

## **Budget Estimates 2007-2008**

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Portfolio  
Wednesday 23 and Thursday 24 May 2007

<b>QON No.</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Hansard Reference /Written</b>	<b>Senator</b>	<b>Question</b>
AQIS 01	23/5/07	6	O'Brien	<p>Senator O'BRIEN—Thank you for that. Is it possible to get, for each department and agency in this portfolio, what sum as a total figure was spent on advertising campaigns in 2006-07 and what sum will be spent in 2007-08?</p> <p>Mr Pahl—Yes. We have probably got some of that information with us, and I will see if we can dig that up for you in the course of today.</p> <p>Mr Grant—Within the department, there are two major campaigns that currently operate. There is the Quarantine Matters! campaign that operates through AQIS and the campaign that advises people about their eligibility for exceptional circumstances assistance that is administered through Centrelink. Information about that campaign should be directed towards that department, but we can certainly provide you with some information about the Quarantine Matters! campaign.</p>
AQIS 02	23/5/07	7	O'Brien	<p>Senator O'BRIEN—In relation to Quarantine Matters! you will be able to give us the numbers for 2006-07 in terms of projected sums and the same for 2007-08?</p> <p>Mr Grant—We will bring that to the committee tomorrow afternoon when AQIS appear.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—Will we be able to get a breakdown at that time of campaign costs, marketing, research, creative, preproduction, production, media purchasing and for the various media types?</p> <p>Mr Grant—I think so. We will endeavour to bring together as much information as we can for the committee.</p>

CP 01	23/5/07	7	O'Brien	<p>Senator O'BRIEN—Do you know when individual campaigns were referred to the Ministerial Committee on Government Communications for approval?</p> <p>Mr Grant—When those in particular were?</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—Yes.</p> <p>Senator Abetz—Are you talking about the last iteration, because Quarantine Matters! has been going on for I nearly imagine decades and all that happens is that there is a new iteration of it or a bit of a tweak to it.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—Does that mean that there is just an ongoing brief for that particular campaign that goes back some time? Or is it reapproved on an annual basis or biennially?</p> <p>Senator Abetz—On a sort of regular basis when and as it is deemed that it needs a refresh or whatever, but when you talk Quarantine Matters!, I think we have been doing that now for many years. Mr Grant, is that right?</p> <p>Mr Grant—Yes, Minister. Quarantine Matters! and the exceptional circumstances funding both went through the ministerial coordination committee late last year.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—Are you saying that late last year they were reapproved? They went to the committee and were approved?</p> <p>Mr Grant—That is correct, yes.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—Is there a specific date? Can you get us that date?</p> <p>Mr Grant—We can get you that date, certainly.</p>
AQIS 03	23/5/07	8	O'Brien	<p>Senator O'BRIEN—In terms of the Quarantine Matters! campaign, what was the time line? When were invitations to tender issued, when did the tenders close and who were the successful tenderers?</p> <p>Ms Hinder—I am sorry, I do not have that level of detail with me. I would be happy to provide that for you on notice.</p>
MS 01	23/5/07	9	O'Brien	<p>Senator O'BRIEN—Thank you for that. Has Crosby Textor provided any services for this department or any of its agencies, such as market research, public opinion polling, strategic counselling campaigns, communications services or any other services?</p> <p>Mr Grant—Not that I am aware of.</p> <p>Senator Abetz—Nor has Mr Cameron.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—Can you check and let us know?</p> <p>Mr Bridge—Yes.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—If they have, I would like to know what they were, when, at what cost and what was the product of their work.</p> <p>Mr Bridge—Yes, of course.</p>
MS 02	23/5/07	9	O'Brien	<p>Senator O'BRIEN—Is Crosby Textor in contract negotiations with the department or any of its agencies about any such work?</p> <p>Mr Grant—Certainly not with the department, to our knowledge. We would have to check with the individual agencies to confirm that, but we can do that.</p>

CP 02	23/5/07	13	O'Brien	<p>Mr Grant—It may be an information awareness raising campaign, just to advise people of the availability of funding arrangements and to give information about how they might apply for various grants under that program, but we can confirm that in Food and Agriculture. When you asked about campaigns, I was not quite sure whether you meant every time the department went out to its stakeholders or whether you meant a major organised campaign of a significant nature, such as Quarantine Matters!. So when I answered that there was nothing more on the horizon for us, I did not consider the individual programs where they go out and provide information to potential applicants to apply for funding arrangements to be in the context of your question on major campaigns—</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—I did intend it to be broad, so this would be one that we would need to get the detail about.</p> <p>Mr Grant—Having clarified that, there will be others as well from the various programs in the department where we do have funding arrangements and grants programs and where we do go out to provide information to stakeholders about the way they can apply for funds. There will be a number of those, yes.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—Do you have any idea how much in total is involved?</p> <p>Mr Grant—No.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—Can you get that for us?</p> <p>Mr Grant—I would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—Can you identify the campaigns individually?</p> <p>Mr Grant—Not here now. I can take that on notice and come back to you.</p>
ID 01	23/5/07	14	O'Brien	<p>Senator O'BRIEN—Their persimmon industry, not ours? Is that what you mean?</p> <p>Mr Burns—I am not sure. To be honest, these notes sort of contradict themselves, so I had better check that one. The Chinese government has delayed the visit by Australians to China because they were not prepared for the visit.</p>
ID 02	23/5/07	15	O'Brien	<p>Senator O'BRIEN—How much money would you describe as allocated to the variety of projects in the animal welfare live trade area for the coming financial year?</p> <p>Mr Burns—I could not give you an estimate off the top of my head on that one. We could take that one on notice. There is not only work being done in this area coming out of these specific projects but there are other areas as well that I might not be familiar with, so it is best if we give you a consolidated number on that.</p>
ID 03	23/5/07	16	O'Brien	<p>Senator O'BRIEN—How much has been spent on visits by the chief veterinary officer and other staff to check the shipment of live animals to the Middle East and on the negotiations with a dozen or so countries? Is that that budget figure you were talking about?</p> <p>Mr Burns—Most of those visits would come out of that budget, but we would have to break that down and give you the exact figures.</p>

1D 04	23/5/07	16	O'Brien	<p>Senator O'BRIEN—If you could, thanks. I know you have said that there are a number of problems with funding Eritrean programs, but do you know what the cost of the Eritrean facility is?</p> <p>Mr Burns—I do not know that off the top of my head.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—Do you want to take that on notice?</p> <p>Mr Burns—Yes.</p>
1D 05	23/5/07	16	O'Brien	<p>Senator O'BRIEN—The Keniry review recommendations led to the pledging of \$4 million over four years to assist animal welfare in around 10 Middle Eastern countries and the employment of a veterinary counsellor, Kiran Johar. What has been expenditure so far against that program?</p> <p>Mr Burns—Again, I would take that one on notice.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—Could you detail the outcomes that have been achieved and how those have been monitored.</p>
ID 06	23/5/07	19	O'Brien	<p>Senator O'BRIEN—Is there a register kept somewhere within the department of the international organisations and contributions that are made to them?</p> <p>Mr Burns—I would not call it a register, but management services I suspect would be able to extract all of those figures quite easily.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—Is that right, Dr O'Connell?</p> <p>Dr Samson—We could pull that information together and get it to you if that would help.</p> <p>Dr O'Connell—Yes, we could get that to you.</p>
ID 07	23/5/07	20	O'Brien	<p>Senator O'BRIEN—How much a year is the total funding?</p> <p>Mr Morris—The total funding for the technical cooperation was \$1 million a year. For Kiran Johar's position—I might need to take that on notice unless any of my colleagues has the amount—it was of the order of \$400,000 or \$500,000, but we will give you the exact amount when we can.</p>
ID 08	23/5/07	23	O'Brien	<p>Mr Morris—Under the World Organisation for Animal Health, they lay out a range of provisions in terms of the most appropriate means of handling sheep and transporting all animals—not just sheep. They involve ways of ensuring that there is available feed and water and that they are not mistreated. There is quite an extensive range of measures. We would be happy to provide a copy of the guidelines and standards if you would like to view them.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—Thank you. I accept that offer.</p>

