

Questions on Notice Budget Estimates 2009-2010

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Portfolio
Monday 25 and Tuesday 26 May 2009

QON No.	Date Asked	Hansard page reference/ Written	Senator	Question
ABARE01	25/05/2009	72-73	Back	<p><i>The effect of the CPRS on the profitability of the beef and cattle industry</i></p> <p>Senator BACK—I did, thank you. Mr Glyde, we had the figures on the effect on income and profitability of three per cent and 43 per cent or 14 per cent and 217. Could you give us comparative figures from your studies that would enable us to be able to see the positive and the negative or the optimistic and the pessimistic? Mr Johnsson mentioned, when not included in the system, a decline of three per cent on income reflecting 43 per cent reduction in profit, and once included, 14 per cent reduction on income and 217 per cent reduction in profit. Could you give us some indication of those figures from your study?</p> <p>Mr Glyde—Sure. I would make two comparisons: one, a longer term comparison, so at 2030; and then the immediate impact at 2011—which is probably the best one we can give. In 2030, we estimate that, for the beef and cattle industry, production will be eight per cent lower than it would otherwise have been if the CPRS had not been introduced. Production will still increase, but it will be just eight per cent lower than it otherwise would have been. That is with the assumptions of the emissions-intensive trade-exposed assistance, as designed by the government as they have currently stated. If you come back into 2011—</p> <p>Senator BACK—Just before you do, have you made any estimate as to what effect that will be on actual profitability?</p> <p>Mr Glyde—We probably have, but I do not have that figure in my head. I could take that on notice, if you like.</p> <p>Senator BACK—I would like to know.</p>
ABARE02	25/05/2009	100	Williams	<p>Senator WILLIAMS—Do you have an average dollar amount on electricity or just a percentage?</p> <p>Dr Ahammad—We will be able to provide that to you, taking it on notice.</p> <p>Senator WILLIAMS—What I was getting at is that I see that with the increase in the price of electricity in the first year that cost is going to be extremely high for the dairy industry. That is why I was questioning the figure.</p> <p>Mr Glyde—We can give you the dollar amounts for an average dairy farm.</p> <p>Senator WILLIAMS—That would be good if you could, please.</p>
ABARE03	26/05/2009	105	Williams	<p>Senator WILLIAMS—On your website the value of Australia's total farm and fisheries production for 2006-07 declined by 11 per cent to \$30.2 billion, mainly because of the drought. When will the 2007-08 figures be available?</p> <p>Mr S Hunter—I believe those figures would mostly be derived from the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics. We will try and find out the timing of when those figures would</p>

				be available for you.
ABARE04	26/05/2009	111	Heffernan	<p>Senator HEFFERNAN—Yes, I know. I appreciate your remarks, Minister. But really what I was interested in is whether you have done any modelling on the long-term impact of agriculture producers whose main driver was not the commodity; it was the food. You can understand the distortion that would have caused in market supply and demand and market pressure.</p> <p>Mr S Hunter—I am not aware of any but, to be absolutely sure of the correctness of my answer, I think I should take that on notice.</p>
ABARE05	25/05/2009	110	Adams	<p><i>Container trade - Grain</i></p> <p>Senator ADAMS—On the container trade, could you tell me how much grain has gone out for the last harvest, in containers.</p> <p>Dr Penm—I do not have the estimates with me. We can take it on notice, or I wonder whether any colleagues of mine have that. We produce numbers with disposal reports every month. I just do not have the numbers with me.</p> <p>Senator ADAMS—The second question is: since deregulation of bulk handling for wheat, has the container trade reduced or has it increased? That is another one on notice.</p>
ABARE06	25/05/2009	113	Nash	<p><i>The impact on the Murray-Darling Basin from afforestation</i></p> <p>Senator NASH—The issue of interception from the plantations that you raised before, Dr Ahammad, is quite a serious issue, and over a number of estimates in various forms it has raised its head. Can you tell me: do you work with the department of environment in looking at the issue of interception, given the potential impact, particularly in areas that are going to have an impact on the Murray-Darling Basin from the interception, from the potential planning of forests?</p> <p>Mr Glyde—We do a fair bit of work with the Department of the Environment, Heritage, Water and the Arts, and in fact they have given some funds to survey irrigators and the like to do economic analysis in relation to water. This is one of the factors that is in that mix and we talk with them on quite a regular basis.</p> <p>Senator NASH—Not necessarily irrigators. I am not talking about irrigators.</p> <p>Mr Glyde—Sure. No.</p> <p>Senator NASH—I am talking about the interception activity that results from afforestation.</p> <p>Mr Glyde—I think one of the complexities of trying to come up with, as Dr O’Connell said, estimates of what might be some likely futures, depending on carbon price and things like that, is what the impacts will be of afforestation of any type in the landscape. In order to understand that, we need to go down to a catchment level, because the geology, the hydrogeology, is different from catchment to catchment, and so to make informed judgements about that we need a quite detailed model, which we sort of have in some places. They are critical decisions when you think about where we are going with the National Water Initiative and water policy more generally. They are all linked.</p> <p>Senator NASH—Absolutely. From what you have just said, a lot of the forestation that has happened thus far has really happened without enough detailed knowledge of the potential impact of the interception, hasn’t it? We actually do not know yet.</p> <p>Mr Glyde—You are talking about deforestation since European settlement?</p>

				<p>Senator NASH—No, forestation.</p> <p>Mr Glyde—Sorry, afforestation.</p> <p>Senator NASH—I am talking about putting them in and the trees sucking the water out. That is the interception.</p> <p>Mr Glyde—Dr Ahammad might know a little bit more about our state of knowledge and the extent to which we can comment on interception and the afforestation that has occurred over the last 30 years. I would have to take that on notice, I think, unless Dr Ahammad can help me.</p> <p>Dr Ahammad—I would like to take it on notice. I am not a scientist; by training I am an economist. In our analysis we looked at the growth potentials of forestry, and that has come from the Department of Climate Change, so it might have factored in some growth potential and have taken into account average rainfall and things like that, but not in terms of interception.</p> <p>Dr O’Connell—I absolutely agree, and I am sure the scale that would be looked at would be, at a rainfall level scale, probably not much more than that. I think what you are looking at is: what do we know about catchment by catchment and what is the effect of plantations on the run-off and on recharge and others? That would obviously require a deal of input, for example, from the Bureau of Met, who are the major hydrology people around the place. But there is a very clear policy framework that is now in place with the National Water Initiative, which should, once fully in place, have an accounting framework for interception by plantations. Certainly, as I understand it, the states are going through the processes of developing that arrangement. That at least then should place the cost on the interception of water by plantations, which would then provide some limiting factor on the economics of plantations as well. I think this is getting into areas where you are also interested in the broader environmental effects, even when there is not run-off into other water users. That may be a broader issue. There are a range of other constraints which need to be placed, and that is exactly why I was trying to emphasise that what we will not get out of this is a clear prediction of what the level of plantation use will be as a result of the CPRS, because no matter really how far ABARE goes it is not going to get to this level of refinement in any reasonable time frame.</p>
ABARE07	N/A	Written	Nash	Is the NLIS slaughter data reliable enough to provide meaningful industry statistics?
ABARE08	N/A	Written	Nash	What is the debt burden currently on agriculture according to the RBA? How much has it increased over the past 10 years? Please provide a region by region breakdown for each of the previous 10 years?
ABARE09	N/A	Written	Nash	Have all of the recent interest rate cuts (last four) been passed on to farmers? If not how much has been passed on?
ABARE10	N/A	Written	Nash	What is the average interest rate currently being paid by farmers?
ABARE11	N/A	Written	Nash	What is the definition of ‘marginal land’ that the Minister was referring to when he stated ‘ <i>our advice has always been that we’d be looking at marginal land</i> ’? (please provide maps of land which the Government considers ‘marginal’ and on what basis it is referred to as marginal ie rainfall, carrying capacity etc).

ABARE12	N/A	Written	Nash	The Minister during the press Conference on the 25 th of February, 2009 also stated; <i>'The carbon price that's been spoken about, the emissions targets that have been set, were then put through ABARE.'</i> Is this information publicly available? Is this work that was 'put through ABARE' reflected in 'Analysing the economic potential of forestry for carbon sequestration under alternative carbon price paths' produced by ABARE in November 2008 which was commissioned by The Commonwealth Treasury to estimate the potential increase in afforestation on agricultural land under four hypothetical carbon price scenarios or is it different advice?
ABARE13	N/A	Written	Nash	If the work that has been 'put through ABARE' is not the modelling in the document 'Analysing the economic potential of forestry for carbon sequestration under alternative carbon price paths' is it publicly available and does it supersede the work commissioned by Treasury?
ABARE14	N/A	Written	Williams	At the last estimates it was stated that by this estimates more information would be available regarding impacts of ETS on agriculture. Are these figures on projected impacts through to 2020-2050?
ABARE15	N/A	Written	Williams	What is the prediction of the effect of proposed ETS on agriculture with particular regard to the exporting of beef?
ABARE16	N/A	Written	Nash	What will be the 'land-use change' the Government has always acknowledged that you do need which will be an implication and an outcome of the Government's Emissions Trading Scheme referred to by the Minister?
ABARE17	N/A	Written	Nash	Where will that 'land use change' take place and how will it take place?
ABARE18	N/A	Written	Nash	What is the current average debt for the average farm for each commodity group? i.e. dryland farming, beef, sheep, mixed farming, poultry, pork, citrus, horticulture, dairy?
ABARE19	N/A	Written	Nash	Is the financial crisis impacting on the ability of farmers to borrow money to fund this year's winter crop, or replanting of permanent plantings or for restocking purposes devastated by the drought?
ABARE20	N/A	Written	Nash	Is it true that ABARE uses ABS slaughter figures to arrive at a domestic disappearance figure which is extrapolated as Australian domestic beef consumption? Is it true that the USA subtracts 30% from the above figure to cater for bone and other items which are not consumed by consumers to arrive at their domestic consumption figure? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does Australia do the same? • Does it estimate the amount of domestic disappearance going for pet food? • If not, why not?
AFMA01	26/05/2009	14	Macdonald	<i>Number of days Oceanic Viking patrolled the Southern Ocean</i> Senator IAN MACDONALD —Are you able to give me on notice the number of days the <i>Oceanic Viking</i> has patrolled the Southern Ocean for fisheries matters in the last, say, three years? Firstly, do you have that information and, secondly, is it the sort of thing that you would ask? Prof. Hurry —Let me give you that information on notice.

AFMA02	26/05/2009	15	Macdonald/ Boswell	<p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—It is a new name but did not quite go to the Coast Guard name that we were assured it was going to have. I should ask the minister what happened to the Coast Guard.</p> <p>Senator BOSWELL—Good thought, Senator Macdonald. What did happen to the Coast Guard, Senator Sherry? It is relevant to this part of your colleague's department.</p> <p>Senator Sherry—I am not sure that he was the lead minister responsible for the policy, but I will take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Unfortunately Senator O'Brien has left us, but he used to be an expert on the Coast Guard that we were going to have when he was told time and time again it was a silly idea. But you will take that on notice; thanks, Minister.</p> <p>Senator Sherry—I will.</p>
AFMA03	26/05/2009	18	Colbeck	<p><i>Overfishing</i></p> <p>Prof. Hurry—The Bureau of Rural Sciences produces a table every year of those species that are either overfished or subject to overfishing. I think at the moment we are dealing with six species, of which Pink Ling is one, but the other five we dealt with last year and we have recovery plans in place for those species or change of management plans in place for those species. So they would be on the Bureau of Rural Sciences table that you can probably get later. They would be at risk. But if you need anything over and above that let us know and we would be happy to provide it.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK—I would be interested in getting some details of the specific recovery plans that you have in place, if you can provide that to me. I am happy to take that on notice.</p>
AFMA04	N/A	Written	Boswell	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What role did Imogen Zethoven play at a Coral Sea Fishery Stake Holder meeting on the 6 April 2009? 2. What organisation was she representing at this meeting on the 6 April 2009? 3. Was she in a government nominated role at this meeting on the 6 April 2009? 4. Would the organisation she is representing at this meeting on the 6 April 2009 be considered a stakeholder?
AFMA05	N/A	Written	Colbeck	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide list of groups consulted during the review of cost recovery arrangements as part of the review? 2. When will the final Impact Statement be provided to the Minister for consideration?
APD01	25/05/2009	10	Colbeck	<p><i>Sugar industry</i></p> <p>Mr Williamson—The sugar program was a five-year program that was announced by the previous government in mid-2004 from recollection. It had about seven or eight different elements and the last one, I think, is the one that finishes as of 30 June this year.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK—So there is no need for any further programs to assist or work with the sugar industry?</p> <p>Mr Williamson—That would be a matter for the government.</p> <p>Senator Sherry—It is a policy issue.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK—There is no required need as far as the government is concerned for continuation to work with the sugar industry.</p> <p>Senator Sherry—It is a policy matter for the minister. I will take it on notice and raise it with him.</p>
APD02	25/05/2009	26	Milne	<p><i>Advice given regarding LWA</i></p> <p>Senator MILNE—Can you tell me whether the minister took any advice—perhaps the department can</p>

				<p>help me here—in relation to what would be the waste associated with jettisoning Land and Water Australia before it completed its strategic plan?</p> <p>Senator Sherry—I can take that on notice and ask the minister. But I just make the pretty obvious point that advice to govern is advice to government.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Did the department give advice? We do not want to know what the advice was; we just want to know whether the department gave advice on the issues that Senator Milne is raising.</p> <p>Senator Sherry—I am happy to take that on notice. If the department has anything further to add, they can.</p>
APD03	25/05/2009	34	Heffernan	<p><i>LWA windup</i></p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN—With great respect—and thank you for those remarks—would you, Minister, be able to provide to the estimates committee here the brief from the department that led to the winding up of Land and Water Australia?</p> <p>Senator Sherry—We have already discussed the matter of advice to government from the department and its advice to the minister and—</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN—So if someone leaks it to us that will be all right, but you will not give it to us?</p> <p>Senator Sherry—it will not be provided. I am happy to take it on notice as I have already indicated. We are traversing ground already discussed. As I have indicated I am pleased to take that on notice and see whether the minister can provide any additional information over and above that which he has made public already.</p>
APD04	25/05/2009	37	Siewert	<p><i>LWA projects</i></p> <p>Dr Robinson—You are right, there are different lengths of commitment on those projects, although the majority are due for completion in roughly the next 12 months under the current strategic research and development plan. There certainly are some exceptions, for example, particularly in our innovations program where three- or four-year projects were signed in the last 12 months, and in a couple of instances elsewhere where projects have already been extended into the following financial year, but the majority will be finishing in the next 12 to 14 months.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—What value overall are those projects?</p> <p>Dr Robinson—I would have to take that question on notice.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—If you could. Could you also let us know—I am presuming if you cannot answer that question, you cannot answer the next one—the value of the commitments for the projects that are ongoing over the next three or four years, the innovation projects you mentioned.</p> <p>Dr Robinson—Yes and, if I may, would you like me to value LWA’s commitment or total partners’ commitment, because we separate the two?</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—That is a good point. I would like both because what I am trying to find out obviously is what partnerships you have with organisations where the funding that LWA provides will be critical to the ongoing project.</p>
APD05	25/05/2009	38	McGauran	<p><i>LWA projects</i></p> <p>Senator McGAURAN—Can we get a copy of those 146 projects?</p> <p>Dr Robinson—Yes.</p> <p>Senator McGAURAN—Today?</p> <p>Dr Robinson—I would be hesitant to give you a copy of the 26 uncontracted because they are not—</p>

				<p>Senator McGAURAN—Fair enough—120? Dr Robinson—Yes, 120. We certainly should be able to give you a listing.</p>
APD06	25/05/2009	39	Colbeck	<p><i>Agricultural R&D</i> Senator COLBECK—Dr O’Connell, has the government considered the Productivity Commission report that recommended that more funding rather than less be spent on agricultural R&D? Dr O’Connell—I would probably have to ask Mr Grant to give a comment on the government’s formal response. If I can just comment on the relationship of the decision to Land and Water Australia, it is not unusual to have to make a budget call and then inform the executives in advance of the decision, to let them start to work through the processes of managing those decisions. That would be a fairly unfortunate but typical process, I think. Mr Grant—I am not aware that the government has made a formal response to that Productivity Commission paper, so I am happy to take that on notice and come back to you on that.</p>
APD07	25/05/2009	39	Colbeck	<p><i>R&D and the Productivity Commission report</i> Senator COLBECK—So the only formal response is to cut R&D, in contradiction of the Productivity Commission report? Senator Sherry—I will take it on notice and find out where the response to the PC report is. I would also point out to you, Senator Colbeck, that there are a very significant number of reports that come to the government and the ministers of the day—and to all governments and all ministers of the day—recommending increased funding for a whole range of things. It is then government policy that determines whether that funding that is recommended to government by a particular inquiry will be followed through and at what level. No government, including yours when you were in government, automatically picks up the recommendations of a report on a particular funding matter. It is a matter for the minister and for cabinet to determine in accordance with budget priorities.</p>
APD08	25/05/2009	42	Back	<p><i>LWA funding from Government</i> Senator BACK—My final question extends from that, which is: at the moment, to what extent is funding from government and to what extent do industry and other groups involve themselves in funding the projects that you currently have on your books? Would it be 75-25 in general? What is the level that has to be picked up? Dr Robinson—This financial year, for example, our \$13 million appropriation was leveraged to about \$31 million to \$32 million of cash through the door. Last year it was \$39 million. Senator BACK—So we run the risk of losing that too? Dr Robinson—Technically, yes. As I said, the funding that we have secured for the next financial year keeps the commitments on some of our programs, and many of the programs that we keep are partner programs. It puts a higher priority on our selection process. Beyond the next financial year is another matter. Senator BACK—Minister, was there any consultation over the decision with those parties who made contributions beyond the government sector? Senator Sherry—From the minister’s perspective, I would have to take that on notice.</p>
APD09	25/05/2009	45	Colbeck	<p><i>Funding for R&D</i> Senator COLBECK—That is the annual investment, so effectively what we are losing is not \$45.9 million over four years; we are potentially losing \$140 million over five years in investment in R&D through the government withdrawing from this space and making that cut of \$45.9 million.</p>

				<p>Dr O’Connell—Can I suggest, Senator, that that is a leap of logic. Quite a few of those partners will clearly continue in this area, especially in the work we are looking at. The intention is that those priority areas will continue on with new managers. You would not expect to see that drop in that nature. There may well be some drop-off, but I do not think it could be said that—</p> <p>Senator COLBECK—I did say ‘potential’. I said up to \$140 million.</p> <p>Senator Sherry—Yes, exactly. We now how ‘up to’ is used by everyone.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK—But it is quite clear—</p> <p>Senator Sherry—It is speculation at this point.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK—It is a bit like ‘temporary’, Senator Sherry—</p> <p>Senator Sherry—Your words are speculation. We will take it on notice and if we are—</p> <p>Senator COLBECK—or putting ‘billion dollars in deficit’ after 300.</p> <p>CHAIR—Senator Colbeck, the minister is answering your question. At least give him the decency to answer and then you can ask your question.</p> <p>Senator Sherry—If we are able to provide you with any assessment of the figures that will put aside your speculation and assertion, if we are able to calculate any figures in the area you have indicated—we do not have that now—we will provide that, but we will take the question on notice.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK—But it is quite clear though, isn’t it, Senator, that the direct government funding last year of \$13 million was able to be leveraged up to \$39 million. This year it was slightly less; it was still in the 30 millions. So as a direct result of government being in this space, providing funding for R&D, it has been able to attract other funding. The government is now moving out of that space; it is not going to be there in this direct work. There is no funding anywhere else in the budget to take up these programs, it is disappearing, so the leverage disappears with it.</p> <p>Senator Sherry—There are other variables that have been indicated, so I do not accept your conclusion.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK—I would not expect you to. You do not want to admit the fact that you are taking a huge chunk out of funding.</p> <p>Senator Sherry—We will take on notice to see if, taking into account the other variables that have been mentioned, a figure can be calculated.</p>
APD10	25/05/2009	45	Colbeck	<p><i>LWA projects</i></p> <p>Senator COLBECK—I want to go back to a question you were discussing with Senator Siewert with respect to which projects would be transferred, which ones would have to come to an end, and you said that you are still in the decision-making process so you could not answer that now. I know you probably do not need any additional work right now, but could you take on notice to report back to the committee which projects you are going to have to abandon, even though they are uncompleted, and which projects might be reported back to transfer to other agencies and which agencies they may be.</p> <p>Dr Robinson—I will take that on notice</p>
APD11	25/05/2009	47	McGauran	<p><i>LWA operational plan</i></p> <p>Senator McGAURAN—One clarifying question. It was clear that we were seeking today 120 projects. It is not a question on notice; it is a request that we receive 120 projects in progress today.</p> <p>Senator Sherry—It is a question on notice, Senator McGauran.</p> <p>Senator McGAURAN—I do not want it in a month or in three months time.</p> <p>Senator Sherry—You can take it from me: I will personally try to ensure that we get a list of projects to you by the end of the day, Senator.</p>

