

Estimates Questions on Notice Budget Estimates 2008-2009

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Portfolio
Monday 26 and Tuesday 27 May 2008

QON No.	Date Asked	Hansard Reference/Written	Senator	Question
MS01	26/05/08	9	MCGAURAN	<p>Senator McGAURAN—You mentioned that shiftwork was another area where you were going to save. What is the estimated saving, and can you explain what you mean by that?</p> <p>Mr Pahl—Senator McGauran, when we last met I was talking about the automation of timesheets for shiftworkers. There was a product called Timekeeper, which we are progressively rolling out across the full range of our shift workforce. This will replace a paper based system that requires people to fill in their sheets and fax them in and so on. We expect that by automating this arrangement we will make fairly significant savings. I do not have the number off the top of my head, but again I would be more than happy to see if we cannot get that number for you in the course of the morning. But we do see better use of automation as a way forward in terms of making the appropriate savings to meet the efficiency dividend costs.</p>
AQIS01	26/05/08	11-12	MCGAURAN	<p>Senator McGAURAN—Is the minister aware of this project?</p> <p>Senator Sherry—I will take that on notice. But it would be very unusual if the department had not provided a brief to the minister on the project. I will take that on notice and see if a brief was provided.</p>
MS02	26/05/08	12	SCULLION	<p>Senator SCULLION—Again, thank you for your comprehensive answer on that matter. As you said, there have been some small numbers of staff changes. I wonder if you would be able to provide those changes to me on notice. In addition to the information provided with regard to the 211 members of staff who are employed on a contract, could you also provide the average length of their employment period? In addition to that, you may want to provide for me information on the base and top-level salaries of APS levels 1 to 6 officers, executive-level officers and senior executive service officers and the equivalent officers employed. I do not want those details at the moment; it is clearly a question on notice, and I would appreciate your getting back to me. I would like it in the same sort of format. In fact, I would like to make it a standard question on notice and then you will know to provide estimates with an appreciation of the staffing in one answer, just for the benefit of time. The fourth question is: how many officers are employed at an executive and SES level? As I said, you can provide those on notice or, if you can, you may even get back to us here—we will be here until Thursday. So if you can get back to this committee before then it would be very useful, but if you cannot I would understand.</p> <p>Mr Pahl—Sure. Some of that I think we can get back to you in good time to facilitate these hearings, but there might be components that I just will not be able to deliver on.</p> <p>Senator SCULLION—I do appreciate that.</p> <p>Mr Pahl—So if you are happy to take a part answer and then the remainder on notice—</p> <p>Senator SCULLION—That would be appreciated.</p>

MS03	26/05/08	12	SCULLION	<p>Senator SCULLION—Again, you may be able to get back on these in a short period of time: I have a number of other questions with regard to staff. How many permanent staff have been recruited since 26 November and what level are those staff? How many temporary positions now exist or have been created since that date—that is, 26 November? Since that date, how many employees have been employed on contract and what is the average length of their employment period? If you can take the same approach as you have in response to the other questions, I know that you will provide what you can whilst we are still in session until Thursday, and I will accept that what you cannot provide by Thursday you will provide to me on notice.</p>
CP01	26/05/08	13	SCULLION	<p>Senator SCULLION—I accept that. Thank you for providing that information. How many employees are engaged in positions responsible for public affairs, media management, liaison with the media and media monitoring?</p> <p>Ms Bie—The definition of public affairs is quite a broad one and difficult to define so I could not give you a specific number now but can take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator SCULLION—Okay. Do you actually have a section organised so that the people responsible for public relations and media are aggregated? Often you tend to aggregate those people in similar sections in the department. Is that the case with this department?</p> <p>Ms Bie—There is a corporate public relations area but there are a number of public relations areas in different divisions throughout the department.</p> <p>Senator SCULLION—I wonder whether you would be able to provide me with the APS classifications of those positions. That might be able to give us a better breakdown and understanding of exactly what those roles and responsibilities are. Could you give me the APS classifications of those positions? I accept that you would have to take that on notice but—on the same provisions that Mr Pahl and I have a good operating relationship on—could you provide them in the next four days? You might also be able to provide the current operating budget for these media relations sections. If there is another section as well could you provide that same information along with the current operating budget?</p>
CP02	26/05/08	14	SCULLION	<p>Senator SCULLION—Dr O’Connell, I have some general questions on notice, and these are the sorts of questions for which I am going to try to find some useful benchmarks for each estimates hearing. With regard to board appointments, what appointments have been made by the government, through Executive Council or other cabinet ministers, to statutory authorities, executive agencies and advisory boards? Would you have to take that notice?</p> <p>Dr O’Connell—Yes.</p> <p>Senator SCULLION—Certainly—and, again, because we have a longer estimates period, if you could get back to us with that, we would appreciate it.</p> <p>Dr O’Connell—We should be able to get back to you.</p> <p>Senator SCULLION—You might also include, appended to that, the respective appointees’ credentials. Perhaps, when you are seeking that information, you might also provide information on how many vacancies remain to be filled by ministerial, including Executive Council, appointments, and also how long those positions have been vacant. You may be able to provide an answer to this question without taking it on notice: what grants have been approved by ministers from within this portfolio?</p> <p>Mr Pahl—I think we probably have to take that one on the same basis as the other—that we may be able to get back to you later this morning—but I do not think we have got that comprehensively in our pack this year.</p> <p>Dr O’Connell—Just to be clear, from what date to what date do you want that information?</p> <p>Senator SCULLION—From 26 November to today’s date.</p> <p>Dr O’Connell—To today’s date. Okay.</p>

ID01	26/05/08	14	SCULLION	<p>Senator SCULLION—What was the total cost of the travel, accommodation and any other expenses? You may be able to give me an overall total now, but if you could break it up that would be useful.</p> <p>Mr Burns—I will take that one on notice, but we can get that to you very quickly.</p> <p>Senator SCULLION—Okay. You can also, when you are providing that—if you do not have the answer at the moment—include how many ministerial staff or family members accompanied the minister on that trip.</p> <p>Mr Burns—There was one member of the minister’s staff but no family.</p> <p>Senator SCULLION—You may want to provide the cost of the staff member’s travel in the same context of the other three points. Did any officers from the department accompany the minister on that trip?</p> <p>Mr Burns—Yes, two officers from the department.</p> <p>Senator SCULLION—Again, you may want to provide me with the travel, accommodation and any other expenses for them.</p>
CP03	26/05/08	15	SCULLION	<p>Senator SCULLION—I understand that community cabinets were held recently in Canning Vale, Narangba and Penrith. What was the cost of the ministers’ travel and expenses for those meetings? You can take that on notice.</p> <p>Dr O’Connell—I will take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator SCULLION—If you can get that back to us swiftly, we would appreciate it. Again in a separate section, could we have the expenses of the ministerial staffers and the departmental officers who also travelled to those meetings? Could you give us the total cost of the travel?</p>
FA01	26/05/08	16	SCULLION	<p>Senator SCULLION—What programs would be affected by that saving in the Sugar Industry Reform Package? Perhaps I can get somebody who is coming in later on to provide an answer to that question on notice.</p> <p>Mr Pahl—Sure.</p>
MS04	26/05/08	17	SCULLION	<p>Senator SCULLION—We have had a number of people talk to you about the efficiency dividend. I understand you have provided Senator McGauran with some answers. It is a difficult way to say ‘question on notice’, because I understand that for some of the remaining 7.5 million you are not in a position to say, ‘Look, these are where we are going to find our efficiencies, Senator,’ and I appreciate that. Rather than waiting until the next set of estimates to ask the question ‘How did you go with your 7.5 million efficiency dividend,’ would you be able to provide that to the committee? It may be an innovative way to supply the Senate with information, but when you have that information—hopefully it will be between now and the next set of estimates—would you be able to provide that to the committee?</p> <p>Dr O’Connell—It is probably worth explaining: in a sense we do not differentiate the requirement there to look at the efficiency dividend from all of the rest of the planning for our budget. Essentially, what we have now is our budget allocation for 2008-09. We know where we have got to live, if you like, and we will go through a process which will plan to do that. We intend to do that so that we start the financial year flying. But there will not be a particular element there where we will say, ‘Ah, this is how we have managed the efficiency dividend.’ Rather we will say, ‘We’ve got our budget and now we’ll live within our budget.’ We can certainly explain when we have our budget planned how we have done that, but if you are looking for—</p> <p>Senator SCULLION—When would you reasonably expect to be in that position? I am trying to be fair dinkum with you. There is no point asking a question if you are not able to provide an answer for it. I will put the question on notice. \$7.5 million in terms of efficiency dividends: are you able to provide those issues that you have done at the moment? If you can be more fulsome by providing that information as you make a decision, for instance, when you say, ‘There are some other ones,’ would you be able to provide that to the committee? I think that would be a very useful process.</p>

MS05	26/05/08	18	SCULLION	<p>Senator SCULLION—Perhaps I should spin the question the other way: do you anticipate any cuts to programs from the \$32.5 million?</p> <p>Dr O’Connell—I would have to take that notice, but at the moment, no, this is departmental funding and so it is adjustments to our expenditure to do the job.</p>
MS06	26/05/08	22	SCULLION	<p>Senator SCULLION—Thank you. Perhaps to Dr O’Connell just a general question on notice: what modelling has been done to estimate the effect on industry from any cuts that will be provided in programs or as a consequence of administrative cuts? Thank you, Mr Chairman.</p>
APVMA01	26/05/08	25	ADAMS	<p>Senator ADAMS—Which recommendations do you still have to implement from the ANAO’s report?</p> <p>Dr Bennet-Jenkins—Several of the activities with regard to the ANAO report are still ongoing. We have regular progress reports on the web with regard to our progress on those, but I can certainly let you have a copy of our progress on those recommendations on notice.</p> <p>Senator ADAMS—I would certainly appreciate that.</p>
APVMA02	26/05/08	26	NASH	<p>Dr Bennet-Jenkins—Yes. The levy is actually set in our regulations, so that is a precise amount that is applied.</p> <p>Senator NASH—What amount is that?</p> <p>Dr Bennet-Jenkins—I would have to take that on notice. I cannot recall what the exact amount is now in per cent term; I am sorry.</p> <p>Senator NASH—Perhaps you could do that.</p>
APVMA03	26/05/08	26	NASH	<p>Senator NASH—So it is exactly the same. This one I do not mind if you take on notice: could we have a list of all the Agvet chemicals that are levied by APVMA?</p> <p>Dr Bennet-Jenkins—Yes.</p>
APVMA04	26/05/08	26	NASH	<p>Senator NASH—Would it be possible—and I am happy for you to take this on notice—to supply to the committee which of your industry participants suggested to you that we had had good rain in the last nine months? It would just be interesting to see where, how and why they had determined that that was a factor.</p>
BA01	26/05/08	35	BOSWELL	<p>Senator BOSWELL—Let’s make it very clear: can you please confirm whether Biosecurity Australia has received any advice either from the Bureau of Resource Sciences or from any member of the IRA team that there was no error in the assessment for black sigatoka?</p> <p>Mr Cahill—I am not aware of any view expressed by the Bureau of Resource Sciences that there was an error in the modelling related to the assessment for black sigatoka—or, indeed, by any individual member of the IRA team.</p> <p>Senator BOSWELL—Can you check that and come back to us.</p> <p>Mr Cahill—I am happy to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator BOSWELL—This is also important because we are getting conflicting advice here. I have had this experience with Biosecurity before. I am not suggesting that you would do it, but someone did do it and paid a pretty heavy price for it. I do not want it to happen again. I will just repeat the question to be very clear: can you please confirm whether Biosecurity Australia has received any advice, either from the Bureau of Resource Sciences or from any member of the IRA team, that there was an error in the assessment of black sigatoka? I want a definite yes or no answer, not ‘I’m not aware’, or, ‘I didn’t hear’. I want the exact—</p> <p>CHAIR—Senator Boswell, I will say before Mr Cahill does answer it that, if he does not know and agrees to take it on notice, I think that is fair.</p>

APVMA05	26/05/08	35-36	SIEWERT	<p>Senator NASH—Can I just ask something on that. If your process is a percentage levy of the pesticides used then surely by that levy process you would know how much pesticide is being used across the country.</p> <p>Dr Bennet-Jenkins—It is a dollar value, so we do not know. Certainly you can say that these particular pesticides, on a dollar value, are the highest value pesticide, but it is not on quantity in terms of kilograms per hectare. We cannot make an assessment. It gives you an idea, but you cannot make a direct assessment of quantity because of the cost.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—Is it possible for you to provide that information so that we can have an idea about that?</p> <p>Dr Bennet-Jenkins—On the costings that we publish regularly—the general breakdown on the levies for particular different product types?</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—Can you flag the specific ones that have been applied for for GE crops?</p> <p>Dr Bennet-Jenkins—We can give some indication of that, yes.</p>
PIAPH01	26/05/08	36	SIEWERT	<p>Senator SIEWERT—You mentioned some work that is being done to develop some monitoring.</p> <p>Mr Aldred—If you like, I can chase up. If you just give me a couple of questions, I will try to chase that up during the break.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—What I am keen to know is whether you could tell us if there are specific chemicals being used for GE crops. There could well be some chemicals that are not specifically flagged for GE crops that are being used in GE crops. What I am keen to know is what level of use there actually is for GE crops.</p> <p>Obviously I am keen to know whether it is going up or down. There are claims made by the industry that it significantly reduces chemical use whereas there is other evidence to show that in fact it does not and that it increases it. So I am keen to know that information and if in fact that is being monitored by anybody.</p> <p>Mr Aldred—Okay. I will chase that during the day and come back to you.</p>
APVMA06	26/05/08	37	MILNE	<p>Senator MILNE—So can you provide details of the monitoring in Tasmanian catchments for the last 12 months?</p> <p>Dr Bennet-Jenkins—We certainly have access to that information. It is largely the department that publishes that on its website. But it also gives us the results to feed into our processes.</p> <p>Senator MILNE—I would like it if you could make that available, because I would be very surprised if the Tasmanian government published all that information on any website. But I would be keen to see what monitoring has gone on in Tasmania.</p>
APVMA07	26/05/08	39	MILNE	<p>Dr Bennet-Jenkins—I do understand that Tasmania has conducted a pilot study on how the state might more usefully collect such information.</p> <p>Senator MILNE—And where is that pilot study?</p> <p>Dr Bennet-Jenkins—That is being conducted by the Department of Primary Industries and Water in Tasmania.</p> <p>Senator MILNE—And will that be made public, do you know?</p> <p>Dr Bennet-Jenkins—I cannot answer for that department.</p> <p>Senator MILNE—Have you received that pilot study?</p> <p>Dr Bennet-Jenkins—We are aware of it and we receive regular updates.</p> <p>Senator MILNE—Could I ask for a copy of it through you, please. As soon as it is concluded, I would very much like to see a copy of that pilot project being conducted in Tasmania.</p> <p>Dr Bennet-Jenkins—Yes.</p> <p>Senator MILNE—Thank you.</p>

PIAPH02	26/05/08	39-40	SIEWERT	<p>Senator SIEWERT—So who does? How do we get an idea of what amount of chemicals are being used?</p> <p>Mr Aldred—Senator, I think I have already said I will take that on notice and try to come back to you.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—That is on GE related pesticides. But the broad question is—</p> <p>Mr Aldred—I will expand the question to cover data on the use of chemicals.</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN—Can I ask you—</p> <p>Senator McGAURAN—Is it whether you do or what the quantity of use is? They are trying to find out the quantity?</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—All I want answers to are the questions.</p> <p>Senator McGAURAN—The first part is you do not know whether you collect that data, so you have to take that part on notice.</p> <p>Mr Aldred—I am not aware that anyone in DAFF collects that data. What I have said that I will do is chase up and find out if there is a system that, for example, through the state and territory governments we can access.</p> <p>Senator McGAURAN—This is your department. This is your job. I may understand if you have not got the quantities on hand, but you would know whether you have that data or not or whether you collect it.</p> <p>Mr Aldred—I do not know, and I have taken it on notice.</p>
PIAPH03	26/05/08	41-42	O'BRIEN	<p>Senator O'BRIEN—I think a Victorian study into genetically modified canola suggests that there is 600 tonnes of triazine going into Australian farming systems annually. How would they get that figure?</p> <p>Dr Bennet-Jenkins—I am not sure, I am sorry, Senator.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—I would be interested to see whether we can track the figure down. Obviously other articles indicate a very wide usage of triazine chemicals in the agriculture sector. I am keen to understand the breadth of its use. Clearly, 70 per cent of the conventional canola we grow is reliant on triazine chemicals in its cultivation. So I am interested to get an understanding of the use of this chemical in a farming context given the reliance of conventional canola, or at least a substantial amount of it, on triazine application.</p> <p>Dr O'Connell—Senator, what we might do for you is to pull together work between both parts of the portfolio and anywhere else and see if we can provide you with a useful briefing.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—Thank you.</p>
AWI01	26/05/08	46-47	HEFFERNAN	<p>Senator HEFFERNAN—So how much money has actually been spent on research out of your annual budget, on average? Can you make that available? You may not be able to today.</p> <p>Dr Abell—I can give you a general view. In excess of \$20 million per year is actually spent on contracted research.</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN—What is the most spectacular result you have had out of that expenditure? The suit business in Japan is very good. You can have a woollen suit, wash it and hang it up and wear it the next day. I commend you. How much did that research cost?</p> <p>Dr Abell—I am happy to take these on notice. You are asking for some detail that I may not have at my fingertips.</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN—It was a small amount of money, wasn't it?</p> <p>Dr Abell—A moderately small amount.</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN—\$50,000?</p> <p>Dr Abell—Something like that, I suggest.</p> <p>Senator Sherry—Rather than speculate about whether it is small or large, the officer—</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN—It was \$50,000. You do not ask a question if you do not know the answer.</p> <p>Senator Sherry—Hang on. If the officer does not know the figure and agrees to take it on notice, we will take it on notice and we will get you the accurate figure, Senator.</p>

