

## Questions on Notice Budget Estimates 2010-2011

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Portfolio  
Monday 24 and Tuesday 25 May 2010

QON No.	Date Asked	Hansard page reference/ Written	Senator	Question
<b>CFD 01</b>	N/A	Written	Barnett	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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)?</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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?</li> <li>4. Where interest is being paid, what rate of interest is being paid and how is this rate determined?</li> </ol>
<b>CFD 02</b>	N/A	Written	Nash	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Last years Budget Portfolio Statements 2009/10 showed that for Outcome 1 there was too be a cut to the Average Staffing Level in 2009/10 of 125 staff, yet this years Budget Portfolio Statement 2010/11 shows Estimated Actual cut for 2009/10 was 85 staff. From which unit were these staff cut?</li> <li>2. Why was their a discrepancy between this years and last years budget papers?</li> <li>3. Last years Budget Portfolio Statements 2009/10 showed that for Outcome 2 there would be a cut to the Average Staffing Level in 2009.10 of coincidently 125 staff as well, yet this years 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?</li> <li>4. In which areas in Outcome 2 did staff increase?</li> <li>5. Is there currently a redundancy program operating within AQIS as a result of the AQIS Export Certification Reform program?</li> <li>6. Are the redundancy offers open to all staff within DAFF, if not, who is being offered the redundancies?</li> <li>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?</li> <li>8. How many staff is the Department expecting to take redundancies as a result of the</li> </ol>

				<p>AQIS Export Certification reform program?</p> <p>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?</p> <p>10. What is the annual salary increase as part of DAFF employees certified agreement for the next financial year?</p> <p>11. How much does the annual salary increase cost to DAFF per annum for the next three years?</p> <p>12. Does the 2012/13 forward estimate employee benefits include any salary increases?</p>
<b>CSD 01</b>	24/05/2010	16	Colbeck	<p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Which is effectively my question. My question is: what is the time frame and what is the process to actually resolve those acting positions? Is there intention to make the people who are acting in them permanent?</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—That is an internal staffing decision, and obviously that depends on how we manage our processes.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Are there recruitment processes in place to deal with those?</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—Not necessarily with all the vacancies that you are looking at. I would have to take on notice the specifics of the different positions that you are looking at, but obviously those go to how we are managing the SES planning overall.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—There is one officer who has been in an acting position since that position was created—the BSG projects division. Is there any reason why that continues to be an acting position?</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—The position there is one where the relevant substantive officer is on leave. It might be most useful if we are able to provide you with an account overall, if that is helpful, if you have an interest in what is happening on the SES acting positions.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—As of today, there is one deputy secretary that has been resolved and there is another in corporate services that has been resolved because of the previous decision.</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—There will be a further one resolved also on that. There would be the HR general manager position as well. Some of these things rattle through, if you like.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—They are cascading.</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—They can cascade, depending on how they work. Yes.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Can we go back to the BSG position, which has been an acting position for almost the entire life of that particular division. Is there a reason why that is in that state?</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—I am perhaps unclear as to the specifics there, but I think that with the relevant position that you are talking about, the division head, the executive manager is on leave, and before that it was a substantive position, I think. It is strategic projects. No, I</p>

				think that was substantively occupied before and he is just on leave—on long service leave. As I say, if you are comfortable, I can just provide you with an account of the lengths of actings in these positions and the reasons. <b>Senator COLBECK</b> —That might help.
<b>CSD 02</b>	N/A	Written	Barnett	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How many permanent staff recruited since additional estimates (Feb 2010)?</li> <li>2. What level are these staff?</li> <li>3. How many temporary positions exist or have been created since additional estimates?</li> <li>4. Since additional estimates, how many employees have been employed on contract and what is the average length of their employment period?</li> </ol>
<b>CSD 03</b>	N/A	Written	Barnett	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Have staffing numbers been reduced as a result of the efficiency dividend and/or other budget cuts? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Since the efficiency dividend was introduced?</li> <li>b. Since additional estimates?</li> <li>c. If so, where and at what level?</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. Are there any plans for staff reduction?</li> <li>3. If so, please advise details ie. reduction target, how this will be achieved, services/programs to be cut etc.</li> <li>4. If your Department/agency has been identified in the budget as delivering further efficiencies (savings), how will these be delivered? (for example, if the budget papers say ‘improvement to strategic work practices’ or similar, what are these and how will they be delivered?)</li> <li>5. What changes are underway or planned for graduate recruitment, cadetships or similar programs?</li> <li>6. If reductions or increases are envisaged please explain including reasons, target numbers etc.</li> </ol>
<b>CSD 04</b>	N/A	Written	Barnett	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is the Department's hospitality spend FYTD?</li> <li>2. Please detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events.</li> <li>3. For each Minister/Par Sec's office, please detail total hospitality spend FYTD.</li> <li>4. Please detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event.</li> </ol>
<b>CSD 05</b>	N/A	Written	Barnett	Has the Department complied with interim requirements relating to the publication of discretionary grants?
<b>CSD 06</b>	N/A	Written	Barnett	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Has the Department/agency received any advice from the Government or any other source on how to respond to FOI requests?</li> </ol>