AQIS 04	23/5/07	24	O'Brien	<p>Mr Morris—When we get a response from Minister Abaza, we will consult with our minister on that response and ask him for his views in terms of the way forward.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—Does he have a determinative view in the matter?</p> <p>Mr Morris—I do not think so. I think the delegated authority is with the Director of Quarantine. He passes that down through AQIS. It is probably more a question of AQIS, but I understand that the authority is actually with the Director of Quarantine and is delegated down to his delegate.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—I am keenly interested as to whether there is a deliberative view—if for no other reason than it might need to be exercised at times during a caretaker convention. If I could get an answer to that on notice, I would appreciate it.</p> <p>Mr Morris—Okay.</p>
ID 09	23/5/07	26	O'Brien	<p>Senator O'BRIEN—Do we know how much the live sheep export trade to Egypt is worth to Australian farmers? You gave a number of sheep: 40,000, and 35,000 the year before.</p> <p>Mr Morris—I think I have got raw numbers here, but not the actual values. We could probably find out for you on notice what the value of that trade is. As I mentioned earlier, it was 40,000 in 2006 and 35,000—</p> <p>CHAIR—What those figures will not show, Mr Morris, is the value adding that having the secondary outlet of live export does to the box meat. It is a supply and demand situation, and if we lost that market the other market would get a big pain in the guts.</p> <p>Mr Morris—Yes, that is right.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—Perhaps you can give us the figures for box meat as well, then.</p>
WEA 01	23/5/07	29	Heffernan	<p>Mr Besley—It is after. As I have said before in this forum, we report post facto. We do know that AWBI has exercised its power of veto seven times—I think we referred to a couple of them in the growers addendum report—and that is over a lengthy period. So all we know—</p> <p>CHAIR—Of the Geneva desk?</p> <p>Mr Besley—Yes, the Geneva desk. AWBI can under the business rules that apply to the Geneva desk—</p> <p>CHAIR—Could you provide the details of those seven sales to the committee?</p> <p>Mr Besley—We would have to check with AWBI but, off the top of my head, I would not see a problem in that.</p>

WEA 02	23/5/07	39	Heffernan	<p>CHAIR—The price of 2005-06 wheat peaked in the domestic market at about \$320 a tonne. What did the pool pay?</p> <p>Mr Woods—It has not been finalised.</p> <p>CHAIR—I know it has not been finalised, but what has it paid so far?</p> <p>Mr Woods—Eighty per cent—</p> <p>CHAIR—Of what? How many dollars a tonne has it paid?</p> <p>Mr Woods—I could not tell you offhand.</p> <p>CHAIR—Can you come back to us with a figure?</p> <p>Mr Woods—I think we probably could.</p> <p>CHAIR—Then you might let us know what is expected in the final payment; that is, how it is predicted to wind up. The 80 per cent is a much lower figure. There were unusual circumstances. Do not feel bad all together about this, Senator O’Brien. Shepherd’s Siding cooperative went bust for the same reasons that these losses stood in the market. A whole lot of blokes at Dubbo lost their crop because the bloke they traded it with went bust for the same reason. He bought the wheat and did not offset it with another trade. He speculated and the market went like that and they all went the other way. Of course, one of the great beauties of the pool is that you bury all your mistakes and no-one ever discovers them.</p>
WEA 03	23/5/07	57	O'Brien	<p>Senator O’BRIEN—Is that why you are not going to investigate the impact of inflated FOB prices back to 1999?</p> <p>Mr Besley—No, I do not think we have done that. Are you talking about the letter?</p> <p>Senator O’BRIEN—Yes. The letter requested that you do that.</p> <p>Mr Woods—We have not gone back to 1999.</p> <p>Senator O’BRIEN—That is what I am asking: is that the reason?</p> <p>Mr Besley—I must say that letter is something I cannot recall. Is that a letter to us?</p> <p>Senator O’BRIEN—Yes.</p> <p>Mr Woods—We would have to check on that. We are unaware of that at the moment.</p>
WEA 04	23/5/07	59	Heffernan	<p>CHAIR—Mr Woods, are you able to provide us with the details of every contract that the Geneva desk have written for wheat?</p> <p>Mr Woods—We would have to talk to AWB.</p> <p>CHAIR—For this committee to get an idea of the operation of that side of AWB I think it would be a reasonable thing for us to get an understanding of the scale and the significance of the individual sales. You say there were seven that have been vetoed. We would be very interested in not only the ones that have been vetoed but the ones that were not vetoed. Would you be able to give us on notice the details of that?</p> <p>Mr Woods—We will check on that.</p>

WEA 05	23/5/07	66-67	Heffernan	<p>CHAIR—That is right. In terms of the Wheat Export Authority’s looking after the interests of growers, how do you balance that up? Given that whoever the wheat grower is that gets the subsidy gets a benefit the other blokes allegedly do not get, who gets charged with the subsidy? Is it the provider of the service that is limited, or does it get charged to the pool?</p> <p>Senator NASH—That is a good question.</p> <p>Mr Woods—I am not sure exactly what is happening there. Do not forget there were other companies also offering those services, where there were some Grain Flow sites, to get grain into their storage and handling. It was not only at that one. It was at the one at Gilgandra as well. It is a grower’s decision as whom he wants to deal with. To that extent, unless there is a link back to the pool, it is not for us to investigate.</p> <p>CHAIR—But we do not know if there is a link back to the pool. You do not know either, do you? Mr Woods—No. I do not.</p> <p>CHAIR—Maybe we ought to take that on notice. It is not as though you have not much to do.</p> <p>Mr Woods—And we are overstaffed, of course.</p> <p>CHAIR—We ought to look at your budget!</p> <p>Senator O’BRIEN—Do not be ironic with Hansard. The irony is lost.</p> <p>Mr Woods—Thank you for the advice. Would you like to rephrase that?</p> <p>CHAIR—They are all the sorts of vagaries you could ponder forever.</p> <p>Mr Woods—Grain Flow is an AWB Ltd organisation. We will investigate, but you would not expect that grain getting into there would be cross-subsidised into the pool. They are different organisations. But we can have a look at it.</p>
GRDC 01	23/5/07	70-71	Heffernan	<p>CHAIR—Would there be any sort of material available that you would have that would inform this committee of the work that has been going on there?</p> <p>Mr Enright—There are a number of research projects for which we could certainly provide detail.</p> <p>CHAIR—I think we as the Senate’s Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee would be interested to be informed by anything that you could make available.</p> <p>Mr Reading—We would be happy to do that..... We are happy to provide that information. We are also doing work on climate variability where we are looking at better forecasting tools in terms of being able to predict in-rainfall and in terms of the decisions farmers can make regarding whether they should plant the crop in the first place and what levels of nitrogen application they should make. All of those factors are going into it. But we are happy to provide details of all of those programs, and if you want some more specific information or more detail, we can provide that as back-up.</p>
GRDC 02	23/5/07	73	Siewert	<p>Senator SIEWERT—I understand you are providing some more information but can you just say how much on each one?</p> <p>Mr Reading—Sure.</p> <p>Mr Enright—Yes, we can give that breakdown on all the programs.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—That would be appreciated.</p>

FA 01	23/5/07	76	McEwen	<p>Senator McEWEN—Does the department have a view on what the impact is likely to be on the exports of wine?</p> <p>Mr Robinson—I do not have figures with me; I know there are estimates from the Australian Wine and Brandy Corporation or from ABARE, and we could take that on notice and get the estimates for you.</p> <p>Senator McEWEN—That would be good.</p>
FA 02	23/5/07	76	McEwen	<p>Senator McEWEN—Do you have any information about that?</p> <p>Mr Mortimer—No, it is not possible to get a complete picture. The ABARE report that Mr Robinson referenced is probably the best resource to draw on and we can certainly get that to you. My memory is that it estimates that there will be a 33 per cent reduction for 2007; that has more or less happened. The next season will depend on what happens from spring onwards, as the growing season for grapes, the fruiting season, comes into play.</p>
FA 03	23/5/07	77	McEwen	<p>Senator McEWEN—When did you provide the advice to the minister?</p> <p>Mr Robinson—I would need to check; I believe it was this year, earlier in the year.</p>
FA 04	23/5/07	83	O'Brien	<p>Senator O'BRIEN—When will the report be published?</p> <p>Mr Mortimer—That is a matter for the government to determine.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—They have had the report now for weeks.</p> <p>Mr Mortimer—Yes. We are happy to take that on notice, if you wish.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—Yes, if you would.</p>
FA 05	23/5/07	86	O'Brien	<p>Mr Robinson—We have received complaints. I could not tell you how many but, yes, we have received complaints, both of pressure to backdate arrangements and pressure to sign arrangements that growers think are not consistent with the code.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—Have they continued since the code came into effect?</p> <p>Mr Robinson—Yes.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—Is there any way of ascertaining the number?</p> <p>Mr Robinson—We could check our files et cetera and try to provide an estimate.</p>
FA 06	23/5/07	89	O'Brien	<p>Senator O'BRIEN—That is why I asked you, because I have heard of Brisbane. But I was wondering if there were other areas where concern was coming through in a significant way.</p> <p>Mr Robinson—In a very general sense I would say that I think the department has probably had more complaints from Brisbane and Melbourne.</p> <p>Dr O'Connell—I would be happy to take that on notice rather than give a vague response. In doing that, we could make an assessment on whether or not there is anything in the information which would allow the identification of specific cases.</p>