AWI02	26/05/08	47	HEFFERNAN	<p>Senator HEFFERNAN—No, I know you were not. But these other two were. How much have you spent on Wilkinson Media? How much did you pay the bloke that allegedly, even though it is very much a point of conjecture, was on the payroll in London for a couple of years? What to God was he on the payroll for?</p> <p>Dr Abell—We can provide you with Wilkinson Media expenditure. It is to do with the defence in the courts and other activities against PETA, the animal rights group. We can provide that, Senator.</p>
AWI03	26/05/08	47	HEFFERNAN	<p>Mr Welsh—The taskforce expenditure figures that I have cover the period of time from 2004 through to 2008. The total sum of that is \$3.6 million.</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN—So could you provide to this estimates committee the breakdown of that expenditure and what it was spent on?</p> <p>Mr Welsh—Yes.</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN—Thank you.</p> <p>Senator Sherry—The officer is taking it on notice.</p>
AWI04	26/05/08	47-48	HEFFERNAN	<p>Mr Welsh—Oxinal?</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN—Yes. How much do you pay them a year?</p> <p>Mr Welsh—I do not have that figure in front of me.</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN—Who would know?</p> <p>Mr Welsh—Matthew would know.</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN—What is their job? Something Matthew is not capable of doing?</p> <p>Senator Sherry—Do you want us to take on notice that figure to attempt to obtain it for you?</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN—Okay.</p>
AWI05	26/05/08	48	HEFFERNAN	<p>Senator HEFFERNAN—But you could take that on notice, the break-up of your media message expenditure and what it was spent on?</p> <p>Dr Abell—I believe we have.</p>
AWI06	26/05/08	53	MCGAURAN	<p>Senator McGAURAN—Can you find out for us how this landmark decision was made?</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN—I think it is important that we do not send the wrong message.</p> <p>Senator Sherry—Do you want that taken on notice? You have asked us to try and find out, so we will take that on notice.</p> <p>Mr Targ—We can take that on notice. All the representative bodies were at that meeting.</p>
AWI07	26/05/08	56	NASH	<p>Mr Welsh—I think they have all said that they have a preference to support clips ahead of existing surgical mulesing—</p> <p>Senator NASH—Okay. In what forums was that information provided?</p> <p>Mr Welsh—We have done a number of retail workshops in North America, Europe and Scandinavia and that is the collective feedback from them.</p> <p>Senator NASH—Is that feedback something that is public? I imagine there would be some kind of reporting mechanism or some kind of summary—</p> <p>Mr Welsh—If you are looking for substantive proof, then we could send some information on that—</p> <p>Senator NASH—of their views. If that could come to the committee, that would be great.</p>

AWI08	26/05/08	57	MCGAURAN	<p>Senator McGAURAN—What is the last comment Hugo Boss made in relation to this situation?</p> <p>Mr Welsh—Without quoting verbatim, it was something along the lines of that they will continue to support Australian wool and source non-mulesed wool where possible.</p> <p>Senator McGAURAN—This is a great statement. Can we have a copy of that?</p> <p>Mr Welsh—I have got it on my Blackberry. I can turn it—</p> <p>Senator McGAURAN—Could I have it on notice? Let us just put PETA where they ought to be: in their place. They are a shocking organisation.</p>
AWI09	26/05/08	60	ADAMS	<p>Senator ADAMS—This is an article that appeared in the <i>Farm Weekly</i> in Western Australia on 22 May to do with bacterial blowfly control. A South Australian geologist, Barry Hayes, holds the patent for using the bacteria to short-circuit the blowfly's lifecycle, but AWI refused to trial it. Do you know anything about this?</p> <p>Mr Targ—No, we will take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator ADAMS—Could you take that on notice, then?</p> <p>Dr Abell—I think the fact of the matter is that, yes, we will take it on notice, but, as I understand it, there have been no applications for support from AWI from that particular inventor or that holder of that IP.</p>
AWI10	26/05/08	60	HEFFERNAN	<p>Senator HEFFERNAN—As a question on notice, could you provide this committee with all monies expended on research on both sides of those equations in the last three years?</p> <p>Mr Welsh—Sure.</p>
AWI11	26/05/08	61	NASH	<p>Senator NASH—I apologise that I did not ask this earlier. What percentage of the budget goes to salary? Did he ask for a breakdown of employees and salaries?</p> <p>Mr Targ—I think that is on notice.</p>
AWI12	26/05/08	62	HEFFERNAN	<p>Senator HEFFERNAN—But I mean if they appointed this bloke in London who was subject to the allegations. I hope you blokes are not spending more money taking someone to court to sue them, including the ABC. You don't even know the background of the bloke. You just said to Wilkinsons, 'She'll be right, mate.'</p> <p>Mr Welsh—I am sure it went through the appropriate level of due diligence—</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN—But what is that? Your board does not know about it and you do not know about, so who does?</p> <p>Mr Welsh—That was before my time so—</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN—That is a great way out of it. Can you take that on notice and tell us who ticked them off?</p> <p>Mr Welsh—Yes.</p>

AWI13	26/05/08	64	HEFFERNAN	<p>Senator HEFFERNAN—Could you provide to the committee the details of those programs—I think I asked for that earlier—and how you make the decision? Who makes the decision that we will give Billy Bloggs money for that fescue development there? Does a group of people sit down and go through it, and who are they?</p> <p>Dr Abell—Largely, the decision making is broken from programs into projects. Programs are generally agreed. The highest level program agreed is that 40 per cent of the R&D funds should go on-farm, 60 per cent off farm. That's the highest level program. From that, it will go down to general strategic direction set by the board for certain programs. For example, the animal health program has an allocation of funds in general terms and then that is broken into projects within that program, some of which would be under the CEO's delegation and some of which come to the board for clearance.</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN—Does Mr Welsh have delegation for these decisions?</p> <p>Dr Abell—Yes, in projects within programs.</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN—Mr Welsh, how do you decide to give this particular person money for pasture development and not that person?</p> <p>Mr Welsh—It is based on a recommendation from the program managers or the divisional heads.</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN—Who are they?</p> <p>Mr Welsh—It depends on the division.</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN—Is this all part of your 160 internal employees, or are they external consultants?</p> <p>Mr Welsh—They are all internal.</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN—Could you provide us with the paper trail of how a decision is made, who the decision makers are and what their expertise is in making that decision.</p> <p>Mr Welsh—Sure.</p>
AWI14	26/05/08	65-66	HEFFERNAN	<p>Senator HEFFERNAN—How much money does Mr Fluge earn? Is it 240 or 280?</p> <p>Mr Welsh—I do not know the answer off the top of my head.</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN—Who does know?</p> <p>Mr Welsh—Our HR department.</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN—Could you give us the answer on notice of what his package is?</p> <p>Mr Welsh—Yes.</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN—Could you also take on notice what money has been paid out to Wilkinson and Inall in the last three years?</p> <p>Mr Welsh—Yes.</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN—Who else has contributed funds to the task force besides AWI?</p> <p>Mr Targ—In the first period, both MLA and AWS, which is Australian Wool Services, which owned the Woolmark company, contributed amounts, but the overwhelming funding has been by AWI.</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN—Could you provide us with the details of that?</p> <p>Mr Targ—Yes.</p>
AWI15	26/05/08	68	HEFFERNAN	<p>Senator HEFFERNAN—How many directors have talked directly to international retailers?</p> <p>Mr Targ—Sorry?</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN—How many directors of the board have actually been out there and talked directly to the retailers that have got all these concerns? Has a delegation of the board talked to any of these people?</p> <p>Mr Targ—A delegation of the board has not. Individual directors have in their various roles.</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN—Could you give us the details of those discussions?</p> <p>Dr Abell—We can ask various directors to tell us.</p>

AWI16	26/05/08	68	HEFFERNAN	<p>Senator HEFFERNAN—We are off that now. Have you blokes done any research into superwash, the scouring, and the downstream?</p> <p>Dr Abell—I cannot give you any exact detail on that but part of the KIM process that Mr Welsh spoke about is where we go to processors of wool and manufacturers who use wool and make sure that they are aware of all the technology that is possible to potentially increase the pull through of wool through their processors and their manufacturing. Superwash is fairly old technology. I think it is CSIRO based, I believe—</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN—Vaseline and chlorine based, is it?</p> <p>Dr Abell—I cannot give you detail of what we are doing at the moment on it, but I can take it on notice.</p>
AWI17	26/05/2008	68	HEFFERNAN	<p>Senator HEFFERNAN—Do we still use superwash in Australia?</p> <p>Dr Abell—I think that is a question you would have to ask the scourers, but we can find out.</p>
ID02	26/05/08	72-73	SIEWERT	<p>Mr Morris—We do not have a specific requirement in place that countries are members of the OIE, the world animal health organisation. We would have to check as to whether each country we export to is a member or not. But we do not have a specific requirement that they are members.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—Could you provide me with a list of countries that are and are not that we export to? Is that available?</p> <p>Mr Morris—Certainly that is available. We will be able to provide you a list of those and I presume a list of whether they are OIE members or not.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—Yes, that is what I meant: can I have a list of countries that we export to that are and are not signed up. I am sorry if I was not clear. What I am interested to see is whether we are exporting to countries that do not meet the guidelines. Also, if we are exporting to countries that do not meet the guidelines, do we have any other understandings in place with them that meet some of the shortcomings where they do not meet the guidelines? Is that clear?</p> <p>Mr Morris—Yes. At the moment our overall objectives in terms of working with the countries that import our animals is to try and improve their standards to match those of the world animal health organisation, whether they are members of that organisation or not. So a lot of the activities that we work on with industry in those markets are aimed at increasing the standards to be closer to the international standards.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—Could you provide me with a list of the countries that you are doing that with?</p> <p>...</p> <p>Mr Morris—What you asked me before, as I understand it, was for a list of the countries that we export animals to and whether they are members of the world animal health organisation or not.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—I am glad we had this clarification because what I want to do then is find out which countries do or do not meet the guidelines. If I understand what you have just said, you in fact do not do an analysis against those guidelines to see whether countries, even if they are members, are meeting them or not.</p>
PIAPH04	26/05/08	74-75	SCULLION	<p>Senator SCULLION—Are you working with the Transport Council or with the individuals that drive the trucks, given that in this particular environment you are trying to deal with the safety of the metabolism of two completely different animals; one is a human being and one is a cow?</p> <p>Mr Aldred—Just to finish on the issue of cattle, we have not kicked off that process yet. I was envisaging that cattle husbandry was probably going to be the next cab off the rank. As to the land transport standards, yes, I can check the detail of the organisations involved. But certainly industry has been involved very much throughout the process. I think we have had something like 12 industry groups as part of the consultations. We have picked up seven animal groups. Certainly, there has been a high degree of industry involvement.</p>

PIAPH05	26/05/08	78	MCGAURAN	<p>Senator McGAURAN—Dr Wirth said that those organisations will now target the embassies. Do you take that seriously? Have you asked Dr Hugh Wirth what he meant by ‘targeting the embassies’?</p> <p>Senator Sherry—That is probably a question for foreign affairs. They might have a greater knowledge of the targeting of embassies.</p> <p>Senator McGAURAN—He has done it on the grounds that—</p> <p>Senator Sherry—You have not been this active since you left the National Party. I am really impressed at the level of questions and diligence and enthusiasm you are showing here.</p> <p>CHAIR—Order! We might have to utilise our dinner break to bring out the boxing gloves.</p> <p>Senator Sherry—I never feel that way about Senator McGauran.</p> <p>CHAIR—Point made, Minister.</p> <p>Senator Sherry—I apologise, chair. Some of the officers may have knowledge about targeting of embassies, but if they do not I will happily take it on notice and check with Mr Smith of foreign affairs.</p>
PIAPH06	26/05/08	80	MILNE	<p>Mr Aldred—The minister’s office and the department have certainly held a range of different meetings with representatives from groups. I would have to check whether we have met specifically with Dr Wirth, but certainly we have had quite a number of discussions with Heather Neil from the RSPCA, and also with Glenys Oogies from Animals Australia and so on. I would not characterise it as a combative type of arrangement or relationship at all. There is quite a deal of constructive work that goes on.</p> <p>Senator MILNE—Why are they saying that you have not responded to their videos et cetera?</p> <p>Mr Aldred—I do not know about the specific wording of the quote and whether it refers to the fact that we have not done everything that we have been asked to do in terms of either closing down the trade or doing those sorts of things, as opposed to having not actually replied or spoken to the people concerned. I am just not quite sure of the context of it.</p> <p>Senator MILNE—Could I, on notice, ask which animal welfare groups, the broadest category, the minister has met with since becoming minister?</p> <p>Senator Sherry—We will take that on notice.</p>
AQIS02	26/05/08	82	MCGAURAN	<p>Mr Chapman—The briefing that goes to the minister will outline the benefits at a high level. This is in many ways a subjective analysis. It is identifying the problems with the existing IT system and the benefits on a day-to-day basis that apply with a more sophisticated decision support system that we are envisaging building. What I was talking about a moment ago is how we can provide objective measures to be able to more precisely define actual time benefits for industry, cost benefits for industry, and identify that we are in fact ensuring that imported goods meet the quarantine conditions applied to them, and that is quite a complex process.</p> <p>Senator McGAURAN—Is this committee able to obtain that sort of outline, the problems with the existing system and the benefits with the new?</p> <p>Dr O’Connell—I could provide you with suitable detail of that on notice.</p>

AQIS03	26/05/08	84	MILNE	<p>Senator MILNE—In 2001-02 or thereabouts 125 shipping containers of honey coming from China to avoid the US anti-doping laws were sent to Australia and the honey was contaminated with chloramphenicol, which is an illegal antibiotic. They sent the honey to Australia to be relabelled ‘Product of Australia’, and sent it to the US. That was detected. As I understand it, AQIS pursued it legally earlier this year, and a couple of people were found guilty of bringing that honey from China via Australia. They were fined in the vicinity of \$580,200—and that is all—for 1.7 million litres of honey which went to the US. I am just interested to know who had to foot the bill for prosecution and preparing the case over those years. The point I am getting to is whether AQIS has reviewed the adequacy of the fines in the light of the likelihood that we will be used in that way in the future.</p> <p>Mr S Hunter—We are not aware of the case that you are mentioning. It may be that it is a matter that Customs was handling. We will need to take that on notice to give what advice we can on the issue. Mr Read may know something.</p> <p>Mr Read—We do not have any specific knowledge on that. We are aware that it is probably a FSANZ/ACCC issue. They would be the agencies involved in this.</p>
PIAPH07	26/05/08	85	SCULLION	<p>Senator SCULLION—Would you be making some sort of a comparison with, for example, the fruit fly trapping program or the screw-worm fly program? Are they programs that the industry has to have a more secure footing in?</p> <p>Mr Aldred—There is quite a range of different types of programs. I would need to get some additional advice on the specific cost shares and so on.</p>
PIAPH08	26/05/08	87-88	MILNE	<p>Senator MILNE—Have you put to the Victorians that they should be quarantining areas known to have active virus from all human activity?</p> <p>Mr Aldred—I would have to take that on notice. I do not know that we have provided any specific advice of that nature.</p> <p>Senator MILNE—What advice have you provided to them about your views on what they should be doing?</p> <p>Mr Aldred—I will take that on notice. I will need to get records of the meetings. I was not part of the meetings.</p> <p>Senator MILNE—I would specifically like to know whether you have asked them to quarantine areas with the active virus from all activity, whether you have asked them to stop dumping untreated effluent from licensed abalone processors into the marine environment, and whether there has been any discussion about having a Commonwealth review of the abalone aquaculture industry with a view to developing a management response that might be consistently applied regardless of where any disease might break out in the future. It seems to me that is what we need, a uniform set of responses that must be brought into play whichever jurisdiction it happens to be in.</p> <p>Mr Aldred—I will take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator MILNE—As I have said, people are very unhappy that there seems to be more respect for jurisdictional responsibilities than there is for the fact that this disease is spreading and people seem to be wringing their hands.</p> <p>Senator Sherry—I will take that on notice and I will see whether the minister has anything further to add given the situation.</p>