				<p>Senator McGAURAN—My question is this—</p> <p>Dr Robinson—Would it be useful to give you a copy of the draft annual operational plan which was in place for next year and lists the projects planned for next year?</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—That would be good.</p> <p>Dr Robinson—I do not know whether that would be acceptable.</p> <p>Senator Sherry—The process is it is taken on notice. If we have the material—I will obviously have to check with the minister, but I do not see any reason as to why it cannot be provided. The formality, as it has been on all occasions, is that it is taken on notice. We will try to get it to you by the end of the day, Senator McGauran.</p>
APD12	25/05/2009	58	Williams	<p><i>On-farm wheat stocks</i></p> <p>Senator WILLIAMS—Just on another issue: there was obviously a lot of on-farm storage after harvest last year. Have you any idea what stocks are held on farm?</p> <p>Mr Grant—The ABS data collection should show that. I do not have the latest figure, but I can take that on notice and provide that to you.</p>
APD13	25/05/2009	63	Nash	<p><i>Wheat Export Technical Market Support Grants Program</i></p> <p>Senator NASH—We might move on while you are just having a look. Can I just move on to the Wheat Export Technical Market Support Grants Program? Is that your area?</p> <p>Mr Grant—Yes, it is.</p> <p>Senator NASH—How much funding has been allocated to the program?</p> <p>Mr Grant—\$600,000 over three years.</p> <p>Senator NASH—To qualify, do you have to be an accredited exporter?</p> <p>Mr Grant—You have to be accredited as a bulk exporter, but the program is also open to exporters of bags and containers, so you do not have to be accredited in that sense.</p> <p>Senator NASH—I think there have been nine in the first round; is that correct?</p> <p>Mr Grant—Yes. There was an announcement made about nine successful grants.</p> <p>Senator NASH—Is it possible to get the information on each of those grants, on where that funding is actually going to for that proponent?</p> <p>Mr Grant—To the particular companies?</p> <p>Senator NASH—Yes.</p> <p>Mr Grant—Yes, we can take that on notice and provide that. We will be putting it on our website. We are currently negotiating funding agreements with those successful applicants and once those funding agreements have been signed then the information will go on the departmental website.</p>
APD14	25/05/2009	64	Nash	<p><i>Wheat Export Technical Market Support Grants Program</i></p> <p>Senator NASH—What criteria did you use to measure up? I guess it was going to be value for money giving these—</p> <p>Mr Grant—There was a set of criteria set out in the guidelines. Again, I can provide you with that as well. In general, the program is about encouraging new exporters to open up new markets, so we were looking for, perhaps, smaller companies who had not had that market experience before, who had not exported a lot before and who had some new initiatives and ideas. A lot of the successful applicants were smaller companies who had not done a lot of exporting in the past, but there was a set of other criteria in the guidelines and I am happy to provide that to you on notice as well.</p> <p>Senator NASH—That would be good. Are they all new markets or are they just new players in the</p>

				<p>market, exporting and who might need a bit of a hand.</p> <p>Mr Grant—A little bit of both, I think, Senator. Of the nine, there were five who had not previously exported who received grants.</p> <p>Senator NASH—Were there existing Australian exporters already going into those markets that they are obviously trying to get into?</p> <p>Mr Grant—I cannot tell you that off the top of my head.</p> <p>Senator NASH—Could you take that on notice?</p> <p>Mr Grant—I can try to do that.</p> <p>Senator NASH—It would be interesting to know if we already have Australian exporters going into a market and the government is assisting others to compete.</p> <p>Mr Grant—It depends. If you already have bulk exports going in you might have container or bagged exports that might be complementary to that process, but I will take that on notice and come back to you.</p>
APD15	26/05/2009	107	Nash	<p><i>Horticulture Code of Conduct committee members</i></p> <p>Senator NASH—Can you provide to the committee—and I am happy for you to do it on notice—a list of the people on actual committee? When did it start?</p> <p>Dr Ottesen—When did it start its work here?</p> <p>Senator NASH—No, when did the code come in?</p> <p>Dr Ottesen—It was in May 2007.</p> <p>Senator NASH—Thank you very much.</p> <p>Mr Grant—And I have got the names of the committee members here.</p> <p>Senator NASH—No, you can just provide them on notice. That is fine.</p> <p>Mr Grant—Yes.</p>
APD16	26/05/2009	109	Colbeck	<p><i>Details of businesses using the Australian Grown label</i></p> <p>Senator COLBECK—Okay. You have mentioned the two majors, Coles and Woolies. Do we go through you to get a list of those that have signed up? Can you give us that information or do we have to go to Australian Made?</p> <p>Mr Grant—We understand that by March there were 66 businesses registered to use the Australian Grown logo.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK—Do we have details of who they are?</p> <p>Mr Grant—We do. We can probably provide those to you.</p>
APD17	N/A	Written	Colbeck	<p>What was the process for appointing members to the Regional Food Producers Innovation and Productivity Program advisory panel?</p> <p>If there was an application process, were nominations received from any Tasmanian applicant? Any South Australian, Victorian or NT nominations received?</p>
APD18	N/A	Written	Nash	<p>Does the Government agree with the Productivity Commission that ‘<i>Fixed water rates and municipal rates are legitimate and known business costs that should be budgeted for, yet some states also provide rebates and waivers on these.</i>’?</p>
APD19	N/A	Written	Nash	<p>Isn't it a fact that in NSW irrigators are been taxed and forced to pay for water which has never been delivered?</p>
APD20	N/A	Written	Nash	<p>Isn't it a fact that the Drought Package 2007 – support for irrigators in the Murray Darling Basin worth \$87.931 million in 2008-09 and terminating in 2009-10 was allowed to be used by irrigators to pay state</p>

				government water charges and fees?
APD21	N/A	Written	Nash	How many irrigators used their \$20,000 grant to pay for state based water charges and fees?
APD22	N/A	Written	Nash	What was the rationale behind terminating funding for Land and Water Australia?
APD23	N/A	Written	Nash	How many jobs will be lost as a result of the termination of funding for Land and Water Australia and where are these position currently located?
APD24	N/A	Written	Nash	Budget Paper No.2, Budget Measures, page 85 states; ' <i>Priority research activities currently being undertaken by Land and Water Australia will be transferred to other agencies.</i> ' Which 'other agencies' will take over the priority research activities currently being undertaken by Land and Water Australia? Has additional funding been made available to these agencies to undertake these 'priority research activities'?
APD25	N/A	Written	Nash	Which projects currently undertaken by Land and Water Australian will be completed and will any projects be abandoned? How much has been spent to date of projects which are to be terminated?
APD26	N/A	Written	Nash	Is the Department satisfied that the Horticultural Code of Conduct is achieving its aim?
APD27	N/A	Written	Nash	Is the Department aware of any reviews in the Horticultural Code of Conduct by the ACCC?
APD28	N/A	Written	Nash	Has or will the Department be contributing to this review?
APD29	N/A	Written	Nash	Has the Department undertaken any independent inspections of the markets to ensure the code is operating effectively?
APD30	N/A	Written	Nash	Is the Department aware of any industry concerns that the Government is attempting to water down the code?
APD31	N/A	Written	Heffernan	<p><i>LWA environmental problems</i></p> <p>With axing of LWA, how and where will government/department fund and research our current environmental problems, in particular, water and vegetation issues.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Where will farmers turn to for advice and support, there have been some very important projects run by LWA, tackling of weeds, irrigation practices, native vegetation, etc? 2. For instance, LWA's work on seasonal forecasting and agricultural productivity – this information is absolutely crucial for our regional towns and communities, where to from here for farmers and other stakeholders? 3. With the slashing of the budget of RIRDC and the closure of Land and Water (LWA), how does Department intend to fund future research?

				<p>4. Which agency within the Department/Government will now provide feedback, knowledge into these important agricultural issues?</p> <p>5. Could you supply name and contact details of officer who will be responsible for research in the Department?</p> <p>6. With impact of climate change & future climate policies, where will farmers turn to for innovative and practical information? How can Government /Department formulate workable and practical policies without this important knowledge and resource?</p>
APD32	N/A	Written	Nash	<p>RIRDC</p> <p>What will be the practical affect of the \$12 million funding cut to the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation be on the work it in undertaking? Ie how many projects will be scrapped or curtailed?</p>
APD33	N/A	Written	Nash	<p>How many jobs will be abolished as a result of the funding cuts to RIRDC, what are these positions and where are these jobs currently located?</p>
APD34	N/A	Written	Nash	<p>Which of the projects affected by the funding cuts to RIRDC will be absorbed by the Department or other agencies? Has additional funding been made available to the department or these other agencies to undertake these additional responsibilities?</p>
APD35	N/A	Written	Nash	<p>Budget Paper no.2, Budget Measures, page 86 states: <i>'The Government has identified further efficiencies in the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation. This measure will save \$12 million over four years through identifying organisational efficiencies and reducing research duplication, while maintaining funding in priority areas.'</i> Please give specific examples of where there was 'research duplication?</p>
APD36	N/A	Written	Nash	<p>What are 'organisational efficiencies' and who will be identifying them, will it be through an internal review or will it be outsourced to a consultant to identify 'organisational efficiencies?</p>
APD37	N/A	Written	Nash	<p>What are the priority areas which will have funding maintained?</p>
APD38	N/A	Written	Heffernan	<p><i>RIRDC funding</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. With the slashing of the budget of RIRDC and the closure of Land and Water (LWA), how will future research be carried out? 2. Which agency in the Department/Government will fund research? 3. How can the Government direct RIRDC to ensure savings and funding cutbacks on one hand and then on the other expect research to continue?
APD39	N/A	Written	Nash	<p>What were the major issues with selling this year's harvest?</p>
APD40	N/A	Written	Nash	<p>What is the benchmark price being paid for export grain? How does this compare to world parity prices?</p>
APD41	N/A	Written	Nash	<p>What countries are our major markets in both tonnage and dollar terms?</p>
APD42	N/A	Written	Nash	<p>Have we lost market share in any export markets this year?</p>

APD43	N/A	Written	Nash	How much grain is currently stored on farm?
APD44	N/A	Written	Nash	The Wheat Export Accreditation Scheme provides grants to help wheat exporters deliver effective technical market support to overseas customers. The Government has allocated \$200,000 pa for three years - how much has been spent in the 2008/09 financial year to help wheat exporters 'build long-term relationships' with customers overseas?
APD45	N/A	Written	Nash	What about the exporters and the long term relationships already established by wheat exporters prior to the deregulation of the wheat export market. Do they receive any funding or can they apply for this funding?
APD46	N/A	Written	Nash	To assist with the transition of new marketing arrangements following the deregulation of the wheat export market, \$1.15M/ 3 years was allocated by the government for information sessions for growers and customers. How much of this allocation was spent in 2008/09? How many sessions were held and where? Who held these sessions?
APD47	N/A	Written	Nash	\$2.52M/ 3 years was allocated by the government for the collection and publication of market data. What type of data was collected and where can this data be found? Who has access to this data and for what purpose? How much of this allocation was spent in \$2008/09?
APD48	N/A	Written	Nash	What impact are issues surrounding rail lines having on overseas markets?
APD49	N/A	Written	Nash	Is anything being done to improve logistics, particularly grain railway lines in time for next year's harvest?
APVMA01	26/05/2009	89	Chair	<p><i>1080</i></p> <p>CHAIR—Dr Bennet-Jenkins, could you give us an update on the alternatives to 1080?</p> <p>Dr Bennet-Jenkins—I would have to take that on notice because I do not actually have the information with me here, but we are aware that there is research going on into alternatives to 1080. We are certainly working together with the people that are researching it, to make sure that they are quite aware of what our data requirements are and are able to make sure that when they come to apply for a registration application, they have all the information that we need to be able to assess their application.</p> <p>CHAIR—While you are at it, I believe there is something already being used in New Zealand, an alternative, that you may have some more information on, too.</p> <p>Dr Bennet-Jenkins—Yes. We will do that.</p>
APVMA02	26/05/2009	89	Back	<p><i>Chemicals Originating in Australia</i></p> <p>Senator BACK—Can you give us some indication of how many chemicals actually originate in Australia itself? How active are we now in actually developing and researching, for veterinary chemicals, particularly, for the industry, and how many of that 2,500 are actually in from overseas? Are we still active in the game?</p>

				Dr Bennet-Jenkins —I would have to take that question on notice. I do not know the proportion of products that would be developed in Australia, but a large proportion of the chemicals are developed overseas, globally, and then come to the Australian market.
APVMA03	26/05/2009	91	Bob Brown	Senator BOB BROWN —On the question of 1080, there is an apocryphal story about a man in America having ingested a lethal amount—or nearly sub-lethal, because he survived. But he had the spasms that we see so often marsupials having in pictures after they have been poisoned in Tasmanian logging areas, and he said afterwards that he experienced no pain. Is that a factual story, or is it an invention? Dr Bennet-Jenkins —We are aware of the story. I cannot comment on whether it is factual or not. We certainly are aware of the story. Senator BOB BROWN —Could you help me by finding out whether it is factual, if there is any literature on that? Dr Bennet-Jenkins —I certainly can, yes.
APVMA04	26/05/2009	91	Colbeck	<i>1080</i> Senator COLBECK —Is the group that is doing the work that you are doing in relation to 1080 doing that in conjunction with some funding that came out of the Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement a couple of years ago? Dr Bennet-Jenkins —It is not work that we are doing, but the research group might be doing it. I am not entirely sure, so we would need to take that question on notice. Senator COLBECK —Yes, if you could take that on notice, I would be interested where the focus of that work is coming from and if it is coming from the source that was funded from the 2004 election. I think there was about \$1 million put into that research at that point in time.
APVMA05	26/05/2009	91-92	Bob Brown	<i>CSIRO concern with pesticides</i> Senator BOB BROWN —Are you aware of CSIRO work expressing concern about this group of pesticides? Dr Bennet-Jenkins —I am not aware of the particular work that the CSIRO is doing in this area, no. Senator BOB BROWN —The CSIRO has expressed concern about endocrine disruption, hasn't it? Dr Bennet-Jenkins —In terms of the Triazine group of herbicides, we looked at the endocrine disruption potential in quite extensive detail with the Atrazine review, and we were unable to conclude that there was sufficient evidence that it was going to occur at a level that would be harmful to humans. We are continuing to— Senator BOB BROWN —Were you able to conclude that it would not occur? Dr Bennet-Jenkins —The weight of evidence suggests that it would not occur in humans. Having said that, we are continuing to investigate all the research that is going on in the area that is suggesting that there may be other modes of action that may not have been taken into account, and we have asked the Office of Chemical Safety within the Department of Health and Ageing to review all the newest literature and provide a report to us. We expect to have that report finalised in the near future. Senator BOB BROWN —What was the CSIRO's opinion on the matter? Dr Bennet-Jenkins —I would have to take that on notice. I do not specifically know what the CSIRO have stated on that matter.
APVMA06	26/05/2009	96	Milne	<i>Pesticides and herbicides registered for use by the forest industry in Tasmania</i> Senator MILNE —Thank you. Could you provide to the committee a comprehensive list of all the pesticides and herbicides registered for use by the forest industry in Tasmania?

				Dr Bennet-Jenkins —We could do that, yes
APVMA07	26/05/2009	96-97	Milne	<p><i>Chemicals used by the forestry industry in Tasmania and research permits</i></p> <p>Senator MILNE—We know, for example, that there are at least 11 different pesticides that are used, and probably more. When you do your toxicology test, do you look at the mixture of the chemicals applied in the same time, or in the same timeframes and, if not, why not, given that the toxicity may well change immeasurably by the mixture of those chemicals?</p> <p>Dr Bennet-Jenkins—Each chemical gets assessed on its own merits. So, when we have an application, we look at the chemical that is before us, as to whether we grant the registration or not. That is, again, how the framework is looked at. Certainly, again, the assessors in the agencies will be aware or we will be aware through label instructions of whether chemicals are mixed and that people will apply tank mixes, where they mix several chemicals at one time. I would probably have to take it on notice, but the area of assessing mixtures is quite a complex one because all the different chemicals will have different modes of action and, from my understanding from having talked with my colleagues in Health, those modes of actions are so different that, at this stage, there are no concerns that the mixtures themselves would have an additive or a cumulative effect. But it is an area that internationally there is much research going on in, and we are keeping an eye on what other regulatory agencies are doing and certainly becoming aware if there are any issues with regard to having to look at cumulative or mixture assessments.</p> <p>Senator MILNE—I appreciate you taking on notice the need to have the list of chemicals that are for pesticides and herbicides registered for use by forestry in Tasmania. I would also like you to take on notice any work that has been done on the mixture of those chemicals. It has recently been revealed, we understand, that the chemical terbuthylazine has been used in Tasmania for two or three years for forestry. The community had no idea it was being used because it is not registered for general use by your agency for forestry. But we have discovered that it is being used under a permit that you provide for research, with the conditions of use protected by a commercial-in-confidence agreement. Can you explain to me whether that chemical is being used in Tasmania for forestry, can you confirm how long it has been used for forestry, and can you explain to me how long this research project is going to go on for? For how many years was the research permit granted, and why is it commercial-in-confidence? I would like to know what the permit conditions are with regard to that particular chemical. Could you explain to the committee the whole history of this and why the community has had to find out about it in the way that they have?</p> <p>Dr Bennet-Jenkins—Perhaps I can speak in general terms about research permits and then I could take on notice the type of information that we can give you in terms of this particular research permit. Traditionally the APVMA processes have been that research permits are considered to be largely commercial-in-confidence. Our permit database has an area for confidential information for permits to be placed and that is where our research permits are placed. Having said that, were are looking at that process and that policy presently to see what components of a research permit we would be able to release to the general public so that they are aware of it but that does not give away confidential information. On many occasions research permits are in relation to a new company with a new chemical, and it is of commercial interest to them that those research permits are retained in the confidentiality provisions. I would like to get back to you on notice the type of information that I can give you of the</p>

				detail for that particular—
APVMA08	26/05/2009	98	Milne	<p><i>Chemicals used by forestry in Tasmania</i></p> <p>Senator MILNE—As you said there would be a risk assessment report before the research permit would be issued, could you table for the committee that and as much information as you can about the use of this chemical. I would particularly like to know for how many years this research is going on and over what physical area. We know it is the Georges River catchment but I would like to know whether it is for the whole of Tasmania or just certain catchments and so on. I also understand that another chemical, Fluazifop, is listed as being used by Forestry by the river and catchment management people but is not registered for use by Forestry. Also, another one, Spinosad, is also known to be used by the forest industry but it is not listed anywhere as being used by the forest industry. So could you confirm whether either of those is registered for use by Forestry and, if not, what happens when you have got an understanding that they are being used by Forestry and they are not registered for use by them. What happens in that circumstance?</p> <p>Dr Bennet-Jenkins—Certainly. I will take that on notice and confirm whether there is information about whether they are used by Forestry. It largely becomes a control of use issue. The state departments would need to investigate the use of a unregistered product. For us, if they are not a registered product, it would be a supply issue. I am not sure in this case whether this is supply of an unregistered product or the use of a registered product in an unapproved situation, so we would need to investigate that. But it would be either the APVMA, if it is the supply of the product, or the state if it is unapproved use.</p> <p>Senator MILNE—I would like have some information about what you know about the use of those in Tasmania, and if they are not registered for use by Forestry I would like to know what action is proposed to be taken. It has also recently come to light that Forestry has been using another chemical, Tebufenozide, for at least five years in Tasmanian plantations. We know it is an insecticide. We know that it affects fungi, crustaceans and insects. We know it has a long half-life in soil, has the potential to pollute groundwater and is very toxic to aquatic organisms, but we note that it is not listed for use in Tasmania by the Tasmanian River Catchment Water Quality Initiative. Could you tell me whether that is registered for use in Tasmania by Forestry and in what circumstances. If you cannot answer that—</p> <p>Dr Bennet-Jenkins—I cannot answer that straight off my head, no, but—</p> <p>Senator MILNE—I did not expect you would.</p> <p>Dr Bennet-Jenkins—Yes.</p>
APVMA09	N/A	Written	Bob Brown	<p>Regarding Atrazine, Simazine and similar chemicals (please list) in Tasmania:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What volume or weight of each was used in each of the last five years? 2. To what area (hectares) was each applied? 3. In which catchments were the chemicals used? Where?, and 4. by whom (please specify)? <p>In each case, please specify what proportion of the chemical was applied by aerial spraying.</p>
AQIS01	26/05/2009	36	Milne	<p><i>New Zealand growers</i></p> <p>Senator MILNE—Okay. If you would take on notice please where we are up to in terms of those agreement arrangements and how the New Zealand growers do it compared with how we do it in terms of those inspection services, because there is a strong view that AQIS has not restructured itself to put in place the efficiencies that reduce the costs to growers. You say it is a partnership. I think one side of the</p>

				partnership feels very hard done by at the moment—
AQIS02	26/05/2009	38	Colbeck	<p>Senator COLBECK—You indicated that there had been a decision made by the previous government to cease this process. Colleagues who were involved in that process indicated to me that that was not the case. The program was in place for four years and it had been extended. It has been put to me that a specific decision to remove this subsidy had not been made and, in fact, there were provisions for a further four years in the forward budget estimates that had been provided for this measure.</p> <p>Dr O’Connell—I do not think that is correct in terms of the forward budget estimates. I think the estimates cease on 30 June this year.</p> <p>Mr Delane—The information available to us is that there was never any forward estimate beyond 30 June this year.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK—That has been quite clearly put to me by the former trade minister.</p> <p>Dr O’Connell—We can easily look at that in terms of simply looking at the last budget papers. That is very straightforward.</p> <p>Senator NASH—Perhaps Dr O’Connell or somebody might like to do that now if it is very straightforward and simple.</p> <p>Dr O’Connell—I think we would have to get somebody to go back and look at the papers.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK—I would appreciate you doing that. I think that is an important point</p>
AQIS03	26/05/2009	43-45	Colbeck	<p><i>Meeting with agricultural export industry</i></p> <p>Senator COLBECK—But it is a big change, it is happening very quickly. We know we have not seen the cost-recovery impact statements yet. That has to be done before it is implemented according to the government’s own guidelines. It is at a significant expense. You are going to raise an extra \$43.89 million out of this process. That is going to be imposed on Australia’s agricultural exports. Can I just clarify that the only thing that you are doing is removing the 40 per cent rebate? That is the only thing you are doing? You are not charging for any services that you did not charge for before? So you are not, for example, going to charge for the development of a quarantine protocol that the government did as part of its service to industry?</p> <p>Mr Read—Correct. It is a very complex question you ask when you say that, because all our fees and charges are linked to the activities with each of those industries in terms of the services we provide with them. The fundamental is, as I said, we are not using smoke and mirrors to actually drag other things into this so that we are covering, in some way, shortfalls in other areas. That is not what is happening. We are simply looking at the current existing fees and across almost all of those sectors only increasing them by, in most instances, it would be lucky to be 66 per cent which is required to bring them back up to the full cost.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator COLBECK—So what involvement has the minister had in this consultation process with industry to date?</p> <p>Dr O’Connell—I think there has been very close involvement in the process of working through this. Certainly there has been a request, from the minister’s perspective, to set up some working groups which could talk about—</p> <p>Senator COLBECK—He might have spoken to the department, but has he as yet engaged directly with industry?</p>

