

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates February 2010

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: CPD 01

Division/Agency: Corporate Policy Division

Topic: Domestic and International travel by Minister – Retreats and conferences

Hansard Page:12 (08/02/2010)

Senator Colbeck asked:

Senator COLBECK—Yes. Can you give us the total cost of domestic travel undertaken by the minister or ministerial staff for this budget period to date?

Ms Bie—The only costs that we have are departmental costs. The Department of Finance and Deregulation funds the minister and his staff when they travel.

Senator COLBECK—Can you get that figure for me on notice?

Ms Bie—We would have to go to the department of finance.

Senator COLBECK—I am happy for that to occur, if you could do that. What about international travel undertaken by the minister?

Ms Bie—It is the same system.

Senator COLBECK—The same? I will put the same question on notice. We asked you a question, which I referred to a moment ago and we will come back to later, about retreats and conferences. I would like to put the same question on notice for this period too, if I can, please: the cost to the department of retreats/conferences undertaken by its staff, broken down by retreat/conference name, purpose and cost. You would not have that prepared, would you? No, I did not think so. Is the department planning for an additional 3.25 per cent efficiency dividend again this estimates period?

Answer:

Both domestic and international travel costs for the minister are met by the Department of Finance and Deregulation (DoFD), with the exception of car costs, which are met by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF). Travel costs for ministerial staff are met by DoFD.

The total cost of domestic travel undertaken by the minister and ministerial staff from 1 July 2009 to 8 February 2010 is as follows:

	Minister's costs ^{1&2}	Ministerial Staff costs ²
Total costs	\$84,387.55	\$188,918.63

¹ Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry costs

² Department of Finance and Deregulation costs

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Question: CPD 01 (continued)

The total cost of international travel undertaken by the minister and ministerial staff from 1 July 2009 to 8 February 2010 is as follows:

	Minister's costs ^{1&2}	Ministerial Staff costs ²
Total costs	\$52,430.89	\$31,467.71

¹ Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry costs

² Department of Finance and Deregulation costs

See response to CSD 17 (**attached**) for the Supplementary Budget Estimates hearings in October 2009 in relation to retreats/conferences for the period 1 January 2008 to 26 October 2009.

For the period 27 October 2009 to 8 February 2010 the department did not undertake any retreats. Set out below are details of planning days held outside the normal workplace. The total cost of these activities for this period was \$5990.

Retreat/Conference Name	Purpose	Cost
Cargo Management, North East Region Biosecurity Services Group	To develop risk based intervention pathways.	\$3190.00
Planning Day Animal Division Biosecurity Services Group	To discuss work priorities and key challenges for the next 18 months.	\$2800.00

The Department is subject to an efficiency dividend of 3.25%. It is not additional to that which is already factored into the forward estimates.

[CPD 01 – Attachment]

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Question: CPD 02

Division/Agency: Corporate Policy Division

Topic: Advertising and campaigns

Hansard Page: 14 (08/02/2010)

Senator Colbeck asked:

Senator COLBECK—What is the projected?

Ms Bie—I would have to take that on notice.

Dr O’Connell—That includes recruitment advertising as well.

Ms Bie—Yes.

Senator COLBECK—Given that you are taking it on notice, could give us the information detailing the purpose and the focus of each of the advertising campaigns and the projected total? You do not know how much has been allocated for Australia’s Farming Future?

Answer:

The answers to these questions are the same as the responses to CPD 07.

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Question: CPD03

Division/Agency: Corporate Policy

Topic: Communications programs

Hansard Page: Question in writing

Senator Barnett asked:

- (1) What are the current programs has the Department/Agency undertaken or are planning to undertake?
- (2) For each program, what is the total spend?

Answer:

As part of its standard operations, the department routinely communicates program and policy matters on a daily basis, in a variety of ways, with a broad range of clients and stakeholders. As a result, it is not possible to quantify the specific costs of such communications.

The department has compiled the following information regarding particular communications activities to support major portfolio policies and programs.

The department also reports procurement activities valued at more than \$10 000 on AusTender (www.tenders.gov.au) and certain prescribed advertising and market research activities valued at more than \$10 500 in the department's annual report (www.daff.gov.au/about/annualreport).