PIAPH09	26/05/08	89	MCGAURAN	<p>Senator McGAURAN—Yes. Just going back to the minister, could you find out, or let us know even now: there must be some legality with regard to national interest where you can intervene and take over as a matter of national interest.</p> <p>Senator Sherry—You are seeking a legal basis for taking control of this situation?</p> <p>Senator McGAURAN—Yes. In fact, I am certain there is.</p> <p>Senator Sherry—Is that a question?</p> <p>Senator McGAURAN—It is a question.</p> <p>Senator Sherry—We will take that on notice and see if we can find a legal basis on which the Commonwealth can take over control of the fishery.</p>
PIAPH10	26/05/08	90	HEFFERNAN	<p>Senator HEFFERNAN—Inside the affected area where they bulldozed the trees, with all the rain et cetera has there been regrowth that had to be redone after the planting of the new lot of trees? Sometimes you will get a root system that will pop a sucker up.</p> <p>Ms Ransom—I would have to check.</p>
AQIS04	26/05/08	90	HEFFERNAN	<p>Senator HEFFERNAN—When they went out there, as I recall, the person there said, ‘Oh, we haven’t got the key to the door,’ where the cuttings were stored, or whatever, in the teachests. Surely, we would not accept that as an answer in the future. You would just get a hammer and knock the door in? Are you going to have that capacity? Do you know what I am talking about?</p> <p>Mr S Hunter—Could I take that on notice?</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN—I would have thought it would be a comfort to the horticultural industry to think that we have demonstrated that we have learnt from what went wrong.</p> <p>Mr S Hunter—I would like to answer the specifics of your question on notice, if I may—</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN—Thank you very much.</p>
PIAPH11	26/05/08	91-92	HEFFERNAN	<p>Senator HEFFERNAN—Yes. It failed after a couple of days for a lack of resources, as I remember. And I do not know how you deal with the feral pigs out here, anyhow. What about an operation, just as an exercise, to understand the limitations in that country of a feral foot and mouth outbreak in Cape York Peninsula and see how you manage it?</p> <p>Ms Gordon—I would have to defer to my colleague from Productivity—</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN—I think in fairness to the department it has been more good luck than good management that nothing has gone wrong. And I am aware of the great conscientious effort of people in the service to do the monitoring that you are talking about, including some rather tragic incursions in some of that. But it would be an interesting exercise to run a brief where we did have an incursion from, inadvertently and all as it is, a feral pig or something up there. Because I really think that if we have got a million feral pigs and thousands of square kilometres with no-one in them—there are only 4,000 people, for God’s sake, in the area—if you were a worrier you would go to bed every night worrying about them. If I had 25,000 cows and a supervised property and was doing well out of the live export trade et cetera, it would scare the living daylights out of me. I could not believe it, when I went to that property outside of Wadeye, that these blokes were bragging about the fact that they did not tag cattle because they had an abattoir there et cetera. Always kill a stranger; you never kill one of your own.</p> <p>Mr Aldred—I will take your suggestion of an exercise on notice and—</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN—I just think it would be a great thing to really get people focused on it.</p>

ID03	26/05/08	92	MILNE	<p>Senator MILNE—There is no mechanism now, it is a locked-in international process? I just think the apple and pear growers would appreciate any detail you can give us, notwithstanding that you are obviously preparing your case so you are not going to talk about that in any detail, but I would like to have as much detail as you can provide about where we are up to.</p> <p>Mr Burns—One point I would make initially is that the industry is briefed regularly by DFAT, which runs the case, on where the case is up to so they are briefed on that. But the way the WTO process works is that a dispute panel will meet twice. The first meeting is, as I said, in September. The time frames on how that plays out from there we could provide in writing, if you like, because there is a very set process for that.</p> <p>Senator MILNE—I would appreciate that.</p>
ID04	26/05/2008	95	HEFFERNAN	<p>Mr Bowen—The driver is a WTO agreement called the Sanitary Agreement, and New Zealand has alleged that Australia has broken some of the rules under the WTO SPS agreement in regard to the conditions, or measures, set out for imports for apples and they are challenging those conditions.</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN—But there is a codified law. The difficulty with the courts, as you would be aware, is that they are absolutely about the law and not necessarily about the truth. That is just a fact. If you are guilty of something and you go to court and you get a QC or SC to take your case, his job is to avoid the truth to get you off the hook and he will use every trick in the law to do that. In terms of quarantine issues, certainly terrorism issues and the issue we are confronted with today, fire blight, people can use the law to dud Australia's farmers. The protocol clearly says that, as part of the acceptance—and everyone just nodded their head and went to sleep—yes, we will bring fire blight but we will not infect Australia's farms. That is crazy.</p> <p>Senator Sherry—But I think the point you are making goes to the legal basis apparently in international law for the handling of disputes like this. I am sure we can find a paper that would outline that for you with some case precedent and what has happened and previous disputes to respond to your question.</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN—But the difficulty, with great respect, is that that is what I am frightened about, because that will fail the practical test—the reason they did not kick down the door at Emerald that time. This is a thing that keeps apple and pear growers awake at night when they are reminded about it, and they will be reminded about it as a consequence of today's hearings. Senator Fielding, you are right: it is a very serious issue for Australia for us to be playing around with the law. The venerable scientists have said, 'Yes, we will bring it in but we will not infect anyone.' If that all goes to custard, no-one will get the sack, but a lot of Australia's apple and pear growers will grow broke.</p> <p>Senator Sherry—You have made your point very forcefully and frequently. As to the debate around the adoption of an international quarantine protocol, and whatever the processes are, I am not familiar with when that occurred, but I am sure that there were some internal discussions, debates in government and in the community at the time. If it is any help, we will not only get a copy of the treaty, protocol, or whatever the particular technical legal term is, and also the background for signing of such an approach and any debate that occurred at the time.</p>

ID05	26/05/08	96	HEFFERNAN	<p>Senator HEFFERNAN—Could you inform us as to who represents the industry in these consultations with DFAT?</p> <p>Mr Bowen—Yes. The consultations have been held with Horticulture Australia Limited, Apple and Pear Australia Limited and the National Farmers Federation.</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN—The individual person. A lot of these people are golliwogs.</p> <p>CHAIR—That is a new one.</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN—Who are the individuals, so we can ring them up?</p> <p>Mr Bowen—If you are interested in Apple and Pear Australia Limited, Darryl Ashton, and John Corboy is the head of their Fire Blight Task Force, and Tony Russell. Those are the names that come to my mind at the moment, but I would have to get a complete list.</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN—You can take that on notice.</p> <p>CHAIR—Take it on notice.</p>
ID06	26/05/08	97	O'BRIEN	<p>Mr Bowen—The third parties to the dispute are the United States, the European Commission, Chile, Japan, Taiwan and Pakistan.</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN—Are any of those people fire blight free?</p> <p>Mr Bowen—That is a—</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN—They are not.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—Japan?</p> <p>Mr Bowen—I think Japan would say they probably were.</p> <p>Senator O'BRIEN—We are not sure about Taiwan?</p> <p>Mr Bowen—I am not sure about Taiwan. We would have to check what their conditions are, but they are third parties.</p>
AQI05	26/05/08	99	MCGAURAN	<p>Senator McGAURAN—For not filling in the card correctly admitting that you have been to a farm, that you have a chicken stuffed in your bag, and an egg and other food has been found—am I able to obtain the penalty regime for those sorts of things?</p> <p>Ms Gordon—To give you a full explanation of the penalty regime that AQIS has available to it from warning discussions with people through to on-the-spot fines effectively through to formal prosecution where we would take somebody to court, I might take that on notice.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Senator McGAURAN—Quite frequently on the show people are caught bringing in food—chickens and eggs.</p> <p>Ms Gordon—It would very much depend on the assessment of the nature of the offence and whether or not people understood.</p> <p>Senator McGAURAN—If they did, is that \$1,000?</p> <p>Ms Gordon—I would take on notice the actual amount of the on-the-spot fine that we can give them.</p>
ID07	26/05/08	101	HEFFERNAN	<p>Senator HEFFERNAN—How much funding is committed to the implementation of the MOU between the Republic of Korea and Australia on quarantine matters?</p> <p>Mr S Hunter—I think we might need to take that on notice.</p>
AQIS06	26/05/08	101	HEFFERNAN	<p>Senator HEFFERNAN—How many hectares is the Eastern Creek site?</p> <p>Mr Lehne—I am sorry, I could not give you the exact figure. I would have to take that on notice. I think it is about 18. It is quite a large site.</p>

BA02	26/05/08	103	SCULLION	<p>Mr Nunn—We will know the outcome of the tests and then it will be a matter for Aquatic CCEAD to determine whether it is worth going for eradication or continuing with control programs, informal controls within Australia, if it were found to be an exotic strain.</p> <p>Senator SCULLION—Is it possible to inform the committee of the results of the tests when they come out? That is all we would seek to know.</p>
AQIS07	26/05/08	104	MILNE	<p>Senator MILNE—That requires that you have a relatively stable staff, and maintaining people in the places they currently are with that level of preparedness. Presumably each year you would need to do some kind of refresher and/or emergency procedure. Will that cost money? Or are you suggesting that people will just be able to do it as part of their day-to-day activities?</p> <p>Ms Gordon—Yes, it is true that as staff move or as time passes, if there is no particular call on those skill sets, people lose their currency of those skills, and they will require upgrading training, as will new staff coming through. As Mr Hunter has indicated, we are still assessing which is going to be the best way to maintain those skill sets. We obviously train our airport officers in a whole range of skills and we are looking, among other options, at how we might integrate that into that sort of training as well.</p> <p>Senator MILNE—Perhaps you might report some time later in the year. Could you take this on notice? When you do an assessment of what it is going to cost, I would be interested to know what you estimate will come from somewhere else in the department.</p>
AQIS08	26/05/08	104	MILNE	<p>Senator MILNE—The other thing I want to ask you about is Ug99, wheat rust, which people are very concerned about coming out of Africa. Are we doing anything in terms of special surveillance in relation to that?</p> <p>Ms Gordon—We might have to take that one on notice, unless Mr Lehne can help you.</p> <p>Mr Lehne—I will take that on notice. The importation of wheat is highly restricted. We only allow wheat in from certain countries and under certain conditions. They normally go for processing in metropolitan areas. It is highly contained in that sense. We do import seed wheat for genetic purposes, but that has grown under quarantine conditions and it is the progeny of that which is released. In that period in quarantine it is tested for diseases such as rust, et cetera, to ensure that we do not bring in any material of that sort.</p> <p>Senator MILNE—Are you confident that we can keep Ug99 out of Australia?</p> <p>Mr Lehne—We have systems in place that are specifically designed to ensure that those sorts of diseases are not imported on seed that is brought into the country.</p> <p>Senator MILNE—Presumably Uganda is one of the places we do not import it from?</p> <p>Mr Lehne—I would need to take that on notice.</p>
PIAPH12	26/05/08	105	MILNE	<p>Senator MILNE—What are we down to in terms of a physical area?</p> <p>Mr Aldred—I would have to take the area on notice.</p>

PIAPH13	26/05/08	105	MILNE	<p><i>Red fire ants</i></p> <p>Senator MILNE—Given our experience and how much it has cost to actually manage this and try and eradicate it, what actions are we taking with our Pacific island neighbours and around the Pacific to raise awareness of the problems and so on to attempt to sort out these issues before we get them again?</p> <p>Mr Aldred—I would have to take that on notice. We have a number of programs around on a whole range of pests and diseases, but I do not know the specific answer in terms of red imported fire ant</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Senator MILNE—I am trying to get a handle on where I get a picture of the work Australia does on alien invasive species, both marine and terrestrial, in the region. Is it through AusAID? Is that mainly the delivery source?</p> <p>Mr Aldred—I will take that on notice and provide you with a collation of information.</p>
PIAPH14	26/05/08	105	MILNE	<p>Senator MILNE—Just before we go off the regional involvement, does the Australian government contribute to GISP, the Global Invasive Species Program?</p> <p>Mr S Hunter—I do not know the answer to that. I think that is probably something that would occur through the environment department, if it did.</p> <p>Mr Aldred—Again, I will take that on notice.</p>
AQIS09	26/05/08	107	NASH	<p>Senator NASH—Obviously in all the time we have been discussing this we have been focused on New Zealand. Are there any other countries that are a particular threat with this kind of work? If you are not able to answer that now I would appreciate if you could take it on notice.</p> <p>Ms Gordon—I will take it on notice but my understanding is that a number of countries throughout the world do have the didymo but our particular concern with New Zealand is because of the number of Australians who would go there, or New Zealanders who might come to Australia as visitors, who go into those areas in New Zealand, into the rural areas particularly for fishing and other aquatic sports where didymo is in New Zealand and who are likely to bring it back on equipment, on their boots. It is about the nature of the algae itself and how long it can survive on the equipment.</p>
BA03	26/05/08	107	SCULLION	<p>Senator SCULLION—If it was on a felt boot—that would be pretty much the thing we would be looking for, the worst item, from someone walking on didymo rocks with a felt boot, which is a standard wader used in North America—how long would we expect it to last and be viable?</p> <p>Ms van Meurs—I would have to take that on notice, but it is about 24 hours.</p>
AQIS10	26/05/08	109	MCGAURAN	<p>Senator McGAURAN—Can you tell me if the reports confirm that the Mexican feather grass plant, better known as the Texas tussock, was sold at 18 Big W stores across Victoria recently?</p> <p>Mr Aldred—I would happy to take that on notice.</p>
AQIS11	26/05/08	110	MCGAURAN	<p>Dr Roberts—We are getting a little mixed up with distribution and distribution, to put it bluntly. What we are talking about is that clearly it has been introduced and released in Australia at some time.</p> <p>Senator McGAURAN—Illegally?</p> <p>Dr Roberts—No, not necessarily. It was almost certainly brought in, probably as a garden ornamental or something, at some stage. We can probably check when. It may well have been introduced 100 years ago, for example, as some of these plants have. But I do not know that. We will take that on notice. What has happened is that it is growing in certain states but it is not throughout those states.</p>

PIAPH15	26/05/08	111	MCGAURAN	<p><i>Fruit fly</i></p> <p>Senator McGAURAN—Can someone give me some background, particularly in regard to the Victorian situation, of the gravity of the matter?</p> <p>Mr Aldred—The relevant officer is not here at the moment, so I will take it on notice and try to give you some further information.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Senator McGAURAN—Victoria has a fruit fly-free status and it trades off that. It is very proud of it. At what point will it lose that fruit fly-free status? How bad is this outbreak?</p> <p>Mr Aldred—I will take that on notice.</p>
BA04	26/05/08	111	MCGAURAN	<p>Senator McGAURAN—So there has been no fruit fly found in the Mildura area?</p> <p>Ms van Meurs—There has been in the past. I do not think there is an international outbreak considered at the moment but I would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator McGAURAN—Have you had any interest or concerns from our international markets such as the Asian markets in regard to this outbreak?</p> <p>Ms van Meurs—I am not quite sure which outbreak you are referring to or whether there is an outbreak. We will have to take that on notice. As far as I am aware, I do not think Sunraysia is—</p> <p>Senator McGAURAN—You do not think there is a fruit fly outbreak?</p> <p>Ms van Meurs—It depends, again, on the export market that you are referring to. It might be an interstate outbreak. The Riverland might consider it an outbreak, New Zealand might or the USA might, but I am not sure. We would have to take that on notice as to which fruit fly outbreak you are referring to. It is actually considered a free area until you find a particular fly or a larvae and then it is considered, depending on the international rules or that particular country's concerns, and they will either consider it an outbreak and not allow that product in unless it is cold treated or—</p>