FA 07	23/5/07	91	McEwen	<p>Senator McEWEN—Is the KPMG report available?</p> <p>Mr Mortimer—It is a budget document at this stage. I think we would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator McEWEN—Is there any reason it would not be available?</p> <p>Mr Mortimer—I am not completely au fait with the budget rules. I know that these reviews that are done of lapsing programs are treated as budget documentation because they accompany all the budget papers. Whether that status can change after the event I will need to get advice on</p>
FA 08	23/5/07	91	McEwen	<p>Senator McEWEN—If we cannot get hold of that, where are we going to find out whether those were met?</p> <p>Mr Mortimer—I think we have to take it on notice and see what reporting we could potentially provide to you. It depends what level you want, whether you want the reporting on the outcomes of the funded projects or something more.</p> <p>Senator McEWEN—We would certainly want the outcomes of the funded projects. Obviously a substantial amount of money has been committed; it would be nice to know what was the justification for committing this additional funding.</p>
FA 09	23/5/07	93	McEwen	<p>Mr Robinson—Yes, I believe that is correct.</p> <p>Senator McEWEN—It operates under the Australian Wine and Brandy Corporation Act 1980?</p> <p>Mr Robinson—Yes.</p> <p>Senator McEWEN—On the basis that it is an independent arm of the corporation?</p> <p>Mr Robinson—I would need to confirm that.</p>
FA 10	23/5/07	93	McEwen	<p>Senator McEWEN—The decisions that the committee makes can have a significant impact on the different wine regions in Australia. How do you ensure that there is some distance between the committee and the Wine and Brandy Corporation?</p> <p>Mr Mortimer—That is a fair comment. In terms of broad governance, the corporation, if it is to make any decision, obviously needs statutory authority to enforce anything. The question to be tested, and what we probably have to come back to, is the exact composition of that council and what process is put in place by AWBC to establish it and to ensure that it is truly independent and at arm's-length in coming to decisions which potentially could commercially impact on wine growers, which I think is the issue you are raising.</p> <p>Senator McEWEN—Can you provide further and better particulars?</p> <p>Mr Mortimer—Yes, I will come back to you on that.</p>
FA 11	23/5/07	93	McEwen	<p>Senator McEWEN—Is there some brief or charter for the committee?</p> <p>Mr Robinson—There would be. Again, it is a question probably best directed to AWBC. We could take it on notice and ask them.</p> <p>Dr O'Connell—We will provide the information to you on notice, if we can. We could certainly do that.</p> <p>Senator McEWEN—The sorts of things I am interested in are what requirements there are on the eographical Indications Committee to consider the views of all interested parties, and what kind of material they take into account when they make their decisions.</p>

FA 12	23/5/07	93-94	McEwen	<p>Senator McEWEN—Can you update the committee on the process for the establishment of geographical indications for wine in the Penola and the Coonawarra areas?</p> <p>Mr Mortimer—I would have to take that on notice</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Mr Robinson—I was aware that that example is controversial, but we would have to take on notice exactly what AWBC are doing in regard to the issue.</p> <p>Mr Mortimer—For example, AWBC may well have unfettered power to make a decision and that is that. We will need to get you an answer on that</p>
FA 13	23/5/07	94	McEwen	<p>Senator McEWEN—You do not know whether the corporation’s decisions are appealable to the AAT?</p> <p>Mr Mortimer—No, I would have to check on that.</p> <p>Mr Robinson—I believe they have provisions to review decisions and they are covered—</p> <p>Senator McEWEN—The corporation has provisions?</p> <p>Mr Robinson—The corporation does, and they are covered by the Ombudsman. Complainants, if they believe they have not been dealt with in due process, could take the issue to the Ombudsman.</p> <p>Senator McEWEN—You will advise the committee on that issue?</p> <p>Mr Robinson—Yes.</p>
CP 03	23/5/07	97	O'Brien	<p>Senator O’BRIEN—Has the department assessed whether the government’s decision to wind up agricultural managed investment schemes will have an impact on food processing in regional Australia?</p> <p>Mr Mortimer—I think that is a question for the policy division, Senator. Food and Agriculture does not have responsibility for that.</p> <p>Senator O’BRIEN—I will put that on notice.</p>
FA 14	23/5/07	98	O'Brien	<p>Senator O’BRIEN—Did Australian Agribusiness Group receive payments for services to Australian HomeGrown?</p> <p>Mr Mortimer—I would have to take that on notice. I really cannot remember the details of it. We have had this discussion earlier and the way I remember it was that there was a contract between the department and Australian HomeGrown to do a number of things to develop the Australian HomeGrown branding concept, which include surveys and communications. I would have to refresh my memory as to whether it was done by the group that you referenced.</p> <p>Senator O’BRIEN—I am told that it is a significant sum of money. Perhaps on notice you can tell us what payments were made, when, and what services were provided for those payments.</p>

FA 15	23/5/07	98	O'Brien	<p>Senator O'BRIEN— Do you know if the business participated in a tender process?</p> <p>Mr Mortimer—I would have to take that on notice. I do not know off the top of my head. To put it another way, the contract with Australian HomeGrown specified certain outcomes to be met, which included sign-on from companies to use the schema, the logo sign-on from supermarkets to be participants and, because those milestones were not met, the department did not continue the funding for the initiative. But the nuts and bolts of it were essentially something that Australian HomeGrown did. It was operating under a contract from the department. It had to meet key outcomes and milestones. Who it employed to actually deliver those outcomes was the company's choice and decision.</p>
FA 16	23/5/07	99	O'Brien	<p>Senator O'BRIEN—Was the Australian government the first creditor?</p> <p>Mr Mortimer—Let me take that on notice. I am not sure what you mean by 'creditor' there, in the sense that the Commonwealth had a series of contracts which put the money out to the company in tranches and the Commonwealth only paid the money and extended the contracts when there was evidence that progress was being made. When it was clear that progress was not being made, the Commonwealth ceased making the payments. Whether the Commonwealth is a creditor or not, I would like to check on that and come back to you.</p>
FA 17	23/5/07	99	O'Brien	<p>Senator O'BRIEN—I am told that Australian HomeGrown recently sold its intellectual property. Do you know how much it received for that?</p> <p>Mr Mortimer—I think I am aware, but I really cannot remember, I am sorry. I will take it on notice, if you like.</p>
FA 18	23/5/07	99	O'Brien	<p>Senator O'BRIEN—Are any of the former directors of Australian HomeGrown part of the Australian Made Campaign Ltd?</p> <p>Mr Mortimer—I do not think so. I will take it on notice, if you like. The Australian Made Campaign is, again, a separate industry operated initiative. It is best if we check on that to make sure there is no cross-over that I am not aware of.</p> <p>Dr O'Connell—The Australian Made Campaign Ltd, the people you were talking about last, are the not for-profit organisation that administers the Australian Made triangle logo so I suspect they are completely different. But we will confirm that.</p>
ABARE 01	23/5/07	103	O'Brien	<p>Senator O'BRIEN—I think more than 70 per cent of milk is produced in Victoria. I know it is a pretty high number.</p> <p>Dr Sheales—It is high. I was hoping I had that number, but I just cannot see it at the moment, I am sorry. I might have to get back to you on that.</p>