				<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. How many FOI requests has the Department received?</li> <li>3. How many have been granted or denied?</li> <li>4. How many conclusive certificates have been issued in relation to FOI requests?</li> </ol>
<b>CSD 07</b>	N/A	Written	Barnett	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How many consultancies have been undertaken or are underway since November 2007? Please identify the name of the consultant, the subject matter of the consultancy, the duration and cost of the contract, and the method of procurement (ie. open tender, direct source, etc).</li> <li>2. Please also include total value for all consultancies, including figures for total <i>spending</i> on consultancies and also <i>value of contracts awarded</i>? Provide total figures since November 2007 and a breakdown on these figures for FY 2008/09 and 2009/10 FYTD.</li> <li>3. Is the Department/agency up to date with its reporting requirements on the Government's tenders and contacts website?</li> <li>4. Are the figures available on that site correct?</li> <li>5. How many consultancies are planned for this calendar year?</li> <li>6. Have these been published in your Annual Procurement Plan (APP) on the AusTender website and if not why not? In each case please identify the subject matter, duration, projected cost and method of procurement as above, and the name of the consultant if known.</li> </ol> <p>All answers should be current at the time the answer is submitted.</p>
<b>CSD 08</b>	N/A	Written	Sterle	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is the annual staff turnover in your organisation?</li> <li>2. If, as is proposed by the Opposition, you were not able to replace those staff for a period of 2 years, what effect would that have on the ability of your organisation to discharge its statutory functions?</li> <li>3. What areas of your department would you look to cut?</li> <li>4. Would your organisation simply look to make up the shortfall by engaging non-permanent contractors?</li> </ol>
<b>CSD 09</b>	N/A	Written	Colbeck	<p>The currently available DAFF Organisation Chart indicates there are a number of executive or management staff are in 'acting' roles.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How long have these been 'acting' roles?</li> <li>2. For what reason are they 'acting' roles?</li> <li>3. What is the schedule on the appointment of permanent staff in these roles (or other measure where appropriate)?</li> </ol>

<b>CSD 10</b>	N/A	Written	Colbeck	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What has been the total cost of international travel for DAFF personnel this financial year?</li> <li>2. How does this compare to previous years?</li> <li>3. Why has there been a decrease/increase?</li> </ol>
<b>CSD 11</b>	N/A	Written	Colbeck	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How many reported workplace injuries have occurred over the past financial year?</li> <li>2. How does this compare with previous years?</li> <li>3. Which agencies/units have had the most reports?</li> <li>4. How many cases of workplace compensation for injury or illness have occurred this year?</li> <li>5. What was the level of total compensation?</li> <li>6. Are there any ongoing cases?</li> </ol>
<b>CSD 12</b>	N/A	Written	Colbeck	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Could the Department provide a list of all discretionary grants, including ad hoc and one-off grants in the 2009-2010 Budget?</li> <li>2. Please provide details of the recipients, the intended use of the grants and what locations have benefited from the grants.</li> <li>3. Can DAFF please provide a list of discretionary grants recommended by DAFF which were not approved by the Minister?</li> <li>4. Can DAFF please provide a list of discretionary grants not recommended by DAFF but approved by the Minister?</li> </ol>
<b>CSD 13</b>	N/A	Written	Birmingham	<p>Buildings - energy efficiency Please list every building occupied by the Department.</p> <p>For each building:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Has an energy efficiency audit been undertaken? If so, what rating was achieved and what action has been taken to improve energy efficiency as a result of any audit undertaken?</li> </ol>
<b>CPD 01</b>	24/05/2010	11	Macdonald	<p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—Dr O’Connell, as of this morning we still have not got answers to questions we asked at last estimates. It makes it very difficult for us to follow things along when three months later we do not have the material. Should I be blaming you or are they stuck on the minister’s desk, waiting for a political check?</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—I will have to have a look and see what the status of those questions is.</p>

			<p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—No, you do not need to look. I will give them to you: Biosecurity Services Group, question 17; and Meat and Livestock Australia questions 02, 03 and 08 to 12. The ones I am more interested in are: Sustainable Resource Management questions 03, 04, 06, 14 and 15; and Agricultural Productivity Division questions 03 and 10. As I say, the ones that I am most interested in are the Sustainable Resource Management questions. Is there some reason why there are no answers to those?</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—I will have to take that up with the minister’s office.</p> <p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—You are getting to the nub of my question. Have you provided the answers for the minister?</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—Obviously the minister is responsible for the answers. We do not provide answers to the minister.</p> <p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—Of course, I know that.</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—We provide drafts for the minister’s consideration and it would be quite wrong of me to presuppose how the minister handles that.</p> <p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—I appreciate that.</p> <p><b>CHAIR</b>—Have you provided the drafts to the minister?</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—I would have to have a check on timing, but typically—</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—You would know, Dr O’Connell, if you have provided the drafts or not.</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—If I could complete my answer, it might help. Typically these may involve some iterations to ensure that they are accurate, and I would have to just check whether that is the case.</p> <p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—I would back your accuracy against the minister’s any day, I might say, but let me put it another way, then. Have you provided to the minister all advices that he might need to adequately answer questions that this committee put to the minister last time, as you rightly point out?</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—That would be a question, in a sense, to put to the minister as to what would be necessary for him to be confident about an answer, and that is probably exactly where you get iterations on getting a response. That is very typical, as you would be aware, of questions on that.</p> <p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—Do you advise the minister of parliament’s direction to him, and through him to you, that questions have to be answered by a certain day? It is well before today, but we still do not have those answers.</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—I think the minister is well aware of the Senate’s requirements.</p> <p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—Would you be able, during the next two days—and perhaps Senator Sherry could help here—to get a message to the minister’s office to find out why he has not answered those questions in accordance with the resolution of the Senate?</p>
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				<p><b>Senator Sherry</b>—I can indicate I have just posed that question and I hope to be able to provide a response to you in the next two days.</p> <p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—Excellent. Thank you.</p>
<b>CPD 02</b>	24/05/2010	12	Colbeck	<p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—That is fine. Dr O’Connell, are there any questions for which there is outstanding information for you to provide to the minister where he has questioned some of the information that you have sent to him?</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—I hate to say it, but I would probably have to take that on notice or try to get back to you on that. I do not have the information in front of me.</p>
<b>CPD 03</b>	24/05/2010	17/18	Colbeck	<p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—How much of the \$205,000 has been spent on advertising for biosecurity?</p> <p><b>Ms McDonald</b>—I will have to take that on notice. I do not have the split.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Can you break down the \$205,000 between tenders and advertising?</p> <p><b>Ms McDonald</b>—No. All I have is non-campaign advertising and recruitment advertising and the total for that.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—You only have those three figures, the non-campaign being \$205,000, the recruitment being \$268,000 and the total being \$473,000?</p> <p><b>Ms McDonald</b>—Yes.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Going back to the marketing and education budget, what is the split in that budget? You have said some of it is staffing. What is the split in staffing and expenditure for marketing and education?</p> <p><b>Ms McDonald</b>—I will have to take that one on notice. I have not got that split with me here today.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—You are spending \$1.65 million. How much of that is staff?</p> <p><b>Ms McDonald</b>—That is in the budget. The team at the moment is 11. There are 11 people. Some of those are in the Canberra office, and there are officers spread around the regions as well.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Is any of that money spent on consultancy?</p> <p><b>Ms McDonald</b>—I will have to take that on notice. I am not sure. I do not have that information with me right now.</p>
<b>CPD 04</b>	N/A	Written	Barnett	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What communications programs has the Department/Agency undertaken since additional estimates and what communications programs are planned to be undertaken?</li> <li>2. For each program, what is the total spend? (by ‘communications program’ it is meant communication of a government message to the public – possibly by advertising (print, television etc), possibly through the</li> </ol>