PIAPH16	26/05/08	113-114	NASH / MCGAURAN	<p>Senator NASH—I think that it is quite interesting that there is a very significant article about it, and I think the issue is whether or not it is an issue that is being reported on that the department was not aware of.</p> <p>Mr Hunter—I am not sure that we can add much more to what we have said. We are happy to take the question on notice.</p> <p>Senator NASH—But my question is: right now, sitting here, nobody had any knowledge that this was reported?</p> <p>Mr Hunter—I am aware of reports but that is as much as my awareness goes to. Would you like us to take it on notice?</p> <p>Senator McGAURAN—Is this your job or is it the state's job?</p> <p>Ms van Meurs—If it is to do with a number of outbreaks in Victoria, from what I can gather from the little that you have told me, it is probably to do with interstate outbreaks, so it is an interstate issue. If it is to do with international outbreaks, as far as I am aware, Sunraysia is still free and able to export to a number of countries based on their area free status.</p> <p>Senator McGAURAN—So, this is a matter for the states to handle, yet you are coordinating a national fruit fly strategy. If you ask me, I do not think you know what you are doing. What is the point of it?</p> <p>Senator Sherry—I think that is a bit over the top. We will take it on notice. I will talk to the minister about it and at a convenient time to the committee we will get some more information for you. You well know that we do not always rely on reports in the media for accuracy in a whole manner of our activities. But we are happy to refer that to the department, get some detailed briefings and come back to the committee. In the absence of the officers knowing any more detail tonight, I think that is the most positive course I can suggest.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Senator McGAURAN—Get back to me on the fruit fly. I would not like to see Victoria lose its fruit fly free status while you are still cobbling together your national strategy.</p> <p>Senator Sherry—If we can cobble together a brief for you, will you be willing to accept it? I do not want to go to the minister if you are not interested and you think we are cobbling it together.</p> <p>Senator McGAURAN—I am most interested.</p> <p>Senator Sherry—Thank you. I will pass the request on.</p>
PIAPH17	26/05/08	114	MILNE	<p>Senator MILNE—On notice, when you come back on the national fruit fly strategy, I am interested to know whether the increased minimum temperatures in parts of Australia where fruit fly was never a risk before are now being identified—whether you are cross-checking with the climate data on changed minimum temperatures.</p>
NRM01	26/05/2008	114	SIEWERT	<p>Senator SIEWERT—I want to ask about weeds. Can you remind me how many weed species you have on your lists?</p> <p>Mr Aldred—Depending on the nature of the questions, we are probably better off dealing with those either in the natural resource management area or in the department of environment. I will flag that.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—You will flag it, okay. I can ask under NRM.</p> <p>Mr Aldred—If you ask us a couple of the questions, we will just make sure that that is the case.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—I want to know how many species you have on the weed list. I know WWF has prepared a list of what they consider weed species which went into the thousands. I am wondering if you have done an analysis against the list that they have prepared and what is on your list.</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan—Senator, could you clarify if you are talking about the so-called weeds of national significance, which are here, or weeds that we should be wary of, which are not here yet? What is the nature of the—</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—I think they are weeds that are here already.</p>

EWC01	26/05/08	116	NASH	<p>Senator NASH—You might be able to explain this for me; I am sure there is a simple explanation. Page 278 talks about the average staffing level. For 2007-08, it is 19, increasing by one to 20. So the staffing level is roughly the same and yet those employees expenses are significantly different. All I am trying to get at is: are there things other than that staffing level that are contained in that expense of employees?</p> <p>Mr Woods—No. Currently we are looking at a full-time estimate of around about 19 we look at continuing. I actually cannot explain why, if we put in a full cast of 20, we have halved our budget for staff—for employee costs. It should have been approximately the same, so I would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator NASH—That, to me, would seem a significant point to be able to advise the committee on. If the staffing level is the same and it is for less than a quarter of the funding that has been allocated, there seems to be quite a discrepancy there.</p> <p>Mr Woods—I would have to check. It seems like some incorrect numbers may have got transposed into here.</p>
EWC02	26/05/08	116	NASH	<p>Senator NASH—Could you; it would be good if you could do that. Interestingly, in the non-financial assets, on page 283, infrastructure, plant and equipment is going up \$10,000 from 2007-08 to 2008-09. What infrastructure, plant and equipment does the EWC have?</p> <p>Mr Woods—There are only computers and those sorts of things—office equipment. We have actually identified that it will be reducing, not going up, in the last couple of weeks with some write-downs on software from the non-bulk scheme and previous roles that we did—</p> <p>Senator NASH—So those figures are actually incorrect—the increase by \$2,000?</p> <p>Mr Woods—They are now. We have looked at them. In the last couple of days in moving forward, we have been looking at some of these things.</p> <p>Senator NASH—All right. Well, could you then advise the committee when you have that finalised and correct that for us and advise the committee?</p> <p>Mr Woods—Yes.</p>
FA02	26/05/08	117	ADAMS	<p>Senator ADAMS—This question is probably to the department. It is a question on the Wheat Industry Expert Group. I would like to know if the final report from this group has been finalised. They had a discussion paper out. I have not heard any more about what has happened.</p> <p>Mr Mortimer—The Wheat Industry Expert Group reported their findings. I understand it is on the departmental website, so we can certainly get you a copy of that.</p>
EWC03	26/05/08	117	ADAMS	<p>Senator ADAMS—This is for Mr Watson and comes from your report commenting on the first eight months of deregulation of the containers. How much of those 1.5 million tonnes of wheat came from Western Australia? Can you split it?</p> <p>Mr Watson—We would have to check those figures. We do not break it down by state when we publish it. We publish total exports. We do it for the countries it goes to in the upcoming growers addendum. We would have to do a bit more analysis to say which states they came from.</p> <p>Senator ADAMS—Would you be able to do that?</p> <p>Mr Woods—Yes, we could.</p> <p>Senator ADAMS—And let the committee secretariat have it?</p> <p>Mr Woods—Yes.</p>

EW04	26/05/08	119	MCGAURAN	<p>Senator McGAURAN—You say 37 countries. Are there any new markets in there?</p> <p>Mr Woods—There are some varying markets in that respect. It is quite an exhaustive list. There is Fiji. This is from April. Largely, Senator, by the end of April, from the stats I am looking at at the moment, since August last year there has been shipping right across all of those countries. I do not have the stats for the previous year to compare with that, but we could provide that easily on notice.</p>
EW05	26/05/08	120	HEFFERNAN	<p>Senator HEFFERNAN—It all has to be ticked back, I realise, after the sale, which is stupid. Have you got a record of the destinations of those 2.9 million tonnes?</p> <p>Mr Woods—We published destinations in our last growers report and the previous one.</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN—The question I put on notice in May last year, to which we go the answer this February, was about how much was the throughput in the previous 18 months to May last year. That is 18 months from a year ago. The answer came back as 2.9 million tonnes or whatever. Do you have a record of where that wheat went? We were told there were all sorts of reasons why it was too risky for the growers through the pool to do it. They were making generous use of themselves to take the risk off the growers.</p> <p>Mr Woods—We would have where that wheat has gone to.</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN—Could you provide that on notice?</p> <p>Mr Woods—Yes. I would be able to give a more comprehensive list on notice.</p>
AQIS12	26/05/08	125	SCULLION	<p>Ms Gordon—I will just refer back to the Ernst and Young report and recommendation 10. The reason for the comment there, as you would probably well understand, is that the government did not mandate particular performance indicators, but what we have done within the program is set up indicators for ourselves to monitor the work that we are doing and how effective we are at the work we are doing. NAQS has got two broad categories of activity. One is interventions in movements down through the Torres Strait, and some of that is airline passengers coming down from the Torres Strait onto the mainland. We have set up indicators so that we are actually monitoring the number of passengers that we intervene and the amount of non-permitted product that we pick up, so we would be able to provide you with data on those interventions.</p> <p>We would also be able to provide you with data on what surveys have been done domestically and surveys that have been done in countries to our near north where NAQS also undertakes work, and give you indications of the test on the samples that have been taken and the outcomes of those surveys.</p> <p>Senator SCULLION—That would be very interesting and I am more than happy for you to provide that on notice as a lump. I would appreciate that.</p>

AQIS13	26/05/08	125	SCULLION	<p>Senator SCULLION—In each of those areas do we have some sort of benchmark? For example in the Kimberley area where we have the Kalumbaroo sentinel herd, we shot 20 animals there including 14 donkeys. Plant pathology is consistently taken in Emu Bay, Double Island Bay and Bat Bay. Do we know that those same sentinel plants of interest to us have actually been taken? Do we have a level of confidence that we have covered those herds? As Senator Heffernan was indicating, you should be able to say: ‘We have tested them. We test them every six months. Just because they are wild does not mean we do not have the capacity to test them. We do test them. This is where the results are. This is where they can be found.’ It does not appear to me that I can find that information. I must say that I have not worked that hard to find it, but it is not evident. I do understand that much of that work is out there but I am wondering if you are moving to some specific benchmarking?</p> <p>Ms Gordon—We would be able to provide that information. We have sentinel herds in various places around Northern Australia. We monitor fruit fly trappings on a regular basis. The people based across Northern Australia are engaged in consultative arrangements with their state and territory colleagues and with community groups there to identify the particular survey requirements year on year. We have specific target pests and diseases that we survey for. We also have particular requirements to survey and monitor incursions from illegal foreign fishing vessels as well as specific surveys for avian influenza. All of that data is available and we would be able to put together a fairly neat summary that might be of help to you.</p>
AQIS14	26/05/08	126	SCULLION	<p>Senator SCULLION—I bet your bottom dollar you do not take fins, goggles and a snorkel. I have not seen quarantine officers ever dive underneath and grovel around in these places underwater. It is just a culture and it is not a bad thing. I know of a number of sightings and I have read the reports of most of the sightings. There is a sighting where someone has been ashore and scraped the vessel; they go ashore and look, drive or helicopter around; they do all those sorts of things. But is there any move to have some sort of a sentinel place? We do it generally with marine pests and establishing marine pests. Down south we have little artificial reefs where you hang on a buoy midwater, so if there are any things they will quickly adhere to them and it can be sampled regularly. Even before coming to this place I talked with the department about it. In terms of the marine biosphere and the quarantine impacts, are we thinking about moving seriously into that space?</p> <p>Ms Gordon—I have to take that on notice and come back to you with some further comment on it. By and large we do not employ people and ask them dive. When there are foreign fishing vessels, we work closely with our colleagues in other departments including Customs, and dives are taken on the boats to identify whether there are marine pests that we need to be concerned about. I think that what you are identifying, however, is where there are wrecks or wreckage and there might still be pests adhering to the wrecks.</p>
AQIS15	26/05/08	127	NASH	<p>Senator NASH—On average, how many queen bees come in in a year?</p> <p>Dr Martin—Not very many. There have not been any to my knowledge for quite some time. We can find that out. I can talk to AQIS and find that out.</p> <p>Senator NASH—Thank you.</p>

BA05	26/05/08	128	SCULLION	<p>Senator SCULLION—So in 2005 there were the recommendations of the report. Can you give us a thumbnail sketch of what those recommendations were?</p> <p>Dr Martin—It was just looking at whether there should be an increased number of ports. It made some recommendations about which ports should be done and whether there should be an increase in the number of hives at the ports.</p> <p>Senator SCULLION—Was there to be an increased number of hives at the ports?</p> <p>Dr Martin—Yes, that is my understanding.</p> <p>Senator SCULLION—And an increased number of ports to be covered?</p> <p>Dr Martin—I think so.</p> <p>Senator SCULLION—I will find out at some other stage.</p> <p>Dr Martin—I can provide you with a copy of the report.</p>
PIAPH18	26/05/08	128	SCULLION	<p>Senator SCULLION—Do we have a response plan for the varroa mite?</p> <p>Mr Cahill—That is a matter for Product Integrity, I think.</p> <p>Senator SCULLION—I could perhaps put that on notice. Mr Aldred is always here; he lives here. Thank you very much, Mr Aldred. I am sorry that you are still here at this late hour.</p> <p>Mr Aldred—That is fine, Senator. I will be back tomorrow night, I understand. I am advised that the answer is yes, and we can provide some details on that.</p>
PIAPH19	26/05/08	128	SCULLION	<p>Senator SCULLION—Are you dealing with cloudy wing virus, tracheal mite, a number of other associated foulbroods and that sort of stuff that would go along with that, or is this plan specifically to deal with the varroa mite?</p> <p>Mr Aldred—I will need to take some advice.</p> <p>Dr Garner—We have AUSVETPLAN for a number of bee diseases, including foulbrood, varroa and probably one or two others. Bee diseases are included under the AUSVETPLAN arrangement and are subject to our full emergency disease preparedness planning process. I can get you a list of all the diseases that are covered; I think we have about three or four diseases which have been identified for the bee industry.</p>
PIAPH20	26/05/08	128	SCULLION	<p>Senator SCULLION—So the question would be: how many ports currently receive, I suppose, any international visitation and currently do not have a sentinel hive?</p> <p>Dr Martin—Biosecurity Australia does not look after that program anymore. At the time when that review was done there were 27 ports, but I am sure we can get—</p> <p>Senator SCULLION—I understand the number may be 35.</p> <p>Dr Martin—We can get that information for you.</p> <p>Senator SCULLION—Perhaps you could take this on notice. For clarity, Dr O’Connell, I will repeat the question: how many ports currently have international visitation and are not covered with a sentinel hive?</p>
PIAPH21	26/05/08	128	SCULLION	<p>Senator SCULLION—In fact, I am more than happy to go to that website myself and look for it. You have been most useful. Dr Garner, there is something that may not be particularly in your area but is of interest. There are areas of the world that can now produce bees that are completely free of diseases—particularly in terms of production, because much of the world has obviously been impacted by varroa and other diseases, and it is very important. I understand that we have American and European foulbrood in a number of states of Australia. Is that correct?</p> <p>Dr Garner—Yes, for American foulbrood. I am not sure about the situation with European foulbrood but I can check that for you. I am not a bee expert myself.</p>

BA06	26/05/08	130	NASH	<p>Senator NASH—I will very briefly return to the queen bees and the escorts. How do they meet their end? Do they hit them with a hammer? What happens?</p> <p>CHAIR—Ethyl acetate.</p> <p>Mr Cahill—That sounds like a technical question to me.</p> <p>Dr Martin—I cannot say that I have seen that. We might have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator NASH—Could you take that on notice? I am quite interested if they have a humane finish to their sad trip.</p> <p>Dr Martin—They need to examine the bees under the microscope for the varroa.</p> <p>Senator NASH—Thank you. If you could come back to us, that would be great.</p>
ID08	26/05/08	131	MCGAURAN	<p>Senator McGAURAN—What is the market worth to the US, do you know?</p> <p>Mr Cahill—I will have to take that question on notice.</p>
ID09	27/05/08	4-5	MCGAURAN	<p>Senator McGAURAN—Can I have a list of the programs that you are involved in in this particular area—international agricultural cooperation? What do you actually get up to? Sounds like AusAID to me.</p> <p>Mr Burns—I will take that on notice and we can provide a list of the projects that we have carried out over the last year or so. Would you like the last two years? Three years?</p> <p>Senator McGAURAN—Last year will do.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Mr Burns—It can happen in any country where we identify that there is a particular need. If there was a particular project that we think might be useful in Taiwan then yes we could spend that money there. We do a lot of projects under this program—for example, in Eritrea. When we talked about the live animal trade issue yesterday we mentioned Eritrea as a country that provides an emergency facility for us in the event of a shipment having to be redirected. In doing that, we maintain a strong relationship with the Eritrean agricultural department and provide some training activities in Eritrea. We can give you all of those details.</p> <p>Senator McGAURAN—Details and countries, please, for the last 12 months.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Senator McGAURAN—Where the industry has worked in partnership with the department could you also give me the details.</p>

ID10	27/05/08	8	MCGAURAN	<p>Senator McGAURAN—Is this correct: it has been reported that the Japanese parliament, or Diet I believe it is called, or something of that nature, has moved a resolution or legislation—I am not sure how they do it over there—distinctly excluding agriculture from this free trade agreement. What are you all talking about when the parliament has already laid it down? Their negotiators are bound by that resolution. Is that true? And if it is true, would it have to be reversed by the parliament naturally?</p> <p>Mr Burns—That is not a decision that has been taken at a whole government level in Japan. The resolution that I think you are referring to is from a group that I guess you could equate with this committee.</p> <p>Senator McGAURAN—Right, so it is not the government at all. It is just like one of our parliamentary resolutions or notices of motion, is it?</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN—We must meet this committee; it could be fun!</p> <p>Senator Sherry—I think it is a bit difficult for the officer to make an observation about whether the Japanese Diet has binding resolutions depending on the nature of the resolution et cetera. I do not know whether he has that level of knowledge of the Japanese political system.</p> <p>Senator McGAURAN—I would hope that at least one of our negotiators would have that knowledge, because when they walk into that room they have to know what they are up against. If they are up against the Japanese Diet, which has already said ‘No go’, then what is the point?</p> <p>Senator Sherry—I am sure they do, and I am sure the Japanese cast their eye over resolutions that go through our parliament, in the House of Reps and the Senate, that you and others speak on, and they know the particular insignificance of those sorts of statements that occur from time to time.</p> <p>Senator McGAURAN—Perhaps we could get the status of that resolution.</p> <p>Senator Sherry—We can take that on notice.</p>
ID11	27/05/08	9	MCGAURAN	<p>Senator McGAURAN—What are the planned processes in 2008-09?</p> <p>Mr Burns—The next round of the negotiations is being held in late June, I think. I am not exactly sure of that, but I can check on that for you.</p> <p>Senator McGAURAN—In Japan?</p> <p>Mr Burns—I can check on that. The Japanese do have an election later this year. We do not know the date of that yet; that has not been announced. The number of negotiating sessions and the progress of those will depend very much on the timing of that election.</p>
ID12	27/05/2008	9	McGAURAN	<p>Senator McGAURAN—Does Japan have a free trade agreement with any other country?</p> <p>Mr Burns—I cannot remember them all off the top of my head.</p>
ID13	27/05/08	9	MCGAURAN	<p>Mr Burns—Perhaps what we can do is pass on to you the speech that was delivered by Minister Burke to the Japanese Press Club in Tokyo, in which he made that point very clearly.</p> <p>Senator McGAURAN—Excellent.</p>