Program	Communications expenditure from 1 July 2009 to 31 January 2010
Quarantine awareness	\$110 560
Australia's Farming Future communication activities	\$129 120
On-farm biosecurity awareness	\$5 841
Australia-China Agricultural Cooperation Agreement (advertising of grant round)	\$16 097
Aquatic animal health publications	\$62 822
National Landcare Forum 2010 (event management and forum website)	\$38 619

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Question: CPD 04

Division/Agency: Corporate Policy Division

Topic: Appointments

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Barnett asked:

What is the gender ratio on each board and across the portfolio?

Answer:

As at 14 April 2010:

Portfolio Board Name	Current Gender Balance
Cotton Research and Development Corporation	5 Women 4 Men
Fisheries Research and Development Corporation	2 Women 7 Men
Grape and Wine Research and Development Corporation	3 Women 6 Men
Grains Research and Development Corporation	2 Women 6 Men
Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation	3 Women 5 Men
Sugar Research and Development Corporation	3 Women 6 Men
Australian Fisheries Management Authority Commission	3 Women 6 Men
Australian Wine and Brandy Corporation	3 Women 5 Men
Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority Advisory Board	1 Woman 6 Men
Wheat Exports Australia	2 Women 4 Men
National Rural Advisory Council	3 Women 5 Men
Statutory Fishing Rights Allocation Review Panel	4 Women 3 Men

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Portfolio Board Name	Current Gender Balance
Recreational Fishing Advisory Committee	2 Women 8 Men
Australian Landcare Council	2 Women 2 Men
Biosecurity Advisory Council	5 Women 3 Men
Rural Research and Development Council	6 Women 4 Men
National Consultative Committee on Animal Welfare	2 Women 8 Men
Horticulture Code of Conduct Committee	4 Women 7 Men
Regional Food Producers Innovation and Productivity Program Advisory Panel	3 Women 2 Men
Forest Industries Development Fund Advisory Committee	5 Men
Forest Industries Climate Change Research Fund: Assessment Panel	1 Woman 3 Men

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Question: CPD 05

Division/Agency: Corporate Policy

Topic: Community Cabinet travel costs

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Barnett asked:

1. What was the cost of Ministers travel and expenses for the Community Cabinet meetings held since Budget Estimates?
2. How many Ministerial Staff and Departmental officers travelled with the Minister for the Cabinet meeting?
3. What was the total cost of this travel?
4. What was the total cost to the Department and the Ministers office?

Answer:

1. Community Cabinet travel costs for the minister and ministerial staff are met by the Department of Finance and Deregulation (DoFD), with the exception of car costs for the minister, which are met by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF).

The minister attended eight Community Cabinet meetings held since Budget Estimates. Seven of these Community Cabinet meetings were combined with visits to additional industry sites. The costs of visiting these additional sites are not able to be disaggregated from the cost of attending Community Cabinet meetings and therefore the department is unable to provide the costs of attending these Community Cabinet meetings.

The minister's attendance at the Community Cabinet meeting held on 28 July 2009 in Elizabeth, South Australia was not combined with visiting additional industry sites, however it was combined with additional destinations. These additional destinations are unable to be disaggregated from the Community Cabinet travel. The minister's travel costs for this meeting totalled \$1749.39^{1,2}.

2. The number of ministerial staff and departmental officers travelling with the minister for the Community Cabinet meetings are as follows:

Date	Ministerial Staff	Departmental Staff
30 June 2009	1	1
28 July 2009	1	1
25 August 2009	1	-
1 October 2009	1	1
13-15 October 2009	2	1

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9 November 2009	2	1
8 December 2009	2	1
20 January 2010*	1	1
18 February 2010	2	1

* *The minister did not attend the January Community Cabinet*

3. Of the eight Community Cabinet meetings attended by the minister, seven were combined with visits to additional industry sites. The total costs of ministerial staff and departmental staff travel for Community Cabinet meetings are not able to be disaggregated from the costs of visiting additional industry sites and therefore the department is unable to provide costs of attending these Community Cabinet meetings only.

