

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates February 2014

Agriculture

Question: 182

Division/Agency: Sustainable Resource Management Division/Australian Fisheries Management Authority

Topic: Appointments for the advisory committee Chair positions

Proof Hansard page: Written

Senator STERLE asked:

1. Update the Committee on the appointments for the advisory Committee Chair positions.
2. What process was undertaken to fill the position?
3. Was a selection panel established, who was on the panel?
4. Is the process complete?

Answers:

1. All Management Advisory Committee (MAC) Chairperson positions are currently filled. The last appointment was made 16 June 2013. MAC Chairpersons are appointed by the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) Commission from a standing list of applicants (the Register). AFMA seeks applications to maintain the Register around every two years. AFMA last advertised for MAC Chairperson and other advisory Committee Chairperson positions in October/November 2013.
2. Appointments follow the process outlined in the AFMA's Policy *Fisheries Management Paper 1: Management Advisory Committees (June 2009)*. No appointments have been made since the advertisement was placed in late 2013. The next scheduled appointment is for the Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery MAC (ScallopMAC), in late 2014.
3. The process involves a shortlist of candidates being drawn from the Register which is considered by a selection panel consisting of the AFMA Chief Executive Officer, Executive Manager Fisheries and/or the Executive Secretary. The panel's advice is provided to the AFMA Commission who make the appointment.
4. The process is ongoing with appointments made as vacancies arise.

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Question: 183

Division/Agency: Sustainable Resource Management Division/Australian Fisheries Management Authority

Topic: Fisheries in the white paper

Proof Hansard page: written

Senator STERLE asked:

1. Does the AFMA believe that Fisheries should be included in the White Paper, if yes, have you approached the Minister with your concerns, and what has been the advice given?
2. If no, why not?

Answer:

1. The *Coalition's Policy for a Competitive Agriculture Sector* pre-election document stated that a White Paper on the competitiveness of the agriculture sector would be commissioned. It is a matter for the Government to determine the scope of the White Paper. The *Coalition's Policy for a More Competitive and Sustainable Fisheries Sector* outlines the government's policy direction for the fishing industry.
2. N/A.