ID14	27/05/08	10	MCGAURAN	<p>Senator McGAURAN—So you have got one meeting in your diaries. It is hard enough for us to organise meetings so we do plan ahead as much as we can. You have got one meeting organised with regard to the China free trade agreement in June and no-one knows what is happening after that.</p> <p>Mr Burns—My understanding would be that there are further negotiating sessions post that June meeting, but I do not have the details of the dates at the moment and the assessment of how we are progressing is one that is coordinated by DFAT. I reiterate that the question of tactics and how we negotiate is one that should be directed to DFAT.</p> <p>Senator McGAURAN—Can you take on notice and get back to me about the diary dates for the negotiations with China?</p> <p>Mr Burns—To the extent that we have those, I can take that on notice and pass them on.</p>
ID15	27/05/08	13-14	HEFFERNAN	<p>Senator HEFFERNAN—You could not table for this committee any documentation to support the input of the various industries that Senator Milne is talking about, could you? It is all right to verbally say that. It could be quite meaningless. I am sure the vegetable growers that Senator Milne represents in Tasmania would have some serious concerns. I just wonder whether they had been asked, in the wisdom of the department, about what they think.</p> <p>Mr Burns—The submissions that come into the negotiations are submitted to DFAT by the industry organisations in most cases—in some cases by individual producers—but they remain the property of the groups that have provided the submissions. So we would have to, in the first instance, talk to DFAT and, in the second instance, I suspect seek the permission of the—</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN—So could you do that? Could you write to the various people and ask them, in reflection of their interests, whether they could provide those submissions to this committee?</p> <p>Mr Burns—We could follow up on that—yes, Senator.</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN—Thanks very much.</p> <p>Senator MILNE—I would really like to make sure that that includes those industry groups that expressed concern about what is going on.</p> <p>Senator Sherry—We will take it on notice and will follow up with all of the industry groups that have lodged a submission. Whether they approve it is up to them, but we will follow through with all the industry groups, Senator Milne.</p>
ID16	27/05/08	14	HUTCHINS	<p>Senator HUTCHINS—As Senator Milne was commencing her series of questions in relation to who was vulnerable and who may not be vulnerable in these discussions with China, you referred to a paper.</p> <p>Mr Burns—Before we commenced the negotiations there was a joint feasibility study undertaken with China and there was a modelling exercise done with that which was attached to the report of the feasibility study. I probably tabled that study several estimates committees ago but we can provide another one.</p>
EWC06	27/05/08	21	O'BRIEN	<p>Senator O'BRIEN—As I understand it, currently this season we are looking at over one million tonnes having been exported in containers.</p> <p>Mr Mortimer—That was discussed with the EWC yesterday, and they certainly pointed to the great growth in container trade. I am not aware of any forecasts about what might be the period ahead. I will take that on notice and seek advice from the EWC, if you like, but I am not aware of any particular forecasts on that one.</p>

NRM02	27/05/2008	21-22	SCULLION	<p>Senator SCULLION—I wonder if you can answer some general questions with regard to the regional and rural research and development corporations. I know we have the Grains Research and Development Corporation coming up, but I want to ask specifically about the funding arrangements across all of the cotton, fisheries, grains, grape and wine, land and water, rural industries and sugar R&D. I understand from Budget Paper No. 4 that, if we make a comparison between the agency resourcing and the estimated actual, there is a net increase of about \$7 million. I understood that there is, in fact, an electoral commitment for \$15 million to the agricultural, regional and rural RDCs. I want to know if there is scope under which the seven which I have mentioned come and whether or not those calculations are, in fact, correct.</p> <p>Dr O’Connell—I am not aware of any particular election commitment from the government to provide \$15 million to the R&D corporations.</p> <p>Mr Burns—I think, Senator, that that might be related to climate change initiatives.</p> <p>Senator SCULLION—It may be, but it was specifically directed to the agricultural research and development corporations—those particular development corporations—whether it was for climate change or whatever.</p> <p>Dr O’Connell—I think that the program funding is probably best discussed under the NRM when we get to the climate change programs, because the \$15 million comes under that.</p> <p>Senator SCULLION—I would have thought that these are principally involved—as you would be aware, Mr Secretary—with food production and agriculture, and I thought that under the heading ‘Food and Agriculture’ would be the area where we would be able to get that. Perhaps it is an opportunity for someone to find out.</p> <p>Dr O’Connell—We will find out.</p>
FA03	27/05/08	24-25	MILNE	<p>Senator MILNE—On this issue of food security, I welcome the fact that there are interdepartmental discussions happening. I note the secretary’s statement that the aim of the exercise is to increase productivity. How many hectares have been taken out of food production as a result of the managed investment schemes for forestry?</p> <p>Mr Mortimer—We will have to take that on notice. In all honesty, I am not sure that there has been any measurement of that done. Possibly the best way that it could be measured would be by the obverse calculation; namely, the amount of land put into production under managed investment schemes. But then there is an issue as to whether that went into forest, which might not be considered agriculture, as opposed to other products. A lot of funding from managed investment schemes goes into things like almonds and other products. If you like, we will take that on notice and see what we can find.</p> <p>Senator MILNE—It is particularly important because there are perverse measures that are counterproductive to increasing productivity. As you would be aware, I am talking specifically about managed investment schemes that give incentives to take land out of food production and into pulp production, essentially. I would like to know how many hectares have been taken out. I would also like to know whether there has been any discussion in this interdepartmental committee about managed investment schemes undermining the objective of increased productivity. Has there been any discussion of that?</p>
FA04	27/05/08	25	MILNE	<p>Senator MILNE—Is anyone in the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry looking at the issue of the impact on these schemes in terms of them taking food producing land out of food production? I am talking about forestry, not almonds and olives and things, obviously.</p> <p>Mr Burns—At one stage, we were looking at that issue. But I have not got the details. We will take that one on notice.</p>

FA05	27/05/08	25 and 91	MILNE	<p>Senator MILNE—I will give you notice now: I want to know how many hectares have been taken out of food production for plantations and how many hectares you project will be taken out by the incentive to the energy companies to plant more plantations. And I want that cross-referenced to the water ramifications.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Senator MILNE—Do you not have statistics on land use change in that way? Plantations may not be seen as a land use change because they are both crops.</p> <p>Mr Glyde—We produce forests and wood statistics, and the BRS also produces a <i>State of the Forests</i> report. Perhaps between the two of us we might need to figure out whether or not we can actually answer that question.</p> <p>Senator MILNE—My interest is in a state-by-state analysis of how much land has gone out of crops for food production into crops for plantation production. The state-by-state analysis basically in the last 10 years would be quite interesting to look at.</p> <p>Mr Glyde—We will take that on notice. If we can produce an answer in the course of the evening we will do so, but I suspect not</p>
ABARE01	27/05/08	27	MILNE	<p>Senator MILNE—I just want to hear from the department.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Mr Glyde—We have been for quite a number of years doing some work that looks at—from our farm survey data—what factors seem to distinguish a more productive farm from a less productive farm. In doing that work, we have found that there are a number of factors. They are things like farm size—the bigger the farm, the more efficient and productive they are—the level of education of the farm manager and operator; access to technologies; access to R&D, as Mr Mortimer mentioned earlier on; access to capital; and the efficiency with which they use water. They are all factors that drive productivity on the farm. We can give you, if you like, the detail of the work we have done on that. In addition to that, Senator—as you have been, I think, pointing out—the efficiency of markets on which the farm sector relies is also very critical to the productivity performance of Australian farms: the efficiency of the transport sector; the efficiency of the other infrastructure at getting product out of this country and overseas; the efficiency with which we allocate water in this country. All of those things will also help improve the productivity, if you like, and the level of production that comes out of Australia as Australian agriculture.</p>
FA06	27/05/08	30	MCGAURAN	<p>Senator McGAURAN—There has not been much time between the last estimates and this time, but Senator O'Brien asked for a chart on the number of complaints per state at the last estimates.</p> <p>Mr Mortimer—Yes.</p> <p>Senator McGAURAN—Can I have an update on that?</p> <p>Mr Mortimer—Yes, I am happy to do that.</p> <p>Senator McGAURAN—It probably will not vary much. That is all. Thank you.</p>

GRDC01	27/05/08	36-37	NASH	<p>Mr Reading—We are very happy to send a copy of the document to the committee. All the players came together, be they the bulk handling side, the marketing side or the processing side, and said, ‘We think we can do it.’ It was interesting reading a study out of Europe recently. You know what Europe is like on the whole area of GM.</p> <p>Senator NASH—I am assuming you have included just the basic transport side in that?</p> <p>Mr Reading—Correct. That is in it. Again, I am very happy to send a copy to the committee which goes through all the protocols and processes for each stage in the supply chain that needs to be addressed. But this study in Europe—Europe are pretty paranoid about GM, or have been—says that the biggest risk with canola in terms of segregation issues or cross-contamination issues is either pollen to pollen transfer or volunteers. They are the things you have to watch. A recent study in Europe suggested that you should not grow canola next to another canola field, door-by-door, or in the same field. That is normal segregation practice. Australia already segregates canola. We have juncea canola and we have low-erucic or high-erucic acid canola, which we segregate now through the chain. It says as long as the whole area is not more than 50 per cent of an area being grown, segregation can work through silos and good farming practices.</p>
GRDC02	27/05/08	37-38	O’BRIEN	<p>Senator O’BRIEN—In terms of the work GRDC is doing in the context of exceptionally high fertiliser prices—and, of course, there is your comment about unlocking phosphorus in the soil—this committee has recently taken some evidence about organic fertiliser options. What work is GRDC doing with regard to alternatives to the chemical fertiliser options for Australian growers?</p> <p>Mr Reading—I will just have to take the question on notice on the specific amount, if I can do that. We have always looked at various options in terms of what can be utilised. Some of it has been in terms of organic carbon and the levels going back into the soil. We are also doing work on split applications of fertilisers. In terms of the organic number, I will take that on notice, if that is possible.</p>
GRDC03	27/05/08	41	SIEWERT	<p>ACTING CHAIR—Can you tell me if you are actually doing specific work focused on GE crops versus non-GE crops in terms of herbicide resistance?</p> <p>Mr Reading—Let me take that on notice. I am just trying to remember what the integrated wheat package does and whether it has GM in it. Certainly we will be evaluating that in the national variety trials in terms of how they perform. But I do not know if they will be sprayed with glyphosate or not. I do not know.</p> <p>ACTING CHAIR—Because that is an issue that has been reported from overseas—increasing herbicide resistance under GE crops is escalating. If you could provide us with information on that—what work you are doing, if any, to evaluate the difference between GE and non-GE crops—it would be appreciated.</p> <p>Mr Perrett—A lot of our resistance built up before we had GE crops. Our first one is canola.</p> <p>ACTING CHAIR—I appreciate that. It is an issue that is there and I want to know whether it has actually been examined.</p> <p>Mr Perrett—We will look into it.</p>
GRDC04	27/05/08	41	SIEWERT	<p>ACTING CHAIR—While claims are made that herbicide use is reduced under GE crops, there is also evidence from overseas that in fact that is not the case with some crops. I have just heard Senator Heffernan make an interjection, which I will ignore. Could you provide us with any work that you have done on that.</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN—What I mean is you were right.</p> <p>ACTING CHAIR—He is implying I was right, which is a change. If you could provide us with any work, that would be appreciated too. Has anybody else got any other questions for GRDC? Get away while the going is good!</p>

MLA01	27/05/08	42-43	SCULLION	<p>Senator SCULLION—I have one short question. I will ask Meat and Livestock to comment. Mr Mortimer, in response to a question on food security I had a little while ago, you said in the context of food security, ‘The answer lies largely in our investment in R&D.’ While we have MLA here, CSIRO decided to shut their tropical beef research centre in Rockhampton. With 27 people and a huge corporate history in the area, what sort of impact do you think that will have on our capacity to increase beef production and use the very best animal husbandry practices and cutting edge research? What impact do you think that will actually have on the beef industry?</p> <p>Mr Mortimer—In terms of that particular facility, I am not in a situation to give any advice. I do not know what the focus of its R&D activities were and whether they were being—</p> <p>Senator SCULLION—It was tropical beef.</p> <p>Mr Mortimer—I think it is best if I do not proffer any advice on that.</p> <p>Senator SCULLION—Perhaps MLA might be able to talk about it.</p> <p>Dr O’Connell—I think, again, MLA will be able to assist.</p> <p>Mr Palmer—What I can say is that the budget announcement is a little early for us to understand the full effects. CSIRO’s head of livestock industry is actually going to meet with us on Thursday this week. We hope to be able to quantify what the full effects of it all mean. So I am happy to take the question on, but we really will not know the answers until Thursday at the earliest.</p> <p>Senator SCULLION—Perhaps you could just focus your question on them. Has CSIRO done any assessment of what will be the consequences of closing a research centre?</p> <p>Mr Palmer—I agree. I understand.</p>
MLA02	27/05/08	45	HUTCHINS	<p>Senator HUTCHINS—And do you have figures, not necessarily now, for the amount of, say, beef that goes through the supermarket chains as opposed to lamb as opposed to veal as opposed to mutton?</p> <p>Mr Thomason—Yes, we do.</p> <p>Senator HUTCHINS—If you could supply them to me or the committee, that would be appreciated.</p> <p>Mr Thomason—We can do that.</p>
MLA03	27/05/08	46-47	MCGAURAN	<p>Senator McGAURAN—The story of evolution?</p> <p>Mr Thomason—The role that red meat has played in the development of mankind over three million years.</p> <p>Senator McGAURAN—I have not seen it. Have you seen it?</p> <p>Senator SCULLION—No. But I get the theme anyway.</p> <p>Senator McGAURAN—When did it commence?</p> <p>Mr Thomason—That commenced in 2006. I am certainly happy to send a copy of the campaign to you.</p>

MLA04	27/05/08	51	MILNE	<p>Senator MILNE—I would like to ask how much embedded carbon there is in a leg of lamb landed into Brussels and how much embedded carbon there is in a kilogram steak landed into Tokyo.</p> <p>Mr Palmer—I, for one, cannot give you the answer, but I would be more than happy to take it on board. Seriously, we actually take this—</p> <p>Senator MILNE—I am very serious about this.</p> <p>Mr Palmer—We additionally take this very seriously. We employed recently a very talented officer from the Queensland government to assist in this whole area. The livestock industries take very seriously their role in this whole matter of emissions. We are pleased to see some of the successes that have been achieved since the 1990 Kyoto years, where livestock industries have reduced emissions by about 12 per cent. The other part of your question I might answer slightly differently. I have seen some research work done by Massey University in New Zealand.</p> <p>Senator MILNE—Lincoln.</p> <p>Mr Palmer—Thank you. That shows how favourably New Zealand lamb stacks up against European lamb, and apples and butter. We could extrapolate some of that work to apply to ourselves or do some stand-alone work. But can I take the question on notice? I am happy to come back with an answer.</p> <p>Senator MILNE—It is a bigger question. It really is: why has the Australian meat and livestock industry not anticipated the whole argument about food miles and embedded carbon and recognised this as one of the biggest threats to your export markets that is looming on the horizon? Why is New Zealand now able to tell Tesco exactly how much embedded carbon is in a leg of lamb and yet we have not done any work on it? Why is that?</p> <p>Mr Palmer—We do do work. I will furnish it. Because I cannot answer the question does not mean to say work has not been done. We will furnish you with the answers.</p>
NRM03	27/05/08	55	HEFFERNAN	<p>Mr Quinlivan—There are a couple of processes. There was a meeting recently that Ministers Burke and Wong held with—I am not sure of the precise number—15 to 20 leaders which included the farm leaders.</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN—Could you provide us with the details of that meeting?</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan—Yes, I am sure we can do that.</p>
FA07	27/05/08	57	I.MACDONALD	<p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—As against the forward estimates last year, how much was spent on that package in the current financial year as opposed to what was anticipated?</p> <p>Mr Mortimer—You are talking about the sugar package as a totality?</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Yes. I should have looked at this myself.</p> <p>Mr Mortimer—No, I will find the right piece of paper which hopefully should give me the answers. I do not seem to have the actual dollar numbers by project with me. I will take that on notice if you like.</p>
ABARE02	27/05/08	62	MILNE	<p>Senator MILNE—Have you ever actually examined in any detail the claim that the Saudis have deliberately overestimated their reserves, that when they reviewed and put out the new data on the reserves in the 1980s that they deliberately inflated those reserves? Have you ever looked at that since the late Mr Bakhtiyari says that is clearly what they did do, and he was on the Iranian oil board or equivalent?</p> <p>Mr Glyde—I would have to take that one on notice in terms of the fact that personally I have been involved in this for about 18 months. I would need to go back and check whether over the last five, 10 or 15 years we have looked in any great detail at those particular claims.</p>