As stated, attendance at the 28 July 2009 Community Cabinet meeting in South Australia was not combined with additional industry sites. The cost of ministerial staff attendance at this meeting was \$1408.51^{1,2}. The departmental officer who attended this Community Cabinet meeting conducted other meetings in South Australia as part of his travel, with the costs of attending the Community Cabinet meeting not able to be disaggregated from the costs of attending these other meetings.

The 20 January 2010 Community Cabinet meeting was not attended by the minister and did not include additional industry sites. The cost of ministerial staff attendance at this meeting was \$1096.79^{1,2}. The cost of departmental officer attendance at this meeting was \$1147.43.

4. The total costs of ministerial and departmental travel for Community Cabinet meetings are not able to be disaggregated from the cost of attending additional industry sites and therefore the department is unable to provide costs of attending the Community Cabinet meetings.

¹ Without consultation with the travellers, the information provided by DoFD relies on an assumption that all travel to and from relevant locations immediately before and after the relevant Cabinet meetings, was for the purposes of attending the Cabinet meetings.

² The figures include airfares, car hire and travelling allowance (including motor vehicle allowance) claims. They do not include travel by taxis (due to the difficulties determining exact destinations using the electronic information as provided by Cabcharge) or travel on special purpose aircraft (which is administered by the Department of Defence).

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Question: CPD06

Division/Agency: Corporate Policy Division

Topic: Reviews

Hansard Page: Written (08/02/2010)

Senator Barnett asked:

1. How many Reviews are currently being undertaken in the portfolio/agency or affecting the portfolio agency?
2. When will each of these reviews be concluded?
3. Which Reviews have been completed since Budget Estimates?
4. When will the Government be responding to the respective reviews that have been completed?
5. What is the total number of Reviews *both completed and ongoing* in the portfolio/agency or affecting the portfolio agency since November 2007?
6. What is the estimated cost of these Reviews?
7. What further reviews are planned for 2009 - 10 FY?

Answer:

Questions 1, 2, 5, 6: current reviews

Eight major policy reviews are currently being undertaken in the portfolio. These reviews, their anticipated dates of conclusion and their estimated cost are as follows:

Review Title	Anticipated End Date	Estimated Cost
Primary Industries Ministerial Council Equine Influenza Expert Review Panel (PIMC EI).	Report received in October 2009 and remains under PIMC consideration.	\$330 500. Of this, an estimated \$320 000 will be shared by the Commonwealth and states in accordance with an agreed ministerial council formula.
Internal government review of biofuels policy. Joint review by DAFF and Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism (DRET). DRET has policy lead for this review.	Under consideration by government.	\$109 615 (DAFF costs)
Review of the Sugar Industry Reform Program (SIRP) 2004 to 2008.	May 2010	\$320 000

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Review Title	Anticipated End Date	Estimated Cost
DAFF and Department of Finance and Deregulation: Efficiency & Effectiveness Review of the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority.	June 2010	\$49 500 (DAFF will meet the cost of the review.)
Feasibility of alternatives to the cancellation provisions under the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1991</i> .	30 June 2010	Approximately \$132 500
Wheat Export Marketing Arrangements - Public Inquiry.	1 July 2010	The review is being undertaken by the Productivity Commission at nil cost to the department.
Review and revision of the 2004 National Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks.	17 January 2011	\$141 938.50
1994 National Recreational Fishing Policy Review.	30 June 2011	\$2 million

3. Three reviews have been completed since Budget Estimates in May 2009—the review of testing protocols of imported seafood, the 2008 Dairy Quota Review and the Drought Policy Review.

4. Responding to reviews is a matter for the government.

5. Twelve reviews were either completed or ongoing since November 2007.

6. Four major policy reviews have been completed since November 2007. These reviews, their dates of conclusion and their estimated cost are as follows:

Review Title	End Date	Estimated Cost
Review of testing protocols of imported seafood.	22 December 2009	\$57 860
2008 Dairy Quota Review.	8 October 2009	\$420 000
Drought Policy Review.	May 2009	\$3.877 million
Review of Quarantine and Biosecurity Arrangements (Beale Review).	30 September 2008	\$1 743 213

7. No further reviews are planned for 2009-10.

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Question: CPD 07

Division/Agency: Corporate Policy Division

Topic: Advertising and campaigns

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Colbeck asked:

1. What plans does the Department have to conduct advertising or campaigns over the coming 12 months?
2. What is expected expenditure for advertising and marketing over the remaining part of this financial year and next financial year?
3. What level of advertising has occurred for the Australia's Farming Future program? And any projections?