ABARE 02	23/5/07	104	O'Brien	<p>Senator O'BRIEN—What does that mean for recovery? How resilient will the sector be after this drought?</p> <p>Mr Glyde—That is really what we have in our forecast. We are saying that the industry is resilient and is going to rebound. I would be happy to provide charts showing how the industry has rebounded from previous droughts. It is spectacular. As Dr Sheales has already said, it depends on rain continuing to fall in the right places. That is what underlies our forecast—that there will be a significant rebound and that the farm sector remains resilient.</p>
ABARE 03	23/5/07	105	Siewert	<p>Senator SIEWERT—I will start by asking a series of modelling questions. How much does ABARE project that the Australian economy is going to have grown by the year 2050?</p> <p>Mr Glyde—That is a good question. I do not have the answer at my fingertips. You are really talking about the reference case that we use: the business as usual case in our modelling work.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—Yes. Dr Gunasekera might be able to help you.</p> <p>Dr Gunasekera—In the work that we did last year, we looked at the income growth over time when we were doing our modelling work. I can provide the information later on if you want. Our assumptions were, for example, between 2001 and 2010 the annual growth was around—can I give the total number?</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—Yes. Those assumptions were made in 2005?</p> <p>Dr Gunasekera—2006.</p> <p>Mr Glyde—We can give you a reference or we can send you the link to the document that we have got them in.</p>
ABARE 04	23/5/07	106	Siewert	<p>Senator SIEWERT—Could you tell me what that figure means the GDP will actually be under your worst case scenario in 2050?</p> <p>Dr Gunasekera—It will shave off around 0.2 per cent. I need to go back and check the numbers. Roughly speaking, if your GDP growth is 2.2 per cent and there is a five per cent reduction upon that growth rate, you would expect around 0.1 or 0.2 per cent.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—So 0.1 or 0.2 per cent?</p> <p>Dr Gunasekera—But I need to go back and check that.</p>
BRS 01	23/5/07	116	O'Brien	<p>Senator O'BRIEN—Can someone let us know details of any new contracts BRS has entered into since the additional estimates in February?</p> <p>Dr Grant—We have a number of contracts. I would have to take it on notice as to the quantum of them.</p> <p>Senator Abetz—What sorts of contracts? Rental properties?</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—I mean contracts for the performance of research work and the like.</p> <p>Dr Grant—We have a number of partnerships with a number of organisations. Sometimes we subcontract some of our work through them to be done on our behalf. I can answer that question in detail by taking it on notice, but we would have quite a number. We have about 120 projects running concurrently. A good number of those would have partner involvement in which there is exchange of finances and information.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—I would appreciate it if you took it on notice.</p>

BRS 02	23/5/07	119	Heffernan	<p>CHAIR—Your information is handy for the farmer to know whether he wants to put 50 or 100 kilograms of DAP on. In other words, what is the prediction of the reliability of the rainfall to get the maximum yield or to scale your crop back for a lower yield?</p> <p>Dr Grant—Essentially, yes. Of the two tools we have that will help them now, one is not yet available but we are testing it and the other one has not been available for some time. The one that has been available for some time is the MLA rainfall to pasture tool. We can give you the web details of that and you can go into it and look at it.</p>
BRS 03	23/5/07	120	Siewert	<p>Senator SIEWERT—I want to come back to that. I cannot make it add up. You have got 15 plus three plus two; to me that makes 20.</p> <p>Dr Bygrave—I can take this on notice but that is because of the splitting of those stocks.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—Yes. Can I go back to the issue that we touched on just then, of the four separate stocks. So you split two. You did not split one into four. You split two into two, didn't you?</p> <p>Dr Bygrave—Two into four.</p>
BRS 04	23/5/07	121	Siewert	<p>Senator SIEWERT—What were the two originally called?</p> <p>Dr Bygrave—I would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—Could you tell me what those two were and then what they were split into, because here it just says 'orange roughy' and 'small pelagics'.</p> <p>Dr Bygrave—Yes. I will take that on notice.</p>
RPI 01	23/5/07	121	O'Brien	<p>Senator O'BRIEN—Do you keep material on a state by state, region by region basis on where the rural financial counsellors are located?</p> <p>Mr Thompson—Yes, we do.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—Can this committee receive a copy of that?</p> <p>Mr Thompson—I do not have it with me, but we can take that on notice and provide it.</p>
RPI 02	23/5/07	122	O'Brien	<p>Senator O'BRIEN—Okay. Do you know what the average case load per counsellor is?</p> <p>Mr Thompson—It varies quite significantly, depending on the area, but we do have that data. Again, I do not have that level of detail here, but I can provide it.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—I would appreciate that, broken down by state, territory and region.</p>

RPI 03	24/5/07	3	O'Brien	<p>Senator O'BRIEN—Could you give me a breakdown of how that figure of \$26,956.000 is calculated?</p> <p>Mr Thompson—I could not go to that level of detail here, Senator, but the number is calculated taking into account anticipated numbers of re-establishments, professional advice and receipt of Farm Help.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—Could we have the numbers?</p> <p>Mr Bowen—Could I make just one more point: the other feature in these estimates is that previously the Farm Help program was going to wind down in 2007-08. Because the government has made the decision to continue Farm Help, we have had to take account of continuing demand; otherwise we would have been in a situation of having to inform potential recipients that limited income support was available. We have to start winding down. If you look at the forward estimates in table 2.2, you can see the sort of estimated demand for Farm Help going forward. We have estimated, as Mr Thompson said, a demand of about \$20 million to \$24 million a year.</p> <p>Dr Samson—We will get you a breakdown of how that figure was arrived at and the basis or the assumptions for the estimate.</p>
RPI 04	24/5/07	4	O'Brien	<p>Senator O'BRIEN—We do not know how many people apply?</p> <p>Mr Thompson—That number is available—Centrelink does keep that number—but I just do not have it with me. We could take that question on notice.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—Yes, if you would please.</p>
RPI 05	24/5/07	4	O'Brien	<p>Senator O'BRIEN—Yes, if you would please. How long is the process between families applying for Farm Help and receiving the first payment?</p> <p>Mr Thompson—The time does vary. I would not like to speculate because Centrelink is close to administering the program. I know that we have a KPI of targeting payments within about a month. Some are done much more quickly than that, depending on the complexity of the case. But if you want the details we will take that question on notice.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—Thank you.</p>

RPI 06	24/5/07	5	O'Brien	<p>Senator O'BRIEN—Is there any reason why this committee could not see those reports?</p> <p>Mr Thompson—I would have to check with Centrelink on that because, as you would appreciate, payments of this nature involve some privacy considerations. I will just check with them to establish what their policy is.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—I do not want to see any names.</p> <p>Mr Thompson—I understand that, but some regions and some states do not have a lot of people in them, so they become apparent. We will check with Centrelink. There certainly will be no problem in providing that detail at a state level.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—Okay. In any case it would be interesting to see an example of the format of the reports that you get from Centrelink.</p> <p>Mr Thompson—Yes.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—It would be good to see the actuals, but if that is a problem I would appreciate seeing a format with details that might identify anything.</p> <p>Mr Thompson—There would be no problem in providing the details or the format of the nature of the things that come forward. I am sure that there is some way we can provide adequate detail and give an example of what is in there. So we will take that question on notice.</p>
RPI 07	24/5/07	5	O'Brien	<p>Senator O'BRIEN—I understand that the Advancing Agricultural Industries program helps the agricultural, fishery and forestry industries to develop self-reliance, resilience and an ability to officially manage change. Can the department indicate what the breakdown of this program is between agriculture, fishery and forestry support for the current financial year and prospectively for the coming financial year?</p> <p>Mr Thompson—.....We can take on notice whether we have a breakdown between the industry sectors. We have a list of every industry and project that we have funded, but I am not sure whether we have added them together. Bruce, do you have that?</p> <p>Mr Bowen—I have some data here but it is spread across industries. It would probably be easier if we could give it to you on notice.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—Yes.</p> <p>Mr Bowen—Support is certainly given through that program to the fisheries industry and also to the forestry industry. If you would like, we can come back to you with a breakdown by sector.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—I accept that you will supply me with some information on notice. Is it possible to get an approximation of the industry proportions?</p>
RPI 08	24/5/07	5	O'Brien	<p>Senator O'BRIEN—Are details of the grants provided in their location on the website, or can you supply that on notice?</p> <p>Mr Thompson—We can supply that on notice. The details of each grant and related activities are announced in media releases at the time and a summary of those projects is on the website. I am not familiar with the detail that is there, but the nature of the projects and related activities are the sorts of things we include in reports from time to time. If we have not got them there we can certainly provide that on notice.</p>

