

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates February 2014

Agriculture

Question: 62

Division/Agency: Agricultural Productivity Division/Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation

Topic: Kangaroo recipe book

Proof Hansard page: 22

Senator RHIANNON asked:

Senator RHIANNON: Did the RIRDC approve the recommendation, in the Kangaroo Industry Association of Australia's kangaroo recipe book called *Roocepies*, that kangaroo is best served undercooked or rare?

Mr Burns: I am aware of that book which was published, but again that goes back some time and I do not have the details of the project. I can take that on notice though.

Senator RHIANNON: It has been taken on notice before, and we did not get an answer. So will we get an answer—

Mr Burns: Yes.

Senator RHIANNON: in the required time?

Mr Burns: As far as I know, we did answer that.

Dr Grimes: We will do some checking, because my understanding is that all of your questions on notice were answered. We are a little concerned that you have not received it, so we will do some checking at our end and see what has happened.

Answer:

Please refer to the response from Question on Notice 49 from Supplementary Budget Estimate Hearings in November 2013.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates February 2014

Agriculture

Question: 63

Division/Agency: Agricultural Productivity Division/Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation

Topic: Outbreak of toxoplasma gondii

Proof Hansard page: 22

Senator RHIANNON asked:

Senator RHIANNON: Is the RIRDC aware of predictions in the scientific literature that the next outbreak of toxoplasma gondii in Europe would most likely be linked to the consumption of kangaroo meat?

Mr Burns: I am not aware of that, but I make the point that we currently only have one kangaroo project that is still active. Largely, our kangaroo work was done during the 2000s.

CHAIR: It is mostly pet food, anyhow.

Mr Burns: It is not an issue that is currently on our agenda.

Senator RHIANNON: Could you take it on notice and provide details of that project that you currently have, please.

Mr Burns: I can do that.

Answer:

The only current kangaroo-related research project being funded by RIRDC is called "*Improving the welfare and humaneness of commercially harvested kangaroos*" (RIRDC project number: PRJ-004103)

The NSW Department of Primary Industries is conducting the research.

Project overview:

To provide scientific knowledge and other information on the animal welfare impact of kangaroo harvesting methods with the aim of determining the most appropriate euthanasia methods for young kangaroos. More details on the project can be found at:

www.rirdc.gov.au/research-project-details/custr10_KAN/PRJ-004103

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Additional Estimates February 2014

Agriculture

Question: 64

Division/Agency: Agricultural Productivity Division/Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation

Topic: Measuring performance

Proof Hansard page: Written

Senator STERLE asked:

1. Does RIRDC have a template for measuring performance?
2. What is this template, how do you measure research performance?
3. Can you provide information regarding the rural research priorities of the Government?

Answer:

1. The Rural Research and Development Corporation's Evaluation Policy outlines how the Corporation measures its performance. The Corporation has a number of templates to assess whether its purpose is being met; whether its outcome is being achieved; and whether sufficient resources and appropriately skilled people are available to support delivery of the Corporate Plan.
2. The Corporation has a template to review the annual performance of research, development and extension programs. The Corporation uses the Council of Rural Research and Development Corporations' guidelines to measure the impact of research and development investments:
<http://www.ruralrdc.com.au/Page/Evaluation/Methodology+.aspx>
3. Rural research and development priorities are available on the Department of Agriculture's website: <http://www.daff.gov.au/agriculture-food/innovation/priorities>.