				erection of signs, plaques etc, or through other mediums. The recent (current) Government TV advertising campaign on health reform and specific health initiatives are examples, BER signage is an example, advertising on the Government's proposed new tax system would be another example.) 3. A breakdown of how much was spent/is planned to be spent on each program/initiative should be provided.
<b>CPD 05</b>	N/A	Written	Barnett	1. What is the gender ratio on each board and across the portfolio? 2. What is the gender ratio of appointments made to boards since the Government came to office in November 2007?
<b>CPD 06</b>	N/A	Written	Barnett	1. What was the cost of Ministers travel and expenses for the Community Cabinet meetings held since additional estimates? 2. How many Ministerial Staff and Departmental officers travelled with the Minister for the Community Cabinet meeting? 3. What was the total cost of this travel? 4. What was the total cost to the Department and the Ministers office?
<b>CPD 07</b>	N/A	Written	Barnett	1. What is the total number of Reviews <i>both completed and ongoing</i> in the portfolio/agency or affecting the portfolio agency since November 2007? 2. Please provide a breakdown of reviews completed since the government came to office (only those commenced after the current government came to office) including - when those reviews were provided to Government, - estimated cost of producing each review (and total cost) and - if the Government has responded to the review or information about when the Government has indicated it will/will not respond to the review. 3. How many reviews are ongoing? 4. How many reviews have been completed since additional estimates? 5. What further reviews are planned in the portfolio/agency?
<b>CC 01</b>	24/05/2010	24	Siewert	<b>Senator SIEWERT</b> —Okay. Can you give us the breakdown of that. Of the \$22.9 million, can you give us a breakdown of what component pays for what? <b>Ms Freeman</b> —Yes. I will happily take that on notice and give you the outline. <b>Senator SIEWERT</b> —Okay. People have got basically 12 months to register for the program. <b>Ms Freeman</b> —The measures will start effective from 1 July. People can start the range of measures that they would care to express their interest in and apply for, and they are



				<p>eligible to do that from that start date. Depending on what they would like to apply for, they may access them sooner rather than later, yes.</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—For example, the Farm Family Support component is immediately available from 1 July.</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—How much is that?</p> <p><b>Ms Freeman</b>—What I will take on notice is to give you an outline for each of the measures.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—If you have that with you, you could table it for us so that we can have a look at it now.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—Yes, if we get it now.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—It would really help the committee if you could actually table that list with those details in it.</p> <p><b>Ms Freeman</b>—We can get that for you. I do not have it with me at the moment, but we can, yes.</p>
<b>CC 02</b>	24/05/2010	26/27	Colbeck	<p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—How much of the \$22.9 million that they have got as part of the overall funding for this is to provide benefits and how much is for them to do their IT, for example?</p> <p><b>Ms Freeman</b>—We can take that on notice.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Is the cost of their IT included in that \$22.9 million?</p> <p><b>Ms Freeman</b>—It includes all the costs, in terms of departmental and administered costs for the pilot are through the papers. We can provide them to you.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—How much of the \$22.9 million is actually going onto the ground and how much is being picked up in delivery costs?</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—We will give you that breakdown on notice. We will have to get that.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Do you have any sense of what that is?</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—I would have to take that on notice and give you an accurate answer rather than take a stab at it, because it goes across all those agencies.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—I understand that it does, but who is the lead agency in all this?</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—Obviously, we are the lead agency.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Okay. What is the on-the-ground benefit of the program?</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—In terms of the break up of the total, as I say, I would have to take that on notice to give you an accurate answer. I do not want to not give you an accurate answer.</p>
<b>CC 03</b>	24/05/2010	31/32	Nash	<p><b>Senator NASH</b>—Okay. I want to clarify again, because I do not quite understand what you have based your estimate on for there being only a few hundred farmers to take up the Farm Planning option and move through to the Building Farm Businesses. What has the department estimated that figure on, that couple of hundred farmers, given that there are 6,000 in the</p>