RPI 09	24/5/07	7	O'Brien	<p>Senator O'BRIEN—How many applications have been considered under predecessor programs?</p> <p>Mr Bowen—I do not have that information available. I would have to take that question on notice.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—Could you provide us with how many were considered, how many were approved and how many were rejected?</p> <p>Mr Bowen—Yes.</p>
RPI 10	24/5/07	11	O'Brien	<p>CHAIR—Could you give us a list of who makes up the members of the olive growers peak bodies?</p> <p>Mr Thompson—We would have only what is in our records.</p> <p>CHAIR—You are doing their work so we just thought we would like to know who you are supplying the money to because they represent the members.</p> <p>Mr Thompson—We can provide what information we have on who are the members of the Australian Olive Association, but I think their articles of association or incorporation would be the normal sort of thing on the public record. We tend to deal with their executive.</p>
RPI 11	24/5/07	15-16	O'Brien	<p>Senator O'BRIEN—How many potential applicants are there?</p> <p>Mr Thompson—I do not have that figure with me. We will have to take that on notice. There was a number that was used when the calculation was done but it is at best an estimate.</p>
FA 19	24/5/07	17	O'Brien	<p>Senator O'BRIEN—The New Industries Development Program received \$2.6 million in 2005-06. It fell to \$1.7 million in 2006-07 and it is then proposed to rise back to \$2.5 million in 2007-08. That is a dip in the funding. Why is that?</p> <p>Mr Thompson—I am not able to answer that question because we do not administer the New Industries Development Program in rural policy. It is administered in the food and agriculture division. Unless someone else here has some information about it, we will have to take that question on notice.</p> <p>Dr Samson—We will take that question on notice.</p>
RPI 12	24/5/07	20	O'Brien	<p>Senator O'BRIEN—What is projected for the coming financial year?</p> <p>Mr Thompson—Within the department I do not have to hand detailed departmental total administrative costs, or total costs for the drought program. We would have to take that question on notice. As I said, we have within the department the Centrelink costs and the departmental costs, but we do not have departmental costs for administration, though the bulk of administration is undertaken in Centrelink. We just have a model staff doing assessments, and monitoring and reviewing the large component is Centrelink.</p>
RPI 13	24/5/07	21	O'Brien	<p>Mr Thompson—That sets out the number of farms in the area, the current ones receiving assistance, and the number of approved applications. I do not think it sets out the number of applications received and the number rejected, Senator. I think we provided some answers to that on notice after the last estimates hearing when we went through applications received, rejected et cetera.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—Can we get that answer updated?</p> <p>Mr Thompson—Yes, we can.</p>



RPI 14	24/5/07	21-22	O'Brien	<p>Senator O'BRIEN—Do you know how many applications were rejected in the last 12 months on the grounds of a failure to meet the income and asset test?</p> <p>Mr Thompson—I have the total numbers for the interest rate subsidy and I have the total numbers of approvals and declines as at April this year. I do not think we have them for income support.</p> <p>Mr Cupit—No.</p> <p>Mr Thompson—But we do have the interest rate subsidy. Essentially, the interest rate subsidy does not have an income and asset test. But for income support, the main reasons for rejection have been an assessment that the business was not in need. There were some declarations in the past that required you to have two failed crops or to be in certain industries. That excluded some people up until this year. A number were rejected because less than 50 per cent of their income comes from farming; that is, predominantly they have off-farm sources of income. I do not have the numbers for income support.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—Can you take that question on notice?</p> <p>Mr Thompson—We can take that on notice and see what we can provide.</p>
RPI 15	24/5/07	23	O'Brien	<p>Senator O'BRIEN—So the cost of that will be built in the Centrelink costs that you will advise me of, will they, or will you be advising them separately?</p> <p>Mr Thompson—We can. I think with the cost of the buses, some of the earlier ones may have been part of the cost we paid to Centrelink, but the newer buses have been part of additional supplementary funding. We could obtain those figures on notice, Senator. I think someone said the buses have been successful. We have gone to 200 towns, and 70 per cent of the customers had never been to Centrelink before.</p>
LWA 01	24/5/07	27	O'Brien	<p>Senator O'BRIEN—No. So how many drafts of Dr Evans's proposal have there been?</p> <p>Dr Robinson—I do not have that information. I can take that on notice. It certainly has gone through an internal review and an external review, including an international review process.</p> <p>CHAIR—Other than a peer review?</p> <p>Dr Robinson—Yes.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—How many versions have gone through that process?</p> <p>Dr Robinson—I do not have that exact number. I can certainly obtain it. I guess the number of reviewers means it is an evolving document.</p>
LWA 02	24/5/07	27	O'Brien	<p>Senator O'BRIEN—So is it the case that a number of sections of the report have been changed or been removed during this peer review process?</p> <p>Dr Robinson—I cannot comment. I do not know.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—Can you take that on notice?</p> <p>Dr Robinson—I can take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—If so, could you let us know what parts were changed or removed?</p> <p>Dr Robinson—Yes.</p>

LWA 03	24/5/07	29	O'Brien	<p>Senator O'BRIEN—I am really trying to find out whether there has been a discussion about something which appeared in Dr Evans's work about the impact of groundwater extraction on water flows in the Murray- Darling. By implication, that could have been there. It is consistent with the work. I would really like to know if, for some reason, calculations on the impact of groundwater extractions on the Murray-Darling Basin flows were in the document and had been removed.</p> <p>Dr Robinson—I am sorry, Senator; I do not have that information on hand.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—Could you take on notice?</p> <p>Dr Robinson—Yes.</p>
LWA 04	24/5/07	31	O'Brien	<p>Senator O'BRIEN—It probably would be helpful in a less time-constrained discussion. I guess what I wanted to know is if that aspect of the report has been—and you probably need to take this on notice—the subject of substantial change in its iterations leading to the final report, particularly in terms of calculations of impact of groundwater extraction.</p> <p>Dr Robinson—And the specifics you are referring to on page 12 are the extractions predictions by 20 to 50 and the connection between groundwater, service water, net reduction in the Murray's flow of 275 to 500 gegalitres?</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—Yes.</p> <p>Dr Robinson—I am happy to take that on notice, to see if it has changed substantially.</p>
LWA 05	24/5/07	31	O'Brien	<p>Senator O'BRIEN—Okay. Thank you for that. What are other works which Land and Water Australia has funded and which we can expect in the next 12 months?</p> <p>Dr Robinson—Currently I think across the portfolio we have in the order of 280 to 300 different projects.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—Okay. Perhaps you will take that question on notice?</p> <p>Dr Robinson—I am happy to provide our annual operational plan to you which explains the areas.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—How many roughly are water based?</p> <p>Dr Robinson—Again, I will take that on notice. I think it is in the order of 80 or 120—of that sort of order.</p>
LWA 06	24/5/07	31	O'Brien	<p>Senator O'BRIEN—You talked about the type of project that Dr Evans was on, the \$100,000 grant, and you talked about six of those, including Dr Evans's work as being ongoing, and another three. What are the six? Can you identify them, excluding Dr Evans's work, of course?</p> <p>Dr Robinson—To be honest, no, I cannot recall the details of all six. Again, I am happy to take that on notice. I am happy to also include the three new ones which were selected late last year</p>
LWA 07	24/5/07	32	O'Brien	<p>Senator O'BRIEN—I have a couple of other questions relating to the previous iterations in Dr Evans's report, which no doubt you will want to take on notice. Were there ever specific numbers on the amount of buybacks required of groundwater and surface water licences in Dr Evans's previous iterations in his report? Similarly, were there numbers in the original draft on the amount of double counting that has occurred for ground and surface water, which differs from the final report? In each case, if so, what were they? I am happy to concede the call to Senator Siewert, as I have been going for three hours.</p>