Answer:

1. The department currently has no plans to conduct campaigns in the coming 12 months.
2. Non-campaign advertising is usually a small component of an overall program and is not usually identified in forward budgets because the need may only emerge as a program is rolled out. Therefore, it is not possible to accurately predict the likely level of expenditure for the remainder of the financial year. Expenditure in 2010–11 is subject to future government deliberations and the department's internal budgeting processes.
3. Australia's Farming Future program has undertaken non-campaign advertising, totalling \$135,198.39 for the purposes of promoting the availability of government grants and training subsidies offered under the program.

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Question: CPD 08

Division/Agency: Corporate Policy Division

Topic: Election commitments

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Colbeck asked:

1. What is the current status of each election commitment within the portfolio?
2. Which election commitments are experiencing slippages? Why? Where relevant what are the revised implementation dates? What are the implications of this slippage?

Answer:

1. The Australian Government's election commitments in this portfolio were outlined in the pre-election documents *Labor's Plan for Primary Industries*, *Labor's Plan for Sustainable Fisheries* and *Securing the Future of Tasmania's Forestry Industry*, and also reflected in the 2008–09 budget statement: *Strengthening Rural and Regional Australia*.

These commitments are being, or have been, met through the range of policies, programs and activities as outlined, for example, in the department's 2007–08 and 2008–09 annual reports and the 2007–08 and 2008–09 portfolio budget statements and related material.

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Question: CPD09

Division/Agency: Corporate Policy

Topic: Advertising and marketing

Hansard Page: Writing

Senator Nash asked:

1. (a) How much has the Department spent on advertising and marketing since November 2007? (b) Ask for justification of expenditure.
2. (a) Could the Department provide a complete list of current contracts?
(b) Please indicate the rationale for each service provided and its intended use.

Answer:

1. (a) In accordance with information provided about advertising and market research contracts in the department's annual reports:

2007–08 ¹	2008–09 ¹	July 2009– 31 January 2010 ¹
9 244 923	6 452 620 ²	331 817

Note:

1. *All figures are GST inclusive. Note that the full year 2007–08 figures are provided for consistency with published annual report data.*
2. *The figure for 2008–09 is \$613 776 greater than the figure in that year's annual report. This error was identified by the department subsequent to the publication of the 2008–09 report and will be disclosed in the 2009–10 annual report, along with the correct figure.*

(b) The total expenditure is made up of several thousand items and it would require a significant diversion of departmental resources to provide justification for each item.

2. The department has identified the following list of advertising and market research contracts current as at 31 January 2010 and valued at more than \$10 000 (GST inclusive). The department does not maintain a central register of contracts valued at less than \$10 000. It would require a significant diversion of departmental resources to ascertain information regarding individual advertising and marketing contracts valued at less than \$10 000, given that several thousand individual items of expenditure may need to be reviewed.

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Contract supplier	Total contract value (GST inclusive)	Rationale for the service and use
Media Monitors Australia Pty Ltd	\$90 000	Media monitoring services are required to support policy and program development and assist in identifying relevant portfolio issues. The contractor provides technical services that cannot be undertaken in-house.
Instinct and Reason Pty Ltd	\$165 000	The service provided is the evaluation of the pilot project and research barriers to, and opportunities for, increasing Indigenous employment in primary industries. Specialist research skills for this project are not available in-house.
Blue Star Print Group Australia Pty Ltd	\$1 783 000	A five year contract for warehousing and distribution services to provide offsite storage and distribution of a large volume of quarantine, biosecurity and other information products. The department does not have adequate space or resources to undertake this work in-house.

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Question: CPD 10

Division/Agency: Corporate Policy Division

Topic: Commissioned Reports

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Nash asked:

1. How many reports have been commissioned by the Government in the Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry portfolio since November 2007?
2. Please provide details of each report including date commissioned, date report handed to Government, date of public release, Terms of Reference and Committee members.
3. How much did each report cost? How many departmental staff were involved in each report and at what level?
4. What is the current status of each report? When is the Government intending to respond to these reports?