				<p>Mr Delane—The minister, like most other people, has had a lot of representations made to him.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK—We have had plenty of representations; I am sure he has, too.</p> <p>Mr Delane—And there are ministerial task forces established for all of these key sectors. So, with the endorsement of the minister, Mr Read's team, I and others are working through with each of these sectors to get the best set of fees and charges that are possible within the immediate regime and to work through the necessary reform strategies to process—</p> <p>Senator COLBECK—I understand the department and these groups have been working very diligently on this. I do not doubt that at all. It is obviously a major change. It is going to raise a lot of money. What I am interested to know is the level of engagement personally by the minister with industry.</p> <p>Dr O'Connell—I think you would have to ask the minister.</p> <p>Senator Sherry—That will have to go to the minister. We will have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK—So the department has no knowledge of any meetings of the minister with the industry?</p> <p>Dr O'Connell—I think it is best to ask the minister directly because otherwise we would probably get the information not quite right. Certainly the minister has been engaged in this process extensively.</p> <p>Senator Sherry—If you want the minister's perspective, the minister will provide the response.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK—What I am interested to know is which industry groups the minister has met with and when he has met with them.</p> <p>Senator Sherry—That is certainly something the minister's office will have to supply.</p> <p>Dr O'Connell—I think it is best to ask the minister directly because otherwise we would probably get the information not quite right. Certainly the minister has been engaged in this process extensively.</p>
AQIS04	26/05/2009	49	Boswell	<p><i>Inspections services</i></p> <p>Senator BOSWELL—How does Australia's level of support and funding for inspection services in non-food industries compare with world benchmarks, specifically with our competitors in these non-food industries?</p> <p>Mr Read—I will take that on notice.</p>
AQIS05	26/05/2009	49	Boswell	<p><i>Wool Inspections</i></p> <p>Senator BOSWELL—In the case of a health certificate, is it the case that there is no actual inspection of the wool at all? So if you are asking for a health certificate, you do not go out there at all?</p> <p>Mr Read—I will take that on notice. I cannot answer that off the top of my head.</p>
AQIS06	26/05/2009	49-50	Boswell	<p><i>Beef Inspections fees</i></p> <p>Senator BOSWELL—With the increased inspection fees—and I am referring to beef here—can you tell me what the increase will mean on a per head basis for live animals over those on the hook?</p> <p>Mr Read—I will take that on notice.</p>
AQIS07	26/05/2009	51	Fisher	<p><i>Offset by import fees</i></p> <p>Senator FISHER—What percentage of AQIS's overheads, however you characterise them, are allocated to and offset by import fees?</p> <p>Mr Chapman—I am not sure of the percentage.</p> <p>Mr Delane—We would have to take that on notice. It would take some working through to make sure we had the accurate figure for you.</p>
AQIS08	26/05/2009	51-52	Fisher	<p><i>Import clearance fees</i></p> <p>Senator FISHER—Look at the question the other way: what percentage of import fees paid result from</p>

				<p>an allocation of AQIS's overheads?</p> <p>Mr Delane—We can take that on notice. We can provide the figure, but we would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Senator FISHER—In terms of the questions that you are answering on notice, would you be so kind as to compare the 2007-08 year with, at least, the 2008-09 year. What paperwork exists in respect of the internal audit to which you have referred?</p> <p>Mr Chapman—The audit has not commenced yet. Ernst and Young performs internal audit activities for DAFF. There has been an opening interview where we have discussed the general arrangements, but the actual audit has not commenced yet.</p>
AQIS09	26/05/2009	52-53	Fisher	<p><i>AQIS Internal Review</i></p> <p>Senator FISHER—Mr Delane, has the paperwork that you have said is with the consultative committee been made public?</p> <p>Mr Chapman—All of the cost modelling which has been used to determine the fees and charges is not publicly available, but the relevant industry sectors who have been involved with us in determining how the new fees and charges should be set up do have copies. So industry representative sectors are well aware of the modelling and, as I said, they are actually the co-designers of the modelling.</p> <p>Senator FISHER—Are you able to make public the industry-based paperwork?</p> <p>Mr Chapman—I am not sure if I fully understand the question. The way that the—</p> <p>Senator FISHER—In terms of the modelling. That is what I am particularly interested in.</p> <p>Mr Delane—I am not sure that that would be our preference. These things are quite detailed—just as detailed as the export fees that we discussed before lunch—</p> <p>Senator FISHER—Indeed.</p> <p>Mr Delane—and quite easily open to misinterpretation. So we work with the import consultative committee, who are quite familiar with this area of the business, and they crawl all over those numbers. I do not think it would be terribly constructive to share those models and spreadsheets over email and find that they were being misinterpreted for whatever purpose.</p> <p>Mr Chapman—I will just add to that. For the changed fees and charges to come into effect requires an amendment to the quarantine fees determination, so all the explanatory detail in that as to what fees and charges have been amended and on what basis will be available as part of that process. Similarly, when the new fees and charges come into effect, we will be explicit in providing information to industry on what they are and the broad basis of that. But we will not be going into all of the negotiations and discussions about why you add \$4 here instead of \$3 and why you add \$3 here instead of \$4, because there is quite a complex and large array of services which we charge for.</p> <p>Senator FISHER—I understand what you are trying to suggest, Mr Chapman, but the difficulty with the complexity of services for which you are trying to charge is that it can be seen by some to hide the direction of the allocation of, essentially, AQIS costing—sorry, hiding its intent to blur, to—</p> <p>Dr O'Connell—I think what Mr Delane was just talking about was the preference in handling these things. Outside anything that is commercial in confidence here, there would be no trouble in providing whatever is required.</p> <p>Senator FISHER—Thank you.</p> <p>Dr O'Connell—It is simply a question of the fact this is partway through a process and we are not quite</p>

				there yet, so things can be taken out of context. But there is no problem with providing whatever is needed— Senator FISHER —Perhaps you can consider doing so on notice.
AQIS10	26/05/2009	53	Fisher	<i>Cost recovery impact statement</i> Mr Chapman —I need to correct what I just said, I am afraid. We have had a cost recovery impact statement. OBPR said that we were not required to do a regulatory impact statement, but a cost recovery impact statement has been signed off. Senator FISHER —Are you able to provide a copy of that to the committee? Mr Chapman —I do not see why not.
AQIS11	26/05/2009	55	Fielding	<i>Export rebate</i> Senator FIELDING —I am not satisfied with that, but I do not think I am not going to get any other answer. Has the government thought about phasing in the higher costs or phasing out the export rebate, rather than doing it in one hit at one time? Senator Sherry —As has been explained, the subsidy was the policy of the previous government for a limited period of time, and it has lapsed. Cabinet have made a decision about the current and pre-existing policy—which has been around for many years; I can remember discussing levies in various sectors in Senate estimates when we were last in government—and it is one of cost recovery. As to whether the government considered anything else, that is obviously a matter for cabinet and a minister. I will take it on notice.
AQIS12	26/05/2009	60-61	Nash	<i>Industry participants</i> Senator NASH — Perhaps you could then provide for the committee—and this may have been asked before, and I do apologise if it has been—a list of the industry participants that you are consulting with. Mr Read —Certainly. Senator NASH—And, perhaps, release any of that information that is not confidential that has come to you. Mr Read —Certainly. Senator NASH —The other question is about whether or not there has been any work done on the cost flow-on back to primary producers from the processors—which, if I were a processor, I would probably do too. Mr Read —As I said, whatever requirements that we need to pick up—and I just do not have that information at hand; we could take that on notice—
AQIS13	26/05/2009	63	Heffernan	<i>Casings going to China</i> Senator HEFFERNAN —We do. Are you trying to tell me that we actually track the casings when our casings go to China? I am sure their factories know they are our casings when they come back out of the factory! Are you are trying to kid me? Mr Lihne —I will take that on notice. My understanding is that we do not import product from China, but I would need to check that.
AQIS14	26/05/2009	63	Heffernan	<i>Japanese casing industry</i> Senator HEFFERNAN —In the Japanese casing industry, they have compulsory sterilisation procedures for casings coming into the country. We do not have that. Mr Lihne —I will take that on notice. We normally bring them in in brine, as I understand, but I will confirm that and take it on notice.

AQIS15	26/05/2009	64	Heffernan	<p><i>China Imports</i></p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN—I realise the labour disadvantage that we have compared with China. You are telling me that none of our casings go to China?</p> <p>Mr Liehne—No, my understanding is we do not import from China. The fact that they export to China is a different matter. I cannot comment on that.</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN—But you accept that they may well go to China, then over to the US, and then back here?</p> <p>Mr Liehne—That allegation has been made. My understanding is that that is being investigated by our compliance people and, at this stage, they have not found any evidence that that is the case, although I have heard that same allegation.</p> <p>Mr Read—I think, just to add further to this, we would need to take it on notice. I know that we have actually raised this issue with FSIS. I know FSIS have investigated from their perspective. I also know we have a high level of trust in FSIS and they have a high level of trust in us. We provide certification to that government for meeting a range of export market requirements to there and they equally reciprocate.</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN—That is the allegation, and the allegation is that, unlike Japan and other countries, we do not do the sterilisation thing.</p> <p>Mr Delane—I will take it on notice. If you have or obtain any evidence—</p>
AQIS16	26/05/2009	64	Heffernan	<p><i>Prawns</i></p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN—Can I just ask one quick question before we go to Senator Back? Mr Delane, if you and I go fishing at the weekend and I use those green prawns as bait are we going to break the law?</p> <p>Mr Delane—I suspect not, but we will take that question on notice and we will provide you with clear advice as to your legal position.</p>
AQIS17	26/05/2009	69	Heffernan	<p><i>Lamb Organics</i></p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN—Can you tell me what makes a lamb organic? This is the greatest marketing ploy of likeable rogues. How do you certify that a lamb is organic? Can you please explain that to me?</p> <p>Mr Read—We can give you some information on notice about how you can get an organic lamb.</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN—But if you drench a lamb, is it organic?</p> <p>Mr Read—We will put that in the question on notice.</p>
AQIS18	26/05/2009	69-70	Colbeck	<p><i>Organic standards</i></p> <p>Senator COLBECK—Can I come to that process and just ask Mr Schipp where the organic standard is that is being prepared through Standards Australia? It has been a fairly long process to date.</p> <p>Dr Schipp—It has. I understand that the draft standard will be released publicly next month for vote.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK—Next month? So what is the approval process for that? It is a process that Standards Australia will deal with or does it have to go through a process similar to the one you have just been describing?</p> <p>Dr Schipp—No, it is a Standards Australia process.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK—Industry has been fairly closely involved with Standards Australia in the development of that, have they not?</p> <p>Dr Schipp—They have, yes.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK—A draft is released for public comment, I presume, for how long? Do you know?</p> <p>Dr Schipp—I do not know. I would have to take that on notice. It is not run out of AQIS; it is run out of—</p>

AQIS19	26/05/2009	70	Heffernan	<p><i>Organic stock</i></p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN—Anyhow, you are going to supply me with the details of what makes lamb, chooks, cattle organic. If you fed grain to a chook that has been sprayed, it cannot be organic.</p> <p>CHAIR—Senator Heffernan, you have already asked that and Mr Read is going to take it on notice. I know you have added chooks and beef.</p>
AQIS20	26/05/2009	74	Siewert	<p><i>Petfood</i></p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—But how widely is it used now?</p> <p>Mr Liehne—It is offered as an alternative treatment for some products where the quarantine risks associated with the ingredients are not effectively managed by the manufacturing process. A small proportion of dried and semi-moist dog food gets irradiated. It is a very small proportion, compared with the vast bulk of material that comes in. It is in a small number of those cases. It is used for some of the dried pigs' ears and those sorts of things, those treats that come in. It is used to irradiate those, and there appears to be no issue associated with those products at all.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—Is it possible that to get a list or is that going to cause too much work?</p> <p>Mr Liehne—The difficulty that we have is that we issue permits that have that as an alternative treatment, or as a treatment, but the volume of material coming in and the products that are irradiated are very hard to determine because some products do not require it because the origin of the ingredients—the quarantine risks associated with that do not require additional treatment. We can provide you a broad grouping of permits that would have that as a condition, but, as to volume or product, that is impossible to identify.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—That list would be appreciated.</p> <p>Mr Liehne—Yes.</p>
AQIS21	26/05/2009	90	Back	<p><i>Melamine in milk</i></p> <p>Senator BACK—Excellent. Chairman, I just have one more question, totally unrelated to this area. It is with regard to product integrity. Can anybody comment on the whole question associated with melamine in milk in China late in 2008? Is this an area, Dr O'Connell, that the department is able to comment on at all?</p> <p>Dr O'Connell—I think our AQIS colleagues can probably do that, but they have gone, so we might take it on notice, if that is helpful?</p>
AQIS22	26/05/2009	101-102	Colbeck	<p><i>National Livestock Identification System</i></p> <p>Mr Aldred—For the broader NLIS. That is across cattle, pigs, sheep, goats and alpacas. The funding that is being provided in these couple of years is for the Australian Alpaca Association to develop a business plan and proposal for how they would implement a traceability system.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK—So we are effectively about 50 per cent of the way through that process?</p> <p>Mr Aldred—It is certainly kicking off. I would have to take on notice the exact details, if you wish me to do so.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK—Yes, I would be interested. Specifically with respect to alpacas, there were some issues going back a couple of years relating to the capacity for Australia to import alpacas into the UK based around EU protocols on bluetongue and recognition of specific bluetongue-free zones within Australia. The argument was based around our recognition of what they called their 'bluetongue-free zones'. Has that problem been resolved?</p> <p>Mr Aldred—I would need to take that on notice. I am not aware of the detail.</p>

				<p>Senator COLBECK—I must admit this particular line item sparked my recollection of it, but the last time I interacted with it I never got to the bottom of the process or to a resolution, basically. I know that I had had representations from alpaca owners who had lost a fairly lucrative market into the UK because the UK had effectively been told by the EU: ‘Either you follow our protocols or you’re out of the system,’ even though there was demand for Australian product, particularly out of Tassie, into that market. My recollection is that, because we did not recognise what they called their bluetongue-free zones, they were not prepared to recognise our processes. I would appreciate an update on that, if that is possible.</p>
AQIS23	N/A	Written	Heffernan	<p><i>AQIS installed thermal imaging scanners at Airports to scan for swine flu from incoming passengers</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many scanners have been purchased or did we have these in stock? 2. How much are these scanners? 3. Which Departmental budget is picking up the tab for the scanners, is it DAFF (AQIS), DITRSLG, Sydney airport, 4. How accurate are these scanners? 5. I understand a QANTAS cleaner was threatened with sacking for refusing to go on board a plane carrying a passenger with possible swine flu (see Media release dated 1 May 2009) – please elaborate.
AQIS24	N/A	Written	Heffernan	<p><i>AQIS @ Airports – washing of boots/shoes on return from UK & Europe</i></p> <p>When returning to Australia from overseas, especially UK and Europe, we all know passengers are asked to declare whether they have visited a farm or property, when they answer YES, these passengers should then be asked to show and clean their shoes, boots etc on arrival. It has come to my attention that AQIS officials seem to be very slack or remiss in this area, I know many Australian passengers (especially farmers) who are very conscious of FMD in UK, they wash their boots prior to arriving back in Australia, put boots into a plastic bag, and after insisting to AQIS they should inspect his boots, AQIS rewash the boots (as they should do) and then place the boots back into the same bag!!!</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This process seems to be extremely slack, what are the processes and guidelines AQIS has to follow? 2. Is this a random procedure or are all passengers supposed to be checked if they declare they have been on a farm in UK/Europe? 3. Why does it take AQIS (in some instances) up to 3 times to be asked (this is a FACT) to have their boots inspected? 4. How do you explain boots being washed and then being placed back in the same bag? Does this concern you? 5. Would like name of departmental official and contact details please who handles this issue?
AQIS25	N/A	Written	Heffernan	<p><i>AQIS – Green Prawns & marinades</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What quantity of marinated prawn products have been imported since the late 2008 after the importers had to resubmit applications? 2. Do you test for the virus IHHNV (this was detected in QLD)? 3. Which other countries ban imported marinated prawns? 4. How many companies applied for a permit after late 2008, how many were refused and how many were accepted? 5. Would like name of departmental official and contact details please who handles this issue in the Department?

				<p>6. Could we see a list of the successful applicants since 1 July 2008?</p> <p>7. On what grounds are some permits given and some are refused?</p> <p>8. Can we have a list of the companies that have been refused permits since 1 July 2008?</p> <p>9. Do you test for nitrofurans (antibiotics) on these imported prawns?</p> <p>10. Are you aware of some Australian importers washing off the marinade and using them for another use? If so, what is AQIS doing about it?</p> <p>11. If not aware of this practice, is AQIS concerned and how does AQIS intend to monitor this practice?</p>
AQIS26	N/A	Written	Heffernan	<p><i>Sausage casings, in particular sheep casings now being processed in China by US companies</i></p> <p>1. I know Australia does not import sheep casings from China but my concern is the permit process from AQIS, what steps does AQIS take to ensure casings from USA but we know have been processed in China are disease free?</p> <p>2. For instance, in Japan with the Japanese casing industry, they have compulsory sterilisation procedures which is not the case here in Australia. The Japanese govt is obviously well aware of the disease and low standard of hygiene in these Chinese factories.</p> <p>3. Why isn't AQIS concerned like the Japanese Government or taking similar steps?</p> <p>4. In Australia, I understand all you have to do is submit your US sheep casing permit to AQIS and the US companies will arrange the rest, is this true?</p> <p>5. Who checks the US companies to see where their product is manufactured?</p> <p>6. Would like name of departmental official and contact details please?</p> <p>7. Do you think AQIS is acting irresponsibly with the importation of these particular casings? If not, will you be looking into this loophole?</p> <p>8. Don't you think AQIS is creating a loophole here in Australia, honest Australian operators will break the law as Australian runners can't compete against those produced in China on price alone.</p> <p>9. In light of the global economic crisis and the Government's pledge to keep Australian jobs, I know of one factory that has closed, this has cost 100's of jobs, put Australia's disease free status at risk – this situation does not help Australian workers, Australian abattoirs, Australian farmers, is there any assistance from DAFF to assist these businesses?</p>
AQIS27	N/A	Written	Heffernan	<p><i>Government 40 per cent subsidy</i></p> <p>1. Government has NOT extended the 40% subsidy on the basis that there is no appropriation in budget to continue the \$144M program, how will AQIS and the Government ensure a fair and equitable charging system around the \$32m increase from 1 July 2009 across the Red Meat Industry processors?</p> <p>2. To offset the \$32m increase from 1 July 2009, what are the range and value of efficiency dividends AQIS will deliver in Year 1 to offset these additional costs?</p> <p>3. How much of the additional costs does the 40% increase place on an export meat plant?</p> <p>4. Is it around 50%, 60% or higher?</p> <p>5. Does the Department and the Government intend to introduce the 40% increase from 1 July 2009?</p> <p>6. Has AQIS a program to take costs out of the Meat Inspection Program to offset the cost increase? If so, what is this program?</p>
AQIS28	N/A	Written	Heffernan	<p><i>Cuts to Departmental budget</i></p> <p>1. Not only a massive \$35.877 million cut in funding to Australia's vital Quarantine and Bio-security programs, but a potential loss of 125 jobs, how will Biosecurity and AQIS cope with manage issues</p>

				<p>such as Equine Influenza incursion, Avian Influenza or the Chinese melamine milk scandal in the future without putting Australian lives, agricultural industries, the environment, the community and lucrative export markets at risk.</p> <p>2. How can the Government justify budget cuts to our quarantine and bio-security programs and then impose enormous user charges on exporters who have no choice but to use AQIS services by up to 1352%.</p> <p>3. The Beale Review Recommendation 73 stated; The Commonwealth should increase its bio-security investment by an amount in the order of \$260 million per annum, subject to a full costing by departments, to meet the recommendations of this report. Foot and Mouth disease would cost up to \$13 billion a year and would result in the slaughter of potentially millions of animals, crippling our economy and devastating regional Australia, how can the Department ignore this recommendation and how will the department fund and address these serious matters in the future with lack of resources and funding?</p>
AQIS29	N/A	Written	Nash	AQIS When will the Government abolish the 40% rebate for exporters for export certification functions?
AQIS30	N/A	Written	Nash	Which exporting industries/commodities will be forced to pay for higher export certification charges as a result of the axing of the 40% rebate?
AQIS31	N/A	Written	Nash	I refer you to correspondence from AQIS dated 20 January 2008 which advised exporters of changes to AQIS's cost recovery arrangements and in particular the requirement for all export programs to return to full cost recovery on 1 st July, can you please table a copy of that correspondence?
AQIS32	N/A	Written	Nash	Does the Government have any industry support for the decision to abolish the 40% rebate?
AQIS33	N/A	Written	Nash	Have any industry/commodity groups signed up to the new AQIS export certification charges as proposed by the Government post July 2009?
AQIS34	N/A	Written	Nash	Are industry groups proposing alternatives to axing the 40 percent rebate on the 1 st of July, 2009? If so what are they?
AQIS35	N/A	Written	Nash	Is it a fact the Minister has committed the department through the AQIS/Meat Industry taskforce to identify cost efficiencies with AQIS meat program export services, including examination of alternative inspection services models?
AQIS36	N/A	Written	Nash	Has the taskforce identified any cost efficiencies? Please table all correspondence and interim reports between AQIS and the Meat Industry Taskforce?
AQIS37	N/A	Written	Nash	What are the proposed new increases being proposed for each commodity group (for every category) as a result of abolition of the 40% rebate? For example health certificates etc.
AQIS38	N/A	Written	Nash	Is it a fact that AQIS is proposing increases of up to 1,353% for certification?
AQIS39	N/A	Written	Nash	How can the government justify increases of 1,353% on what is a monopoly service?
AQIS40	N/A	Written	Nash	Is the government aware of industry concerns that these outrageous increases will cost jobs and result in the loss of export market share?