LWA 08	24/5/07	33	Allison	<p>Senator ALLISON—Are you able to inform the committee about the factors that reduce organic carbon in soil?</p> <p>Dr Robinson—There is a range of factors, but I guess I would rather leave that to the soil experts than comment on it myself.</p> <p>Dr O’Connell—Senator, I might just state that Dr Robinson was drawing to your attention the fact that he had some 180 projects underway in Land and Water Australia. So it is probably quite difficult for him to be able to pin down each specific project. Taking that question on notice might be the most useful way for him to get an accurate response to you.</p>
NRM 01	24/5/07	33	Allison	<p>Senator ALLISON—Could you refer the appropriate department to my question No. 3112? I am seeking an expansion on that.</p>
NRM 02	24/5/07	35	Siewert	<p>Senator SIEWERT—Is it possible to get a copy of those principles? Is that publicly available?</p> <p>Mr Aldred—Yes, we can provide those.</p>
NRM 03	24/5/07	40	O'Brien	<p>Senator O’BRIEN—What was the amount of expenditure in 2004-05?</p> <p>Mr Aldred—I will check to see whether Mr Shaw has that figure.</p> <p>Mr Shaw—I am sorry, I do not have that with me. Can we take that question on notice?</p>
NRM 04	24/5/07	41	O'Brien	<p>Senator O’BRIEN—Is the estimated actual in the PBS considered now to be fully committed?</p> <p>Mr Aldred—We expect it to be fully expended by the end of the financial year.</p> <p>Senator O’BRIEN—Is it committed now?</p> <p>Mr Aldred—I think we have got investment plans that would see most of it committed. I would have to take on notice exactly what we have got committed in 2006-07. At the moment, we have got a further \$39.8 million in commitments that are to roll out, but I have not got the split between the last month of this financial year and next financial year with me.</p>
NRM 05	24/5/07	42	O'Brien	<p>Senator O’BRIEN—So how much was transferred? Is that the difference between \$7.9 million and \$11.7 million?</p> <p>Mr Aldred—I suspect it is. I must admit I have not got my 2006-07 PBS with me so I will have to take it on notice. I can provide the shifts in funding there. From recollection, it may actually be on the Hansard. I may have advised the committee of those changes previously, but I will check.</p>

NRM 06	24/5/07	42	O'Brien	<p>Senator O'BRIEN—Thanks for that. Has the continuation of this program been previously foreshadowed by the government?</p> <p>Mr Aldred—I am not sure that I understand the question. The Landcare program has undergone a review and was considered through the budget process and announced in the budget.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—It was not foreshadowed before that, was it? Do you want to take that on notice?</p> <p>Mr Aldred—Not to my recollection.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—Do you want to take that on notice?</p> <p>Mr Aldred—Yes, I will.</p>
NRM 07	24/5/07	42	O'Brien	<p>Senator O'BRIEN—How many staff in the department are allocated for administering this program?</p> <p>Mr Shaw—However many staff are allocated to the NLP.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—At what cost?</p> <p>Mr Shaw—I am sorry I do not have those figures here. I can take it on notice, if you like.</p>
NRM 08	24/5/07	43	I.Macdonald	<p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Could you on notice get me details of what each state government is contributing and what the total is that each NRM body either spent or is budgeted to spend, whichever figures are more easily accessible. I am just trying to get a comparison between what the Commonwealth is contributing to these and the states. I know in one of the gulf ones there is a guy on there doing GPS work. I said to him, 'What did you do before you were employed by the NRM body to do this same work?' He said, 'I was doing the same thing.' I said, 'Why did you change?' He said, 'Oh, well, the Queensland government stopped funding me so I came and did the same work being funded by the NRM body.' I am just curious as to how consistent that sort of situation is. Perhaps if you give me those figures that will help me assess that.</p> <p>Mr Aldred—Certainly.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Thanks very much.</p>
FF01	24/5/07	46	O'Brien	<p>Senator O'BRIEN—It is irrelevant to what Gary Ward said because what I was quoting was Gary Ward in relation to the Gulf of Carpentaria. But you introduced the other fishery. I was quoting him there and, arising from that quote, I am asking what the geographical distribution is. It is a pretty simple question.</p> <p>Senator Abetz—We will have to take that on notice. For what it is worth, we give all this data on a sixmonthly basis to the Queensland, Northern Territory and Western Australian ministers as well.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—I guess I am asking you here because I have not sought that data from them.</p> <p>Senator Abetz—Yes. I am more than happy to make it available.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—Thank you.</p>

AFMA 01	24/5/07	46	O'Brien	<p>Senator O'BRIEN—Has the Indonesian government requested the Australian government consider the issue of licensing Indonesian vessels?</p> <p>Mr Hurry—I do not recall any discussions on it. I am reasonably sure the answer is no because I do not think they would have an interest in fishing in here. They have raised the issue about nationals fishing on our vessels and under some immigration arrangements at the moment there is Indonesian labour employed on Australian fishing vessels. But I have seen nothing to do with licensing Indonesian vessels to fish officially in our water. I can take that on notice and check for you to make sure, but I am fairly sure I am right.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—Thanks for that. I appreciate your taking it on notice.</p>
AFMA 02	24/5/07	47	O'Brien	<p>Senator O'BRIEN—So the department presents material on the geographic distribution?</p> <p>Senator Abetz—Yes.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—So is there any reason the committee cannot see that material?</p> <p>Senator Abetz—No. I think I offered that earlier as well. Yes, I am happy to. Especially in recent times the picture is looking a lot, lot better.</p>
AFMA 03	24/5/07	55	O'Brien	<p>Mr R. Wilson—I know there are commitments still to come into that expenditure figure from 31 March.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—Historically, how much would that involve?</p> <p>Mr R. Wilson—I would have to take that on notice.</p>
AFMA 04	24/5/07	62	Siewert	<p>Senator SIEWERT—So it is a year plus four months?</p> <p>Dr Rayns—It is a year plus four months. We have had to add the additional four months in there. So for orange roughy east, for that 16-month period, it is 27 tonnes. For orange roughy south, it is 40 tonnes. For orange roughy west, it is 61 tonnes et cetera. They are there as by-catch levels—there are a number of others which I can provide to you—to enable fishing for other species but not allowing the targeting of orange roughy itself.</p>
AFMA 05	24/5/07	62-63	Siewert	<p>Senator SIEWERT—Okay. What do the others have?</p> <p>Dr Rayns—There are a number of zones in the Great Australian Bight fishery, which you may be referring to. Again, they have a limit on those. We are currently reviewing them because the industry has come back with a type of proposal around those orange roughy areas. I would have to check. I might take this on notice because there is a bit of detail around here.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—That is what I am after. We cannot pick it up from the conservation plan. We cannot pick up some of this detail.</p> <p>Dr Rayns—I am very happy to provide it.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—As I understand it, the only place you can fish at the moment for orange roughy is Cascades.</p> <p>Dr Rayns—Cascades is the only target fishery, that is correct.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—What I am looking for is the detail in each of the other management zones of what the by-catch or trigger is for orange roughy. We cannot pick it up from the plan.</p> <p>Dr Rayns—I am very happy to provide that to you. That is no problem at all.</p>

AFMA 06	24/5/07	63	Siewert	Dr Rayns—No. Not to date. That has not happened to date. We do monitor those. If you require actual catches so far this year, those can be provided as well. Senator SIEWERT—That would be really appreciated.
FF 02	24/5/07	68	O'Brien	Senator O'BRIEN—I take it there is no commitment that you know of to tabling a report in parliament? Senator Abetz—I am not aware of one. Dr Kalish—There has been a report, but not a report that was intended to be tabled before parliament. I cannot recall the date, but we can certainly provide you with a copy of that report.
FF03	24/5/07	69	O'Brien	Senator O'BRIEN—I understand the Australian fish name standard is going to the board of standards next week or thereabouts. Has the minister provided any commitments to the industry in relation to assisting with the implementation of the standard? Mr Hurry—We will take that on notice. I am reasonably sure that we have not, but we can follow that up.
FF 04	24/5/07	69	O'Brien	Senator O'BRIEN—Has the government committed to providing any promotional support for the standard? Mr Hurry—No, but the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation may be involved in this in some way. I will take that on notice and talk to the FRDC and report back.
FF 05	24/5/07	71	O'Brien	Senator O'BRIEN—On page 21 of the 2007-08 portfolio budget statement, in relation to the Australian Seafood Industry Council—I think we have discussed at an earlier stage: the \$100,000 movement of funds between years for this program—indicates there was zero allocation for 2006-07. We know the Australian Seafood Industry Council recently went into administration and soon after went into liquidation. I am advised that a significant proportion of the \$70,000 of ASIC funds available after liquidation went into fees to the administrator. Is this the reason why there was a zero allocation in 2006-07? Mr Hurry—I will check, but I am reasonably sure that the funds for ASIC were paid in arrears and that we were just about on target with our funding payments at the time that organisation went into receivership. I am sure that it was not used in any way to pay the administrator. I would be sure about that, but I will check. I am sure I am right.
FF 06	24/5/07	73	O'Brien	Senator O'BRIEN—Can I be provided with an updated list of licence and entitlements buybacks by fishery and associated costings? Senator Abetz—I think we have made some of that available. Senator O'BRIEN—I did say an updated list. Mr Murphy—There has been very little movement of that in recent times. Senator O'BRIEN—Are you able to tell me it has not changed? Mr Murphy—There was one very minor change—I think about \$63,000 was the last payment—but we can provide you with an updated table. It has not changed much from what you have seen.