				<p>region?</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—I will take on notice the detail of how the estimates are put together, but, as I mentioned, the clear sense that we have here is that we are testing this. We want to make sure that the—</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—No, I understand.</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—That is an important part of the costing.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—I will cut you off there, Dr O’Connell. I understand all that completely and I am not saying it is not worthy. What I am trying to understand is how it is going to work. If I am a farmer and I live in that region and I have heard about this and I think, ‘Fantastic; I want to go down this Farm Planning route, and I want to move into this Building Farm Businesses grants area,’ what will the department use to determine the most worthy hundred or so of those applicants if, indeed, thousands of the farmers in that region put forward an application to you? I am trying to understand why it is that the department is assuming there will only be a few hundred. Somebody must have some idea of that.</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—As I say, I can take on notice the breakdown of precisely how we get these costings.</p>
<b>CC 04</b>	24/05/2010	41	Colbeck	<p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—My questions were on EC in particular, and we asked some questions last time about who is who in the zoo as far as EC is concerned at the moment and about NRAC’s touring schedule and what their program is. Do we have that information easily available?</p> <p><b>Mr Mortimer</b>—Yes, we should be able to give that to you.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—If it is in a form that you can just table so that we do not have to take time, that would be good. But I am reluctant to take it on notice.</p> <p><b>Mr Mortimer</b>—Yes. I do not have it in a form that can be handed over, but I should be able to take you through it fairly quickly, if you are happy to do that.</p> <p><b>CHAIR</b>—I will hold you to that, Mr Mortimer, because we have an agreement for 12.30 pm.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—I just want to make sure I get hold of the data. I do not want it to be lost in the questions on notice process. I am happy to come back to it towards the end, if we have time.</p>
<b>CC 05</b>	24/05/2010	41/42	Nash	<p><b>Senator NASH</b>—I just wanted to clarify something. At the beginning, Dr O’Connell, I think you said that obviously you would be trying to work within the budget of the \$22.9 million or whatever it was. But then we ascertained that the Farm Exit Support grants are not capped. Are any of those other components in that same category as the Farm Exit Support in that they are not being capped? Would any of those other areas be treated the same as the Farm Exit Support, which you indicated was not capped?</p>

				<p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—Certainly Farm Family Support, which is the sort of ‘food on the table’ money, is not capped.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—The others, we assume, are all capped?</p> <p><b>Ms Freeman</b>—We can provide you with a list, if you like?</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—We can provide you with a list.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—Okay. Thank you.</p>
<b>CC 06</b>	24/05/2010	48	Milne	<p><b>Senator MILNE</b>—I would like to start by drawing your attention to the grants that were made under the Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement Industry Development Program. There was some \$42 million, and the aim of that from 2006 onwards was to transition to plantations. I want to ask a generic question and then a specific one. Was there any requirement with that grant funding that the company to which the grant was made actually keep that equipment for any length of time or, if they sold the business within a relatively short time of having got the grant, did that just mean a capital gain for that particular company? What were the provisions in relation to that?</p> <p><b>Mr Talbot</b>—Off the top of my head on that question—I will take it on notice—I think that for all the Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement grants there was a three-year asset retention period, which meant that basically, if people tried to sell the equipment within that period of time, the Commonwealth had an interest in it and therefore the Commonwealth possibly could look at a refund of part of the money or something like that. But I would like to take that on notice, because I do not have a copy of the contract here.</p> <p><b>Senator MILNE</b>—Okay. Please also take on notice how many of the recipients of the grants have changed hands since they got the grants within the period—if it is a three-year period, as you recall, or whatever the period is—and how many of those, and which ones, the Commonwealth has actually exercised its responsibility with.</p> <p><b>Mr Talbot</b>—Yes.</p>
<b>CC 07</b>	24/05/2010	49	Milne	<p><b>Senator MILNE</b>—What due diligence was exercised in relation to the disbursement of these grants by the Commonwealth, and who was responsible for that due diligence?</p> <p><b>Mr Talbot</b>—I guess that, in terms of grants, there are various corporate governance frameworks. With all these contracts that we give, they generally go through our legal area. We ensure—usually both with field visits and with keeping up with the milestones—when claims are put in that milestones have actually been delivered on. So there are a range of things that we do, and that is another one. To fill you in fully, I would have to take it on notice.</p> <p><b>Senator MILNE</b>—There are a number of issues in relation to these Community Forest Agreement grants, because as you would be aware the industry is in dire straits in</p>

				<p>Tasmania at the moment and a number of contractors are allegedly—they are saying so—in dire financial circumstances. A number of those were recipients of these Commonwealth grants. What field visits or ground truthing has the Commonwealth done in relation to any of these grants? How many actual visits has the Commonwealth made to any recipients in the Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement list?</p> <p><b>Mr Talbot</b>—I know there were a range of visits made in relation to these grants. I would have to take that on notice. These visits happened a while ago now, and I just do not have any details here with me.</p> <p><b>Senator MILNE</b>—Perhaps you can tell me if there was a \$10 million grant to Ta Ann Tasmania, based at Smithton? Can you tell me whether there has been any follow-up or due diligence in relation to that particular grant and, indeed, the performance?</p> <p><b>Mr Talbot</b>—I am sorry, Senator; I will have to take that notice.</p> <p>.....</p> <p><b>Senator MILNE</b>—I did ask who in the Commonwealth was responsible for due diligence, and you said that it went to your legal teams. A legal contract is a separate thing from someone actually assessing whether these companies are economically viable and whether there is any likelihood of them going broke et cetera—what their probabilities are. Who does that for you?</p> <p><b>Mr Talbot</b>—Within the branch, normally the managers and the general managers would do the due diligence. I am afraid I was not around when these grants were being done, but normal practice is that if they are over a certain amount we do get advice for a financial assessment, we do get legal advice, and—depending on the particular circumstances and what questions are raised in terms of the paperwork that is put forward—we do clarifications. I am quite happy to take it on notice. Unfortunately these grants were done a while ago, so I would have to take it on notice.</p>
CC 08	24/05/2010	50	Milne	<p><b>Senator MILNE</b>—Yes, I appreciate that, Mr Mortimer, but you will also remember that the Auditor-General audited the oversight of this program in the first couple of years and found the oversight to be incredibly wanting. They indicated that there was no ground-truthing, that in some cases there was no due diligence exercised by the Commonwealth and that the state of Tasmania was allowed to make these recommendations without the Commonwealth checking up. The reason it becomes critical now, apart from verifying how Commonwealth money was spent, is that we have a situation where there is a discussion about another round of compensation in the Tasmanian forest industry. I think it is important that we find out that the money was spent as it was supposed to have been spent and, if companies have been</p>