AQIS41	N/A	Written	Nash	How many letters, emails and other correspondence has the Minister and/or the department received in relation to the abolition of the 40 percent rebate? How much was supportive of the Government's position? Please table all correspondence including the Governments response to their concerns?
AQIS42	N/A	Written	Nash	Which industry groups has the Minister met with in relation to the abolition of the 40% rebate and on how many occasions has the Minister met with these groups? Please give a date on which the meetings occurred?
AQIS43	N/A	Written	Nash	How many meetings has the department held with export industry groups in relation to the axing of the 40% rebated? When did these meetings take place?
AQIS44	N/A	Written	Nash	<p>I refer you to one of many letters received by the Coalition from extremely angry exporters and primary producers in which Mr Mark Hall states:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">“This decision is an example of ill conceived, short sighted and poor Government Policy, which is in direct contradiction with its own Trade policy to encourage exports. This decision will lead to further job losses across the entire horticultural industry in Australia, as exporters become increasingly price uncompetitive in export markets as a direct result of poor Government policy. This is hard to understand when the Government is giving away \$billions to taxpayers while strangling off small business and primary industry exports, who are major employers.”</p> <p>Do you agree with Mr Mark Hall that the abolition will lead to job losses across the entire horticultural industry?</p>
AQIS45	N/A	Written	Nash	<p>I refer to another of the many letters received by the Coalition from Mr Keith Richards which states;</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">“A pall has been cast over our usual primary producers' optimism by the news of the proposed outrageous hike of 40% increase in AQIS charges for export inspections, proposed to take effect from 1 July 2009. No other country in the world seeks to recover full cost recovery for compulsory export inspection from its export sector, for a community service obligation, which benefits all horticultural producers whether they export or not.’</p> <p>Does the Government believe that guaranteeing our international reputation as a provider of high quality, disease free agricultural products is something that benefits every single Australian? If so, why are export certification not treat as a ‘public good’, or a community service obligation?</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Is Australia the only country in the world which will recover the full costs for a compulsory export certification and inspection service?</p>
AQIS46	N/A	Written	Nash	Has the Minister for Department given industry groups a deadline to have come to agreement on the new fees and charges as a result of the axing of the 40% rebate?
AQIS47	N/A	Written	Nash	Is it a fact that AQIS has been working with your legislative drafters to change the current fees and charges in order to meet the implementation date of July 2009?
AQIS48	N/A	Written	Nash	What type of legislation is being drafted? Will it have to be passed or tabled in both Houses of Parliament? When is it proposed that this occur, given the 40% rebate is slated to be axed by 1 st July 2009?

AQIS49	N/A	Written	Nash	Will the division be employing any staff under the graduate program in 2009 -10?
AQIS50	N/A	Written	Nash	What is the lapsing International Mail program? How many people are employed in this program? Why is it lapsing? When was it initiated? What was the purpose of this program? How much funding has been committed to the program over the life of the program? Will it be replaced or absorbed into other programs?
AQIS51	N/A	Written	Nash	How does increasing the costs to exporters increase our international competitiveness in the current financial circumstances, particularly given exports are expected to decline in the foreseeable future?
AQIS52	N/A	Written	Nash	Can the department provide a list of all new and existing import applications for food and agriculture/fisheries/forestry products from China?
AQIS53	N/A	Written	Nash	What agriculture/food products are currently imported from China? Please provide a list of all imported food and agriculture products.
AQIS54	N/A	Written	Nash	Please provide in percentage terms and the number of tests conducted on food products (fresh and manufactured) being imported into Australia from China?
AQIS55	N/A	Written	Nash	Please update the previous list of all food inspected by AQIS during the 2008/09 financial year provided in during the last Senate Estimates Committee Hearing?
AQIS56	N/A	Written	Nash	How many of the items from China inspected by AQIS were rejected? What were the reasons for rejecting the shipments? Have any prosecutions been launched?
AQIS57	N/A	Written	Nash	How many shipments of agriculture products were held up and or rejected by AQIS last year because of breaches to Australia's Quarantine rules in 2008/09?
AQIS58	N/A	Written	Nash	What was the nature of these breaches? How many of the breaches resulted in the goods not being allowed into Australia? What happened to the goods? Have any prosecutions been launched? How many of these prosecutions were successful?
AQIS59	N/A	Written	Nash	The Budget Related Paper No. 1.1, Portfolio Budget Statements 2009 -10, Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Portfolio, states on page 67; "Outcome 2: Safeguard Australia's animal and plant health status to maintain overseas markets and protect the economy and environment from the impact of exotic pests and diseases, through risk assessment, inspection and certification, and the implementation of emergency response arrangements for Australian agricultural, food and fibre industries.' How does cutting 125 staffing positions possible help deliver Outcome 2?
AQIS60	N/A	Written	Nash	Budget Related Paper No. 1.1, Portfolio Budget Statements 2009 -10, Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Portfolio, page 71, Program 2.1 Key Performance Indicators states that in 2008-09 'zero markets lost'. Does the Government stand by this claim?
AWI01	26/05/2009	78-79	McGauran	<i>Tri-solfen</i> Senator McGAURAN —All right. What I would like to know is whether it is a real or a perceived conflict of interest. Does Dr Shiel have a commercial interest in Tri-Solfen still? I have no objection if

				<p>she does, by the way, but I would just like to know the ground rules.</p> <p>Mr Merriman—I will show you the conflicts disclosures.</p> <p>CHAIR—Mr Merriman, sorry, I just want to come in there. The last time there was information provided to this committee it gave a lot of heartburn and grief to your board. I would ask you just to think about what you are offering. Thank you very much, anyway.</p> <p>Mr Merriman—Thank you, Mr Chairman.</p> <p>Senator Sherry—I think that can be taken on notice, because whilst I am all for declarations of conflict, perceived or otherwise, to a board, it does not necessarily have to be made public. There could be some embarrassment to those individuals that is not related to their responsibilities and duties on the board. We will take that on notice. That is not saying no, but we will take it on notice.</p>
AWI02	26/05/2009	79	McGauran	<p><i>AWI's procedures and processes relating to conflicts of interest of board members</i></p> <p>Ms McGahan—I have some additional information that I think may help. I think I hear a concern about governance, and since I joined the company as CEO, I have increased the governance of the business by bringing to the business a very, very experienced company secretary/legal counsel, by the name of Sue Myers. She has an agriculture and government background, 30 years experience as a company secretary and corporate lawyer, and I think that that experience, that depth of experience and that strength, deals with your concerns, Senator. I hope it does.</p> <p>Senator McGAURAN—Excellent, and it ought to be transparent, would you agree?</p> <p>Ms McGahan—It is.</p> <p>Senator McGAURAN—Well, not too transparent at the moment.</p> <p>Senator Sherry—Given what the witness has just outlined, we can take this on notice. I am sure that the board and the new governance director, who is the company secretary can take on notice what their procedures and processes are in this regard.</p>
AWI03	26/05/2009	80	McGauran	<p><i>Underwriting Bayer</i></p> <p>Senator McGAURAN—It was reported: AUSTRALIAN Wool Innovation has committed \$400,000 for the registration of the mulesing pain-relief treatment, Tri-Solfen.</p> <p>Mr Merriman—N-o.</p> <p>Senator McGAURAN—The article continues: In a meeting with WoolProducers last week, AWI chairman Wal Merriman said AWI would underwrite the research required for the registration of Bayer's Tri-Solfen and the pre-operative pain-relief chemical, carprofen.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator McGAURAN—It was reported that \$400,000 was underwriting Bayer, but, given that you say it is not, what is the budget for this program you are undertaking?</p> <p>Mr Merriman—My memory is that the two components are about \$400,000 each, but we can take that on notice and get it back to you. The upshot of this is that, if those two chemical compounds get the meat residue level testing done and passed, it opens up the field for every other company now to come in and take up patent of it and therefore lessen the price.</p>
AWI04	26/05/2009	82	Adams	<p><i>Woolmark brand</i></p> <p>Senator ADAMS—Can I just take you back to the Woolmark brand. When you did the survey were people aware that that wool came from Australia? Did you ask any questions around the Woolmark brand</p>

				<p>as to where the wool came from?</p> <p>Ms McGahan—I am not aware. We might have to just take that question on notice. I do not know.</p> <p>Mr Merriman—Yes, Brenda was not there when a lot of the stuff came in. But my recollection is ‘no’ and we would like to take it on notice and bring it back to you.</p> <p>Senator ADAMS—If you could. I think it is very important because the Woolmark brand does say, ‘Well, this is a woollen garment,’ and whatever else goes with it. But the Woolmark brand was Australian. So that is really what I want to know.</p> <p>Ms McGahan—I will take the question on notice.</p>
AWI05	26/05/2009	83	Adams	<p><i>Unmulesed and mulesed wool</i></p> <p>Senator ADAMS—You are not really answering my question. I am asking you about overseas buyers. Are they actually coming out and trying to source unmulesed wool or are they just buying wool whether it is unmulesed or mulesed?</p> <p>Mr Merriman—I presume they are just buying both, because there is no major uplift in the unmulesed section.</p> <p>Senator ADAMS—Would you like to take it on notice and just let the Senate know if there has been a demand from countries to—and it does not matter what they paid for it—source unmulesed wool or whether they are still going along with the normal wool?</p> <p>Mr Merriman—I will take that on notice. Just to make sure I get this right, you want to know the amount of unmulesed wool that has been bought out of Australia compared to the rest?</p> <p>Senator ADAMS—No, that is not the question. I just want to know if buyers from specific countries are asking for unmulesed wool rather than normal wool.</p> <p>Mr Merriman—Yes, some are. Yes, some are and some are not.</p> <p>Senator ADAMS—So would you be able to give me a list of where those demands are coming from?</p> <p>Mr Merriman—Yes, I will take it on notice; and the company can provide you with a list. There are some companies saying they want unmulesed wool. At the end of the day they may not be buying unmulesed wool.</p>
AWI06	26/05/2009	86	McGauran	<p><i>Relationship with AWI and Bayer</i></p> <p>Senator McGAURAN—In wrapping up, Ms McGahan, what relationship, financial or otherwise, does the AWI have with Bayer, if any at all?</p> <p>Mr Merriman—None.</p> <p>Ms McGahan—I will have to take that question on notice, Senator.</p>
AWI07	N/A	Written	Williams	Does the AWI have any involvement in the "Warm Coats Warm Hearts" Foundation in the USA? If not why not?
AWI08	N/A	Written	Williams	Why is it difficult to find a wool or woolblend product in a department store?
AWI09	N/A	Written	Williams	Why is it difficult to find a dedicated woolgrower?
AWI10	N/A	Written	Williams	Has the AWI had any involvement in the use of wool batts in the insulation rebate?
AWI11	N/A	Written	Williams	Why do you believe wool is no longer profitable?

AWI12	N/A	Written	Williams	How does the cost of mulesing clips compare to the traditional mulesing methods?
AWI13	N/A	Written	Williams	When the clips are introduced on a broader scale will there be enough certified clip operators once lambing season begins?
AWI14	N/A	Written	Williams	Will the course to become a clipper be widely offered and what will the cost be?
AWI15	N/A	Written	Williams	If the mulesing clips are regarded as inadequate will there be another mulesing deadline set?
AWI16	N/A	Written	Williams	How will merino fresh garments be marketed to maximise exposure to national and international markets?
AWI17	N/A	Written	Williams	Will you be making Merino Fresh garments yourself or will you be selling the fabric to individual designers?
AWI18	N/A	Written	Williams	Do you envisage Merino Fresh boosting wool popularity as a material?
AWI19	N/A	Written	Fierravanti-Wells	<p>In relation to Question AWI 42 in Additional Estimates February 2009, the answer provided was not sufficient. The question asked for all projects to be listed. The answer simply provided a number. I repeat the question:</p> <p>Further to the questions asked at the hearing and taken on notice, please list all projects funded by AWI or otherwise undertaken by AWI since 2001 that have been undertaken with, or for the benefit of, Chinese companies, persons or other entities with a Chinese parent company, including those associated with:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. genetics or the transfer of genetic material; b. intellectual property or the transfer of the same; c. product or garment development.
AWI20	N/A	Written	Fierravanti-Wells	<p>In addition to the question asked, please also provide the following information in relation to each of the 93 projects referred to.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Outline the specifics of each project including when the project was commenced and when it was concluded. b. The decision maker involved in the project and whether any members of the board had any influence or were otherwise involved in making the decision regarding the project. c. Any organisation, body or institution involved in delivering or otherwise involved in the project. d. The amount of money involved in the project. e. Any performance appraisal or other performance indication or evaluation undertaken in relation to each project including at any stage of that project. f. Any disclosure of interests regarding any board member involved in any of those projects. g. What direct and/or indirect benefit accrued or will accrue to Australian wool growers in relation

				to each of the 93 projects. h. The total cost of all projects delivered to China since 2001.
AWI21	N/A	Written	Fierravanti-Wells	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Please outline all positions that have been filled, vacated, abolished or otherwise discontinued since AWI October 2008. 2. In relation to those positions that have been filled, please outline the process that has been undertaken to fill the same including any relationship that the occupant of the position had with AWI prior to October 2008. 3. In relation to positions that have been vacated, abolished or otherwise discontinued since October 2008, please specify what arrangements have been made to undertake the work previously undertaken in those positions.
AWI22	N/A	Written	Fierravanti-Wells	What roles are each director undertaking in the day to day operations of AWI including any positions for which a director is directly responsible or otherwise involved in?
AWI23	N/A	Written	Fierravanti-Wells	What conflicts of interest if any, do current directors have in relation to any pain relief, clips or other substance associated with pain relief, eg: Tri-Solfen?
AWI24	N/A	Written	Fierravanti-Wells	<p>Please outline the funding arrangements for the wool poll including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) what funds have been allocated for the conduct of the poll?; b) what role will the Board have in relation to those funds?; and c) what funds other than those referred to in (a) and (b) does AWI intend to expend in relation to the conduct of wool poll?
AWI25	N/A	Written	Fierravanti-Wells	<p>Please provide details of all travel and related expenses incurred by current directors and paid for by AWI, both in this current term and in any previous term they may have served as a director of AWI including dates of travel, reasons for the travel, cost of each trip, destination of each trip.</p> <p>In relation to each trip referred to above, what direct and/or indirect benefit accrued or will accrue to Australian wool growers in relation to the said trips?</p>
AWI26	N/A	Written	Fierravanti-Wells	<p>Please advise what programs, initiatives, etc, have been abolished or terminated since October 2008. In relation to each, please advise:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) when the decision to abolish or terminate was made; b) who made that decision; c) what arrangements or alternative program or initiative will be undertaken in substitution or otherwise of each of those programs; d) the reasons for abolishing or terminating each of those programs.
AWI27	N/A	Written	Fierravanti-Wells	<p>What contingent liabilities does AWI currently have, including any outstanding legal or contractual obligations?</p> <p>In relation to each, please provide the amount of the contingent liability and the nature of the said</p>

				obligation.
AWI28	N/A	Written	Fierravanti-Wells	In relation to any staff or consultants that have been sacked or terminated since October 2008, please advise if there are any outstanding liabilities or obligations in relation to any of those persons, and if so, please provide details in relation to each liability or obligation.
AWI29	N/A	Written	Fierravanti-Wells	Since October 2008, has AWI terminated or chosen not to renew any arrangement or relationship that it may have with any educational or other institution. Please provide details of the said arrangement or relationship and the reason for the termination or decision not to renew.
AWI30	N/A	Written	Fierravanti-Wells	In relation to Board meetings since October 2008, have any directors absented themselves from any or any part of a meeting. If so, what was the reason for that abstention including any related to a conflict or potential conflict of interest?
AWI31	N/A	Written	Fierravanti-Wells	In relation to the grower meeting held on 20 May 2009 in Sydney, please list all attendees at that meeting including any organisation they may have represented.
BA01	N/A	Written	Nash	What Import Risk Assessments IRA's on Chinese products are currently under way? Are they close to being finalised?
CC01	25/05/2009	85	Colbeck	Senator COLBECK —We will start with the drought. Can you give us an actual expenditure on all drought programs in 2008-09—actual money expended? Mr Mortimer —We would have to take that on notice. The budget papers have the estimated outcomes, but, in terms of actual details to date, that is something we would need to come back to you on.
CC02	25/05/2009	90-91	Macdonald	<i>Carbon emissions due to logging compared to emissions from bushfires</i> Senator IAN MACDONALD —We are limiting ourselves to 15 minutes each so we can get through this. I just want to thank the department for the answer it gave me to the question I asked at the last estimates about carbon emissions due to logging compared to bushfires. The question is labelled as CC10. I am not sure how I can otherwise identify it to you, but the answer said: The National Greenhouse Gas Inventory 2006 data for Australia's forests reports that 2.7 million tonnes of carbon dioxide was emitted due to biomass burning (prescribed fire and wildfire), and 62.9 million tonnes emitted due to deforestation ... If that were correct, Senator Milne perhaps would find some justification in the argument she makes. It goes on to say that net sequestration is 46.9 million tonnes, but this is the bit I want to ask about is: Research from the Bushfire Cooperative Research Centre has estimated the 2003 and 2006-07 bushfires could have put ... (70-105 million tonnes of carbon dioxide) into the atmosphere.

				<p>I appreciate no one is here from the Bushfire CRC or, I assume, from the National Greenhouse Gas Inventory. I guess that would be in the climate change department now. But can anyone tell me why the range would be so different: 2.7 million tonnes of carbon dioxide, according to the National Greenhouse Gas Inventory, and 70 to 105 million tonnes from the Bushfire CRC, a figure which, to me, makes much more common sense.</p> <p>Dr O’Connell—I think we would have to get back to you with an explanation of that from the Department of Climate Change, where some of this data occurs.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—I assume I can rely on this. If I issue my press release saying, ‘Bushfire carbon dioxide emissions were far greater than—almost double—emissions from deforestation,’ no-one would challenge me that I am being incorrect?</p> <p>Dr O’Connell—We have obviously submitted this as the answer we have, coming through the Greenhouse Gas Inventory and the Bushfire Cooperative Research Centre. Perhaps what would be most helpful all round is if we go back, assure ourselves that this is correct and give you an explanation of why there is a difference.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—I had not realised it before, and unfortunately Senator Milne is not listening to me but, just in case, I will repeat that 70 to 105 million tonnes of carbon dioxide, as opposed to 62.9 from deforestation—</p> <p>Dr O’Connell—One suggestion is that when the Department of Climate Change is on at estimates it may be that they can directly deal with this without having to take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—I will certainly do that if I happen to be here on Friday, when they are inconveniently meeting.</p> <p>Dr O’Connell—We can let them know that you will be looking at that.</p>
CC03	25/05/2009	94	Nash	<p><i>EC assessments</i></p> <p>Mr Mortimer—In terms of the process of doing the EC assessments, NRAC relies on information from the state governments and from the state offices on the ground, such as Pasture Protection, Department of Agriculture et cetera—sorry, that is old-fashioned terminology. They provide a lot of information to NRAC and often accompany NRAC on the tours around the region. There are a number of instances where—on the basis of what is seen by NRAC when they do those tours, assess the data and interact with New South Wales or any other government officials—the state will say: yes, we think that there is a case for continuing the EC in half the region and not the other, for example. That happens from time to time and would be reflected in the report to the minister. Where the state agrees with that through that process, that will be reflected in the recommendations to the minister and it will be acted upon. So you will from time to time see decisions on EC outcomes where the minister will say that assistance will continue for a revised area, and sometimes that gets reflected in the name of that area as it continues.</p> <p>Senator NASH—Is it possible to provide the committee with the information of those instances where they have happened, say, within the last five years?</p> <p>Mr Mortimer—I think we did that in answer to a question on notice from last estimates. It might be in my papers.</p> <p>Senator NASH—I was not in this committee last estimates. Forgive me for not being across that.</p> <p>Mr Mortimer—That is fine.</p> <p>Senator NASH—If not, if you could do that, it would be very useful.</p>

				Mr Mortimer —We can give you an updated one, but we have provided that information previously and there are examples that are known.
CC04	25/05/2009	115	Colbeck	<i>Forestry industry database</i> Senator COLBECK —We will move onto the forestry industry database. We were told last estimates that there is a development process to put out a tender into the community. Where are we at with that? Mr Talbot —A tender was conducted. We are finalising arrangements for a preferred tenderer at the moment, to develop an industry database over the next 15 months, and we are in the final stages also, with an industry body, to host the website. Senator COLBECK —How many tenders were received? Mr Talbot —I would have to take that on notice, but I think it was around eight.
CC05	25/05/2009	117	Colbeck	<i>The importation of illegally logged timber</i> Senator COLBECK —The question then is: when are we likely to get to this place? It has taken us 18 months to get to the stage of finding out what our options might be when the clear promise was: ‘A Rudd Labor government will crack down on the importation of illegally logged timber.’ It is suspected to be a significant proportion of the Australian timber market. We do not actually know, because a lot of the stuff is not in place. Senator Sherry —That is a policy decision for government to take, Senator Colbeck. Senator COLBECK —You are right; it is a policy. But it is a promise that you have already made, that you are going to do it. Senator Sherry —Yes. Senator COLBECK —We are 18 months in and we are still getting to the stage where we are finding out what— Senator Sherry —We are halfway through our term, we are 18 months in, and when the government is elected it does not introduce in detail all of its election commitments from day one. Senator COLBECK —I have not made that intimation. I am just trying to get a sense of a time frame of where we are going to be and what the policy options are. We have asked questions about this genuinely at each estimates to find out where things are at. Senator Sherry —Yes. I understand. Senator COLBECK —I am just trying to get a sense of what the time frame is going to be. Senator Sherry —In terms of a final decision as to implementation, we cannot give that to you. That is a policy matter that would need to be determined by the minister and cabinet and the processes that it wants followed. But I will take it on notice and I will discuss it with the minister firsthand.
CC06	25/05/2009	118	Milne	<i>Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement program</i> Senator MILNE —I note in the appropriation here that the Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement program concluded in 2008-09 and that there has been an allocation there. Do you have a full list of how that money was disbursed and is it on your website, or how can I get hold of that list? Mr Mortimer —We do not have that full list at that stage, I understand. I am advised by Mr Talbot that it is not on the website, but we can take that on notice and provide that to you. Senator MILNE —Yes. As you will recall, the Auditor-General had a few words to say about the administration of that grants program, so I would like to see how the money was disbursed. I presume all the money has now been disbursed and that is an end to it, or was any left over and transferred to something else?