AFMA 07	24/5/07	73	O'Brien	<p>Senator O'BRIEN—Is there a fishery-by-fishery estimate of the reduction of effort arising from the buyback?</p> <p>Mr Murphy—There have been small numbers that have changed, only very small numbers.</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan—That is a question for AFMA.</p> <p>Dr Rayns—The answer is: yes, we can provide that to you in terms of the changes in entitlement numbers. We will take that on notice.</p>
FF07	24/5/07	75	O'Brien	<p>Senator O'BRIEN—Can you tell me now how much was allocated by fishery?</p> <p>Mr Talbot—I can tell you how much was initially allocated under each round.</p> <p>Mr Talbot—We will take that one on notice and come back to you, but can I just clarify that the question is the amount of money committed to each fishery?</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—I want to know if you had a budget for each fishery and how much you actually spent in each fishery, and certainly in your target fisheries.</p> <p>Mr Talbot—I can certainly give you figures for the money that was spent in each fishery, and I would have to take on notice the amounts that were allocated for each fishery.</p>
AFMA 08	24/5/07	77	O'Brien	<p>Senator O'BRIEN—The number under expenditure under the Fisheries Administration Act is \$41.386 million. You are getting more than the amount on page 25. Is that how I should understand it?</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan—I know there was some discussion on reconciling these numbers yesterday, but I was not present for all of it. I think it best that we take this on notice and make sure that we give you the correct answer. I presume it is the one that was described yesterday, but I am not sure of the detail.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—There have been a lot of numbers in these estimates. I am not going to venture an opinion at this stage, but it does appear that there is a \$2 million difference—I will not say discrepancy yet—between page 25 and page 91 for an amount which I think is supposed to be for the same thing? Am I wrong?</p> <p>Dr Rayns—We take it on notice but it may well be that the \$2 million per annum AFMA is receiving under the data, science and compliance program is not included, but we will check that for you.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—I look forward to that explanation.</p> <p>Mr Murphy—I suspect that the \$2 million is the \$2 million to which I referred earlier. It comes out of the \$53.298 million which goes to AFMA for the—</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—Levies.</p> <p>Mr Murphy—Yes, but we can confirm that.</p>
AFMA 09	24/5/07	80	O'Brien	<p>Senator O'BRIEN—Perhaps we can get a breakdown of where the money comes from that makes up the numbers in that budget.</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan—Yes, we can do that.</p>

FF 08	24/5/07	83	Heffernan	<p>CHAIR—What is the industry saying?</p> <p>Mr Bartlett—It is a complex question, but there has been a lot of work done about land that is potentially suitable for growing plantations. BRS have co-ordinated some of that work, and probably more importantly, a large part of it has been done through the regional plantation development committee. It is decentralised work; each of those local, regional committees has been looking at that. If you want to know the total figures, I would have to take that on notice. As far as I am aware, it way exceeds the estimated three million hectares of plantations that the 2020 Vision talks about. There is a very big difference between land suitability and land availability; that is where it all comes into play.</p>
FF09	24/5/07	90	O'Brien	<p>Mr Bartlett—We have got some terms of reference. I will have to take it on notice and provide those to you.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—It is about carbon sequestration?</p> <p>Mr Bartlett—That is one of the aspects.</p>
FF 10	24/5/07	92	O'Brien	<p>Senator O'BRIEN—Are you aware of any work done by anyone else?</p> <p>Mr Bartlett—It is possible that, through the Australian Greenhouse Office, they have done that. I know that they have done some work on soil carbon rates for forest types. If you want me to find out the detail, I will have to get back to you, but it is not our department's responsibility. That work is done through the Australian Greenhouse Office.</p>
FF 11	24/5/07	92-93	O'Brien	<p>Senator O'BRIEN—In the Tasmanian context, is '60 per cent of existing old-growth forests, increasing to 100 per cent of rare and depleted old-growth forest, and 90 per cent of high-quality wilderness' protected at present?</p> <p>Mr Bartlett—The total figure is 79 per cent at the moment, and we expect it to go over 80 per cent once the private forest, old-growth types program is finished. If you want the information forest type by forest type, I will have to take that on notice, but overall it has certainly been exceeded.</p>
PIAPH 01	24/5/07	102	Heffernan	<p>CHAIR—In amongst the infected areas are there colonies of bees where some retired old codger has a few trees and never moves his bees? Are there surviving colonies in amongst all the mayhem?</p> <p>Dr Thornber—We do not have information on that. I could try and find out.</p> <p>CHAIR—Are we going to find out? We might as well. Forewarned is forearmed.</p> <p>Dr Thornber—Yes.</p>



FA 20	24/5/07	103	Hogg	<p>Senator HOGG—That would mainly cover people who are seeking to make a living out of the industry. What about those who are amateurs? I am looking at a wide range of people who may well have an interest here. They might not be members of the peak industry association. They may well need to go and have a source of reliable assessment. As you said, there is probably a fair deal of misinformation floating around as much as there is good information so where do they go?</p> <p>Mr McCutcheon—I am not sure whether depollination companies, for example, have some sort of national or umbrella organisation. That is a question we could take on notice, and we could look at other industry sectors. Again, I would be surprised if some of the specialised horticultural sectors—the almond industry, for example—have not at least been doing some thinking about this and trying to gather a bit more information about the potential impact on their industry of the sudden decline in bee populations.</p>
PIAPH 02	24/5/07	104	Heffernan	<p>Dr O’Connell—Would it be useful if we could come back to you with a fairly complete picture of what the state of play is that we know of and take it from there? There is obviously enough interest in the committee overall.</p> <p>CHAIR—Thank you.</p>
PIAPH 03	24/5/07	105	Heffernan	<p>CHAIR—So it comes out of the petroleum industry?</p> <p>Mr Magee—Possibly. I might have to take that bit on notice.</p>
PIAPH 04	24/5/07	105	Heffernan	<p>CHAIR—Do we put this same whatever it is into our gluten?</p> <p>Mr Magee—Not that I am aware of.</p> <p>CHAIR—You might take all that on notice and come back with an informed—</p> <p>Mr Magee—Sure.</p>
PIAPH 05	24/5/07	105	Nash	<p>Senator NASH—So the animal cannot actually absorb it. It is just to make it look like it has more protein than it does, is that it?</p> <p>Senator O’BRIEN—When it is analysed, it gives you that reading, does it?</p> <p>Dr O’Connell—I think you may be stretching our knowledge here.</p> <p>CHAIR—Come back with an informed answer.</p>
AQIS 05	24/5/07	105	O'Brien	<p>Senator O’BRIEN—Do we import any vegetable protein products from China?</p> <p>Mr Magee—We will have to take that one on notice.</p>
PIAPH 06	24/5/07	107	O'Brien	<p>Senator O’BRIEN—How much has this cost the Commonwealth to date?</p> <p>Ms Ransom—It is probably in the order of \$10 million, but I would have to check that because I only have the total budget minus the—</p>

PIAPH 07	24/5/07	108	Heffernan	<p>CHAIR—If I am a mile outside the protocol and I have six trees, have I been notified?</p> <p>Ms Ransom—I do not believe so. But the pest quarantine area has quite a large buffer built into it.</p> <p>CHAIR—Yes, all of that—but you would have thought that it would be commonsense to try and find out, in the buffer zone, where the nearest trees were and go and have a look at those trees to see if the thing is working, wouldn't you?</p> <p>Ms Ransom—I can follow that up with Queensland.</p> <p>CHAIR—I think that would be a good idea.</p>
AQIS 06	24/5/07	109	O'Brien	<p>Senator O'BRIEN—How is the spend broken down in those TV placements, radio and newspaper?</p> <p>Ms Gordon—We might have to take that one on notice and come back with some detail.</p>
AQIS 07	24/5/07	109	O'Brien	<p>Senator O'BRIEN—When were those campaigns referred to the Ministerial Committee on Government Communications for approval?</p> <p>Ms Gordon—The Quarantine Matters! campaign has been an ongoing campaign since 2002, so there have been various times where we have gone back to the Ministerial Committee on Government Communications. It has been broken down into three phases. The third phase was planned from last year, but when we had just started the development of the campaign Steve Irwin died and we had to go back and develop a new campaign. So the meetings with the ministerial committee took place—off the top of my head, and we can confirm it with you—in about October.</p>
AQIS 08	24/5/07	110	O'Brien	<p>Senator O'BRIEN—How much is proposed for running the ads in 2007-08?</p> <p>Ms Gordon—We will have to take that question on notice and come back with the detail of that.</p>
AQIS 09	24/5/07	114	Siewert	<p>Senator SIEWERT—Going back to my earlier question, is there a list of other countries from where we have ceased imports?</p> <p>Mr Liehne—My understanding is that it is only the USA, but I will take that on notice and confirm it.</p>
AQIS 10	24/5/07	114	Siewert	<p>Ms Gordon—Perhaps, Senator, we might come back to you with the full set of conditions for the importation of bees.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—Okay.</p>