				<p>onsold, that the asset value is returned to the Commonwealth before we go into another round. That is why it is critically important here, and I would ask you to take it on notice.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>I would like you to also take a question on notice in relation to the Wesley Vale pulp mill, which you would be well aware has now closed. It got \$1.267 million for the purchase and installation of three natural gas boilers to replace the oil and LP gas at Wesley Vale. Can you also establish whether there was any commitment of ongoing operation of that company at the time that that grant was made and what we are doing to get back some of that value now that that mill has closed?</p> <p><b>Mr Mortimer</b>—I understand the question and, as Mr Talbot said, we will certainly get the details of that. He indicated we were getting advice on what legal mechanisms are available to the Commonwealth, and we will report on that.</p> <p><b>Senator MILNE</b>—What process will you use to establish whether all of these contractors, who got substantial grants through this period, actually spent the money on what the grants were allocated for? Can you take that on notice?</p> <p><b>Mr Mortimer</b>—Yes. I certainly understand that.</p> <p><b>Senator MILNE</b>—Thank you.</p>
<b>CC 09</b>	24/05/2010	50	Bob Brown	<p><b>Senator BOB BROWN</b>—If you take it on notice, would you give the committee all legal advice—</p> <p>indications of when it was sought, what question was asked, by whom, within the department, relating to grants in Tasmania and elsewhere in Australia since 2005?</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—We certainly could look at the timings. The content of the advice may be a question of legal privilege, potentially.</p>
<b>CC 10</b>	24/05/2010	51	Bob Brown	<p><b>Senator BOB BROWN</b>—If I may interrupt—on the FCS requirement: requirement by whom?</p> <p><b>Mr Talbot</b>—The requirement of the companies in Japan who are purchasing the product.</p> <p><b>Senator BOB BROWN</b>—The companies are requiring FCS certification for woodchips before they will purchase them?</p> <p><b>Mr Talbot</b>—Yes.</p> <p><b>Senator BOB BROWN</b>—When did that start?</p> <p><b>Mr Talbot</b>—I am not sure when it started, because I actually think it was a gradual process with some companies adopting it early and some a bit later. But I should put a caveat on that. It is not all the companies; there are still companies that do not require FCS certification in Japan.</p> <p><b>Senator BOB BROWN</b>—Can you tell the committee which companies they are?</p>

				<p><b>Mr Talbot</b>—I would not know off the top of my head. They were all—</p> <p><b>Senator BOB BROWN</b>—Could you take that on notice for us, please?</p> <p><b>Mr Talbot</b>—Yes. I would add the caveat that it was a general discussion and in most cases no companies were mentioned, but I will do my best for you.</p>
CC 11	24/05/2010	51	Bob Brown	<p><b>Senator BOB BROWN</b>—Is the current problem in Tasmania due to the global economic downturn?</p> <p><b>Mr Talbot</b>—I would be speculating there. I would say that it would have been at least some of the effect. I do not know the extent. It would really require some detailed analysis by somebody to come to a landing on that.</p> <p><b>Dr O'Connell</b>—I would be uncomfortable in asking Mr Talbot to go beyond his direct skill set and knowledge there without going to some of our other analysts—perhaps ABARE or others—on the market issues.</p> <p><b>Senator BOB BROWN</b>—You do not think the forestry branch of the Commonwealth would have an understanding of what the current problems besetting the industry in Tasmania are?</p> <p><b>Dr O'Connell</b>—The point I was making before is that the problems are very complex when you ask a question such as ‘Is it the global financial crisis?’ It is a complex set of issues around the global financial crisis, clearly the price of woodchips and other issues relating to the structure of the industry. There is a whole suite of issues and I think probably asking for a quick analysis of what the problems are is not something that—</p> <p><b>Senator BOB BROWN</b>—But I did not ask for a quick analysis; I asked for any analysis that you might have.</p> <p><b>Dr O'Connell</b>—To the degree that we have work that ABARE has undertaken in the area, I can certainly provide that to you on the record.</p>
CC 12	24/05/2010	51	Bob Brown	<p><b>Senator BOB BROWN</b>—To what degree, in your knowledge if you have any, is the supply of eucalypt wood to the world market from outside Australia bearing in on the ability of Australia to sell eucalypt products outside the country?</p> <p><b>Mr Talbot</b>—I would have to take that on notice.</p>
CC 13	24/05/2010	51/52	Bob Brown	<p><b>Senator BOB BROWN</b>—Do you what the area of eucalypt plantations in Australia is?</p> <p><b>Mr Talbot</b>—Not off the top of my head.</p> <p><b>Mr Mortimer</b>—We can provide that to you. It is done in the <i>State of the forests</i> reports, I think, on a regular basis.</p> <p><b>Senator BOB BROWN</b>—Could you also provide the area of eucalypt plantations elsewhere in the world?</p> <p><b>Mr Mortimer</b>—That might be a bit harder but we will see what international statistics are</p>

