

**Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Additional Estimates February 2012

**Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry**

**Question: 19**

**Division/Agency:** APD/RIRDC – Agricultural Productivity Division/Rural Industries and Development Corporation

**Topic: Kangaroo Industry Research Funding**

**Proof Hansard page: 42**

**Senator RHIANNON asked:**

**Senator RHIANNON:**

Okay. Thank you, Dr O'Connell. I would like to go back to an issue about kangaroos relevant to Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation. How much funding does RIRDC allocate for the marketing, promotion and development of Australia's kangaroo industry in Australia and overseas?

**Dr O'Connell:** RIRDC was not called for today, but we can have a question taken on notice for them.

**Answer:**

Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC) does not allocate any funding towards the marketing and promotion of Australia's kangaroo industry in Australia or overseas.

RIRDC spent \$229 219 on research and development of the Australian kangaroo industry in the financial year 2010–11 (refer to the 2010–11 RIRDC Annual Report page 227).

RIRDC also managed a project for the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry entitled 'Kangaroo wildgame industry training initiative' and \$185,980 in Commonwealth funds were directed to this initiative in 2010–11 (refer to the 2010–11 RIRDC Annual Report page 228).

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Additional Estimates February 2012

**Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry**

**Question: 217**

**Division/Agency:** APD/RIRDC – Agricultural Productivity Division/Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation

**Topic: Factory Farming and the Environment**

**Proof Hansard page:** Written

**Senator RHIANNON asked:**

The RIRDC Budget includes focus areas such as 'productivity growth', 'climate change and variability' and 'new and emerging industries'.

1. Are there any plans to research the effects of factory farming on climate change, with consideration of alternative practices such as free range and organic systems of alternative practices such as free range and organic systems?

**Answer:**

Rural Industries Research Development Corporation (RIRDC) completed a project for the Australian chicken meat industry which included an evaluation of the greenhouse gas emissions associated with chicken meat produced in Australia. This included assessments of conventionally farmed and free range chicken meat, and a desk top assessment of organic chicken meat.

The analysis confirmed results of analyses undertaken overseas that chicken meat production is a highly efficient form of meat production, generating low levels of greenhouse gas emissions.

The final report of this project will be available on the RIRDC website by the end of March 2012.

RIRDC does not plan to conduct further research in this area at this stage.

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**Question: 218**

**Division/Agency:** APD/RIRDC – Agricultural Productivity Division/Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation

**Topic:** Chickens

**Proof Hansard page:** Written

**Senator RHIANNON asked:**

A deliverable of RIRDC is to 'develop and implement a detailed plan for future chicken meat nutrition research and development'.

1. What exactly will this entail?
2. Will research into improved farming practices, with a phase out of battery cages be included in the plan?
3. If not, why not?

**Answer:**

1. Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC)'s *R&D Plan for the Chicken Meat Program 2009–14*, located at [rirdc.infoservices.com.au/items/09-084](http://rirdc.infoservices.com.au/items/09-084), details how RIRDC will develop and implement future chicken meat nutrition research and development.
2. RIRDC will invest in research to improve farming practices. However, RIRDC does not conduct research into cage rearing systems as meat chickens in Australia are not grown in cages.
3. Cages are not used in chicken meat production in Australia.

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**Question: 219**

**Division/Agency:** APD/RIRDC – Agricultural Productivity Division/Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation

**Topic:** Kangaroos

**Proof Hansard page:** Written

**Senator RHIANNON asked:**

How much funding does RIRDC allocate/provide for the marketing, promotion, maintenance and development of Australia's kangaroo industry in Australia and overseas?

**Answer:**

Please refer to the answer to Question 19 Agricultural Productivity Division from the Additional Estimates hearing in February 2012.