BA 01	24/5/07	114	Siewert	<p>Senator SIEWERT—Okay. Can we get a copy of the risk assessment as well?</p> <p>Ms Gordon—That is a matter for Biosecurity Australia.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—Is that possible?</p> <p>CHAIR—The risk assessment for what—for bees?</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—Yes.</p> <p>CHAIR—But they do not know what the problem is. How could they make an assessment?</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—At least we can have a look at it and see what they are doing now.</p> <p>Dr Martin—Senator, you asked about the import risk assessment. The conditions for queen bees—and that is all we import, so there are very specialised conditions—were developed in 1996. There is a policy document for that and we can certainly provide you with that. The conditions for importing bees from the US were suspended in December 2005 and that was for a different reason. But they are suspended and remain suspended. That was due to a concern about Africanised genetics—those bees are very aggressive—and that is present in the US, so we were concerned about that. That was the basis for the suspension.</p>
AQIS 11	24/5/07	116	O'Brien	<p>Senator O'BRIEN—Thank you for that information. I have some questions about the importation of tree species. Can someone tell us about particularly plantation forestry tree species. Is there a general information source here for that? My office has become aware that in relation to some Indian hardwood—in particular, teak varieties—according to sections of the nursery sector, there is significant difficulty in bringing those tree types into Australia, and new technology breakthroughs into commercial forestry. What barriers have we in place in relation to those types of species?</p> <p>Mr Liehne—I would need to take on notice the specific species. All nursery stock imported into Australia is required to go through testing in post-entry quarantine. A lot of the commercial production species require extensive testing to ensure that they meet our quarantine requirements before they are released from quarantine. I would need to look at the specific species and get back to you.</p>
CP 04	24/5/07	117	Siewert	<p>Senator SIEWERT—....When I asked about regional differences in the MOU, the answer that you gave me—and I can give you the number—was:</p> <p>The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Commonwealth and the States/Territories on Quarantine matters (1995, amended 2002) makes specific provision for the recognition of regional differences in pest status and risk.</p> <p>I have been trying to find a copy of the updated MOU, and I cannot find one, where it specifically refers to regional differences. This is an issue because, as you are probably aware, the legislation is finally about to go through the Western Australian parliament and regional difference was a big issue for us.</p> <p>Ms Gordon—I cannot answer your question. I am not aware of the MOU. It might be a matter that we have to take on notice and identify in the department where the information lies.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—Could you do that urgently, because I was asked about this a while ago. Our minds were put at rest because we were given these answers and we had had a discussion about it as well. I thought it was fixed. Now questions are being raised that suggest perhaps it might not be, so I am trying to resolve it quickly.</p> <p>Dr O'Connell—We will treat that as a matter of urgency.</p>

BA 02	24/5/07	119	O'Brien	<p>Senator O'BRIEN—Similarly, a delegation of Thai officials met with the government to discuss the import risk assessment back in March. Who was at those meetings?</p> <p>Dr Martin—Biosecurity Australia was present and officials from Thailand. We could give you a list of names</p>
BA 03	24/5/07	120	O'Brien	<p>Senator O'BRIEN—Did Dr Lightner approve the summary prepared by Biosecurity Australia?</p> <p>Dr Martin—I would have to check that. Certainly we were in communication with Dr Lightner.</p>
BA 04	24/5/07	121	O'Brien	<p>Senator O'BRIEN—When did these import risk assessments begin?</p> <p>Ms van Meurs—Because of the drought situation, we commenced those in late 2006. I would have to give you the exact date.</p>
FF 12	24/5/07	written	B.Brown	<p>(Upper Florentine Valley)The Government has failed to protect the Upper Florentine – one of the old growth forests which the Prime Minister promised protection in October 2004.</p> <p>a) Can the Minister say how much of taxpayer's money has been spent under the Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement on logging or roading forests in the Upper Florentine Valley?</p>
FF13	24/5/07	written	B.Brown	<p>(Upper Florentine Valley)Regarding the 1997 briefing note from the RFA unit, titled: 'Suggested Package for Negotiating the Final RFA'.</p> <p>a) Is the Minister aware of this document, from the 1997 RFA, showing that only 8 forestry jobs existed in the Upper Florentine Valley? Given that the money for Tasmania's forests was increased from \$52 million (October 2004) to over \$160 million (community Forest Agreement, May 2005) why could this area not have been protected by those increased taxpayer's dollars instead of destroyed by those taxpayer's dollars?</p> <p>b) Is the Minister aware that this document was put before both the Environment Department and the Minister's predecessor, Senator Ian Campbell, in 2004 and 2005 before the May 2005 agreement, but that it was ignored?</p>
FF14	24/5/07	written	B.Brown	<p>(Upper Florentine Valley)Is the Minister aware that Forestry Tasmania now claims that 90% of the Upper Florentine will not be logged? Can the Minister provide a copy of the map showing this?</p>
FF 15	24/5/07	written	B.Brown	<p>(Upper Florentine Valley)And if 90% of the Upper Florentine Valley is now not to be logged anyway, why not protect its wilderness values, given that the 1997 RFA said that this valley is a potential World Heritage site in its own right? Especially as the Government is spending over \$160 million compared with the original pledge of only \$52 million?</p>
FF 16	24/5/07	written	B.Brown	<p>(Upper Florentine Valley)Is the Minister aware that forests such as the Upper Florentine are amongst the most carbon-dense stands of vegetation in the world, and that logging them gratuitously increases Australian's contribution to climate change and squanders an opportunity for reducing our emissions?</p>

FF 17	24/5/07	written	B.Brown	<p>The Weld Valley area that the Government the Government has promised to protect in October 2006,</p> <p>a) Is the Minister aware that fewer than 50 hectares out of over 4000 ha of threatened forest, were actually protected by the Government in May 2005?</p> <p>b) Why is the Government allowing taxpayers' funds to be spent on new logging roads into steep, scenic tracts of pure rainforest in this wilderness valley, which is immediately adjacent to the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area?</p> <p>c) How much taxpayers' money has been spent or allocated on new (since October 2004), logging roads and modified clearfelling in the Weld Valley?</p>
NRM 09	24/5/07	written	B.Brown	To date, what has been the impact of climate change on fisheries and fisheries income in Australia?
NRM 10	24/5/07	written	B.Brown	What assessment has been done or being undertaken to monitor the impact of climate change and its cost, and potential cost to the industry?
NRM 11	24/5/07	written	B.Brown	How many people and how many people full-time equivalent jobs are allocated to climate change studies?
NWC 01	24/5/07	written	Fielding	<p>(Latrobe Aquifer)</p> <p>In October 2006 the Government announced a \$5.2 million study to determine the causes of declining water levels in the (Latrobe aquifer). When will the final report be released. Is it on schedule to be released by June 2007?</p>
NWC 02	24/5/07	written	Fielding	<p>(Latrobe Aquifer)</p> <p>Once the report has been released, what is the next course of action?</p>
NWC 03	24/5/07	written	Fielding	<p>(Latrobe Aquifer)</p> <p>Will the Government commit to action to fix the Latrobe aquifer before the end of the year?</p>
NWC 04	24/5/07	written	Fielding	<p>(Latrobe Aquifer)</p> <p>The Government has committed to quickly putting together a group with strong local representation to make recommendations on an adjustment package for farmers. How long will it be before this group is established and who will be included in the group?</p>
NWC 05	24/5/07	written	Fielding	<p>(Latrobe Aquifer)</p> <p>What is the timeline for farmers to receive compensation?</p>
NWC 06	24/5/07	written	Fielding	<p>(Latrobe Aquifer)</p> <p>How many reports have been carried out on the Latrobe aquifer over the past ten years? Please provide a list of the reports.</p>
NWC 07	24/5/07	written	Fielding	<p>(Latrobe Aquifer)</p> <p>Will this be the final report before farmers receive compensation and action is taken to address the declining water levels in the aquifer and secure water for farming and mining?</p>