Answer:

1. The major reports commissioned by the Australian Government in the Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry portfolio since November 2007 are listed below.

For the purposes of this Question on Notice, the term ‘commissioned reports’ is defined as reports which are the result of a major review and are/will be publicly released. Reports such as on-going annual reports and from routine program and policy reviews are excluded. Details of reviews currently underway—most of which are expected to provide reports to the government—are provided in CPD 06.

- 2-4 Details of the commissioned reports are provided below. Responding to the reports is a matter for the government.

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Name of report	One Biosecurity – a working partnership: The independent review of Australia’s quarantine and biosecurity arrangements, report to the Australian Government
Date of commission	19 February 2008
Date report handed to government	30 September 2008
Date of public release	18 December 2008
Link to Terms of Reference	http://www.quarantinebiosecurityreview.gov.au/tor
Committee Members	Mr Roger Beale AO (Chair), Dr Jeff Fairbrother AM, Mr Andrew Inglis AM and Mr David Trebeck.
Cost of report	The independent review of Australia’s quarantine and biosecurity arrangements cost \$1 743 213. In addition to this, it cost \$30 280 to publish the report that resulted from the review.
Number/level of departmental staff involved with report	A dedicated secretariat was established to provide the panel with the necessary support to complete the review and the report. The secretariat consisted of nine departmental officers: one SES Band 2, one Band 3 Veterinary Level 5 officer, two EL2 officers, three EL1 officers, one APS 6 officer and one APS 4 officer.
Status of report	Publicly released 18 December 2008.

Name of report	Report of the 2008 Dairy Quota Review Panel on Administrative Arrangements for EU and USA Dairy Quotas managed by Australia
Date of commission	2 April 2008
Date report handed to government	6 June 2008
Date of public release	2 February 2009
Link to Terms of Reference	http://www.daff.gov.au/agriculture-food/meat-wool-dairy/dairy-quota-review/terms_of_reference_eu_and_us_wto http://www.daff.gov.au/agriculture-food/meat-wool-dairy/dairy-quota-review/terms_of_reference_australia
Committee Members	Mr John McQueen, Dr Sandra Welsman and Mr David Harris
Cost of report	\$260 017 (Please note: this cost relates only to the production of the report and so is lower than the cost of the broader review contained in CPD06.)
Number/level of	Review ran April to June 2008. The secretariat consisted of three

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departmental staff involved with report	departmental officers: one EL1 officer, one APS 6 officer, and one contract administrative support (approx. APS3) officer.
Status of report	Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry responded on 2 February 2009

Name of report	Drought exceptional circumstances: an assessment of the impact of climate change on the nature and frequency of exceptional climate change
Date of commission	23 April 2008
Date report handed to government	4 July 2008
Date of public release	6 July 2008
Link to Terms of Reference	http://www.daff.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0007/721285/csiro-bom-report-future-droughts.pdf [Appendix 1]
Committee Members	Centre for Australian Weather and Climate Research (CAWCR), which is a partnership between the CSIRO (Marine and Atmospheric Research) and the Bureau of Meteorology.
Cost of report	\$0.136 million
Number/level of departmental staff involved with report	Over approximately four months, a proportion of the time of three executive level staff.
Status of report	Publicly released 6 July 2008.

Name of report	It's about people: changing perspectives on dryness, a report to government by an expert social panel
Date of commission	23 April 2008
Date report handed to government	30 September 2008
Date of public release	23 October 2008
Link to Terms of Reference	http://www.daff.gov.au/agriculture-food/drought/national_review_of_drought_policy/social_assessment/terms_of_reference
Committee Members	Mr Peter Kenny (Chair), Ms Sabina Knight, Mr Mal Peters, Professor Daniela Stehlik, Mr Barry Wakelin, Ms Sue West, and Mrs Lesley Young.
Cost of report	\$0.973 million

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Number/level of departmental staff involved with report	Over approximately five months, eight staff at a range of APS levels, including executive levels.
Status of report	Publicly released 23 October 2008.