				<p>Mr Talbot—The program terminates at the end of June, so there are still some payments to make. We can give you an update as at now and we can also give you an update when the program closes. We are happy to do that.</p> <p>Senator MILNE—Okay. In terms of the program closing, am I to assume that there will be no moneys left over at the end of June?</p> <p>Mr Mortimer—We cannot necessarily assume that, but it is unclear what the situation will be there. If there are underspends and to the extent of underspends, that is an issue for the minister and government to determine what they do with it.</p> <p>Senator MILNE—If you will, just take on notice what is spent till now, and update me at the end of June including any money that is not spent at that point.</p>
CC07	25/05/2009	121	Milne	<p><i>Issues surrounding managed investment schemes eg Timbercorp and Great Southern collapse</i></p> <p>Senator MILNE—In view of what has occurred, is the department going to do a review of them, given that we now have not only a management issue in terms of natural resource management but a market mechanism to manage in terms of a flood of wood onto the market?</p> <p>Mr Mortimer—Clearly the department, along with other agencies, will be looking at what has happened with the managed investment schemes, Timbercorp and Great Southern, and will be examining the consequences with a view to advice to government on what it means and whether there are issues that need to be considered, or any issues to be taken up. But that is at the preliminary stage here and now.</p> <p>Senator MILNE—In that discussion have you given any consideration to taking the competition out of the market in order to improve the price? By that I mean take out the native forests from the timber production market.</p> <p>Mr Mortimer—We have not gone to that point.</p> <p>Dr O’Connell—It is clearly government policy that native forests under RFAs will continue to be available for harvest.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator Sherry—Senator Milne is raising some very important public policy issues across at least three different portfolio areas. I accept your genuine deep interest in this area, because certainly the events of the last month or so in my particular areas of direct responsibilities have led me to question some of the supervisory regimes in this area, as indeed other events over the last 18 months have led me to have to deal with other issues in the managed investment scheme area. So I appreciate your interest. At this point in time, Senator Milne, without the detailed knowledge that is needed from the receivers, certainly in my area and probably in terms of the broader impact in the local communities and the broader industries where there are competitive plantations, it is just too early to have the facts, let alone to analyse the facts and the evidence to come to some policy conclusion and change, if that is necessary. For my part, I will certainly take on notice your interest in terms of the outcomes in this portfolio to Minister Burke and if I can, in my particular area—the regulatory supervisory area of managed investment schemes—I am more than happy to arrange a briefing with ASIC in respect to the issues it is identifying. But it will take a couple of weeks at least, I suspect, before we have a full detailed picture of this.</p> <p>Senator MILNE—I would really appreciate that, because foxes, weeds and fires do not wait for the administrators to sort out the ownership. They move in much faster than that.</p>
CC08	25/05/2009	122	Colbeck	<p><i>Election commitments on Forestry and preparing forest industries for climate change</i></p> <p>Senator COLBECK—I want to go back to the election commitments on forestry and preparing forest</p>

				<p>industries for climate change. At the last estimates in February we said that there has been no expenditure recorded against this item. You were intending to spend \$1.65 million in 2008-09. What is the reality of that occurring?</p> <p>Mr Talbot—We have had three projects that we commissioned this financial year. We have spent about \$1.5 million this year on climate change.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK—Spent or allocated?</p> <p>Mr Talbot—I have got expenditure here of \$1.585 to go to a number of projects. One project was commissioned to develop regional climate predictions and biophysical analyses to determine where management intervention is critical and necessary.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK—So that project will be concluded by the end of this financial year?</p> <p>Mr Talbot—I think it will go into next financial year. I do not have the dates they are concluded on, but I will provide them to you.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK—Okay.</p>
CC09	25/05/2009	89	Colbeck	<p><i>Drought programs</i></p> <p>Senator COLBECK—Going back to the discussion we had before, obviously you have another budget that is due in 12 months, at which point you will have to put something in it with respect to drought programs, given the unfortunate language—as we have agreed to call it—that was used this year so that you have got a sort of artificial time frame around that. But the department does not know what process the minister is going to use to consult with respect to the way forward?</p> <p>Dr O’Connell—It is now a matter for the government to make its decisions and that is normal for a policy development process of this sort. The government will make its call about how to go about that. It is probably best taken on notice.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK—Yes, I was just going to say that. In the circumstance that there is some sort of process going on between the minister and industry, whoever they may be, if it is possible for Senator Sherry to take on notice (a) if that process is occurring; and (b) who is involved in that process?</p> <p>Senator Sherry—I will certainly do that, Senator Colbeck.</p>
CC10	N/A	Written	Bob Brown	<p><i>Green carbon paper</i></p> <p>Regarding the Review of Green Carbon paper published by the Forests and Forest Industry Council on 10 March 2009, and provided to myself as an answer to a question on notice to the Senate Select Committee on Climate Policy:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In Table 1 of Appendix B of Global Climate Change and the Tasmanian Forest Products Sector, is it true that just 5655 hectares of Tasmania was logged between 2001–2006? If Table 1 was wrong and meant to read "average annual areas logged", or something else, is the figure for Tasmania's total true?
CC11	N/A	Written	Heffernan	<p><i>Collapse of MIS developments Timbercorp and Great Southern:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In the past ten years the total plantation area has increased by about 55%. – what will be the impact of the collapse of Great Southern and Timbercorp have on plantations now? 2. Would like name of departmental official and contact details please who is handling and monitoring MIS issues?
CC12	N/A	Written	Bob Brown	<p><i>Forestry marketing and resource development</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Please detail what activities were funded under the following budget items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forestry Marketing and Resource Development Act which received \$8.862m in 2008–09

				and \$7.872m in 2009–10. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Tasmanian Community Forests Agreement which was funded \$38.17m in 2008–09.
CC13	N/A	Written	Heffernan	<i>Drought assistance</i> 1. Productivity Commission Report recommends drought assistance should be abandoned, could the DAFF please update us about current drought assistance programme following 2009 May Budget? 2. At 2007 Federal election, Government promised to overhaul the \$1billion given annually to farmers for drought assistance – I understand originally intended reforms would be implemented by July 2009, is this still going ahead, when will this occur and when will we see the reform package? 3. If present drought programme is to be replaced, what support system will be introduced to help farmers deal with drought and climate change?
CC14	N/A	Written	Nash	Does the Government agree with the Productivity Commission that; <i>The EC declarations ... should not be-extended to new areas. Current declarations should lapse as soon as practicable.</i> ’?
CC15	N/A	Written	Nash	If the Government does not agree with the Productivity Commission why has it ceased all drought funding from 2010?
CC16	N/A	Written	Nash	Isn’t it a fact that some of the Productivity Commissions report is absolute rubbish and many of the scenarios painted in the report have been made up by the Productivity Commission to justify its attack on the integrity of Australian farmers and the slashing of crucial drought support programs?
CC17	N/A	Written	Nash	Does the Government agree with the Productivity Commission recommendation that; <i>The objectives of the Australia’s Farming Future initiative should be revised and extended to the following: assist primary producers to adapt and adjust to the impacts of climate variability and climate change; encourage primary producers to adopt self-reliant approaches to managing risks; and assist primary producers to manage greenhouse gas emissions and other adverse impacts on the environment.</i> ’?
CC18	N/A	Written	Nash	Can the Department explain in practical terms what measures the Productivity Commission is talking about for each of these recommendations? Please provide examples of a practical initiative for each of these recommendations.
CC19	N/A	Written	Nash	Does the Government agree with recommendation 8.1 which states; <i>Significant public funding should be directed to research, development and extension to assist farmers prepare for, manage, and recover from the impacts of climate variability and change.</i> ’?
CC20	N/A	Written	Nash	What research, development and extension to assist farmers prepare for, manage and recover from the impacts of climate variability and change is currently being undertaken by the Department?
CC21	N/A	Written	Nash	Provide specific examples of how a farmer can prepare for, manage and recover from the impacts of climate variability and change?
CC22	N/A	Written	Nash	How many regions are currently receiving exceptional circumstances drought funding? What percentage of Australia’s agriculture country is this?

CC23	N/A	Written	Nash	Please provide an electorate by electorate breakdown of EC areas and the time these areas have been EC declared?
CC24	N/A	Written	Nash	What will be the estimated savings as a result of cancelling drought EC areas as announced in the Minister Media Release of 12th February, 2009?
CC25	N/A	Written	Nash	What is the average interest rate paid on which EC Interest Rate subsidies have been paid?
CC26	N/A	Written	Nash	How many farmers have already reached the EC Interest Rate cap for eligible farmers?
CC27	N/A	Written	Nash	Is the Government reviewing any regions which have been not been extended beyond April 2009?
CC28	N/A	Written	Nash	How many farmers are currently receiving EC assistance? Please provide a region by region breakdown of how many farmers and the dollar amount are receiving the EC Interest Rate Subsidy and or the EC Household Support for the following years 2008/09 and estimated for 2009 -10.
CC29	N/A	Written	Nash	What transitional support is available for farmers who have been taken out of EC areas?
CC30	N/A	Written	Nash	What are the criteria used to access any transitional support?
CC31	N/A	Written	Nash	How many exceptional circumstances exit grants have been paid in the past 12 months, how many are outstanding or waiting to be approved? Please provide an electorate by electorate breakdown of successful applicants and the amount of each exit grant in that electorate.
CC32	N/A	Written	Nash	How many applications were made for the exit grants? Please provide an electorate by electorate breakdown?
CC33	N/A	Written	Nash	Why were these exit grants unsuccessful?
CC34	N/A	Written	Nash	Does the Government consider this grant program to have been a success?
CC35	N/A	Written	Nash	Will the Government change the criteria for the exit grants to allow more people to be eligible?
CC36	N/A	Written	Nash	Are applicants who have been unsuccessful for the exit grants informed of the reasons their application has not been approved? If not, why not?
CC37	N/A	Written	Nash	How many applicants for the exit grant who have been refused have appealed the decision? How many appeals avenues are available to them

CC38	N/A	Written	Nash	Have any of the rejected applicants taken their appeal to the Ombudsman?
CC39	N/A	Written	Nash	What were the grounds of their appeals? Were any of them successful?
CC40	N/A	Written	Nash	Have any of the State Governments written to the Government asking for any regions which were removed or are to be removed from EC in the past twelve months to be either reviewed or made applications for the region to be returned to EC status? Which State Governments have made requests and for what regions? What were the grounds for their appeals? Were any of them successful?
CC41	N/A	Written	Nash	Please give a detailed breakdown of all the reasons National Rural Advisory Council (NRAC) rejected extending drought EC declarations for the following regions; Central Mudgee-Merriwa; Central North-North West Coonamble Revision; Bundarra district of the Central North-North West Northern Slopes Revision area; Central Tablelands area; Dubbo area (excluding parts which were extended in February 2009); Molong area (excluding parts which were extended in February 2009); Mudgee-Merriwa area; Northern New England area; Nyngan area (excluding parts which were extended in February 2009); Walgett-Coonamble.
CC42	N/A	Written	Nash	Did NRAC visit any of these regions prior to rejecting continuing Drought EC declarations? When did these visits occur?
CC43	N/A	Written	Nash	How much money is currently held by farmers in FMDs?
CC44	N/A	Written	Nash	What is the reason for moving parts of the Drought support programs to Treasury?
CC45	N/A	Written	Nash	Will the Department still be responsible of Drought policy or has this being outsourced to Treasury?
CC46	N/A	Written	Nash	How many hectares of trees are estimated to be planted under the Government's Emissions Trading scheme?
CC47	N/A	Written	Nash	What was the actual expenditure on all drought programs in 2008 – 09?
CC48	N/A	Written	Nash	What is the estimate expenditure on all drought programs for the following years 2009 – 10, 2010 – 11?
CC49	N/A	Written	Nash	Budget Related Paper No.1.1, Portfolio Budget Statements 2009 -10, page 60 states; <i>'The reduction in expenses between 2009 -10 and 2010 – 11 is due to the cessation of drought programs.'</i> Please explain what 'cessation of drought programs' means?
CC50	N/A	Written	Nash	Will there be any drought programs beyond 2010 – 11?

CC51	N/A	Written	Nash	Has funding been set aside for drought programs beyond 2010-11 in the either the Departments or Treasury's contingency funding?
CC52	N/A	Written	Nash	What has been the cost of each of the three separate Drought reports which have now all been publicly released?
CC53	N/A	Written	Nash	What is the next stage in the process now the reports have been publicly release?
CC54	N/A	Written	Nash	What is the timeline for the Government's response to these drought reports and when will the new drought policy be released?
CC55	N/A	Written	Nash	Will the Government be release a drought white, green or discussion paper for public consultation before it implements any changes to the current drought programs?
CC56	N/A	Written	Nash	Does the Government agree with the findings and recommendations contained with in the Productivity Commissions Report in Government Drought Support?
CC57	N/A	Written	Nash	Does the Government agree with the Productivity Commission that ' <i>EC interest rate subsidies and state-based transactions subsidies are ineffective, can perversely encourage poor management practices and should be terminated.</i> '?
CC58	N/A	Written	Nash	Please give specific examples where either EC interest rate subsidies or state-based transactions have encouraged 'poor management' practices? How many of these types of instances have occurred?
CC59	N/A	Written	Nash	Does the Government agree with the Productivity Commission that state based transactional subsidies are; <i>exacerbating environmental damage from retaining excessive stock for the prevailing conditions.</i> '?
CC60	N/A	Written	Nash	Can the Government provide any specific examples where state based transactional subsidies have exacerbated environmental damage?
CC61	N/A	Written	Nash	Why is there no contingent liability listed in the Budget for drought support past 30 June 2010? Have you adopted a policy that drought across Australia ends on that date?
Corporate Finance01	26/05/2009	99-100	Colbeck	<p><i>AAHL Funding</i></p> <p>Senator COLBECK—Has there been any increase in the diagnostic workload of the organisation from 2007-08 to 2008-09?</p> <p>Mr Aldred—Again, I do not have the specific details but I would expect it has probably gone down, from our perspective. 2007-08 was of course when the equine influenza incident was on, and certainly AAHL would have been well involved there.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK—Did that require an increased funding commitment over that period of time from the department?</p>

				<p>Mr Aldred—Yes. My recollection is that there would have been additional costs above what we would term ‘normal commitments’ that would have been part of the cost-sharing arrangements for equine influenza.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK—The budget papers indicate an increase of \$21,000 from 2008-09 to 2009-10. Is that based on any specific requirement or is it just a matching process?</p> <p>Mr Aldred—That would be a normal factor of rebasing that would be put in by the department of finance.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK—By the department of finance?</p> <p>Mr Aldred—In relation to these figures, that vary a little from year to year but that are standard figures. I am not sure I can explain the technical part, but there is not quite a CPI but rather an adjustment figure that is applied.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK—Effectively to reflect the base cost of obtaining the agency’s contribution?</p> <p>Mr Aldred—No. My understanding is that it is more of a blanket thing that covers all sorts of programs that go across several years at a standard rate.</p> <p>Dr O’Connell—It might be parameter adjustments, but we could take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK—Can you give us any sense of what the additional workload is from the agency’s perspective that might generate that increasing funding, or is that just a sum that is allocated by the department of finance?</p> <p>Mr Aldred—It is just a parameter adjustment. I can take it on notice, but it is not a change that has been made only to AAHL as a specific program. As you can see on page 73, most of those programs would have some form of parameter adjustment, minor variation from year to year.</p>
Corporate Finance02	26/05/2009	75	Nash	<p><i>Quarantine and Export Services</i></p> <p>Senator NASH—I have just got a couple of quick questions. I have been out of the room a bit, so, please just bear with me if these questions have already been asked, and I will simply stop asking. In the budget papers, on page 68, on program 2.1: ‘Quarantine and export services’, ordinary annual services had a decline of around \$25 million or \$26 million. What is that cut?</p> <p>Dr O’Connell—If you bear with us, Senator, we will see if somebody can give you that.</p> <p>Senator NASH—That would be excellent. While we are waiting, perhaps—</p> <p>Dr O’Connell—I think it will be a set of things. Can we take that on notice?</p> <p>Senator NASH—Yes. I will just see if Senator Colbeck has something further. We are coming to the end of quarantine, but, if he has something further while we are waiting, Senator Colbeck might like to—</p> <p>Senator COLBECK—If we want to keep things moving, I might put them on notice. There is a range of budget measures, but I think we could put them on notice and move on.</p> <p>Senator NASH—All right. It seems to be proving a little difficult.</p> <p>Dr O’Connell—We will have to confirm it. I will have to take it on notice in the event that it is not right, but I think that is predominantly the export subsidy reduction. I am just not absolutely sure because our CFO is not around at the moment.</p> <p>Senator NASH—All right. I am happy for you to take it on notice.</p> <p>Dr O’Connell—We will take that on notice, Senator.</p> <p>Senator NASH—Further, also on page 68, under program 2.1, there is ‘Quarantine and Export Services’ and ‘Revenues from Independent Sources’, and that is an increase of what looks to be around \$35</p>

				million. Could you let the committee know what those independent sources are that you are gaining that \$35 million from? Mr Delane —Senator, I am reasonably confident that is the subject of a long discussion around the 40 per cent cost recovery.
Corporate Finance03	26/05/2009	100-101	Nash	<i>Animal health</i> Senator NASH —I might need some help traversing this, but I want to take you again to page 69 of the PBS, which I assume is still under plant and animal health. Are these the ordinary annual services figures relating to plant and animal health? Mr Aldred —The portfolio budget statement actually has a translation table from outcomes and outputs to a program basis for 2009-10. Program 2.2 is plant and animal health, and that includes what we call PIAPH, or product integrity, animal and plant health. The figures that you are referring to under ‘Ordinary annual services and revenues from independent sources’ would also include some figures for AQIS activities. Senator NASH —So it does relate to this area. I am just making sure I am on the right track. Mr Aldred —The bulk of PIAPH, as we know it, sits within that program, but it also covers some AQIS activities. Senator NASH —On that basis—and I bet you are going to tell me you want to take this on notice—there is about a \$10 million drop in the services figure, and the revenue has increased by nearly \$10 million. Is it possible to supply information to the committee on what those figures actually represent? I am happy for you to take that on notice if you would prefer, to make sure we get the detailed information. Mr Aldred —Yes, I will take it on notice and we will align that with the previous question and deal with program 2.1 and 2.2.
Corporate Finance 04	N/A	Written	Nash	Budget Related Paper No. 1.1, Portfolio Budget Statements 2009 -10, Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Portfolio, page 69, Average Staffing Level shows a cut of 125 jobs in 2009 -10 from the previous year, please provide a breakdown from which programs each of these jobs will be lost? Which programs will be affected by job losses? (please included which areas and classification the terminated positions will be?)
Corporate Finance 05	N/A	Written	Nash	Budget Related Paper No. 1.1, Portfolio Budget Statements 2009 -10, Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Portfolio, page 68, Program 2.1: Quarantine and Export Services, Departmental Expenses; Ordinary Annual Services (Appropriation Bill No. 1) the estimated actual expenses for 2008 -09 was \$121,049,000 which will be cut to \$95,353,000 in 2009 -10. Doesn’t this represent a cut to the Governments contribution of \$25,969,000? From which program areas is this funding to be cut?
Corporate Finance 06	N/A	Written	Nash	Why is the Government deliberately ignoring the Ministers ‘in-principle’ support for an additional \$260 million per annum and cutting the Government’s contribution by \$25.969 million in 2009-10? Why is the Government deliberately ignoring the Ministers ‘in-principle’ support for an additional \$260 million per annum and cutting the Government’s contribution to Plant and Animal Health programs by \$10.181 million in 2009-10?

Corporate Finance 07	N/A	Written	Nash	<p>Budget Related Paper No. 1.1, Portfolio Budget Statements 2009 -10, Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Portfolio, page 68, Program 2.1: Quarantine and Export Services, Departmental Expenses; Revenues from Independent Sources (Section 31) states the estimated actual expenses for 2008 -09 was \$184,133,000 and for 2009 -10 estimated expenses climb to \$219,269,000. Why is there an increase of \$35,136,000 in revenues from Independent Sources?</p> <p>Please identify each of the taxes, charges and/or user fees by name and under which Act they are collected?</p> <p>How are each of the Revenues from Independent Sources collected and for what reason they are collected?</p> <p>Provide a breakdown of the actual cost of providing each service which is paid for by either a tax, fee, charge, and/or user charge (ie AQIS Export Inspection Services) for Revenues from Independent Sources collected in 2008-09 and 2009-10?</p> <p>How much profit did/will the Government make the taxes, fees, charges and/or user charges it collects from the Revenues from Independent Sources in 2008 -09 and 2009-10?</p>
Corporate Finance 08	N/A	Written	Nash	What is the actual decrease in dollar terms from 2009 -10 to 2010-11 which relates to the lapsing of Avian Influenza, International Mail and Securing the Future programs?
Corporate Finance 09	N/A	Written	Nash	What sort of funding does the department believe is 'significant public funding'?
Corporate Finance 10	N/A	Written	Nash	The figure in Budget Paper No. 4 Agency Resourcing; page 71 which states in 2008 – 09 there was \$2,857.347 million in total budget resources and in 2009 – 2010 the total budget will be \$1,949.113 million, doesn't this represent a cut of \$908 million?
Corporate Finance 11	N/A	Written	Nash	Please provide a list of all demand driven programs, terminating programs, programs shifted to other Departments, and programs which have had cuts in funding from 2008 – 09 to 2009 – 10, including the magnitude of the cuts and reason for cuts in funding?
Corporate Finance 12	N/A	Written	Nash	How much revenue from sources other than Treasury will the Department be collecting in 2008 – 09 and 2009 – 10? Identify the taxes, charges and/or user fees, how they are collected and for what reason they are collected, and a breakdown of the actual cost of providing each service which is paid for by either a tax, fee, charge, and/or user charge (ie AQIS Export Inspection Services)?
Corporate Finance 13	N/A	Written	Nash	Have any prosecutions being launched against individuals or companies who owe monies, for either, a tax, fee, user charge? Have they been successful?

