

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2010

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: CFD 01

Division/Agency: Corporate Finance Division

Topic: Payments to contractors/consultants

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Barnett asked:

1. Has the portfolio/agency paid its accounts to contractors/consultants etc in accordance with Government policy in terms of time for payment (ie. within 30 days)?
2. If not, why not, and what has been the timeframe for payment of accounts? Please provide a breakdown, average statistics etc as appropriate to give insight into how this issue is being approached.
3. For accounts not paid within 30 days, is interest being paid on overdue amounts and if so how much has been paid by the portfolio/department agency for the current financial year and the previous financial year?
4. Where interest is being paid, what rate of interest is being paid and how is this rate determined?

Answer:

1. The portfolio paid 74,271 (95 per cent) of invoices in accordance with the 30 day payment policy for small business.
2. The portfolio paid 1,698 (2 per cent) invoices within 31-44 days, 791 (1 per cent) invoices within 45-60 days and 1,161 (1 per cent) later than 60 days.
3. Nil.
4. N/A.

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Budget Estimates May 2010

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: CFD 02

Division: Corporate Finance Division

Topic: Staffing and salary related questions

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Nash asked:

1. Last year's Budget Portfolio Statements 2009/10 showed that for Outcome 1 there was to be a cut to the Average Staffing Level in 2009/10 of 125 staff, yet this year's Budget Portfolio Statement 2010/11 shows Estimated Actual cut for 2009/10 was 85 staff. From which unit were these staff cut?
2. Why was there a discrepancy between this year's and last year's budget papers?
3. Last year's Budget Portfolio Statements 2009/10 showed that for Outcome 2 there would be a cut to the Average Staffing Level in 2009/10 of coincidentally 125 staff as well, yet this year's Budget Portfolio Statement shows that the actual Average Staffing Level increased in 2009/10 by 39 staff. Why was there a discrepancy between the two budget papers?
4. In which areas in Outcome 2 did staff increase?
5. Is there currently a redundancy program operating within AQIS as a result of the AQIS Export Certification Reform program?
6. Are the redundancy offers open to all staff within DAFF, if not, who is being offered the redundancies?
7. Is the Department expected to have finalised by the end of this financial year at least 30 redundancies with the AQIS Export Certification Program?
8. How many staff is the Department expecting to take redundancies as a result of the AQIS Export Certification reform program?
9. In the Portfolio Budget Statements 2010/11, Expenses: employee benefits (page 83) please provide a breakdown of the \$414,609,000 figure is comprised of?
10. What is the annual salary increase as part of DAFF employees certified agreement for the next financial year?
11. How much does the annual salary increase cost to DAFF per annum for the next three years?
12. Does the 2012/13 forward estimate employee benefits include any salary increases?

Answer:

1. The table below provides the PBS information for Outcome 1 by division.

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Question: CFD 02 (continued)

Division	PBS 2009-10 2008-09 Estimated Actual ASL	PBS 2010-11 2009-10 Estimated Actual ASL	Difference
ABARE	140.0	124.4	-15.6
Agricultural Productivity	85.8	117.0	31.2
Bureau of Rural Sciences	152.9	106.4	-46.5
Climate Change	106.3	101.2	-5.1
Sustainable Resource Management	143.2	135.4	-7.8
Trade & Market Access	104.2	79.3	-24.9
Quarantine & Biosecurity Policy Unit	11.4	Note 1	
Corporate Allocation	78.4	73.7	-4.7
Total	822.2	737.4	-84.8

Note 1: Moved to Outcome 2

2. The 2009-2010 budget paper provides an estimate of staff numbers for the 2009-2010 financial year more than 12 months in advance. The 2010-11 paper provides an estimated actual figure based on more than nine months of actual data. The latter is therefore a more informed figure.
3. The 2009-2010 Portfolio Budget Statement (pg 284) estimates 131 staff members for Biosecurity Australia. Biosecurity Australia staff were transferred to the department when the former was de-prescribed on 1 July 2009.

The 2009-10 budget paper provides an estimate of staff numbers for the 2009-2010 financial year more than 12 months in advance. The 2010-2011 paper provides an estimated actual figure based on more than nine months of actual data. The latter is therefore a more informed figure.

4. The integration of Biosecurity Australia within the department increased staff numbers in outcome 2 mainly across two Biosecurity Services Group divisions; Animal and Plant.
5. Yes
6. No. Only Australian Public Service Meat Inspectors employed under the provisions of the former *Meat Program Agreement 2007-2010* and its replacement; *Meat Inspection Enterprise Agreement 2010 – 2011*.
7. No. A total of 23 Meat Inspectors ceased employment prior to 30 June 2010 on the basis of redundancy related to the reforms. A further eight meat inspectors have been redeployed to other duties within AQIS.

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Question: CFD 02 (continued)

8. Unknown. Employees who are displaced as a result of the AQIS Export Certification Program will be offered relocation and/or redeployment either with the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry or another agency, in the first instance.
9. A breakdown of the employee expense figures published in the 2010-11 Portfolio Budget Statements is outlined below.

Employee Benefits	2009-10 (\$'000)	2010-11 (\$'000)	2011-12 (\$'000)	2012-13 (\$'000)	2013-14 (\$'000)
Wages & Salaries for staff	310,877	317,023	323,017	310,444	312,054
Superannuation	54,858	55,575	56,651	54,790	55,042
Leave & Other Entitlements	46,240	45,165	46,140	46,225	46,283
FBT Employee Expenses	1,700	1,700	1,700	1,700	1,700
Separation & Redundancy Payments	150	13,150	150	150	150
Other Employee Expenses	784	761	751	750	825
Total Employees	414,609	433,374	428,409	414,059	416,054

10. The *Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Collective Agreement 2009-11* includes a 4.1 per cent salary increase for the 2010-11 financial year. The *Meat Inspection Enterprise Agreement 2010 – 2011* was approved by Fair Work Australia which provides for a 4% salary increase for meat inspectors in the 2010 -11 financial year.
11. The *Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Collective Agreement 2009-11* and the *Meat Inspection Enterprise Agreement 2010 – 2011* salary increases are estimated at \$12.460 million per annum.
12. Yes.