ABARE03	27/05/08	65	SIEWERT	<p>Senator SIEWERT—Given the high price of oil at the moment, have you prepared or provided any advice to government about the impact that is having on agriculture, in terms of transport costs and input costs? We know there is a very strong relationship between the price of fertiliser and oil. Have you provided advice and what is the nature of that advice?</p> <p>Mr Glyde—Perhaps I should take this on notice. We have provided some back-of-the-envelope calculations as to what the increase in fuel price might mean in terms of increased costs for the farm sector, for say the livestock or the cropping sector, but that is informal advice within government.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—You have?</p> <p>Mr Glyde—Yes.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—Are you able to provide that advice?</p> <p>Mr Glyde—I will have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator Sherry—Just take that on notice.</p> <p>Mr Glyde—I just do not recall the circumstances under which we provided that information.</p>
ABARE04	27/05/08	66	SIEWERT	<p>Senator SIEWERT—Have you done it outside the Senate, and I know I am not allowed to ask that with the committee process—we have been through that a couple of times today—but have you provided that advice before the select committee was established? Had you previously given advice to government about the rising price of fertiliser and its interaction with the cost of oil?</p> <p>Mr Glyde—I will have to take that on notice. I do not recall the timing when we did that or indeed whether or not we provided advice prior to my time in ABARE. I do not have any briefing on that.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—The point that I am trying to get to is that the price of oil has a significant impact on agriculture and the future of agriculture.</p> <p>Mr Glyde—Absolutely.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—Going back to the dispute we were having earlier about assumptions, the point very strongly being made was that if the price of oil stays high it will have a devastating ongoing impact on agriculture and we have to rethink the way we carry out agriculture in this country. It is critically important for a whole range of reasons, but this committee is particularly focused on agriculture. What advice are you providing to government to do some long-term thinking around the future of agriculture and its reliance on oil?</p> <p>Mr Glyde—The only point I would make there is that it is not just Australian farmers that will be feeling the effects of the high global oil prices and higher fertiliser prices.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—Some countries may have done some securing of fuel, which goes back to what Senator Milne was talking about earlier around oil security.</p> <p>Mr Glyde—They are questions that are probably best answered by the Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism in terms of energy security and what is the best strategy in relation to that.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—I am asking about agriculture and what advice you are providing. What advice are you providing to government?</p> <p>Mr Glyde—As I said, I will take that on notice just to double-check what we have done.</p>
ABARE05	27/05/2008	68	ALLISON	<p>Senator ALLISON—If you could explain why Credit Suisse has the projection of \$100 long term but yours is almost half that?</p> <p>Mr Glyde—When you say ‘long term’, what did they say was long term?</p> <p>Senator MILNE—They did not put a figure on it.</p>

ABARE06	27/05/08	69	FIELDING	<p>Senator FIELDING—My question goes to some of the ongoing research to do with farms and farm sizes. I have seen some figures about the number of farming businesses or farms in Australia and how that has been dropping over a number of years.</p> <p>Mr Glyde—Yes.</p> <p>Senator FIELDING—Could you talk us through that?</p> <p>Mr Glyde—I do not have the numbers in front of me, but we can provide a chart afterwards, if that would help. The long-term trend has been for there to be a decline in the number of farms but at the same time an increase in the total amount of agricultural production. That essentially is one of the key drivers of productivity in the Australian farm sector which, as you are probably aware, is one of the high achieving sectors as far as productivity goes in the Australian economy. Essentially, as farm size has increased farmers have been able to achieve economies of scale and therefore produce more from the same area of land once bundled together or running in a number of different enterprises.</p> <p>Senator FIELDING—So the structure is changing. Is the small family farm disappearing? You obviously look at numbers quite a lot; I have seen your reports and research. What is going on?</p> <p>Mr Glyde—I would have to take on notice the specifics of the farm size. We do have different categories of size.</p> <p>Senator FIELDING—Is there someone here who would know that data?</p> <p>Mr Glyde—You are talking about family farms. The vast majority of Australian farms remain as a family owned farm. The distinction I would make is really much more about the size of the operation, the scale of the operation rather than about the ownership structure of the farm that is actually driving the productivity increases and the improvements in efficiency.</p> <p>Senator FIELDING—Is it true that there has been a 20 per cent decline in the number of farms? Someone is obviously selling up and selling to other farms. Can no-one here give us more of an understanding of what those figures are doing?</p> <p>Mr Glyde—We can provide you with the percentage declines over any sort of period you would like. But I do not think we can do that on the spot today. I do not think anyone has any briefing with that detail on it, unless someone is prepared to advise me to the contrary.</p>
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ABARE07	27/05/08	71	NASH	<p>Dr O’Connell—It might be useful if Mr Glyde went through some work that ABARE has undertaken. I think some of the issues that you are raising go to the question of whether price premiums are engaged in the single desk or not.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Senator NASH—Could you table the document that you have read from?</p> <p>Mr Glyde—There are parts of it that I cannot, so I am happy to provide what I have just said.</p> <p>Senator NASH—Could you do that perhaps by the end of the day?</p> <p>Mr Glyde—Sure.</p> <p>Senator FIELDING—What is that document that you are reading from?</p> <p>Mr Glyde—This is a briefing that I have had for this question.</p> <p>Dr Sheales—I would add to that that all of that is in what was previously provided to this committee. All of it—plus more.</p> <p>Senator NASH—A number of members of this committee were not part of the previous hearing.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Dr Sheales—That is why earlier I mentioned what I said in terms of what was available. But we are certainly happy to provide that.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Senator FIELDING—Could you provide the assumptions behind those notes? They are obviously quite big statements. I would like some background to that. Could you also table the bits that you said you can, the statements you have made, but also—</p> <p>Senator NASH—Supporting evidence.</p> <p>Senator FIELDING—what rationale and supporting evidence is behind those?</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Mr Glyde—I have been reading from a brief that we had in relation to this question. You are asking me to now go back and document all of the assumptions that led to our making these conclusions and the work we did. I am saying that I do not think that is something I can do this evening.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Senator Sherry—I will take it on notice and I will make a request to the minister for that information, if he agrees to make it available. It would be logical to provide the assumptions before the debate on the legislation. I will ask him to do that.</p>
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ABARE08	27/05/08	72-73	FIELDING	<p>Senator FIELDING—There is some analysis on the potential economic impacts of apples imported from New Zealand. Are you having a large input into the World Trade Organisation’s defence of apple biosecurity? I notice that you have done a fair bit of work in the area of analysis of the potential economic impacts of apples imported from New Zealand.</p> <p>Mr Glyde—I would have to take some advice on that in terms of the work that may or may not have been done. But we have not played a major role in doing the economic assessments in relation to the IRAs for apples. I do not know if anyone else at the table can be more specific.</p> <p>Senator FIELDING—I am reading from page 180 of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry annual report 2006-07.</p> <p>Work in 2006–07 included:</p> <p>... ..</p> <p>□ analyses of the potential economic impacts of apples imported from New Zealand (December 2006)</p> <p>Mr Glyde—I do not have a copy of the annual report with me. Is that work that ABARE is said to have done?</p> <p>Senator FIELDING—It is in the ABARE section. It says under the heading ‘Biosecurity’:</p> <p>ABARE aims to develop economic frameworks that support cost-effective biosecurity responses.</p> <p>Work in 2006–07 included:</p> <p>... ..</p> <p>□ analyses of the potential economic impacts of apples imported from New Zealand (December 2006)</p> <p>Mr Glyde—My recollection was that we were working with Biosecurity Australia in terms of developing a framework for the economic assessment of those, but I would have to take on notice the specifics of what we actually did. I do not have that in my head and I do not have it in front of me in my briefing.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Mr Burns—We will check the exact details of the work that was done, as Mr Glyde said. But my recollection—and I am only going off the top of my head—was that that was to help Biosecurity Australia develop a framework on the estimates of the number of apples that might come into Australia to help them with their risk analysis. Basically, it is a probability exercise.</p> <p>Senator FIELDING—Could you come back to us on that? That does not sound like the title that is there. I have read this and it sounds important to me.</p> <p>Mr Burns—When a risk analysis is done, we do not look at the economics of the importation of the product. We look at the economics of the importation of diseases. To do that you have to make estimates of the volume of apples that are likely to come into Australia. That of course is an economic exercise.</p> <p>Senator FIELDING—I may have missed it. Could that particular analysis be tabled?</p> <p>Mr Glyde—We will do our best to find out the specifics of what the analysis was and get back to you with what we had and whether or not we can table it this evening.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN—This is not the impact if we get an outbreak; this is the impact on the marketplace?</p> <p>Mr Glyde—As I said, I will have to check. I do not have a personal recollection of the work.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Mr Burns—Again, I am only going on recall here, but it is not what would be the likely number of Australian farms that might be affected or anything like that. It is really to help with an estimation of the numbers of apples that might come in.</p>
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ABARE09	27/05/08	79-80	NASH	<p>Mr Glyde—On the questions of segregation, we have tried to shed some light on that early on in our report. I think it was last year. We did a sample of farmers I think in WA to get a sense of what some of the costs were if you were going forward with the segregated regime so as to try and shed some light on that. It was not the complete picture. There was some criticism about what we did and did not do in that. But it was our attempt to deal with the segregation question.</p> <p>Senator NASH—Did you talk to the bulk handlers or just the farmers?</p> <p>Mr Glyde—I am not quite sure who we talked to in relation to that report.</p> <p>Senator NASH—It is a big issue, if you did not talk to the bulk handlers. Can you take that on notice?</p> <p>Dr Penm—In April, ABARE held a workshop inviting industry people to discuss the GM issue and also we sent two officers—</p> <p>Senator NASH—Could you provide the list to the committee, on notice, of who you actually had at that workshop?</p> <p>Mr Glyde—Yes.</p> <p>Dr Penm—I missed your question.</p> <p>Senator NASH—Could you provide a list to the committee of the people who attended that workshop?</p>
ABARE10	27/05/08	80	MILNE	<p>Senator MILNE—This is a report of some 400 scientists from around the world. It has the same sort of standing as the IPCC report has on climate. This has it on future scenarios and challenges in agriculture. It is not just any report. It is a peak report. I would like to know, if you can take it on notice, how it fed into it. Can you also tell me where the research is being done for you and who is doing it on GE? Is it all in house or have you got consultancies with various either industry groups or CRCs? Who is actually doing the work for you?</p>
ABARE11	27/05/08	81	NASH	<p>Senator NASH—What markets is that \$600 million worth of canola going into?</p> <p>Dr Penm—Our major export destinations are Japan, Pakistan and other Asian countries.</p> <p>Senator NASH—What are those other Asian countries?</p> <p>Dr Penm—I think they are small countries. Bangladesh, Pakistan and Japan are the major export destinations.</p> <p>Senator NASH—How many minor export destinations are there?</p> <p>Dr Penm—I do not have that information with me.</p> <p>Senator NASH—Could you take that on notice?</p> <p>Dr Penm—Yes.</p>
ABARE12	27/05/08	83	NASH	<p>Senator NASH—Can I just go back to the export destinations? I am sorry; I do not know which official made the comment that there are no current restrictions on GM canola into those destinations. I am happy for you to take this on notice. Could you provide a list to the committee with that list of the actual destinations of on what basis you are making the assumption that there is no restriction and if it is merely that it simply does not exist, that is absolutely fine, but then have you made the assumption that, if somebody was going to try to export GM canola to those countries, they would then put in a restriction saying, ‘No, we do not want it.’</p> <p>Given that it is in such fledgling days, when things are in early development, countries do not necessarily think about what they might want to restrict if it is not planned on being brought in yet. That is a very roundabout way of saying that. But if you have got any proof that those countries would be happy to have GM canola could you provide that to the committee?</p>
ABARE13	27/05/08	87	MCGAURAN	<p>Senator McGAURAN—Can you give me the average of the Victorian northern region dairy farmers income?</p> <p>Dr Penm—I will have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator McGAURAN—Yes.</p>

ABARE14	27/05/08	89	ALLISON	<p>Dr Sheales—I would suggest that every single producer regards this information as commercial-inconfidence to them, but certainly with respect to the amount that is produced, with ethanol from sugar, for example, with the Sarina plant in Queensland I understand the capacity is about 35 million litres a year.</p> <p>Senator ALLISON—It goes to Japan for consumption. It is high-level ethanol.</p> <p>Dr Sheales—That is not the information that has been given to me by the company. There is a plant in Yarraville, in Melbourne, which produces high-grade ethanol that goes into pharmaceuticals, industrial users, and I suspect some of that might be exported.</p> <p>Senator ALLISON—I do not think ethanol from Sarina goes into petrol, not the last time I visited there.</p> <p>Dr Sheales—I can only go with what the company has told me, and I know that they have told plenty of other people this. That is all I can go on.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Whilst I hate to agree with Senator Allison, I thought that a fair percentage of the Sarina output did go to higher quality things. But perhaps if that is not right let us know on notice. I am not doubting you; it is just that I had that sort of impression. But it might be a 10-year-old impression.</p>
ABARE15	27/05/08	90-91	NASH	<p>Senator NASH—Are you aware of any research that is actually happening on ligocellulose in Australia?</p> <p>Mr Glyde—I am not personally aware, but I understand some has been conducted. I think CSIRO is the place to go.</p> <p>Senator NASH—I am very happy for you to take that on notice, if you would not mind, and come back to us. That would be quite useful and we can follow it up from here.</p> <p>Dr Sheales—I understand that there is that sort of research going on. We would have to look up as to who exactly it is.</p> <p>Mr Glyde—We will work with our colleagues to give you an answer.</p> <p>Senator NASH—That would be great.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Assuming the CSIRO still exists. I thought it got decimated.</p> <p>Senator NASH—Exactly. If you could take that on notice for me and also the funding arrangements for that research?</p> <p>Mr Glyde—That is probably a question best directed to CSIRO. We can point you in the direction as to where to go, but finding out exactly what the nature of the funding is for the research is probably a question best put to CSIRO.</p> <p>Senator NASH—I will do that. Thank you.</p>
ABARE16	27/05/08	91	MCGAURAN	<p>Senator McGAURAN—I return to my question on Victorian dairy. I hope that you have taken on notice that the northern irrigated farmers is what I was looking at. Can you also tell me whether this figure is correct as published? Victoria has two-thirds of the dairy farms across the Australia and yet only one third of the sample was taken in Victoria? I would request that you get back to me on the sampling.</p> <p>Mr Glyde—We can do that.</p>
MS07	27/05/08	94	MILNE	<p>Senator MILNE—Could you come back to me with some more specific information about reuse, because my understanding is that those new chips on those cartridges actually are activated to make sure that they cannot be refilled, that the manufacturers have now stopped people being able to refill them. I would really be interested to know what percentage you are now refilling and whether that is a drop in percentage because of the chips being activated to prevent refilling.</p> <p>Mr Pahl—I will come back on that if I could.</p> <p>Senator MILNE—Thank you.</p>