Corporate Finance 14	N/A	Written	Nash	Budget paper No.1, Budget Strategy and Outlook, page 6-66 states that average staffing level (ASL) will be cut by 312 positions will be cut in 2009 – 10, how much funding will be saved as a result of these positions being terminated?
Corporate Finance 15	N/A	Written	Nash	<p>Please provide a breakdown/list of every program which has terminated in 2007 – 08, 2009 – 10 and is set to terminate in 2010 – 11 and the actual amount of funding provide per year of each terminating program?</p> <p>What was the purpose of these terminating programs and for how many years did they operate? How much of the funding each year of operation of terminating program was spent in 1) Canberra; or 2) regional, rural or remote regions; or 3) other capital cities?</p> <p>How much funding over the life of the program was spent on administration for each terminating program?</p> <p>Over the life of the program how much funding was spent on actual grants for each terminating program?</p> <p>Have any of the functions of these terminating programs been absorbed by other programs within the Department? If so what functions and to which Department have they been absorbed? Has funding been increased to match this increased workload?</p> <p>Did these terminating programs fulfil all their objectives and bench marks? IF not in what areas were they deficient?</p>
Corporate Finance 16	N/A	Written	Nash	What programs formerly administered by the Department have been moved to other Departments or Treasury?
Corporate Finance 17	N/A	Written	Nash	Budget Paper No.2, Budget Measures, page 80 states ‘This measure will provide savings of \$12 million over four years through identifying lower priority activities that can cease with a minimal impact on the delivery of key Government objectives, what projects and programs are considered ‘lower priority activities’?
Corporate Finance 18	N/A	Written	Nash	Please list which projects/programs these ‘further efficiency’ saving will be made to over the next four years?
Corporate Finance 19	N/A	Written	Nash	<p>When will the department undertake work on the cost of the Government’s proposed Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS) to its budget?</p> <p>Will the cost be included in this year’s budget in the forwarded estimates for 2010/11?</p>

				Will Treasury be compensating the department for increased running costs as a result of the Government's CPRS or will further efficiencies have to be found to cover the increased costs?
Corporate Finance 20	N/A	Written	Nash	<p>Budget Related Paper No. 1.1, Portfolio Budget Statements 2009 -10, Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Portfolio, page 69, Outcome 2 Totals by Appropriation Type; Departmental Expenses, Ordinary Annual Services (Appropriation Bill No.1) states: in 2008-09 Estimated Actual Expenses was \$196.723 million, the 2009 -10 Estimate Expenses of \$160.846 million? Doesn't this represent a cut of \$35.877 million in Government funding?</p> <p>Please provide a detailed breakdown from which program areas is this funding to be cut?</p>
Corporate Finance 21	N/A	Written	Nash	<p>Budget Related Paper No. 1.1, Portfolio Budget Statements 2009 -10, Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Portfolio, page 69, Outcome 2 Totals by Appropriation type, Departmental Expenses; Revenues from Independent Sources (Section 31) states; 2008-09 Estimated Actual Expenses, \$229.220 million, increasing to \$273.011 million Estimated Expenses 2009-10. Why is there an increase of \$43.891 million in revenues from Independent Sources in 2009-10?</p> <p>Please identify each of the taxes, charges and/or user fees covered under the budget line item Revenues from Independent Sources by name and under which Act they are collected?</p> <p>How is each of the Revenues from Independent Sources collected and for what reason they are collected?</p> <p>Provide a breakdown of the actual cost to the Department of providing each service which is paid for by either a tax, fee, charge, and/or user charge (ie AQIS Export Inspection Services) for Revenues from Independent Sources collected in 2008-09 and 2009-10?</p> <p>How much profit did/will the Government make from the taxes, fees, charges and/or user charges it collects from the Revenues from Independent Sources in 2008 -09 and 2009-10?</p>
Corporate Finance 22	N/A	Written	Nash	<p>Budget Related Paper No. 1.1, Portfolio Budget Statements 2009 -10, Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Portfolio, page 69, Program 2.2: Plant and Animal Health Departmental Expenses; Ordinary Annual Services (Appropriation Bill No. 1) the estimated actual expenses for 2008 -09 was \$75.674 million which will be cut to \$65.493 million in 2009 -10. Doesn't this represent a cut to the Governments contribution of \$10,181 million?</p> <p>From which program areas is this funding to be cut?</p>
Corporate Finance 23	N/A	Written	Nash	<p>Budget Related Paper No. 1.1, Portfolio Budget Statements 2009 -10, Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Portfolio, page 69, Program 2.2: Plant and Animal Health, Departmental Expenses; Revenues from Independent Sources (Section 31) states the estimated actual expenses for 2008 -09 was \$45.087 million and for 2009 -10 estimated expenses climb to \$53.742 million. Why is there an increase of \$8.655 million in revenues from Independent Sources?</p>

				<p>Please identify each of the taxes, charges and/or user fees covered under the budget line item Revenues from Independent Sources by name and under which Act they are collected?</p> <p>How is each of the Revenues from Independent Sources collected and for what reason they are collected?</p> <p>Provide a breakdown of the actual cost to the Department of providing each service which is paid for by either a tax, fee, charge, and/or user charge (ie AQIS Export Inspection Services) for Revenues from Independent Sources collected in 2008-09 and 2009-10?</p> <p>How much profit did/will the Government make from the taxes, fees, charges and/or user charges it collects from the Revenues from Independent Sources in 2008 -09 and 2009-10?</p>
Corporate Services 01	25/05/2009	10	Colbeck	<p><i>Employment impacts</i></p> <p>Dr O'Connell—The overall idea is that payments to the states are consolidated in what are called national partnership programs and they become single payments to the state each month, which are across the board, across whole of government, if you like. Other departments have the same thing. They retain the policy responsibility for the programs; it is simply that the money that goes out is appropriated to the Treasury and is then fed to the states on a consolidated monthly basis. It is a more efficient way of making payments.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK—So you can come back to us and give us any detail of any potential employment impacts of moving that.</p> <p>Senator Sherry—We will take that on notice. If we can provide an answer by tomorrow, we will do so. In saying that, my expectation is that we should be able to provide you with an answer on that.</p>
Corporate Services 02	25/05/2009	12	Macdonald	<p><i>Staff recruitment</i></p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—You may not have this now, but how many permanent staff have you recruited since budget estimates last year? What level were those staff? How many temporary positions exist and have been created since the last budget? And how many employees have you employed on contract? I am conscious that some of your former senior and very well respected and very valuable employees have left but have come back to do contract work. Do you have details of that now or could you get details on notice on all the questions I have asked?</p> <p>Dr O'Connell—We would have to take that on notice. That would require a bit of work.</p>
Corporate Services 03	25/05/2009	14	Nash	<p><i>Attrition rate</i></p> <p>Ms Hazell—Last financial year the department had a natural attrition rate of about 13.5 per cent and so far this year it is running at about 9.5 per cent.</p> <p>Senator NASH—What is that in actual numbers?</p> <p>Ms Hazell—I will just have to get somebody to do that quick conversion for you, but it is more than 250.</p>
Corporate Services 04	25/05/2009	15	Heffernan	<p><i>Redundancies</i></p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN—Can I just ask for a clarification. On the nine per cent this year and whatever it was the year before, which you are going to convert, Ms Hazell, enter numbers, could you also give us the numbers of people in those redundancies and people leaving the department who are 54-11?</p> <p>Ms Hazell—That one I would have to take on notice.</p>

Corporate Services 05	25/05/2009	16	Heffernan	<i>Redundancies in the last 3 years</i> Senator HEFFERNAN —Could I just clarify? I have asked the question about how many redundancies are 24-11s. Could that question go back for the last three years? Could you also answer the question: how many people who have retired on 24-11s in that group have come back as contractors anywhere in the government? Senator Sherry —We will have to take that on notice, Senator.
Corporate Services 06	N/A	Written	Nash	Will these job losses be as a result of forced redundancies, voluntary redundancies, natural attrition or by axing the graduate program? If a mix of all of these please provide a list of how many fall into each category and where those positions are currently located?
Corporate Services 07	N/A	Written	Nash	What rights do employees have to refuse the termination of their jobs? Is any form of arbitration available for these employees which could over-turn the Departments decision to terminate their employment?
Corporate Services 08	N/A	Written	Nash	How many positions which are to be terminated will be outsourced?
Corporate Services 09	N/A	Written	Nash	How many graduate program positions were employed within all of the Quarantine and Biosecurity division in 2007 -08, and 2008 -09?
Corporate Services 10	N/A	Written	Nash	What were these graduate program positions and where are they located?
Corporate Services 11	N/A	Written	Nash	Which programs will be affected by job losses? (please included which areas and classification the terminated positions will be?)
Corporate Services 12	N/A	Written	Nash	Will the 312 jobs losses be by forced redundancy, voluntary redundancies, or natural attrition? If a mixture please provide a program by program breakdown, include where the jobs to be lost are currently located?
Corporate Services 13	N/A	Written	Nash	What rights do employees have to refuse termination of their jobs? Is any form of arbitration available for these employees which could over turn the Departments decision to terminate their employment?
Corporate Services 14	N/A	Written	Nash	How many jobs will be terminated because they have been identified as being lower priority activities? Where are these position currently located?
Corporate Services 15	N/A	Written	Nash	Will this work to ‘identify lower priority activities’ be conducted by an internal review or an outside source or consultancy? If a consultancy how much is this expected to cost?
Corporate Services 16	N/A	Written	Nash	Provide a breakdown of all consultancies (companies they were awarded too and cost of each consultancy, and purpose of each consultancy, and length each contract was awarded for) for the years 2008/09 and proposed consultancies/ expenditure in 2010 – 11 and when they were/are to be awarded?

Corporate Services 17	N/A	Written	Nash	How many consultancies are currently being tendered?
Corporate Services 18	N/A	Written	Nash	What was the total dollar amount awarded in consultancies in 2006/07, 2007/08 and 2008/09?
Corporate Services 19	N/A	Written	Nash	How many of the consultancies awarded in 2007/08. 2008/09 have there been disputes or work not delivered as specified?
CPD01	25/05/2009	110-111	Nash	<p><i>Allowance impacted on rural and regional areas</i></p> <p>Senator NASH—Within rural policy, I remember in the past asking questions about general rural policy type issues. Perhaps I will ask here and you will tell me if it is not the right spot. The changes to youth allowance that the government has brought in in the budget obviously have a very specific impact on rural and regional areas in particular. Given your expertise in regional areas and communities, I wondered whether you were consulted at all before the government decided to make the changes and, if not, why not?</p> <p>Dr O’Connell—We would have to check with our corporate policy area, but I do not think so. We would have to take that on notice and have a look at what the sequence of events was.</p> <p>Senator NASH—All right, if you would not mind. I imagine that might not be too hard. I understand the taking on notice process, so perhaps by the end of the day tomorrow you might be able to advise the committee.</p> <p>Dr O’Connell—I think we could do that.</p> <p>Senator NASH—Given that one of the changes means that for students who are currently undertaking a gap year it is retrospective, and it has all been changed midstream, the regional community impact is that it is going to have a devastating effect. I would be very interested to know if the regional areas of the department were consulted and, as I said, if not, why not?</p>
CPD02	26/05/2009	102	Heffernan	<p><i>Productivity for agriculture</i></p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN—In the present climate, which is very difficult in southern New South Wales, Victoria and lots of Western Australia, could I ask the secretary what he thinks the impact will be, in terms of productivity for agriculture, of the implementation of the division 7A enforcement on Australian farm producers?</p> <p>Mr Grant—I think I might have to take that on notice.</p>
CPD03	26/05/2009	104	Williams	<p><i>Treasury impact</i></p> <p>Senator NASH—Can I ask a question on that, directly related—and Senator Heffernan is absolutely right and this is a productivity issue. Were you consulted at all by Treasury on the impact of this particular measure before they have put it forward to budget?</p> <p>Dr O’Connell—I will take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator NASH—And if not, why not?</p> <p>Dr O’Connell—What I am quite happy to do, because I can—</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN—We are going to have to march on parliament if this is true.</p> <p>CHAIR—Senator Heffernan, Dr O’Connell has answered the question. He is taking it on notice.</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN—Righto. The secretary has been very patient.</p> <p>CHAIR—You might not get the answer you like, but it is taken on notice. Are there other questions to</p>

				<p>the department of fisheries?</p> <p>Senator WILLIAMS—On this issue, the question is simple: were you consulted?</p> <p>Dr O’Connell—It is not a simple answer in the sense that I would have to go and find out whether or not we were consulted—</p> <p>Senator WILLIAMS—You were not consulted personally, obviously.</p> <p>Dr O’Connell—or whether or not any information was provided or what was the sequence of events. So I will take that on notice so that I can give you an accurate answer.</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN—You can be sure Australia’s farmers were not consulted.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK—If the agency was consulted, which arm of the agency was most likely to have been consulted?</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN—Productivity.</p> <p>Dr O’Connell—No, it is possibly corporate policy area, but we will take that on notice.</p>
CPD04	26/05/2009	104	Colbeck	<p><i>Farms market value</i></p> <p>Senator COLBECK—What about one of the research arms? I understand you have taken that on notice. It is a question of farm productivity. The calculation has been done that a family farm that is valued at \$1.5 million with a market rental value of, say, four per cent would attract a rental payment of \$60,000 per year. That is one calculation that has been done. I understand that this is an issue and a measure that is being instituted by the tax department, but when we are talking about issues that impact on other sectors, it is sometimes—and I say sometimes—the case that Treasury will contact the relative arm of that agency, not necessarily known to you, Dr O’Connell, to ask questions about that. So I appreciate you taking the question on notice, but it does come back to a profitability of rural sector issue, because there are so many farms that are structured in this way.</p> <p>Dr O’Connell—I am not questioning that there are not serious and significant issues. What I am saying is that I have not had any notice that this issue was coming. If we had, we would have been prepared for it.</p> <p>CHAIR—Dr O’Connell, you have made it very clear on a number of occasion that you will take it on notice.</p> <p>Dr O’Connell—And I will take it on notice.</p>
CPD05	N/A	Written	Nash	Who edits and produces the videos on the Minister’s website?
CPD06	N/A	Written	Nash	Did the Department purchases a video and/or editing program to produce these videos? How much did these items or any other items associated with the production of the Minister’s video’s/pod casts cost?
CPD07	N/A	Written	Nash	Does anyone from the Department or Minister’s office travel with the Minister to film these videos?
CPD08	N/A	Written	Nash	How much travel allowances have they been paid?
CPD09	N/A	Written	Nash	What are there are their other duties?

CPD10	N/A	Written	Nash	When did they start with the Department?
CPD11	N/A	Written	Nash	Were they specifically hired because of their ability to produce videos?
CPD12	N/A	Written	Nash	How many reviews, committees, taskforces, and inquiries have been started or formed since 24 th November, 2008? What is the current status of each of these reviews, committees, taskforces and inquiries currently underway? Please indicate whether they will be released publicly and if so when. What is the purpose of each of these reviews, committees, and taskforces and inquires? Who is undertaking each of these reviews, committees, and taskforces and inquires? Provide a list of Members, their qualifications and remuneration (including daily fees, Travel Allowance How much is each of these reviews, committees, taskforces and inquiries costing? Provide a breakdown of the cost of each individual review, committee, taskforce and inquiry?
CPD13	N/A	Written	Heffernan	<i>Farming sector</i> 1. Rudd Govt announced in this year's Budget a tightening up of the rules surrounding private companies (Division 7A of <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1936</i>), this will have major consequences and unintended consequences for thousands of Australian farming families when the changes are introduced on 1 July 2009. Many farmers are still struggling with the current drought or its aftermath, many are not paying tax, how will these families cope with this added burden and will there be funding programmes available to assist these farmers? 2. Who is the contact person in DAFF who will be handling this issue of Division 7A? 3. Has DAFF been consulted with the impact of this legislation about this issue, who is the person from Treasury who has consulted DAFF? 4. This will have financial and administrative consequences for the farming sector, if DAFF has not been consulted, will you be endeavouring to consult with Treasury officials and farmers with possible impact on farmers? If not, why not? 5. I understand the Treasury Department will shortly release a discussion paper on the proposed amendments to Division 7A, will DAFF be putting in a submission addressing the concerns of farmers?
CPD14	N/A	Written	Nash	What are 'the key Government objectives' referred to in Budget Paper No.2, Budget Measures, page 80?
GRDC01	26/05/2009	123	Williams	Senator WILLIAMS —Mr Perrett, in April you announced the formation of a wheat classification panel. Are these panel members paid? Mr Perrett —Yes, they will be. Senator WILLIAMS —If so, how much? Mr Perrett —I am not sure of the remuneration that they will be receiving. Mr Reading? Mr Reading —I will take the exact numbers on notice, but basically they are just paid to attend the meetings. That is primarily the compensation they get for it. It is travel costs to attend the meetings.
LWA01	25/05/2009	43-44	Macdonald	<i>LWA accommodation</i> Senator IAN MACDONALD —Perhaps Dr O'Connell might have thought about this. Are you going to

				<p>take over the lease or pay out the landlord, or are we just going to default on that?</p> <p>Mr Hunter—The calculations that were made in establishing a budget for 2009-10 for Land and Water Australia took into account calculations based on costs associated with winding up the organisation. We took into account what we thought might need to be met in terms of accommodation costs.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—So, on notice—I assume you do not have it here—could you let the committee know what the government is going to waste in paying rent on a building that is no longer used by Land and Water Australia?</p> <p>Mr Hunter—Dr Robinson has indicated that they are seeking legal advice at the moment in relation to the lease, and presumably there will be discussions between Land and Water Australia and the landlord—</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN—Who is the owner?</p> <p>Mr Hunter—And that will determine what the outcome would be.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—It is a long time since I have practised law, but it would seem to me to be fairly clear cut: if you sign a lease for five years, you pay for five years.</p> <p>Senator Sherry—We do not know that is the case. We will take it on notice.</p> <p><i>Senator Heffernan interjecting—</i></p> <p>Senator Sherry—Dr Robinson does not know who the owner is; we will take that on notice as well—</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN—Okay. Thanks.</p> <p>Senator Sherry—and we will see if we can find out. I am sure we can find out.</p>
LWA02	25/05/2009	44	Macdonald	<p><i>Tropical Rivers and Coastal Knowledge Initiative</i></p> <p>Dr Robinson—Yes, the Tropical Rivers and Coastal Knowledge initiative is managed by us on behalf of three primary research partners or research investors—ourselves, the National Water Commission and the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts—and it is a research consortium as well between another 13-odd research bodies that span across the north. We are managing agent for that initiative.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Which I assume, Dr O’Connell, either the department or the National Water Commission will now take over.</p> <p>Dr O’Connell—Either the department or another body. As I mentioned, that clearly is a priority and there are a range of funding and research bodies which are fully integrated into that. So we would expect that to continue. It is just a question of how to manage the changeover.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Who owns the research done to date?</p> <p>Dr Robinson—Under the TRaCK initiative?</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Yes.</p> <p>Dr Robinson—I will take that on notice but I believe the IP would be owned collectively by those research funders; if not the research funders, then the research funders and the research providers.</p>
LWA03	25/05/2009	44-45	Macdonald	<p><i>Research completed and TRaCK project</i></p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—I am interested in what we, as a committee, might be entitled to ask you for of the research done up to the time of your unfortunate demise.</p> <p>Dr Robinson—As a general rule, regardless of who owns the IP, in this situation it will be released publicly as it becomes available.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—So anything publishable has been published to date?</p> <p>Dr Robinson—To date, yes.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—On notice, can you give me a list of what has been published in relation</p>

				to that TRaCK project? Thank you very much.
LWA04	25/05/2009	52	Milne	<p><i>Groundwater</i></p> <p>Senator MILNE—My colleague Senator Siewert has followed up on environmental flows. Who is the lead agency or where does the work come from on the sustainability of Australia’s groundwater? Do you do that in Land and Water Australia or was it your intention to do that as a follow-on from environmental flows?</p> <p>Dr Robinson—In respect of our Environmental Water Allocation program and other parts of the portfolio, we certainly have had and will continue to make some investments in that area, but there are also other investments being made outside our portfolio, through the National Water Commission and the department of the environment, I believe. I could not tell you the number of projects related to groundwater that we currently have or are planning to have. I could take that on notice.</p> <p>Dr O’Connell—Within government, the Environment portfolio has responsibility. It would certainly come under the National Water Initiative and the role of the National Water Commission to look after both the policy and, ultimately, the allocation issues, along with the states obviously.</p>
MLA01	25/05/2009	66	Back	<p>Senator BACK—And, finally, is there any impact of Australia in comparison to the Brazilian market?</p> <p>Mr Palmer—I know a bit about Brazil but I am not sure how their meat inspection is provided and I am happy to take that question on notice. They do have some advantages over us. Their cost of processing generally is significantly cheaper than ours but I am not specifically familiar with the impost on meat inspection.</p>
MLA02	25/05/2009	79	Heffernan	<p>Senator HEFFERNAN—I recently walked through a few butcher shops and supermarkets and I noticed in Melbourne—I had better not name the institution—in a food market in a well-known retail space, they were selling cutlets and loin chops by the chop, instead of by the kilo, with no mention of weight. They said, ‘No, that is all right. That is how we do business in Victoria’. So I went to Civic, here in Canberra, and I noticed they are selling it by the cutlet, and I asked them to weigh the cutlet to give me a kilo price and it came back at \$44, or whatever it was, a kilo. The chops here were \$2.50, and they were \$2.50 in Melbourne. Then I went to a suburb in Sydney, and they were \$2.80 in Sydney. My question is; are they breaking the law?</p> <p>Mr Palmer—I am a bit familiar with New South Wales, and I can happily look into what the laws are in other states. I know that in New South Wales there is always a kilo price and then in supermarkets there is a pack price. I have seen in other places where cutlets or shanks are sold individually but there is a kilo price generally somewhere in the window. I know there have been lots of submissions over the years about changing from a kilo rate to perhaps a 100-gram rate, not dissimilar to the Asian markets. I know in New South Wales the kilo rate is mandatory, and a pack price can go with that, or a unit price. But I am happy to look into the other states and get a response to you.</p> <p>HEFFERNAN—Having just come back from the United States and Canada—where they have it per 100 grams—do you have a view as to the best way for consumers to get a grip on just exactly how much they are paying for the meat they are buying?</p> <p>Mr Palmer—Of course, 60 per cent of the meats retail through supermarkets and they have a pack price,</p>

