

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2006

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

**Question:** BRS 01

**Division/Agency:** Bureau of Rural Sciences

**Topic:** Water 2010 project

**Hansard Page:** 116 (24/05/06)

**Senator Heffernan asked:**

**CHAIR**—So this is linked to the 2020 Vision stuff, with plantation forestry and that.

**Dr Ritman**—Potentially that could be part of the scenarios. Forestry plantations could form part of the land use change in the scenarios, but that is the part we have not embarked on.

**CHAIR**—As you know, 38 per cent of run-off in the Murray-Darling Basin comes from two per cent of the catchment. That two per cent of the catchment would be a good place to start with this. Do you have a geographic area that you have nominated to start in?

**Dr Ritman**—Not that I know of.

**CHAIR**—That is where you ought to start, in my view.

**Dr Ritman**—I will take that on notice.

**Answer:**

Scenarios covering a range of issues that may impact water availability are proposed as part of the Bureau of Rural Sciences (BRS) Water 2010 Project, including climate change, land use change and demographic change. BRS proposes the exact nature of these scenarios be informed by stakeholders including the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, the National Water Commission, the Murray Darling Basin Commission (MDBC) and others.

One study already planned, in collaboration with the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) Division of Land and Water, will consider the potential impact of land use change, including forest plantations, on water yield in the upper Murray River catchment. The upper Murray River catchment contributes around 25% of all runoff in the Greater Murray Basin. This work will commence in August 2006.

Please provide an estimation of hours spent on QON response for each officer involved.

Officer	DAFF Level	Hours spent on QON response
A	Science Band 3 Level 4	1
B	DPIE Band 3 Level 8(b)	0.5
C	SES Band 1	0.2
D		