				<p>available through international organisations.</p> <p><b>Senator BOB BROWN</b>—Do you know if it is true that there is a bigger area of eucalypt plantations in China than there is in Australia?</p> <p><b>Mr Talbot</b>—I would have to take that on notice.</p>
<b>CC 14</b>	24/05/2010	53	Bob Brown	<p><b>Senator BOB BROWN</b>— Have there been any approaches, either to you or, so far as you know, to the minister or any other arm of government, this year about the situation in Tasmania with a view to getting assistance or in any other way being informed about what is happening in Tasmania?</p> <p><b>Dr O'Connell</b>—You would need to direct your question about whether the minister has been approached to the minister, obviously, but certainly there has been—</p> <p><b>Senator BOB BROWN</b>—Could you take that question on notice for the minister, please?</p> <p><b>Senator Sherry</b>—I will take it on notice for the minister.</p> <p><b>Senator BOB BROWN</b>—Thank you.</p>
<b>CC 15</b>	24/05/2010	54	Bob Brown	<p><b>Senator BOB BROWN</b>—Was some solution to the issue of the woodchip exports put forward by the participants at the meeting—or to any of the matters that you raised?</p> <p><b>Mr Talbot</b>—The meeting lasted only an hour, due to the minister's schedule, so there was enough time for people to explain what their issues were. But there was nothing further than that.</p> <p><b>Senator BOB BROWN</b>—Is there to be a further meeting?</p> <p><b>Mr Talbot</b>—I do not know, Senator.</p> <p><b>Senator BOB BROWN</b>—Was there was a request for one?</p> <p><b>Mr Talbot</b>—Not to my knowledge.</p> <p><b>Dr O'Connell</b>—Again, I think these questions need to be put to the minister, given that the minister would have been the person this was requested from. Otherwise it is going to put Mr Talbot in a position where he is trying to answer for things that he cannot sensibly—</p> <p><b>Senator BOB BROWN</b>—I am quite happy for that. Would you put those questions on notice please?</p> <p>Would you also put the question on notice as to whether the minister held any other meetings with industry representatives or people interested or associated while he was in Tasmania; and, if so, who they were.</p> <p><b>Senator Sherry</b>—We will take it on notice.</p> <p><b>Senator BOB BROWN</b>—Yes, that is what I am asking. Thank you, Minister. The other</p>

				<p>question I would like to follow through with is: in your information has the Prime Minister been alerted to the fact that there is a problem with the industry in Tasmania?</p> <p><b>Dr O'Connell</b>—That question would need to be put to the Prime Minister's portfolio or the Prime Minister's office directly.</p> <p><b>Senator BOB BROWN</b>—Can I put that to the minister's office through you?</p> <p><b>Senator Sherry</b>—We will take it on notice.</p>
<b>CC 16</b>	24/05/2010	55	Bob Brown	<p><b>Senator BOB BROWN</b>—Do you know of any time in the last 30 years when the industry has changed direction in Tasmania without Commonwealth money being injected into the industry at that point of change?</p> <p><b>Dr O'Connell</b>—I would have to check the record.</p> <p><b>Senator BOB BROWN</b>—Take that as a question as notice.</p> <p><b>Dr O'Connell</b>—Will do.</p>
<b>CC 17</b>	24/05/2010	55	Bob Brown	<p><b>Senator BOB BROWN</b>—Can you or Mr Talbot tell the committee how much Commonwealth moneys have gone to the Tasmanian industry since 1988, or would you take that on notice?</p> <p><b>Mr Talbot</b>—I would have to take that on notice.</p>
<b>CC 18</b>	24/05/2010	55	Bob Brown	<p><b>Senator BOB BROWN</b>—At the 2004 election, famously, Prime Minister Howard committed \$50 million to go into the industry and into support for the pulp mill as well. Can you account for that \$50 million, and is that covered by the amounts that Senator Milne was asking about?</p> <p><b>Mr Mortimer</b>—We will have to check on that and come back to you.</p> <p><b>Dr O'Connell</b>—By recollection, I think quite a large amount of that money was to be appropriated to the industry department, so we will have to check. I do not think it is through this department.</p> <p><b>Senator BOB BROWN</b>—In 2004, again famously, Prime Minister Howard, with the support of the CFMEU and with the industry buoyant at the time, put a proposal which had the enormous support of the industry. Can you tell me how many jobs have been lost out of the industry since October 2004?</p> <p><b>Mr Mortimer</b>—We will have to come back to you. We do not have those statistics with us.</p>
<b>CC 19</b>	24/05/2010	55	Bob Brown	<p><b>Senator BOB BROWN</b>—Do you know how many jobs there are in the wood related industry in Tasmania at the moment and what the breakdown for that job component is?</p> <p><b>Dr O'Connell</b>—We certainly can access that and have it. I do not know whether we have it with us at the moment, but we can certainly take it on notice.</p>



				<p><b>Senator BOB BROWN</b>—Would you do that? Can you, for each year since 2004, give a total and a breakdown for the job make-up of the Tasmanian industry, including the number of jobs in the woodchip component?</p> <p><b>Mr Talbot</b>—Okay, we will take that on notice.</p>
CC 20	24/05/2010	55/56	Milne	<p><b>Senator MILNE</b>—Just to finish this issue of the whole community forest agreement industry development program, when the Auditor-General reported previously he said that DAFF had not reported against all outcome indicators for the programs in the 2006-07 annual report and as a result parliament had not been informed of the achievements or otherwise of the programs in meeting their objectives. He said that consideration needed to be given to the performance data being collected for these indicators and the level of department verification required. This is particularly important as DAFF has indicated that it intends evaluating the programs when completed in June 2009. Has DAFF evaluated the programs and has it reported yet on the performance data it uses and the verification et cetera? If it has, where can I go to find this report on the outcomes of the program?</p> <p><b>Mr Talbot</b>—In terms of an evaluation of the program, we have finalised an agreement with the Tasmanian officials and we are about to go out to tender for people to do an evaluation of various programs under this agreement. In terms of your second question, I would have to take it on notice, have a look at the documents myself and come back to you.</p> <p>.....</p> <p><b>Senator MILNE</b>—What I am asking is that you provide on notice any evaluation that has been done of this program. In particular, what are the categories of performance data you were collecting against which you intend to evaluate, and what is the time frame in which we can expect evaluation of these programs.</p> <p><b>Mr Talbot</b>—Yes.</p>
CC 21	24/05/2010	56/57	Colbeck	<p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—.....I move on to the Forest Industries Climate Change Research Fund. You told us in estimates that applications for this fund had been provided to the assessment panel in early February. When did the assessment panel finalise its assessments of the applications?</p> <p><b>Mr Talbot</b>—Those projects have been announced. There were 20 projects for \$4.7 million.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Yes. So those were announced on 29 April and 3 May?</p> <p><b>Mr Talbot</b>—I think that is right. It was around those dates that they were announced.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Do those projects that have been announced add up to \$4.7 million?</p> <p><b>Mr Talbot</b>—No, I think there are some that have been announced and some that are about</p>