				<p>so it is very clear; you pick up the pack and that is the price of it. We have not been overwhelmed by consumer criticism.</p> <p>HEFFERNAN—No. I have a sympathy for the butcher, I have to say. But I did put it to him ‘were you breaking the law?’ and he said, ‘No. I am competing with the supermarket up the road.’ That was his answer.</p> <p>Mr Palmer—I understand and accept that. At MLA we have not been inundated at all by consumers looking for a different pricing mechanism.</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN—Just the same, it needs to be sorted. As I say, it was \$44 a kilo.</p> <p>Mr Palmer—You seem to know the consistencies, or lack of, between states, and I am happy to look into it.</p>
MLA03	N/A	Written	Heffernan	<p><i>Meat and Livestock Australia</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the current total staffing for MLA - permanent and temporary since 1 July 2008? 2. Are there any plans for any staff reductions? If so, please advise details ie. reduction target, how this will be achieved, services/programs to be cut etc. 3. How much have you paid for consultants since 1 July 2008? Could we have a list of the consultations and what they were for? 4. Has your consultancy expenditure increased due to reduced staffing? 5. How much has MLA spent on the replacement of capital items in the first six months of 2008-09? With an Emissions Trading Scheme being proposed for 2011, and a decision on whether agriculture will be included by 2013, what effect would including agriculture in an ETS have on beef and lamb prices? 6. ABS Estimates in 2008 state that a \$40 carbon permit would increase the cost of production for 25% to beef producers and 20% to lamb producers. How do you see this as impacting the industry? How many beef and lamb producers would no longer be viable? 7. We’ve recently had the scare of a ‘swine flu’ outbreak in Mexico causing a bit of a panic around the world about the safety of pork products. What is the Meat & Livestock Association doing to assure Australian consumers that there is no risk of contracting ‘swine flu’ from eating Australian pork? Do you see the publicity surrounding swine flu as a potential cause for concern for our pig farmers? 8. In terms of meat labelling, NSW is threatening to move ahead with its own “truth in labelling” scheme within 6 months if the Federal Government fails to take action. When can we expect a Federal scheme to be in place? What moves is the Government making to ensure a national scheme is put in place as soon as possible? 9. The Cattle Council has long supported stricter labelling for beef being sold on the domestic market, but what is the view of MLA towards the proposed “truth in labelling” laws in NSW and potentially at a Federal level? 10. The US has recently brought in laws which require meat products to have the country of origin clearly labelled on the packets, Canada claims that this has seen their pork exports to the US drop by 40%. Are you aware of similar problems being suffered by Australian meat producers? What moves are being taken to ensure that Australian farmers are protected from any potential backlash against imported meat into the US?

MLA04	N/A	Written	Heffernan	<p><i>40 per cent increase in AQIS charges</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Was there consultation with the MLA prior to the decision by Government of the proposed 40% increase in AQIS charges? 2. What is the value of this 40% increase to the Red Meat Industry? 3. What is the direct cost impact of this 40% increase on AQIS services to an export processing facility? Is it a 40% increase to current costs? If not what are the % costs increase? Is this figure closer to a 60-70% increase? Has MLA carried out a report or review, if so, can we see it please? 4. Along with this decision on 40% increase has MLA been consulting with its stakeholders re the impact of these costs on the industry? Who?
MLA05	N/A	Written	Nash	<p>Meat and Livestock Australia</p> <p>Has the MLA undertaken any research or economic modeling into the cost of the Government's proposed CPRS and emissions trading scheme on the Red meat sector?</p>
MLA06	N/A	Written	Nash	<p>Has this been done at a farm gate level, and/or at the processing level?</p>
MLA07	N/A	Written	Nash	<p>Given agriculture will not be a covered industry until 2015 at the earliest will the CPRS impact financially on farmers at the farm gate level?</p>
MLA08	N/A	Written	Nash	<p>What will the impact of the Rudd Government's ETS on meat processors, exporters and food manufactures?</p>
MLA09	N/A	Written	Nash	<p>Will meat processors be able to afford to absorb the cost of the ETS or will it be passed back to meat producers?</p>
MLA10	N/A	Written	Nash	<p>Are you concerned that the industry will not be able to compete internationally against countries which do not have an ETS?</p>
MLA11	N/A	Written	Nash	<p>Are you concerned about increased imports which do not have an ETS tax placed on them?</p>
MLA12	N/A	Written	Nash	<p>What practical, if any, measures can meat producers take to limit their exposure to the ETS?</p>
MLA13	N/A	Written	Nash	<p>Does the Rudd Government's CPRS increase your concerns about the future of the red meat industry, particularly beef?</p>
MLA14	N/A	Written	Nash	<p>Does MLA accept that the millions they have spent on domestic beef promotion has greatly benefited retailers - particularly the supermarket majors but delivered nothing to producers?</p>
MLA15	N/A	Written	Nash	<p>Why did the MLA not appear at the ACCC Grocery Inquiry to defend its member position?</p>

MLA16	N/A	Written	Nash	How much money has MLA spent R & D in the past decade?
MLA17	N/A	Written	Nash	Would the MLA accept a Federal Auditor General's audit of the administration and cost/benefit of the MLA's R&D program?
MLA18	N/A	Written	Nash	Why does the MLA believe that an increase in the maximum aggregate amount of Directors' fees is needed to enable the Directors' fees to be increased on an annual basis to maintain competitiveness in the market?
MLA19	N/A	Written	Nash	Do board members consider they need to increase their remuneration in order to avoid themselves being headhunted by other boards?
MLA20	N/A	Written	Nash	In November 2008, none of MLA's directors held directorships other public companies. Since that time have any of these directors joined any other company boards?
MLA21	N/A	Written	Nash	Given the sharp change in market condition for executives, has MLA engaged a remunerations consultant to consider adjusting Directors' fees and senior managers' remunerations in line with current market conditions? If not, why not?
MLA22	N/A	Written	Nash	Were Australian producers told in 04/05 by MLA officers that they had to have RFID NLIS to retain market access to Japan and EU? Is it true that Australia has lost ground to the US and South America in these two markets and that neither have RFID NLIS? If so how do you explain the advice by MLA?
MLA23	N/A	Written	Nash	What does NLIS cost the producer, lot feeders, the agency and saleyard industry, processors, retailer, state and federal governments?
PIAPH01	N/A	Written	Nash	What is the lapsing Avian Influenza program? How many people are employed in this program? Why is it lapsing? When was it initiated? What was the purpose of this program? How much funding has been committed to the program over the life of the program? Will it be replaced or absorbed into other programs?
PIAPH02	N/A	Written	Nash	What activities are undertaken at the Australian Animal Health Laboratory, (AAHL)?
PIAPH03	N/A	Written	Nash	Has routine diagnostic surveillance for classical swine flu or any other diseases been increased in 2008-09 or will be increased in 2009-10?
PIAPH04	N/A	Written	Nash	Has the diagnostic workload of the AAHL increased in 2007-08, and 2008-09?
PIAPH05	N/A	Written	Nash	Why has the government failed to recognise the vital role AAHL plays in disease diagnostics and

				research not only here in Australia, but internationally as well?
PIAPH06	N/A	Written	Nash	Why has the government failed to increase its contribution in real terms to the operating costs of the AAHL, with an increase of just \$21,000 in 2009-10?
PIAPH07	N/A	Written	Nash	How many graduates are employed at AAHL under the Departments graduate program?
PIAPH08	N/A	Written	Nash	What are the current arrangements and responsibilities of State Governments under CAOG bio-security arrangements, animal health particularly in relation to disease monitoring, and surveillance?
PIAPH09	N/A	Written	Nash	refer you to the Document 'Labor's Plan for Primary Industries', Election 2007; Page 20 which states; <i>Consideration of amendments to the Food Standards Code to clarify country of origin labelling requirements.</i> What 'Consideration' has the department undertaken to clarify country of origin labelling requirements?
PIAPH10	N/A	Written	Nash	What are the current requirements for the country of origin labelling on fresh food and on processed food?
PIAPH11	N/A	Written	Nash	Is it currently possible of a consumer to find out where processed food which is labelled 'packaged in Australia from import products' comes from?
PIAPH12	N/A	Written	Nash	How would the consumers find out where the imported products came from?
PIAPH13	N/A	Written	Nash	Is it possible for the department to find out where the imported products came from?
PIAPH14	N/A	Written	Nash	Has the department undertaken any work or training exercises on being able to trace back and trace forward ingredients used in processed food?
PIAPH15	N/A	Written	Nash	Who within the Department has been talking to Treasury about amending the Trade Practices Act? When were these discussions held?
PIAPH16	N/A	Written	Nash	I refer you to the Document 'Labor's Plan for Primary Industries', Election 2007; Page 20 which states; <i>'Strengthening compliance arrangements'</i> What work has the Department undertaken to strengthen food labelling compliance arrangements?

PIAPH17	N/A	Written	Nash	Has the department made any inspections of major retailers to ensure they are labelling country of origin the food properly?
PIAPH18	N/A	Written	Nash	I refer you to the Document 'Labor's Plan for Primary Industries', Election 2007; Page 19 which states; <i>'A Rudd Labor Government will simplify and strengthen food labelling laws. This will include; A new 'Grown in Australia' label under the Trade Practices Act for products that are not only made in Australia, but also grown in Australia.</i> What work has been undertaken on developing a new 'Grown in Australia label?
PIAPH19	N/A	Written	Nash	Who within the Department is undertaking the work?
PIAPH20	N/A	Written	Nash	What consultations and with whom have they been held in relation to the Grown in Australia label?
PIAPH21	N/A	Written	Nash	When will the label 'Grown in Australia' be introduced?
PIAPH22	N/A	Written	Nash	What products will the label apply to?
PIAPH23	N/A	Written	Nash	Will it be compulsory for all food retail and wholesale outlets to display the label?
PIAPH24	N/A	Written	Nash	What is the expected cost to food manufacturers?
PIAPH25	N/A	Written	Nash	Who within the Department has been talking to Treasury about amending the Trade Practices Act? When were these discussions held?
PIAPH26	N/A	Written	Heffernan	<i>Food Labelling: (Media release - National Rural News dated 18 May 2009)</i> There is new tamper proof technology that pinpoints where in the world particular foods have been produced, this technology uses isotopic and trace element signatures unique to foods from individual regions across the world it can now provide a forensic fingerprinting showing exactly where the food was produced, right down to district level. Consumers want to know where their food is coming from, is safe from pesticides and other contaminants and consumers are prepared to pay a premium for food whose origin is known and assured. 1. Is the Department aware of this new technology? 2. If so, is it considering looking into acquiring the technology? 3. Could we have a report/update from Department re this technology?
PIAPH27	N/A	Written	Nash	What is the lapsing Securing the Future program? How many people are employed in this program? Why is it lapsing? When was it initiated? What was the purpose of this program? How much funding has been

				committed to the program over the life of the program? Will it be replaced or absorbed into other programs?
QBPU01	N/A	Written	Nash	Isn't it a fact that the Beale Review into quarantine and bio-security arrangement has cost taxpayers \$1,728,067?
QBPU02	N/A	Written	Nash	Isn't it a fact the Beale Review Recommendation 73 states; <i>The Commonwealth should increase its bio-security investment by an amount in the order of \$260 million per annum, subject to a full costing by departments, to meet the recommendations of this report.</i> ?
QBPU03	N/A	Written	Nash	Is it a fact that the Minister in a media release announcing the release of the Beale Review stated ' <i>the Rudd Government had accepted all 84 recommendations in-principle</i> '?.
QBPU04	N/A	Written	Nash	Does the Government have any intention of adopting Beale Recommendation 73?
QBPU05	N/A	Written	Nash	What Beale Recommendations is the Government adopting in 2009-10? How much will these measures cost to implement? When is it the Governments intention to adopt implement all of 84 of the Beale Review Recommendations?
QBPU06	N/A	Written	Nash	How much did the Beale Review cost?
QBPU07	N/A	Written	Nash	Please provide a breakdown of all individual costs
QBPU08	N/A	Written	Nash	What is the Government's timetable for responding formally to the Beale Review?
QBPU09	N/A	Written	Nash	When will legislation be introduced?
QBPU10	N/A	Written	Nash	Who has the Government consulted within industry on the Beale Reviews recommendations?
QBPU11	N/A	Written	Nash	Has industry welcomed all aspects of the Beale Review? Are there any alternative views within industry on any recommendations, particularly in relation to market access arrangements and establishing new markets, particularly import protocols in relation to quarantine matters including cost?
QBPU12	N/A	Written	Nash	Is the government reviewing it's 'in principle support' for any of the Beale Review recommendations?
QBPU13	N/A	Written	Nash	What is the Government's estimated cost of implementing the Beale Review Recommendations? (Please provide a breakdown, including any additional costs and/or savings)
QBPU14	N/A	Written	Nash	Given the Government's 'in principle support' has it acted on recommendation 79 which states; 79 Export certification functions should return to 100 per cent cost recovery as scheduled at the beginning of July 2009, noting that this would require an early decision and announcement by the Government to allow businesses to prepare for the additional costs as well as for the necessary consultation on revised fee structures.

QBPU15	N/A	Written	Nash	Provide a breakdown of what it will cost each affected industry per annum to implement recommendation 79?
QBPU16	N/A	Written	Nash	Has the Government received any industry responses to this recommendation? If so what were they?
QBPU17	N/A	Written	Nash	Does the Government still give 'in-principled support' to recommendation 59 of the Beale Review which in parts states, 'The panel's view is that access to positive control samples such as the FMD virus is vital and should be permitted ...to approved laboratories and to AAHL?
RIRDC01	26/05/2009	117-118	Colbeck	<p><i>RIRDC funding</i></p> <p>Senator COLBECK—In respect of the funding that you receive from government, which is \$14.914 million according to page 207 on the PBS—</p> <p>Dr O'Brien—Yes.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK—how much do you generally leverage that up by? You have got funds from other sources of \$19.12 million, but when you actually convert that into research spend with partners that come on board to do that, what does that end up being leveraged up to?</p> <p>Dr O'Brien—I will take on notice the exact figure but give you an indication.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK—It would vary from year to year, I suppose.</p> <p>Dr O'Brien—There will typically be co-investment from the research provider to the supplier, often from other research and development corporations and often too from industry, either through voluntary contributions or in kind. Typically the number is between two and three, the leveraging.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK—So effectively the annual spend on R&D, bearing in mind that you have to run your organisation as well, would be multiplied by two or three times.</p> <p>Dr O'Brien—Correct.</p>
RIRDC02	26/05/2009	123	Siewert	<p><i>Operational plan</i></p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—I am interested in those projects that you have to drop, or you may have to drop, because of the funding cut. Your plan may not in fact tell us the projects that you have to drop and who is involved with those projects. That is what I am interested in knowing.</p> <p>Dr O'Brien—Okay.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—I am obviously interested in your future planning, but I would like to know what projects, if any, you have to drop because of the funding cut that you are having to take.</p> <p>Dr O'Brien—Then we would have to take that on notice.</p>
SRM01	25/05/2009	125	Macdonald	<p><i>Caring for our country regional allocations?</i></p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Mr Thompson, if you are trying to confuse us, you are succeeding very well, with no disrespect. With the \$138 million now, are you saying they did not apply for a competitive grant, that you just allocated them a figure? I mean 'you' the department.</p> <p>Mr Thompson—The department did an analysis of the capacity of the region, the number of targets in the region, and said, 'Here's an allocation of money that will ensure that your regions will have funds to operate, because you know you will be getting that amount of money.' But we then have to subsequently look at the projects which we are going to fund from that amount of money.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—So you had to then do an investment plan essentially.</p> <p>Mr Thompson—Yes, essentially.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—So you make an assessment, on what material you have before you, of</p>

				<p>what each NRM region is to get—is that right? Mr Thompson—Yes. Senator IAN MACDONALD—Can you let us have details of that assessment? Mr Thompson—I would have to take that on notice, because I do not have the details of the assessment in front of me. Senator IAN MACDONALD—I am sure you do not have them in front of you, but you can give that to us? Mr Thompson—The regions were notified of their regional allocation back in April. Senator IAN MACDONALD—No. We will get there a lot quicker if you answer the questions. Can you give us those figures? Not now, but on notice. Mr Thompson—The regional figure, the amount of money per region? Senator IAN MACDONALD—No, the amount of money you told each region that they could be allocated</p>
SRM02	25/05/2009	126	Siewert	<p>Senator SIEWERT—You said some regions were consulted. Could you tell us which regions? Mr Thompson—They were consulted on the process, not on the numbers. We can tell you the regions that participated in that process. Senator SIEWERT—That would be appreciated, thanks.</p>
SRM03	25/05/2009	126	Macdonald	<p><i>Caring for our country</i> Mr Thompson—The department provided advice to the minister, as I said. The process was subject to some consultation with a scientific panel, some of the regions, and the states were advised as well. Senator IAN MACDONALD—No. You said there was not a scientific panel. You said there was a process. Mr Thompson—There was a scientific panel that helped advise us on the nature of the process, but the absolute numbers were by the advice from the department. Senator IAN MACDONALD—A scientific panel? What, are they scientific mathematicians? Mr Thompson—No. They were helping us with the process of saying, ‘If you have so many targets in a region, what might be a way of balancing that between the regions?’ Senator IAN MACDONALD—So they are not environmental scientists. They are mathematical or process scientists. Mr Thompson—Some were environmental scientists. Some were mathematical scientists as well. Senator IAN MACDONALD—Can you give us the names of who that ‘scientific’ panel were? Mr Thompson—Yes, we can do that.</p>
SRM04	25/05/2009	126	Macdonald	<p><i>Caring for our country regional allocations?</i> Senator IAN MACDONALD—As I understand it, you do not allocate. You advise the two ministers, who then allocate. Dr O’Connell or, if not, Senator Sherry, can you tell us then whether the ministers conduct other assessments inquiries, or do they simply use their own understanding to approve or deny, or do they, as a matter of course, simply tick off departmental advice? Senator Sherry—Are you asking about this particular issue and this particular department or more generally? Senator IAN MACDONALD—No, on the things we have been talking about for the last half-hour. Senator Sherry—Yes, okay. Don’t get steamed up! I thought the inference was that you might have been</p>

				<p>asking me generally. But, no, I will have to take that on notice and ask the minister.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—You are aware of what I am after?</p> <p>Senator Sherry—Yes.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Do they make their own assessments, and then, if they do, could they let us know what other investigations they make, apart from the advice they get from the department?</p> <p>Senator Sherry—Yes.</p>
SRM05	25/05/2009	127	Macdonald	<p><i>Caring for our country</i></p> <p>Mr Thompson—As part of the business plan process, groups, regions, non-government organisations, government departments across Australia can put in applications for funding against the business plan. Those applications closed last month. Those projects, which were the ones we were talking about earlier, the 1,300 projects, are now going through a process of assessment by a range of panels—community panels, government panels and scientific panels—and then advice gets provided to the ministers on whether those projects should be funded.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—So when you get to that there are community panels?</p> <p>Mr Thompson—Yes, there are community panels.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Can you give us a list of the community panels and the personnel of those community panels across Australia?</p> <p>Mr Thompson—We are able to do that.</p>
SRM06	25/05/2009	128	Macdonald	<p><i>Probity auditors advice on the Caring for our country applications?</i></p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—I am serious about these things. The department is dealing with \$260 million worth of money, which really means the jobs and livelihoods of many people working in these NRM groups. What probity assessments do you have in the department to make sure that these recommendations are appropriate?</p> <p>Mr Thompson—The whole process for applying for and receiving applications and assessing applications has been done on the advice of a probity auditor.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—That is the department's internal probity audit?</p> <p>Mr Thompson—The department's legal service provider has provided us with a probity auditor.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Do they sign off a certificate saying, 'These are probity qualified'?</p> <p>Mr Thompson—On each of the steps in the process—the application form, the assessment forms and the steps we have taken along the way—they have signed off that we have met appropriate probity guidelines.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Is that told to the applicants? Are they given a copy of the probity auditor's report?</p> <p>Mr Thompson—I am not sure whether they are given a copy of the whole probity auditor's report, but the probity guidelines under which we operate have been made available to applicants.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Is it possible for the committee to have a look at just one of the probity auditor's tick offs so that we know what you are talking about? Any one. You pick it.</p> <p>Mr Thompson—We would be able to provide you with some advice on notice as to the probity auditor's advice on part of the process—on the assessment process or the application form or something.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—What I am wanting to see is where the probity auditor actually ticks off what he says, what form he uses. As I said, pick any one. I just want to try and understand the system, and I know a lot of the NRM groups would like to understand it too. Could you make that available to the</p>

				committee? Mr Thompson—Yes. I can see what form it is in and we can make something available to you. Senator IAN MACDONALD—A representative one, of course. I am sure you will do that. Mr Thompson—Yes.
SRM07	25/05/2009	128	Macdonald	<i>Caring for our Country applications</i> Senator IAN MACDONALD—No limits. Good. There were no marine targets in the Caring for our Country applications. Is that correct? Mr Thompson—That is correct. Senator IAN MACDONALD—Why is that? Mr Thompson—That was a policy decision by the government. Senator IAN MACDONALD—Do you know why that is, Senator Sherry? Senator Sherry—No, I do not. I would have to take that on notice. Senator IAN MACDONALD—Could you find out for me why marine targets were not in Caring for our Country when they were in the previous similar program. Could you give me a breakdown of how many applications have been received in the large, medium and small categories from each state? Is that readily available, on notice? Mr Thompson—Yes, that is readily available. We can do that.
SRM08	25/05/2009	130-131	Macdonald	<i>Caring for our country assessments</i> Senator IAN MACDONALD—I do hesitate to be too specific. I know there would be no retribution from the department, but by the same token can I tell you that NRM groups in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and Western Australia are all concerned and have been in touch with me about the lack of understanding apparently by departmental officials, who expect them to drop everything and be practically summoned to meetings in capital cities at what they consider—and I agree—is relatively short notice, bearing in mind that some of these people live in places whereby you certainly cannot hop in a car and slip down to Sydney in a couple of hours. Dr O’Connell—I would be quite happy to take an examination of that and try to make sure that we have an engagement where those NRM groups are comfortable that they are not being pushed on time. Senator IAN MACDONALD—Thank you for that, Dr O’Connell. I appreciate that. It was suggested to me that groups in the Northern Territory were given two days, but perhaps that is not correct. I do not want to be more specific than that
SRM09	25/05/2009	131	Siewert	<i>Caring for our Country</i> Senator SIEWERT—I would like to go back to the assessment of the \$122 million. I understand the scientific panel consulted for developing the methodology assessment for the \$138 million. What I would like to know is what process is being used for the \$122 million for deciding, of the \$3.4 billion worth of applications, who gets the \$122 million. There are \$3.4 billion worth of applications for \$122 million worth of funding. That is correct, isn’t it? Mr Thompson—Yes. The process involved is that initially departmental staff assess each application received using a standard assessment tool, by which they can extract information from the projects in a consistent form. Senator SIEWERT—Could we have a copy of that assessment tool? Mr Thompson—I would have to take it on notice. I do not have it here.