Name of report	Government drought support, Productivity Commission inquiry report no. 46
Date of commission	23 April 2008
Date report handed to government	27 February 2009
Date of public release	12 May 2009
Link to Terms of Reference	http://www.pc.gov.au/projects/inquiry/drought/report
Committee Members	Productivity Commission
Cost of report	\$1.449 million
Number/level of departmental staff involved with report	Over approximately seven months, a proportion of the time of two executive level staff.
Status of report	Publicly released 12 May 2009.

Name of report	Report to the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, the Hon. Tony Burke MP, on the Implementation of the Callinan Inquiry
Date of commission	16 June 2008
Date report handed to government	Report 1 – 23 October 2008 Report 2 – 10 March 2009 Report 3 – 14 September 2009
Date of public release	Report 1 – 26 November 2008 Report 2 – 2 June 2009 Report 3 – 10 December 2009
Link to Terms of Reference	Professor Shergold has been appointed to provide independent external assessment of the progress of the department's implementation of the Australian Government's response to the recommendations set out in the Callinan Inquiry Report and provide reports on the progress to the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. The minister has agreed for five reports to be provided periodically up to June 2010.

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Committee Members	Professor Peter Shergold AC
Cost of report	The consultancy fee for this reporting activity is calculated on a per diem rate of \$2 500 and limited to \$62 500 over the life of the consultancy. As at the date of the question on notice \$31 250 had been acquitted for this consultancy.
Number/level of departmental staff involved with report	The department provides secretariat support to Professor Shergold in undertaking this reporting activity. This support is equivalent to 0.5 FTE and comprises an EL2 and APS 6 officer.
Status of report	Five reports commissioned in total. The first three reports have been submitted and the minister has responded. The reports and the minister's responses have been published on the department's website. The fourth report is expected to be provided to the minister in March and the final report in June 2010.

Name of report	Implications of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) recommendations to amend the Horticulture Code of Conduct
Date of commission	October 2008
Date report handed to government	14 September 2009
Date of public release	1 November 2009
Link to Terms of Reference	Provide the Minister with advice on: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The implementation of the ACCC grocery price inquiry recommendations to amend the Horticulture Code of Conduct.2. General issues relating to the code.
Committee Members	Ms Christine Hawkins, Mr Brad Latham, Mr Mark Chown, Ms Trish Skinner, Mr Gerard Richmond, Ms Margy Osmond, Ms Ros Smerdon and Ms Felicity Robson.
Cost of report	\$85,000 (approximately)
Number/level of departmental staff involved with report	Three (one EL2, one EL1, and APS 5 officer).
Status of report	Publicly released 1 November 2009.

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Name of report	Equine Influenza Expert Review Panel: Report to the Primary Industries Ministerial Council (PIMC), September 2009
Date of commission	November 2008
Date report handed to government	Provided to the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry in October 2009.
Date of public release	This is a matter for PIMC.
Link to Terms of Reference	To review policy options for future incursions of equine influenza.
Committee Members	Mr Roger Beale, AO, (Chair); Professor Anne Kelso, AO; Dr Mike Currell, PSM; Professor David Watson.
Cost of report	Total budgeted cost of \$330,500. (Of this, an estimated \$320,000 will be shared by the Commonwealth and states in accordance with an agreed ministerial council formula.)
Number/level of departmental staff involved with report	4-6, at various levels: Senior Principal Vet Officer, Principal Research Officer, ABARE Senior Officers (various).
Status of report	To be considered by PIMC on 23 April 2010.

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Question: CPD 11

Division/Agency: Corporate Policy Division

Topic: Electoral reports

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Nash asked:

1. Are there plans to publish a full suite of electoral reports on the Department's website? If not, why not? If so, when? What data will be included?
2. Does the Department prepare electorate level reports for Ministers? What data is included in these reports? How often is this updated? Why is this material not publicly available? Request copy of latest reports.
3. Has electoral specific data been used by the current Government in any grants scheme since November 2007?

Answer:

1. There are no plans to publish a full suite of electoral reports on the department's website as the department does not collect this information.
2. The department does not prepare specific electorate level reports for the minister.
3. The department does not use electoral specific data when administering grants schemes. To meet the *Commonwealth Grant Guidelines* the department is required to advise the minister if a recommended application falls within his electorate.