

SENATE RURAL AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS AND TRANSPORT LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

BUDGET ESTIMATES, 25, 26 MAY 2005 - ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics [ABARE]

Question: ABARE 01

Topic: Woodchip sales statistics

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Senator Brown asked:

Can you comment on the trend for export woodchip sales out of Australia, taking into account the global market and the projections into the next two years?

Answer:

ABARE publishes forecasts for Australia's woodchip exports in the Australian Commodities publication.

The most recently published data, published in June 2005, forecasts a slight decline in Australia's woodchip exports to 10.4 million green tonnes in 2005-06, following an expected increase to 11.0 million green tonnes in the year to 2004-05.

A recent report by ABARE (Nelson and Shield 2003), showed that woodchip supply from Australia, South Africa and Chile has the potential to increase dramatically due to recent plantation establishment.

Reference:

Nelson, R. and Shield, E, 2003, 'Australian Woodchip Exports: future commercial benefits of plantation hardwood chip production', Australian Commodities, vol. 10, no. 1, March quarter, pp. 74-80.