SRM10	25/05/2009	132	Siewert	<p><i>Caring for our country</i></p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—How many panels do you have and how are they divided up in terms of expertise?</p> <p>Mr Thompson—I would have to take on notice the detail of the number of panels and how they are divided up.</p> <p>Dr O’Connell—Mr Bartlett can provide some further information.</p> <p>Mr Bartlett—I can tell you there are three panels. One is meeting today, another is meeting later this week and the third is meeting early next week. The one that is meeting this week is looking after Victoria and New South Wales, so they are largely divided up on geographic representation. The next one is meeting up in Queensland at the end of the week.</p>
SRM11	25/05/2009	133	Siewert	<p><i>Caring for our country</i></p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—I know the criteria from the business plan. What I am interested in is a deeper sort of analysis that goes on about whether the project is achievable or the best value for money et cetera.</p> <p>Dr O’Connell—I think we could probably give you on notice the assessment guidance that is given to the panel. I do not think that will be problematic, if that is helpful</p>
SRM12	25/05/2009	134	Siewert	<p><i>Caring for our country</i></p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—In terms of the \$3.4 billion, I presume that includes funding requests for more than one year?</p> <p>Mr Thompson—It includes funding for up to the end of Caring for our Country. The target can take three years to complete, and people can make applications for those three years, so that is \$3.4 billion for most of them for multiyear projects.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—Yes. Out of the \$3.4 billion, how much is being requested against the \$122 million; in other words, the first year’s worth of funding?</p> <p>Mr Thompson—I do not have that split by year with me. We could take that on notice.</p>
SRM13	25/05/2009	134	Siewert	<p><i>Caring for our country</i></p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—I appreciate you might need to take this on notice: how much of the \$3.4 billion are actually requests from regions?</p> <p>Mr Thompson—We would have to take that on notice.</p>
SRM14	25/05/2009	136	Back	<p><i>Caring for our country</i></p> <p>Senator BACK—Sure. As these are audited, are they made public progressively during the course of a project as well as, obviously, at its conclusion?</p> <p>Mr Thompson—There will be a report card produced each year on the progress of Caring for our Country. It will list, at a high level, the progress of the program initially against its targets and, underneath that, it will list some further detail on achievements against particular targets and the details of progress of individual projects and milestone payments. I am not sure how we intend to make that available at the present time—I would have to take that on notice—but how fast projects are progressing is not secret information.</p>
SRM15	25/05/2009	137	Macdonald	<p><i>Northern Gulf Natural Resource Management Region</i></p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Dr O’Connell, in relation to your very helpful comment earlier that the minister is about to make an announcement, will that cover groups like the ghost nets group? They will not, as I understand it, really know until September if their funding is going to be continued. Who is going to cover the recurrent costs between July and September until they find out if it is going to be continued and, if the NRM group can do it out of its own funds, will they be reimbursed for funding it?</p>

				<p>Dr O’Connell—The comments I was making earlier on were to do with the regional bodies, where the issue had been raised. I am not aware of the situation with the ghost nets project, but I could take that on notice and let you know.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Okay, if you would not mind, because there is a concern. It is a separate allocation but it is supported by an NRM group, and if they know they are going to get funding they would underwrite it through to September. If they did that, would they get reimbursed?</p> <p>Mr Thompson—I think the ghost nets program you are referring to is the one that is run through the Northern Gulf Natural Resource Management Region.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Yes, that is right.</p> <p>Mr Thompson—They received funding last year outside the open grants process. I am not sure whether they have put in a competitive bid—I have not gone through all the projects yet—or whether their project is part of the funding that would be received as part of Northern Gulf’s base level of funding. To the extent that that project is supported through a regional body, the work that we are doing to try and ensure that regional bodies can survive and maintain key projects would try and pick that sort of work up. I just do not have the detail on that particular project at the present time.</p> <p>Dr O’Connell—We will take that on notice.</p>
SRM16	25/05/2009	141	Colbeck	<p><i>Recreational Fishing Community Grants Program</i></p> <p>Senator COLBECK—I will come in on the back. I am assuming that the project that Senator Macdonald just mentioned was funded through the Recreational Fishing Community Grants Program.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Yes.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK—So that is correct. And all of those projects are now completed?</p> <p>Mr Pittar—No, not all of those projects are completed.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK—Is all the funding allocated?</p> <p>Mr Pittar—The funding has been allocated and there is a small movement of funds into next financial year.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK—Is that about \$400,000?</p> <p>Mr Pittar—Correct, to accommodate those projects that have experienced delays.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK—Is there, anywhere on the website, a complete list of the recipients of those grants?</p> <p>Mr Pittar—I cannot answer that. I will have to take that on notice. I believe that our Recreational Fishing Community Grants Program website should contain that information, but I am not entirely sure.</p> <p>Dr O’Connell—It should be up on the web.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK—If it is not, is it possible to provide us with a list of those grants?</p> <p>Mr Pittar—Yes.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK—And could you give us an indication of those projects that have had some delay?</p> <p>Mr Pittar—Do you mean an indication of the reasons for delay or which projects have been delayed?</p> <p>Senator COLBECK—I would be interested to know which projects have been delayed, and that constitutes that \$400,000 that we talked about, and some sense of the reasons for the delay.</p> <p>Mr Pittar—I think we will take that on notice.</p> <p>Mr Thompson—There are a range of reasons for the delay. They can include access to land and that sort of stuff.</p>
SRM17	25/05/2009	142	Colbeck	<p><i>Recfish Australia funding options report</i></p> <p>Senator COLBECK—So not funded by government—that is the idea. If the report is supposed to provide</p>

				<p>a process where the government does not fund Recfish Australia, what role does the government have in considering the report?</p> <p>Mr Pittar—The government contributed funding to the development of that report, so the government will consider the findings from that report.</p> <p>Dr O’Connell—My understanding is that that project is not yet finalised, so that has not been considered yet. I think it is in the process of being finalised.</p> <p>Mr Pittar—Yes.</p> <p>Dr O’Connell—In April-May. I could clarify that on notice if I have not got that right.</p>
SRM18	26/05/2009	8	Colbeck	<p><i>Coral Sea Fishery species, fishing activity and permit holders</i></p> <p>Prof. Hurry—There are a couple of different fisheries in there. There is a trawl fishery for just coral trawl species which are reef species. There is also a hand collectables fishery in there for aquarium species. There are two businesses based out of Cairns which supply marine aquarium fish to some of the major aquariums around the world. That is part of that fishery. Whether we count that in tonnes or whether we count that in value, I am not sure. There is a range of different sorts of species come out of that to feed that fishery. There is hand collection for smaller aquarium fish as well.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK—What about sea cucumbers?</p> <p>Prof. Hurry—There are sea cucumbers on that part of the coast but they are not part of the fishery. I understand that all those reefs are closed. We do not take sea cucumbers until we come into the top part of the Torres Strait. There is a sea cucumber fishery on the Torres Strait, but, from memory, that is closed as well.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK—I was talking to one of the permit holders last week and he indicated to me that there might have been a sea cucumber—</p> <p>Prof. Hurry—I am happy to check that for you, Senator. But my understanding was that the sea cucumber ones were closed. Let me check and I will come back to you on that.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK—If you could give us a sense of the species that are coming out of there, that would be good. It is effectively a trawl fishery. Again, my understanding was that there was some longlining done there too</p> <p>Prof. Hurry—There is tuna longlining in the Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery. There is a fleet of boats in Cairns and another fleet of boats that fish out of Mooloolaba further south. The Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery is a longline fishery. If you like, I will get you a sketch map of the two fisheries and the species and the types of fishing activity that is done up there. We can provide that.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK—Thank you. Is it possible to get a list of the permit holders?</p> <p>Prof. Hurry—Yes, sure.</p>
SRM19	N/A	Written	Siewert	<p><i>Securing Our Fishing Future Structural Adjustment Package.</i></p> <p>With respect to the buyback of over 550 fishing concessions at a cost of more than \$149 million:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> How much was spent purchasing the 99 longline concessions in the Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery (ETBF) that were bought back? What was the annual average Gross Value of Production of the 99 ETBF longline concessions bought back for the previous three years? How much was the buyback cap for individual concessions in the ETBF? What was the lowest purchase price paid for an ETBF longline concession? What was the highest purchase price paid for an ETBF longline concession?

				<p>f) What was the mean purchase price paid for an ETBF longline concession?</p> <p>g) How many longline concessions were purchased in Cairns?</p> <p>h) How much was spent purchasing longline concessions in Cairns?</p> <p>i) How many longline concessions were purchased in Mooloolaba?</p> <p>j) How much was spent purchasing longline concessions in Mooloolaba?</p> <p>k) Has the average value of longline fishing concessions in the ETBF increased, decreased or stayed the same since the purchase of the 99 concessions? Please provide detail if possible.</p> <p>l) How much active effort in the longline sector of the ETBF did the buyback package remove?</p>
SRM20	N/A	Written	Siewert	<p><i>Securing Our Fishing Future Structural Adjustment Package.</i></p> <p>With respect to the Skipper and Crew Assistance Program component of the buyback:</p> <p>a) How many of the 39 skippers who received assistance under the Program were operating in the ETBF?</p> <p>b) Of these, how many were in Cairns? How many in Mooloolaba?</p> <p>c) How many of the 60 crew members who received assistance under the Program were operating in the ETBF? Of these, how many were in Cairns? How many in Mooloolaba?</p> <p>d) What is the average number of crew on a longline ETBF boat?</p>
SRM21	N/A	Written	Siewert	<p><i>Securing Our Fishing Future Structural Adjustment Package.</i></p> <p>With respect to the Business Advice Assistance (BAA) component of the buyback:</p> <p>a) What was the total amount spent on this component of the buyback?</p> <p>b) Of this total amount, how much was spent assisting longline concession holders in the ETBF?</p> <p>c) How much was spent assisting ETBF longline concession holders in Cairns?</p> <p>d) How much was spent assisting ETBF longline concession holders in Mooloolaba?</p> <p>e) What was the total number of ETBF businesses that received assistance under the BAA?</p> <p>f) Of these, how many in Cairns? How many in Mooloolaba?</p>
SRM22	N/A	Written	Siewert	<p><i>Securing Our Fishing Future Structural Adjustment Package.</i></p> <p>With respect to the three components of assistance to onshore businesses and communities (the Onshore Business Exit Assistance; the Onshore Business Development Assistance; and the Fishing Community Assistance) at a cost of \$33.6 million:</p> <p>a) Of this total amount, how much was spent assisting onshore businesses in Cairns?</p> <p>b) Was the amount spent in Cairns due exclusively to buyback of ETBF longline concessions? If not, please provide more details.</p> <p>c) How much was spent assisting onshore businesses in Mooloolaba?</p> <p>d) Was the amount spent in Mooloolaba due exclusively to buyback of ETBF longline concessions? If not, please provide more details.</p> <p>e) Of the 144 approved applications, how many businesses in Cairns received assistance?</p> <p>f) How many businesses in Mooloolaba received assistance?</p>
SRM23	N/A	Written	Siewert	<p><i>Securing Our Fishing Future Structural Adjustment Package.</i></p> <p>With respect to the \$15 million allocated to AFMA over three years to offset the expected reduction in levies received from fishing concession holders as a result of the Structural Adjustment Package:</p> <p>a) What proportion of this total figure is due to the 99 ETBF longline concessions removed from</p>

				the fishery?
SRM24	N/A	Written	Colbeck	<p>Has the Minister met with representatives from RecFish since November 2007?</p> <p>Is the Minister aware this group has been seeking a meeting with him since that date?</p> <p>Why has the Minister not obliged?</p> <p>Why is there no funding for RecFish this year?</p> <p>Has Recfish lost its funding because it was publicly critical of the Government and/or Department?</p>
SRM25	N/A	Written	Colbeck	List of grant recipients for the Recreational Fishing Community Grants program 2008-09?
TMA01	26/05/2009	20-21	Colbeck	<p><i>Live animal trade program</i></p> <p>Senator COLBECK—But given that you have got less than half the money, you are going to have to sharpen your focus somewhat, are you not? You do not want to name them, I suppose, for political reasons. I understand that. Perhaps just to assist me, if you could give me a list of countries that are receiving product so that I can have a look at it from that context?</p> <p>Mr Morris—Firstly, the amount of money going into the program overall is the same, or approximately the same—at around \$1 million if you combine the industry and the government funding.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK—The previous program was \$7.6 million over four years; this one is \$3.2 million over three years.</p> <p>Mr Morris—The \$7.6 million that you are referring to included two components. One was the money that went to the Live Animal Trade Program, which was about \$4 million, and then the remainder of the money was to fund a position in the Middle East—a DAFF position located in Dubai. That position cost around three point something million dollars. So the \$7-odd million that you referred to is actually a combination of those two. At the moment that DAFF position is continuing and is being funded out of departmental resources. So those resources are still going towards that position. So the relevant point of comparison is really the \$4 million—\$1 million per year for the first four years of the Live Animal Trade Program and then the continuation of around about \$1 million a year, going up to \$1.1 million a year, combined industry government funding over the next three years. In terms of the main question you asked about the countries that we are exporting to, in broad terms most of our live sheep go to the Middle East markets. There are a range of markets, but I could mention perhaps the top three or four, which I have here.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK—If you want to take that on notice and give me the complete list, I am more than happy with that. That is fine.</p> <p>Mr Morris—Okay.</p>
TMA02	26/05/2009	23	Back	<p>Senator BACK—I have two quick questions. Can you give me the figure on the value of the livestock export trade to the Middle East or can you take it on notice and advise us of that?</p> <p>Mr Morris—We will take that on notice to give you the exact numbers</p>
TMA03	26/05/2009	28	Nash	<p><i>Overseas agricultural attaches</i></p> <p>Senator NASH—All right. Would you be able to supply for the committee—and I am happy for you to</p>

				take this on notice—over the last three years the attaches, where they were and the roles that they were performing and changes in those roles? That would be quite useful. Mr Burns—Sure.
TMA04	26/05/2009	28	Nash	<i>Current free trade agreements</i> Senator NASH—Okay. I have some more questions, but I am happy to place them on notice, given the time. Would you provide for the committee the current free trade agreements that you are working on—just the status of those and where they are all up to for the committee? That would be quite useful, thank you. Mr Burns—Yes, we can do that on notice
TMA05	26/05/2009	29	Milne	<i>Chile</i> Senator MILNE—I am asking about Chile. I am particularly interested, because I cannot see it myself and I have looked it at a number of times. Particularly, fruit growers in Tasmania have said to me that it makes no sense at all as far as they are concerned. Is there a statement anywhere that puts on the table now the claims of the government about the benefits to specific sectors of this free trade agreement? I want to come back in five years time and establish whether any of these benefits have actually accrued. Mr Burns—I can take that on notice.
TMA06	26/05/2009	30	Milne	Senator MILNE—Has there has been assessment of the claims that were made about the US free trade agreement and primary industry, and an assessment of the results? If not, is there ever an evaluation or do we just go through a process of claims and then no evaluation ever as to what goes on? Mr Burns—I have not got with me any assessments of the actual outcomes and what they have meant, but I will look into that and if I can find something I will provide it to you.
TMA07	N/A	Written	Nash	Are any of the positions to be scrapped Agricultural Attaches attached to Australian Embassies? In which Embassies are Agricultural Attaches attached? Have any been removed in the past twelve months? If so why where were they located? How will the work previously done by the Agricultural Attaches be undertaken and by whom?
TMA08	N/A	Written	Nash	Does the Government not consider the disruption during the year to the Russian red meat market as a market lost?
TMA09	N/A	Written	Nash	Have all companies, including kangaroo exporters who lost markets in Russia again exporting to Russia?
TMA10	N/A	Written	Nash	What was the reason for the suspension of access for red meat exporting companies to Russia?
TMA11	N/A	Written	Nash	What impact has the lost market access in Russia had on the Kangaroo industry?
TMA12	N/A	Written	Nash	What work is the Government undertaking to combat the spurious claims of animal activists, such as the NSW executive director of Animal Liberation, Mark Pearson who are using data collected illegally and under highly dubious circumstances to disrupt and discredit the kangaroo industry in Europe and China?

TMA13	N/A	Written	Nash	What Australian agricultural/fisheries/forestry products are currently seeking permission from the Chinese Government to import permits into China?
TMA14	N/A	Written	Nash	How much funding is being made available to industry to help under take all aspects of accessing the Chinese markets? Please provide a breakdown of which industries/commodities are receiving funding and how much funding they are receiving?
WEA01	25/05/2009	63	Nash	<i>Tonnages of wheat exports to 'new' countries</i> Senator NASH—You are just purely saying a new country that is now being delivered to that previously was not, and that is the sum extent of the information? Mr Woods—Yes. Senator NASH—Could you actually take on notice those tonnages for those new countries and the tonnages that have gone to them? I do not expect you to answer that now. Mr Woods—We can. Mr Woodley—We can give it to you in a minute. Senator NASH—I am happy for you to take it on notice.
WEA02	25/05/2009	65	Nash	<i>Wheat export volumes and destinations</i> Senator NASH—About the customers. Yes, I understand. Is it possible to provide the committee with the bulk amounts—the bulk tonnages to the countries? Mr Woods—We will be publishing this sort of information as part of our growers' report on the scheme. Exporters need to provide to us, in October from memory, a compliance report and an export report and that will total up the countries, the tonnages that they have exported and where to, and that will be made public before Christmas. Mr Grant—We can provide to you on notice the Customs information that is collected on an ongoing basis. Senator NASH—Fine, but you would have an idea to this point now what is being exported, so if the committee was not prepared to wait until the end of the year, in the meantime I am sure you would be able to provide us with— Mr Grant—On a country basis, yes. Senator NASH—at least some indication on a country and tonnage basis. Mr Grant—Yes, we can do that. Senator NASH—That would be great. Thank you.
WEA03	N/A	Written	Heffernan	<i>WEA staff</i> 1. What is the remuneration of the CEO Peter Woods paid? 2. Is the CEO based in Canberra? (If not, how often does he commute to Canberra and what are his travelling expenses since 1 July 2008?) 3. What is the remuneration of the Chair and its 5 members since 1 July 2008? 4. How often does the Board meet, what expenses are involved here, TA, daily rate per member, etc? 5. What are the operating costs of the Secretariat (14 staff) in Canberra since 1 July 2008? 6. Do you still have 14 staff? 7. You say 23 companies have been accredited under the scheme, how many companies have been rejected, could we have a listing of companies with grounds of rejection?
WEA04	N/A	Written	Nash	Will Wheat Exports Australia be placing any caveats on the sale?

WEA05	N/A	Written	Nash	Please provide a company by company breakdown in terms of tonnage of the wheat exported from Australia this year?
WEA06	N/A	Written	Nash	Is Wheat Export Australia concerned about threats to Australian wheat exports by overseas buyers to purchase grain from our competitors because of issues surrounding getting the grain to market on time? In particular concerns raise by Korean and Indonesia buyers?
WEA07	N/A	Written	Nash	Have you audit any of the export grain marketers since they have been licensed?
WEA08	N/A	Written	Nash	Have any of the licensed grain exporters had their accreditation reviewed or revoked?