood Export Consultative Committee	David Milne
Seafood Export Consultative Committee	Stephen Hood
Seafood Export Consultative Committee	Tony Johnston
Seafood Export Consultative Committee	David Crichton
Seafood Export Consultative Committee	Milan Rapp
Seafood Export Consultative Committee	Peter Hinsch
Seafood Export Consultative Committee	Alan Crosthwaite
Seafood Export Consultative Committee	Justin Fromm
Tuna Boat Owner's Association	Brian Jeffriess (since 19 February 2010)
Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service	Greg Read (Co-chair) Col Hunter Dean Merrilees Mark Schipp Eileen Gosling

Meetings that have occurred since the recommencement of the Export Certification Reform Package on 25 November 2009:

- 26 November 2009
- 14 December 2009

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- 19 January 2010
- 19 February 2010

MEMBERSHIP – GRAIN MINISTERIAL TASKFORCE

Grain Trade Australia	Geoff Honey (Chairman)
ABB Grain Ltd	Geoff Masters
Australian Grain Exporters Association	Rosemary Richards
Australian Seed Federation	Will Golsby
Gerard McMullen Consulting	Gerard McMullen
GrainCorp Operations	Philip Clamp
Pulse Australia	Gavin Gibson
Sunrice	Bronwyn Sigmund
AWB Ltd	Adrian Reginato
Australian Fodder Industry	Colin Peace
Australian Cotton Seed Industry	Rod Wolski
Grain Pool Pty Ltd	Sally Porter
CBH Group	Matthew Mews
Grains Council of Australia	Jamie Smith
Grains Council of Australia	Alan Umbers
Australian Nut Industry Council	Chris Joyce
Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service	Louise van Meurs Dean Merrilees David Heinrich Bill Magee
Biosecurity Australia	

Meetings that have occurred since the recommencement of the Export Certification Reform Package on 25 November 2009:

- 26 November 2009
- 16 December 2009
- 12 February 2010
- 5 March 2010 – teleconference

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Question: BSG 13 (continued)

MEMBERSHIP – LIVE EXPORTS MINISTERIAL TASKFORCE

Australian Livestock Exporters' Council	Ian McIvor (Chairman)
Australian Livestock Exporters' Council	Lach MacKinnon
Australian Livestock Exporters' Council	Troy Setter
Australian Livestock Exporters' Council	Graham Dawes
Australian Livestock Exporters' Council	Angus Adnam
Australian Livestock Exporters' Council	Gary Tapscott
Australian Livestock Exporters' Council	John Edwards
Australian Livestock Exporters' Council	Simon Winter
Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service	Ann McDonald Dean Merrilees Garry Cullen

Meetings that have occurred since the recommencement of the Export Certification Reform Package on 25 November 2009:

- 2 December 2009
- 10 February 2010

MEMBERSHIP – MEAT MINISTERIAL TASKFORCE

Australian Meat Industry Council	Gary Burrige (Chairman)
Australian Meat Industry Council	Brian James
Australian Meat Industry Council	David Larkin
Australian Meat Industry Council	Tom Macguire
Australian Meat Industry Council	John Berry
Australian Meat Industry Council	Roger Fletcher
Australian Meat Industry Council	Terry Nolan
Australian Meat Industry Council	Steve Kelly
Australian Meat Industry Council	Steve Martyn
Australian Meat Industry Council	John Dorian
Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service	Greg Read Dean Merrilees Colin Hunter Mark Schipp

Meetings that have occurred since the recommencement of the Export Certification Reform Package on 25 November 2009:

- 2 December 2009
- 11 February 2010
- 10 March 2010

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Question: BSG 13 (continued)

MEMBERSHIP - HORTICULTURE MINISTERIAL TASKFORCE

Citrus Australia	Mark Chown
Australian Mango Industry Association	Peter Delis
SA Citrus Industry Development Board	Andrew Green
Fruit Growers Tasmania	Lucy Gregg
Australian Horticulture Exporters' Association	David Hunt-Sharman
Australian Horticulture Exporters' Association	Maxwell Summers
Ironbark Citrus & Grapes	Allen Jenkin
Nursery and Garden Industry Australia	Anthony Kachenko
Antico International Pty Ltd	Hugh Molloy
Horticulture Australia Limited	Wayne Prowse
SA Citrus Industry Development Board	Peter Walker
Centre West Exports	Peter Wauchope
Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service	Greg Read (Chairman) Colin Grant Louise van Meurs Dean Merrilees Jeanine Crowther

Meetings that have occurred since the recommencement of the Export Certification Reform Package on 25 November 2009:

- 26 November 2009
- 16 December 2009
- 18 February 2010
- 12 March 2010

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Question: BSG 14

Division/Agency: Biosecurity Services Group – Animal Division

Topic: Horse IRA

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Colbeck asked:

1. What is the current status of the IRA for the importation of horses?
2. When is the expected completion date?
3. Will it be complete and new protocols apply for Melbourne's Spring Carnival?