				<p>to be announced.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—My understanding is that there are 10 projects that have been announced for just under \$3 million.</p> <p><b>Mr Talbot</b>—That would probably be correct. I do not have those press releases with me.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—I do but I have not compiled what is on each one. When will the final \$1.77 million be announced?</p> <p><b>Mr Talbot</b>—I would have to take that on notice.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Can you tell me what is holding it up? I think that all the submissions went for assessment at one time, didn't they? That is my recollection.</p> <p><b>Mr Talbot</b>—I would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>.....</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Do we have completion dates on the respective projects?</p> <p><b>Mr Talbot</b>—We would have completion dates for—</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—The 10 that are announced, I suppose. It is a bit hard to have a completion date on something that has not been announced. Can you give us what those completion dates are?</p> <p><b>Mr Talbot</b>—I do not have that information with me. I will have to take it on notice.</p>
CC 22	24/05/2010	59/60	Siewert	<p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—Have you had any meetings? Has either the minister or the staff of DAFF had any meetings with Mr Oxley regarding either the URS report or a cabinet submission?</p> <p><b>Mr Mortimer</b>—The department has certainly had no discussions with Mr Oxley about a cabinet submission. That would be entirely inappropriate.</p> <p><b>Dr O'Connell</b>—You would need to ask the minister—</p> <p><b>Senator Sherry</b>—I will take on notice the question to the minister.</p> <p>.....</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—Minister Sherry, please take on notice the question about the whether the minister has had any meetings with Mr Oxley regarding the URS report or the government's proposal. The government has commissioned several other reports on the industry-wide code of conduct. There was a report led by the Timber Development Association on illegal timber imports. Has that project been completed?</p> <p><b>Mr Talbot</b>—The report has been completed; it has not then released as yet.</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—When is it likely to be released?</p> <p><b>Mr Talbot</b>—That would be a decision for the minister</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—How much did it cost to produce the report?</p>

				<p><b>Mr Talbot</b>—I do not have that information on me, but I will get it for you.</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—Please also tell us who was consulted as part of that project.</p> <p><b>Mr Talbot</b>—I would have to take that on notice. It would have been a range of timber importers and other industry associations, but I cannot remember the extent of the consultations. They were done quite a while ago.</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—Could you take that on notice, please?</p> <p><b>Mr Talbot</b>—Yes, certainly</p>
CC 23	24/05/2010	60	Siewert	<p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—...I understand that there was another report: the priory forest industries report. Private industry was commissioned to develop a report on the methodology of assessing the risks of importing illegally-sourced timber. Is that right? I may have got the company that did it wrong, but have you done a report on the methodology of assessing risk?</p> <p><b>Mr Talbot</b>—I am not sure on that one. I may know it under a different name. I will take that one on notice.</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—If there was a report, I would like to know the answers to the same questions I asked about the previous report: when was it finalised, what was the cost and when is it going to be released? Then there is the URS report that was, I understand, looking at the comparison between various verification schemes. Is that correct?</p> <p><b>Mr Talbot</b>—Yes. That has not been released. It will be subject to the minister as well.</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—Do you have terms of reference for that report?</p> <p><b>Mr Talbot</b>—Not on me here.</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—Could you please table those?</p> <p><b>Mr Talbot</b>—Certainly.</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—Again, what was the cost of that report, when will it be released and is the idea of that report—and I realise I may be getting into policy issues—was that looking at voluntary codes versus any mandatory scheme?</p>
CC 24	24/05/2010	61	Colbeck	<p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—We will come back to that later on, but that is an acknowledgment. In November, the Primary Industries Ministerial Council agreed for the need for government cooperation on forestry certification and called on the Green Building Council to include accreditation of AFS for certification. Can you give us an update on where that is at and what other work is going on with various agencies around that matter?</p> <p><b>Mr Talbot</b>—Certainly, as you have said, there was that announcement out of the Primary Industries Ministerial Council and certainly after that the Green Building Council recognised the</p>

				<p>AFS just like the FSC for one point. Agencies were asked to go away and look at this issue. The one that is most public at the moment is the Victoria timber policy, where it recognises both schemes. Queensland has put out more statements and a bit of a draft at the moment talking about the direction they are going in in terms of recognising these schemes. I think that in the other jurisdictions it is probably more in the development stage or still under consideration.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—What about within your conversations across government generally within general government procurement policy? I acknowledge the work that has been done through PIMC and it is positive but what about through other government agencies generally with respect to their overall procurement policies? Is there something that is being managed by this agency in relation to that?</p> <p><b>Mr Talbot</b>—In terms of Commonwealth procurement we have encouraged and reminded other agencies about treating the certification schemes equally. I will have to take this on notice because I am sure I am going to get some of the words wrong but one of the environmental guides—I am not sure whether it is to the Commonwealth procurement scheme—mentions certification schemes. I will give you details on that, Senator.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—You will give us the name of that particular guide that provides that information. You do not know for certain whether or not that is happening across all agencies. Who would monitor that?</p> <p><b>Mr Talbot</b>—I would have to take that on notice. When I said we went out to other agencies we did get fairly positive responses from most agencies to this. It shows that it is on a number of agencies' radars.</p>
CC 25	24/05/2010	62	Colbeck	<p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—There is effectively no FSC accredited native forest in the country, is there?</p> <p><b>Mr Talbot</b>—I actually think there are small areas of native forest that are FSC certified.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—If you have advice as to that, I would appreciate receiving it—on notice, of course.</p> <p><b>Mr Talbot</b>—On notice, yes.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Do you have a general sense of where they are?</p> <p><b>Mr Talbot</b>—Not off the top of my head. For some reason northern New South Wales comes to mind, but I will take it on notice.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Okay—I would appreciate hearing that.</p>
CC 26	24/05/2010	62	Colbeck	<p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Okay—I would appreciate hearing that. Did you have any consultation with either the department of environment or the New South Wales government over the red gums in the forests that have just had their status changed?</p>