RPI01	27/05/08	95	NASH	<p>Senator NASH—Have you got comparative figures for the 12 months previous?</p> <p>Mr Thompson—We do not have those figures here with us but we could take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator NASH—If you could take that on notice that would be good.</p>
RPI02	27/05/08	95-96	NASH	<p>Senator NASH—One of the earlier witnesses, in one of their reports, was referring to the previous nine months of good rain. I thought might have been a little optimistic on their behalf, but that is by the by. As to the Bureau of Meteorology information that you work from, is it possible—and you can certainly take this on notice—to supply that to the committee so that we can have a look at the actual information that you are working on to determine your view of the likelihood of drought and drought forecast?</p> <p>Mr Thompson—Yes, we can do that. The piece of information we draw on for the current situation is material that is publicly available by and large in the National Agricultural Monitoring System, and, for the bureau forecasts, we rely on their regular seasonal forecasts and drought forecasts which, again, are publicly available reports.</p>
RPI03	27/05/08	97	NASH	<p>Senator NASH—There is nowhere in any department that is pulling all of this sort of stuff together to give us a picture of how the drought is affecting rural Australia? From what you just said, it sounds like there are lots of things happening but there is no one, overarching thing drawing all of that together so we can get a picture of what I would imagine is the fairly dramatic effect this is having on rural communities?</p> <p>Mr Thompson—I am not aware of any particular study that draws all that together.</p> <p>Senator NASH—Is the government planning on looking at that? I am aware that you are representing only the other minister but—</p> <p>Senator Sherry—Beyond what has been indicated, the analysis that Mr Burke has announced, and the detail to come, no, I will have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator NASH—If you could take that on notice and take it back to the minister because I very genuinely think that it is something that is very important that we start focusing on, particularly if the drought does not break this year. We are going to be in a dire situation in rural and regional Australia; there is no doubt about that. But that is not for this evening.</p>
RPI04	27/05/08	98	NASH	<p>Senator NASH—What date in June is that expiry?</p> <p>Ms Cupit—In those 20 areas, I will have to check the exact timing, but I think its 19 areas are due to expire on 15 June and one area is due to expire on 30 June.</p>
RPI05	27/05/08	100	NASH	<p>Senator NASH—Between February and now have you had any interest or any expressions—</p> <p>Mr Thompson—I do not have those figures for between February and now but there has been a continuing small level of interest. The number of farmers expressing interest in it is roughly the same as they were before. If you wanted the details of the difference between February and now, we would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator NASH—Yes, if you could take that on notice.</p>
RPI06	27/05/08	104	SCULLION	<p>Senator SCULLION—Would you be able to provide us with the two prior three-month reports that have been provided to you by the Bureau of Meteorology?</p> <p>Mr Thompson—Yes.</p>

RPI07	27/05/08	106	SIEWERT	<p>Senator SIEWERT—Also, can you tell us who the successful tenderer was?</p> <p>Ms Kidman—The decision on the preferred applicant has been made. That is the North East Farming Futures Group Incorporated.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—On the same issue, where are they based?</p> <p>Ms Kidman—They are actually based in Morawa, Western Australia.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—How long have they been operating?</p> <p>Ms Kidman—I am not sure of that. I would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—Could you provide us with that information. Do you have the 10 criteria that were used?</p> <p>Senator ADAMS—No, I do not have them.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT— Could you provide us with the 10 criteria that were used for that assessment, please?</p>
RPI08	27/05/08	106	ADAMS	<p>Senator ADAMS—May we have the background of that particular group, because I know that it has not been going very long.</p>
RPI09	27/05/08	107	ADAMS	<p>Senator ADAMS—Can I continue then? Can you please provide further details of the sorts of policies and programs that RIRDC will be working on over the next year in output groups 1.1, that is the new rural industries; 1.2, established rural industries; and 1.3, national rural issues?</p> <p>Mr Thompson—We can do that. We would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator ADAMS—I was going to ask you to do that because I know we are running out of time. Are you planning to abolish policy areas or programs from output 1.3? In the national rural issues given on page 216 of the portfolio budget statement it is stated: “The RIDC will focus on a smaller number of issues of national interest in future”. I would like this on notice. If so, which areas? Thank you.</p> <p>Mr Thompson—We would have to take that on notice, too.</p>
FA08	27/05/2008	109	SIEWERT	<p><i>New Industries Development Program</i></p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—Thank you. I would like to ask about the funding program for the development of new industries, which I understand now has been cut, or that program has been wound now into the package under climate change of \$130 million, if I understand it correctly. There were projects that were still being funded under that program, so what happens to those projects?</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—I want to make sure that the projects that were being funded were able to be finished and were not just cut.</p>

RPI10	27/05/08	109-110	SIEWERT	<p>Senator SIEWERT—Do you have a figure on how much the federal government is investing in research into genetically engineered crops in Australia?</p> <p>Dr O’Flynn—The question is possibly in two parts. We have invested some funding through the work that we have commissioned under the National Biotechnology Strategy. That is not actually into research, that is more into analysis and communication. The research in GM crops would be through the Research and Development Corporation, and I cannot answer that question.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—There was quite a lot of discussion under GRDC, but is that the only area that you are funding into or are there other areas?</p> <p>Mr Thompson—No. I think you will find that most of the industry based R&D corporations have an element of their funding directed at GM. Cotton does; sugar has some and grains has quite a bit as you are aware. We could take it on notice. Just as Peter Redding was able to give you that answer yesterday for GRDC, we would be able to take it on notice and get it for all the R&D corporations.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—If you could that would be very much appreciated. Could you also take on notice to give me a run-down on any research or the funding items on organic agriculture?</p> <p>Mr Thompson—I think we can do that as well.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—If that is possible it would be appreciated. Thank you. Is it possible when you are providing the information to tell us the amount of funding and who is doing those research projects?</p> <p>Mr Thompson—We would have to check with each of the R&D corporations, but at the level at which they disaggregate their project funding, the amount of money, and unless there is something I am unaware of, usually the name of the research institution is available.</p>
RPI11	27/05/08	110	SIEWERT	<p>Senator SIEWERT—I am aware of that. I am also aware that genetically modified organisms are currently being released into the environment and you have just gone through a budget process. Labor also promised that there would be ‘a strong national body that is independent and scientifically based that will be overseeing the process’.</p> <p>Are there any proposals to date to put in place that strong national body?</p> <p>Senator Sherry—I will take it on notice and check with the minister.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—That would be appreciated. Thank you.</p>

RPI12	27/05/08	111	I.MACDONALD	<p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Mr Thompson, you mentioned that the RIRDC Rural Women's Awards was on tonight. Is that correct?</p> <p>Mr Thompson—I think so.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Could you obtain on notice for us a list of the invitees to that?</p> <p>Mr Thompson—Yes, we can.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Off the top of your head do you know why Senator Adams and Senator Nash were not invited this year as they have been in previous year, apart from the fact that they are busy at estimates?</p> <p>Senator Sherry—That is right. I did not get an invite either, representing the minister, because I knew I would be here.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—It is rural women.</p> <p>Senator Sherry—I am sure that males would be invited as well. I do not think that we would be precluded.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—In past years these two senators representing very rural constituencies have been invited. I do not think they have been this year. Perhaps the organisers knew they would be at estimates, but I doubt that that is the case. So, is there some reason for their not being selected?</p> <p>Mr Thompson—The organisation of the event is undertaken by RIRDC. I would have to take advice from them as to who was on the invitation list.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—But you will get the list for me?</p> <p>Mr Thompson—Yes.</p>
RPI13	27/05/08	112	SCULLION	<p>Senator SCULLION—Dr O'Connell, I know you have a longstanding and keen interest in innovation and research and I just wondered if you would be able to comment. But historically and from other jobs that I know you have had, can you comment on the fact that \$66 million has been taken out of one sector. This is not research; we have already dealt with the research stuff; that has already been cut to blazes. Have you any sort of handle on what the impacts of that are going to be?</p> <p>Dr O'Connell—You have quoted the figure of \$66 million, which I am not sure of. I could take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator SCULLION—Certainly.</p>
NRM04	27/05/08	114	ABETZ	<p>Senator ABETZ—We will give it a go here and see how we go. Community Coast Care tells us what a coastal hot spot is. It then goes through a number of categories. I turn to the state of Tasmania. It seems that we only have hot spots in the south on the Derwent estuary and its catchment and on the Pittwater-Orielton Lagoon Ramsar site. Can I ask on what basis these 12 hot spots around Australia were determined and, in particular, why the Tamar River estuary, with all its problems, is not on this list?</p> <p>Dr O'Connell—Senator, I think this would be better put to DEWHA. They manage this, although this goes to the joint management.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—What is the bet they will tell me to come back here, but we will see how we go.</p> <p>Dr O'Connell—No. They will know it well.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—If I may, I will try and ask them there. I request the committee to take the question on notice and, between the two departments, come up with an answer for me. I would be much obliged if that could happen because I am not sure that I will necessarily get to the environment portfolio with this.</p> <p>Dr O'Connell—Okay. We will make sure they are prepared for you.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—Can I ask in relation to—</p> <p>Senator Sherry—Do you want us to refer your question to them? It is not the normal process.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—Yes. If NRM take it because they manage it with Environment, I imagine that any question on NRM would be passed through both departments in any event. If I may, I will leave them here and the specific advice can be obtained. Thank you, Dr O'Connell.</p>

NRM05	27/05/08	115	ABETZ	<p>Senator ABETZ—Hardly likely, but that is for the future. The money that the NRM groups currently have is surely subjected to some process or some criteria. Under the existing criteria can I ask: would you be able to use the money for a study on how to remove silt from a river?</p> <p>Mr Smith—I understand that we are already funding siltation studies, for instance, in the Tamar. The Australian government is jointly funding those with the Tasmanian government. So under the current—</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—That is the estuarine management in the Tamar.</p> <p>Mr Smith—I do not have the exact details of the program, but I do know that the Australian government is funding a study to address siltation and to provide mapping and awareness—</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—To stop siltation. That is what they are being funded for at the moment—to find out the cause of it, to try to stop it and to remediate it. But as to the actual siltation problem in the river, I have never heard of an NRM grant or regional body in fact funding the actual removal of silt from a river or a study for the removal of silt from a river—how best to do it just from a logistics point of view.</p> <p>Mr Smith—I am happy to take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—If you could, that would be helpful.</p>
NRM06	27/05/08	120	SIEWERT	<p>Senator SIEWERT—Can we go back to the 60 per cent historical funding. I want to be very clear about what that is based on. Is that the whole of the funding that the NRM group got, or is it based on an admin section they got? Is it based on the whole of the money that was delivered for their investment plan at the end of the three years? Is that what you mean by historical funding?</p> <p>Mr Smith—The historical funding relates to the funding under the life of the NAP, the national action plan for salinity and water quality, and the Natural Heritage Trust.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—Was it the first year funding, the second year or the third year?</p> <p>Mr Smith—I will take it on notice. I have a feeling it is certainly more than those. It is about six or seven years of funding.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—So you are averaging it?</p> <p>Mr Smith—It is averaged over the life of those two programs.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—NHT2 or 1?</p> <p>Mr Smith—NHT2 only and the NAP. As you know, the NAP was a seven-year program that was extended for another year and the NHT2 was about a six-year program.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—So you are going to get back to me and confirm whether it is an average for that period of time. Is that what you are going to do?</p> <p>Mr Smith—That is right.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—That would be appreciated.</p>
NRM07	27/05/2008	121	SIEWERT	<p>Senator SIEWERT—And the 15 per cent is 15 per cent across the board?</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan—On average, yes.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—Right. Thank you.</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan—I hope that was right.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—Can you clarify that to make sure it is.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Senator Sherry—We will even provide on notice for you some practical illustrations about how it is applied.</p>

NRM08	27/05/08	121	SIEWERT	<p>Senator SIEWERT—I appreciate that. But if it was the status quo they were not able to competitively compete for the other funding that you are talking about—in fact, some regional groups are not lucky enough to have icons—have you done an analysis of what each regional group wins or loses?</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan—Well, we have made a careful analysis of the individual circumstances of the regional bodies in deciding the allocation of that additional 15 per cent. So I think the answer to your question is yes, because we made a careful assessment of their need.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—Can you provide that information to the committee so we have an idea of which regional groups?</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan—I think we would have to take that on notice because that information was generated with another department. In some cases, it could be quite sensitive to the future of the regional body.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—That is exactly the point.</p> <p>Senator Sherry—We will take it on notice.</p>
NRM09	27/05/08	122	SIEWERT	<p>Mr Smith—On the consultation process, the program has been developed in consultation with the states and territories. I understand there have also been some discussions with other non-government organisations. But I do not have full details of all those groups that were consulted and which groups were not and which groups were.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—Can you provide a list of who has been consulted, please, from the NGO perspective?</p> <p>Mr Smith—I can try to do that, yes.</p>

NRM10	27/05/08	125	I.MACDONALD	<p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Thank you, Senator Sherry. You are not going to enter into it. Because of the time, can I just ask three very simple questions? Senator Siewert asked what jobs have been lost We got the bureaucratic answer—that is not a derogatory term. It is what you would say if you are protecting your present minister, which is what you are required to do. Could we get a detail in writing of the actual job losses throughout country Australia that this 60 per cent has caused? We can all at this table give you a start if you cannot count them elsewhere because the job losses in regional Australia are quite enormous. Could we, on notice, get you to provide for us the job losses that you were able to ascertain from the 56 NRM bodies? Is that okay?</p> <p>Dr O’Connell—Over what period would you be wanting this?</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—From the change of government to the time you get the answers to us, which is within two or three weeks of today. There will continue to be job losses and I am already aware that there have been substantial job losses to date.</p> <p>Dr O’Connell—We need to be very clear about precisely what you are asking. What sort of job losses are you talking about: direct employees funded by government funding or are you—</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Each NRM body has a budget out of which they pay their CEO, their board members and their staff.</p> <p>Dr O’Connell—Their budgets are not all funded by the Commonwealth. In many cases their budgets are only marginal.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—There have been substantial job losses. All I am asking you to do is a quick survey of the 56 bodies, come back to us and tell me how many jobs that were there on 23 November 2007 are not there now?</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan—There has not been any change in their funding so far. They may be anticipating changes and they may be correct or they may be quite wrong in anticipating those changes.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—You would know, Mr Quinlivan. They are all directors of the board and they have to plan for their future in accordance with the corporate responsibility of board directors. So they are sacking people they know they will not be able to fund through to the area. You may be right. Maybe there have not been any job losses, but, if that is the case, it will not take you long to ring around the 56 and say, ‘Okay there have been no job losses.’ I am sure you will find differently, so what I am asking is that you give us those, on notice, by the end of the question period.</p> <p>Dr O’Connell—I am not sure that I can follow through on your request without it being a little bit more specific. We cannot reasonably look to capture an account of all job changes between then and now when they are unrelated to our funding.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Let me be very specific Dr O’Connell. Ring the Northern Gulf catchment’s NRM, ask them how many they had employed on the 20 November 2007, and how many they have employed now. Maybe the answers will be an embarrassment to me, but I am prepared to take the risk.</p> <p>Dr O’Connell—I think the issue is what relationship would that have to our program changes?</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—It is a different question. Just get an answer for me, please.</p> <p>Senator Sherry—Let us cut through this. You want the number of positions as of the day after the election and the number of positions as of today and maybe we can get a projection. I will take that on notice; I know what you want.</p>
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NRM11	27/05/08	125-126	I.MACDONALD	<p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Would you take another two questions on notice because time is running out. Regarding states contribution to NRM bodies, could we get on notice a detail of that. I asked this last time and got the equivocal answer which we used to get in the past, but I really want to know what the states have contributed to the NRM bodies. Take that however you will, but please come up with some answers.</p> <p>Senator Sherry—I had anticipated you there. I had actually just mentioned that. Or do you mean—</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Senator Sherry it is your problem now.</p> <p>Senator Sherry—That is the price of responsibility. I have agreed to take this on notice; it has been taken on notice on behalf of the minister and the research will be done.</p>
NRM12	27/05/08	126	I.MACDONALD	<p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—My third question is this: please assure me that the arrangement that applies in Queensland and Western Australia and perhaps in other states in relation to natural resource management bodies, as opposed to state organised subsidiaries of their departments' catchment management groups, will continue unchanged.</p> <p>Mr Smith—As you have rightly said, Queensland and WA have community based arrangements compared with the other states, which have statutory. I do not think the Australian government is in a position to make any assurances around that. Those arrangements are purely for those states and territories.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—No, no, come on Mr Smith. We went through all this eight years or however long ago. They all should have been the community model in my view, but back years ago the department erroneously accepted that state governments could appoint the catchment management authorities and they became instrumentalities of state governments. In Queensland and Western Australia they were genuine community based organisations that were very well run, in spite of my initial reservations, that you guys all convinced me was the right way to go. The Commonwealth does have a role in that. I should not be putting you in a difficult position. All I am seeking, perhaps from the minister, is an assurance that the arrangements for appointment of NRM bodies in at least Queensland and Western Australia will not change.</p> <p>Senator Sherry—I will have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Of course.</p>
NRM13	27/05/08	128-129	SIEWERT	<p>Senator SIEWERT—Could you clarify one more thing about the Landcare program? Is that now rolled into this? Could they take it on notice?</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—I do take the point. This is, however, an extremely important program and I have been sitting here very patiently for two days. Could you please take it on notice and provide me with information about the future of the Landcare program? Is it rolled into this or, if it is not, what is its ongoing funding?</p> <p>Senator Sherry—We will take it on notice.</p>
FF01	27/05/08	130	ABETZ	<p>Senator ABETZ—Thank you. There was a review of Tasmanian forest contractors implemented. That was to report in November. Has that review been received?</p> <p>Mr Bartlett—Not to my knowledge.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—When are you anticipating that review?</p> <p>Mr Bartlett—I will have to take that on notice.</p>