Answer:

1. The IRA has been completed and the Director of Animal and Plant Quarantine made a policy determination on 19 March 2010. This was amended on 24 March 2010.
2. See answer above.
3. Protocols are expected to be in place for the Melbourne Spring Carnival, subject to exporting countries meeting these protocols.

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Question: BSG 15

Division/Agency: Biosecurity Services Group – Animal Division

Topic: Prawns IRA

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Colbeck asked:

On 7 October 2009 Biosecurity Australia released the final report for the prawns import risk analysis (IRA) and gave 30 days for an appeal to be lodged.

1. Was an appeal lodged? By who?
2. What are the timeframes for the prawn IRA now?
3. What countries does BA expect will export prawns or prawn products to Australia following the implementation of this IRA? What quantities?

Answer:

1. Yes. Appeals were received from the Department of Fisheries, Thailand; the Australian Prawn Farmers Association; the Seafood Importers Association of Australasia Inc; and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Vietnam, National Agro-Forestry-Fisheries Quality Assurance Department.
2. The Director of Animal and Plant Quarantine is considering a policy determination on the final IRA report. This is the final step in the IRA process.
3. Biosecurity Australia does not make predictions about the commercial decisions of overseas exporters.

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Question: BSG 16

Division/Agency: Biosecurity Services Group

Topic: Import Risk Analyses

Hansard Page: Written (08/02/2010)

Senator Colbeck asked:

Can you please give a run-down on all other active IRAs?

What is the anticipated completion date for each?

Answer:

Information relating to the apples from China and table grapes from China IRAs has been provided within Question on Notice BSG 12.

Information relating to the horses from approved countries IRA has been provided within Question on Notice BSG 14.

Information relating to the prawn IRA has been provided within Question on Notice BSG 15.

Other Active IRAs	Completion date
Freshwater ornamental finfish: a review of the biosecurity risks associated with gourami iridovirus and related viruses	a regulated standard IRA due to be completed in September 2010.
Stonefruit from United States (Pacific North-West States)	a regulated standard IRA due to be completed in March 2010.
Apples from United States (Pacific North-West States)	a regulated expanded IRA due to be completed in September 2010.

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Question: BSG 17

Division/Agency: Biosecurity Services Group – Quarantine Operations Division

Topic: Imports

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Colbeck asked:

Can you please provide a breakdown on imports approved by AQIS for the financial year 2009-2010 (to date) including type of product, quantity and reference number/code – from the following countries/regions:

- Indonesia
- USA
- African nations
- EU
- China
- Thailand
- India
- Indonesia
- Philippines
- Brazil
- Chile

Answer:

The attached data, comprising 1.2 million lines, is an extract from the AQIS Import Management System (AIMS) of all relevant consignments imported into Australia from Indonesia, USA, African nations, EU, China, Thailand, India, Philippines, Brazil, Chile during the period 1 July 2009 to 17 February 2010.

[See BSG 17 attachment]

Notes:

Data in AIMS is the quarantine subset of all import information. Information on total imports by country may be available from the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Data is entered by brokers and importers into the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service's Integrated Cargo System (ICS). If data has been entered incorrectly in the ICS, AQIS is unable to correct it in AIMS. AQIS assesses consignments based on accompanying documentation not the information in AIMS.

[BSG 17 – Attachment]

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Question: BSG 18

Division/Agency: Biosecurity Services Group – Animal Division

Topic: Importing beef & beef products from BSE affected countries

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Heffernan asked:

1. With the appointment of Prof John Mathews and his report (September 2009) & review of scientific evidence into the risks associated with importing the beef and beef products from BSE affected countries:
2. What were the contractual arrangements/terms of his contract?
3. What was his remuneration?
4. Who appointed him?
5. Was this appointment arranged and discussed with the Department of Health & Ageing (DOHA)?
6. Can the Department supply copies to the Committee of his letter of appointment and contractual arrangements, remuneration package and any related correspondence to the appointment of Prof John Mathews? (And if not, why not?)

Answer:

Professor Mathews' contract was with the Department of Health and Ageing. All questions should be directed to that department.

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Question: BSG 19

Division/Agency: Biosecurity Security Group – Animal Division

Topic: Australia as a member of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

Australia is an active member of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), however many of the countries to which Australia exports animals do not meet OIE guidelines for the handling and slaughter of animals. Can the Government provide assurances that Australian animals will not be sent to countries that fail to meet OIE guidelines to which Australia is a signatory?

Answer:

Australia's major live animal trading partners are members of the OIE and have an obligation to meet the OIE animal welfare standards in relation to transport and slaughter.