FF02	27/05/08	130-131	ABETZ	<p>Senator ABETZ—That is a great answer, thank you. There is a nuisance in Tasmania who likes placing advertisements. Part of the advertisement says, ‘Plantation managed investment schemes promoted and protected by Senator Abetz, the former minister for forests, will now be under close scrutiny by the Australian Taxation Office.’ You have confirmed that they are now legislated schemes, and that will not be occurring. Do Forestry or you, Mr Bartlett, have any views in relation to the cuts to the CSIRO which mean that we will now have only one area for dedicated forestry research, the CRC for Forestry?</p> <p>Mr Bartlett—No, I do not have any views.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—No views? Minister, do you think that this is going to be helpful for Forestry?</p> <p>Senator Sherry—I will take it on notice and discuss it with the minister.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—Thank you.</p>
FF03	27/05/08	131	ABETZ	<p>Senator ABETZ—Can you tell us, either now or on notice, what is happening with the FV <i>Taruman</i>, which has been rusting away at Hobart’s port?</p>
FF04	27/05/2008	131	MILNE	<p>Senator MILNE—No, because the Auditor-General has now confirmed that Senator Abetz was not told of his responsibilities and therefore has not breached his responsibilities. I would like to ask this of the department: who has taken responsibility for failing to inform the minister? This is important. The Auditor’s report said that there were no operating procedures developed for administering the programs; the assessment process was not transparent and not consistent with the commonly applied standards of grants administrations; the advice provided to ministers did not accurately reflect where assessments were not completed by the department, the Tasmanian Department of Economic Development or the independent assessor and where the scope of the assessment was restricted by the committee. That is pretty damning. Who is taking responsibility? In the regional grants process, people were forced to take responsibility. Who is taking responsibility for the complete maladministration of this fund?</p> <p>Dr O’Connell—I have only had a short look, but it does look as though the context of your question would have made it clear that it did not refer to Minister Burke but to the previous minister. On that basis, I apologise for the department misinterpreting the question when they came to draft the answers. I am happy to undertake to provide a corrected answer to you.</p>
AFMA01	27/05/08	133	SIEWERT	<p>Senator SIEWERT—How long were the fishers in the Darwin detention centre.</p> <p>Mr Hurry—I would have to take that on notice. It is probably more a question for Immigration, but we could probably get the figures for you.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—That would be appreciated.</p>
AFMA02	27/05/08	133	SIEWERT	<p>Senator SIEWERT—The Queensland fin fishery: I am sure you are aware that there is controversy raging over the potential for sharks to be taken for fins in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. I am getting blank looks.</p> <p>Mr Hurry—If it is a Queensland state fishery, it is a Queensland government fishery and it would be an issue for the Queensland government. There is a tuna fishery that operates off the Queensland coast out of Mooloolaba that in the course of taking tuna probably takes shark as well. We monitor it very carefully. There have been some prosecutions for the illegal take of shark fin in that fishery and, from memory, there was a recent one.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—Could You take on notice to provide me with the details around how many people have been taking?</p> <p>Mr Hurry—I can give you the information on the last prosecution that we had and whether there have been any previous ones. If it is a Queensland state shark fishery then it is an issue for the Queensland government, but I can provide you with the details on the Commonwealth fishery that operates out of those waters.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—That would be appreciated.</p>

AFMA03	27/05/08	133	SIEWERT	<p>Senator SIEWERT—has there been a decrease in funding for IUU surveillance?</p> <p>Mr Hurry—No.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—Could you provide on notice details of the funding for that particular line item?</p> <p>Mr Hurry—Yes, Senator.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—And compared to last financial year.</p> <p>Mr A. Grant—Can I just clarify that: do you mean the whole of the illegal foreign fishing package, which is a government process across the board involving a whole lot of other agencies, or just the surveillance component?</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—Just the surveillance component of it.</p> <p>Mr Hurry—Which Customs or Defence have responsibility for.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—Yes.</p>
AFMA04	27/05/08	134	SCULLION	<p>Senator SCULLION—I have some supplementary questions to the questions asked by my colleague, Senator Siewert. I have put AFMA on notice that I may be asking some questions, and I understand you may have even provided a photograph of these fish traps. For the benefit of those people who are not across the detail, I understand that there was some confusion with a fish trap—or so it has been given to me by the minister, and I would acknowledge that he rang me personally at the time to explain what had happened. I would appreciate that perhaps on notice or your providing the photograph of it—I do not really need it at the moment.</p>
AFMA05	27/05/08	135	SCULLION	<p>Senator SCULLION—Indeed. I have also spoken to the same individuals, but I will not go into that too much. I just think it is extremely important that we see this as a different circumstance in terms of any compensation because, as you would well know, when this gets out of hand in Australia the media will pick this up extremely quickly. We have had some very nasty historical incidents of that. I look forward to you, perhaps on notice, providing me with the series of changes you have made in the operating procedures. Certainly I would like to see the capacity, if there is some doubt, to ensure that we are sending back photographs to those people who may have more experience. Perhaps you can give us an update on the exactly training regime for the new recruits in AFMA.</p> <p>Mr Hurry—We can do that, Senator Scullion.</p>
NRM14	n/a	Written	ABETZ	<p><i>Defeating the Weeds Menace</i></p> <p>Can you give me a brief description or overview of the new National Weeds and Productivity Research program?</p>
NRM15	n/a	Written	ABETZ	<p><i>Defeating the Weeds Menace</i></p> <p>How much is the reduction in annual spending in the new programme from what has been spent annually in the past through the Defeating the Weeds Menace programme?</p>
NRM16	n/a	Written	ABETZ	<p><i>Defeating the Weeds Menace</i></p> <p>What will happen to the Weeds of National Significance (WoNS) list which was determined and agreed to by all states and the Federal Government after vast amounts of research and discussion?</p>
NRM17	n/a	Written	ABETZ	<p><i>Defeating the Weeds Menace</i></p> <p>Through the new programme, will the Australian Government continue to act as the coordinator with states on this issue and provide guidance on the issue of weeds, determining which weeds are a national threat and what to do about them?</p>
NRM18	n/a	Written	ABETZ	<p><i>Defeating the Weeds Menace</i></p> <p>How much, if any, funding (of the \$5 million PA) is allocated to national coordination?</p>

NRM19	n/a	Written	ABETZ	<i>Defeating the Weeds Menace</i> Will the www.weeds.gov.au website continue to operate under this program?
NRM20	n/a	Written	ABETZ	<i>Defeating the Weeds Menace</i> Did the Government consult with peak bodies, industry or National Weeds Advisory Group when it determined that funds for DWM should be cut?
NRM21	n/a	Written	ABETZ	<i>Defeating the Weeds Menace</i> Will the Government continue to seek advice from the National Weeds Advisory Group (NWAG) or will NWAG be disbanded?
RPI18	n/a	Written	ABETZ	<i>Tas Poppy Growers/Clyde River</i> How many poppy growers in the Clyde River area have received or are set to receive money through the drought assistance programs run by the Australian Government?
NRM22	n/a	Written	ABETZ	<i>Caring For Our Country</i> What is the specific reason for cuts to the budgets of regional Natural Resource Management (NRM) bodies?
NRM23	n/a	Written	ABETZ	<i>Caring For Our Country</i> Are NRM bodies going to have any indication given to them about forward years of funding, despite the annualised delivery of actual money? Will there be an indication of forward funding given for the purposes of NRM body planning?
NRM24	n/a	Written	ABETZ	<i>Caring For Our Country</i> Have any NRM bodies made contact with the department or the Minister's office to indicate that under the new budget they will be operating under their viability threshold?
NRM25	n/a	Written	ABETZ	<i>Caring For Our Country</i> Does the department have any sort of estimated figure of the value of leveraged funds (from private enterprise and community groups) lost as a result of the funding cuts to NRM regional bodies?
NRM26	n/a	Written	ABETZ	<i>Caring For Our Country</i> However, under the new Caring for our Country program will regional bodies have to put in bids for funding for projects against projects from other bodies from across the country?
NRM27	n/a	Written	ABETZ	<i>Caring For Our Country</i> Are there going to be any categories for NRM bodies to apply for funding in or will it be one general pool – all projects measured against one another?
NRM28	n/a	Written	ABETZ	<i>Caring For Our Country</i> Who will make the final decisions on which body gets the funding from the national pool of money? The Minister, the Department or an independent body?

NRM29	n/a	Written	ABETZ	<i>Caring For Our Country</i> I am aware of a number of projects that have been funded in previous rounds of NHT that deal with Threatened Species. Will there be a special fund for projects that deal with threatened species?
NRM30	n/a	Written	ABETZ	<i>Caring For Our Country</i> Could you also inform me how many projects that were funded through NHT 1 & NHT 2 dealt with threatened species?
NRM31	n/a	Written	ABETZ	<i>Rock Lobster Project</i> Given the new format for the allocation of funding is the national/competitive pool, there is no guarantee for ongoing funding – only for 12 months, how are groups supposed to be able to engage in long-term and sustained projects with industry if there is no continuity or certainty of funding?
NRM32	n/a	Written	ABETZ	<i>Rock Lobster Project</i> Are there any other programmes in place under this Caring for our Country program that will deal with the long-spined Sea Urchin?
NRM33	n/a	Written	ABETZ	<i>Landcare</i> Have there been any funding cuts to the Landcare program at all through the budget? If so, in what areas?
NRM34	n/a	Written	ABETZ	<i>Landcare</i> Is funding delivery going to be any different from previous years?
NRM35	n/a	Written	ABETZ	<i>Landcare</i> Is there any plan to let community groups know about the plans for the delivery of the funding from this financial year onward?
NRM36	n/a	Written	ABETZ	<i>Landcare</i> Who will make the final decision on the awarding of grants, the Minister, the Department or an independent body?
FF05	n/a	Written	ABETZ	<i>Forestry</i> Since the 24th of November 2007, how much money has been expended from the Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement Industry Development Grant Programs, specifying the individual beneficiaries?
BA07	n/a	Written	ADAMS	<i>Prawn testing</i> Is it true that quarantine restrictions were imposed on IHHNV exotic strain (a) before it was proven that the strain was absent from Australia, (b) without carrying out challenge tests to prove the strain was harmful to Australian species; and (c) before BA was confident that tests to differentiate the strains existed?
BA08	n/a	Written	ADAMS	<i>Prawn testing</i> Don't OIE guidelines specify these fundamental requirements to justify quarantine restrictions?

BA09	n/a	Written	ADAMS	<i>Prawn testing</i> Is it true that the (so-called) exotic strain of IHNV has now been identified in Australian farmed prawns using laboratories accredited by BA? If so, why hasn't BA recommended to AQIS that testing for that disease be immediately dropped?
BA10	n/a	Written	ADAMS	<i>Prawn testing</i> Doesn't BA's lack of action expose Australia to WTO compensation claims, as well as needlessly damaging Australian businesses?
BA11	n/a	Written	ADAMS	<i>Prawn testing</i> Isn't it true that alternative, post border controls would significantly mitigate the risk of prawn disease incursion and reduce the need for costly quarantine restrictions? For instance, doesn't the greatest risk arise from the remote possibility of prawn farmers (negligently) feeding prawns (local or imported) to their own stock?
BA12	n/a	Written	ADAMS	<i>Prawn testing</i> Why hasn't BA insisted that State Governments take action on this recommendation?
BA13	n/a	Written	ADAMS	<i>Prawn testing</i> Is BA aware that it is already illegal for importers to sell prawns for any purpose other than human consumption?
BA14	n/a	Written	ADAMS	<i>Prawn testing</i> Does the risk from prawn disease warrant this cost, given that Asian prawn farms manage all these diseases with little or no impact on production?
NRM37	n/a	Written	BIRMINGHAM	In October 2007, prior to the election, the Australian Government allocated \$450,000 to the CSIRO for a three-year biological control into Wandering Trad in the Dandenong Ranges. To what extent will the expected outcomes of the program for which the \$450,000 was allocated to the CSIRO be achieved through the \$15 million National Weeds and Productivity Research Program administered by Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry?
NRM38	n/a	Written	BIRMINGHAM	Is funding still being provided to the CSIRO and, if so, what involvement will the CSIRO have in the National Weeds and Productivity Research Program?
BRS01	n/a	Written	BUSHBY	<i>Australian forests at a glance</i> The Bureau, together with others, has for a number of years produced a publication titled <i>Australian forests at a glance</i> . Can the Bureau confirm that this publication will continue to be produced annually and, if so, whether there are any plans to alter it in any substantial manner (whether physically, its name, or in terms of content)? If not, what is the intended future of this publication? Will it be replaced with anything similar?
CP09	n/a	Written	FIERRAVANTI-WELLS	What appointments have been made to boards, advisory committees, or any other quasi autonomous non-governmental organisations (quangos) within the following departments and agencies within the responsibility of these departments since 24 November 2008: Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
CP10	n/a	Written	FIERRAVANTI-WELLS	Please list all quangos within the following departments and agencies within the responsibility of these departments: Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

MS08	n/a	Written	FIERRAVANTI-WELLS	<p>In relation to the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and agencies within its responsibility, please answer the following questions in relation to each of the Federal seats of Banks, Lowe, Bennelong, Macquarie, Cunningham, Throsby, Barton, Watson, Charlton and Werriwa:</p> <p>a) What programs, initiatives or other undertakings of the Howard Government will be maintained under the Rudd Government?</p> <p>b) What programs, initiatives or other undertakings of the Howard Government will be reversed under the Rudd Government?</p> <p>c) What new programs, initiatives or other undertakings will be allocated to these seats under the Budget?</p>
CP11	n/a	Written	FIERRAVANTI-WELLS	<p>Please advise whether the list of items under the policy heading on the ALP website http://www.alp.org.au/ constitutes the total sum election "promises" made by the Rudd Government within the following portfolios: Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry</p> <p>If not, please provide a comprehensive list which includes all promises referred to on the ALP website as well as those that were made but are not contained on the ALP website?</p>
AWI18	n/a	Written	HEFFERNAN	<p>In a question to Dr Abell about the appointment of Mr Christopher Chapman as Company Secretary and Legal Counsel, Dr Abell admitted that the Board and he knew about Mr Chapman's past criminal record before he was appointed (page 45), yet in a Press Release (<i>The Land</i>, 27 May 2008) and an email from Mr Chapman dated 30 May 2008, the email states: "<i>I joined AWI in October 2003. In early 2004, an individual AWI Board member asked that these matters from nearly 20 years earlier be examined by the Board.</i>" (Copy of email submitted to Committee).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Would AWI please clarify this anomaly to the Committee? 2. In light of Mr Chapman's appointment, does AWI run criminal and background checks on new employees?
BRS02	n/a	Written	I.MACDONALD	<p>(a) Have there been any surveys done of arable land (ie land suitable for agriculture) across northern Australia?</p> <p>(b) Are details available?</p> <p>(c) If so, could I have the reference on where they may be found?</p>
CP04	n/a	Written	SCULLION	<p><i>FOI Procedures</i></p> <p>Has the minister written to the department outlining his requirements for the processing of FOI requests?</p> <p>Could a copy of that letter be provided to the committee?</p>
CP05	n/a	Written	SCULLION	<p><i>Management Services – FOI Procedures</i></p> <p>Has the minister or the minister's office given any directions to the department detailing the minister's requirements in relation to FAI requests?</p> <p>What was the nature of that advice?</p>
CP06	n/a	Written	SCULLION	<p><i>FOI Procedures</i></p> <p>Has the departmental secretary or any other authorised departmental official provided written advice to executive managers detailing the minister's requirements with FOI's?</p> <p>Could a copy of that advice be provided to the committee?</p>

CP07	n/a	Written	SCULLION	<i>FOI Procedures</i> Is the minister or his office notified of FOI requests and the substance of the request when they are received by the department?
CP08	n/a	Written	SCULLION	<i>FOI Procedures</i> What is the role of the minister's office in the FOI process?
RPI14	n/a	Written	SCULLION	<i>Drought-Changes to Exceptional Circumstances Program</i> What changes to the Exceptional Circumstances program have resulted from the government's election commitments?
RPI15	n/a	Written	SCULLION	<i>Drought-Changes to Exceptional Circumstances Program</i> Have changes to EC resulted in a gap in income for farmers coming off EC following June 30 2008?
RPI16	n/a	Written	SCULLION	<i>Drought-Changes to Exceptional Circumstances Program</i> What modelling or assessment was carried out to determine the number of farmers affected?
RPI17	n/a	Written	SCULLION	<i>Drought-Changes to Exceptional Circumstances Program</i> How many farmers are projected to be affected?
FA11	n/a	Written	SCULLION	<i>Industry Support – Innovation and Investment</i> Is the new \$35.0 million Regional Food Producers' Innovation and Productivity Program funded as part of the \$130 million Australia's Farming Future initiative?
FA09	n/a	Written	SCULLION	<i>Support for Wool Growers</i> What has been the total government investment since 2004 in fast tracking the development of effective alternatives to mulesing?
FA10	n/a	Written	SCULLION	<i>Support for Wool Growers</i> What is the break down of this funding in dollar amount, year and purpose?