				<p><b>Mr Talbot</b>—We have had some discussions, but they were mainly in terms of the NRC notifying us of what they were doing and their processes.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—NRC being?</p> <p><b>Mr Talbot</b>—The New South Wales Natural Resources Commission.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—You would not have been asked for any advice on those, or had any discussions about those particular forests?</p> <p><b>Mr Talbot</b>—I would have to take that on notice. The reason is that I do not think I have been involved in any discussions, but I think that one of my staff may have been recently. The river red gums are a New South Wales issue.</p>
CC 27	24/05/2010	62	Colbeck	<p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Did you give any advice to the department of environment with regard to that sort of work—the logging methods? Although it is a bit redundant now, of course.</p> <p><b>Mr Talbot</b>—I do not think we gave any information at all on logging methods. But I will take it on notice, simply because I was not involved in the logging discussions—but I do not think so.</p>
CC 28	N/A	Written	Colbeck	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. When will State Governments be unable to apply for EC status for particular regions under the current arrangements? (ie: when does EC expire and the new program begin?)</li> <li>2. Can DAFF explain how this is a one year trial in WA but has expenditure running over five years?</li> <li>3. How many of these 'trial' programs are new, that is, are not substantially different from previous drought programs?</li> <li>4. Can you please provide a breakdown of the funding for each of the programs within the trial?</li> <li>5. What assumptions has DAFF made in projecting these levels of funds for each program? What costings were produced by or for the Department of Finance &amp; Deeregulation with respect to these programs?</li> <li>6. What is the advertising/communications cost of the trial?</li> <li>7. What is the administration cost of the trial?</li> <li>8. Who will be administering each of these programs within the trial?</li> <li>9. Who will be measuring the progress of each of the programs?</li> <li>10. How will each program be measured? What are the measurable outcomes for each program?</li> <li>11. How many farmers are expected to be eligible for the \$60k grants?</li> <li>12. Is there a cap on funding for the \$60k grants?</li> <li>13. What criteria is there for farmers to spend the grants on?</li> <li>14. Will farm advisers/consultants or similar have to meet any criteria?</li> </ol>

				<p>15. What measures has DAFF put in place to ensure dodgy operators don't take advantage of the scheme?</p> <p>16. Should the program be rolled out nationally, what is the time period a farmer must wait before applying for a new grant? Or will they only be able to receive the grant once?</p> <p>17. How will the Stronger Rural Communities grants be distributed? Geographically spread? One per council? Are they capped?</p>
CC 29	N/A	Written	Colbeck	<p>1. Can the Department please provide a list of all regions currently under Exceptional Circumstances (EC) and the expiry date for each of these regions?</p> <p>2. Which EC regions is the Department and/or the National Rural Advisory Council (NRAC) currently reviewing to determine whether a region's EC status is renewed?</p> <p>3. What has NRAC's touring schedule been 1 February 2010?</p> <p>4. What is NRAC's touring schedule up to the end of 2009-2010? And beyond that?</p> <p>5. How many completed NRAC EC reports are with the Department for advice to the Minister or are already in the Minister's office?</p> <p>6. Can you please provide for the 2009-2010 period a breakdown, by EC area application, of the time taken from when the relevant State Government submits the application to when a decision is made by the Minister.</p> <p>7. Can you please include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ when DAFF provide initial advice to the Minister on the application</li> <li>○ when NRAC was asked to conduct a tour</li> <li>○ when the tour was undertaken</li> <li>○ when NRAC provided its advice to DAFF</li> <li>○ when DAFF provided advice to the Minister on NRAC's recommendation</li> <li>○ when the Minister advised of his final decision.</li> </ul> <p>8. How many NRAC EC region recommendations did the Minister agree to in 2009-2010?</p> <p>9. How many NRAC EC region recommendations did the Minister <b>not</b> agree to in 2009-2010?</p> <p>10. What has the Department budgeted for EC support to farmers and small businesses in 2010-11? Can you please provide a breakdown by program and EC region.</p> <p>11. What was the underspend of EC funds in 2009-2010? What happened to these funds?</p>
CC 30	N/A	Written	Colbeck	<p>1. What is the nature of work undertaken within the Climate Change section?</p> <p>2. How has this altered with the Government's decision to put back a decision on an ETS until at least 2013?</p>

				3. How many personnel are now within this section?
<b>ABARE 01</b>	24/05/2010	71	Heffernan	<p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b>—How much an hour was that 300 grand worth of consultant work charged at?</p> <p><b>Mr Glyde</b>—I do not know. They have certainly put a lot of work into it.</p> <p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b>—Can you give us the details of the work?</p> <p><b>Mr Glyde</b>—We can take on notice how much effort went into that.</p> <p>.....</p> <p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b>—Can you give us the details of who decided it was 300 grand and on what basis you came to 300 grand?</p> <p><b>Mr Glyde</b>—I will have to take on notice how that happened.</p>
<b>ABARE 02</b>	24/05/2010	71/72	Milne	<p><b>Senator MILNE</b>—....What is your economic analysis of the price that we get for those native forest woodchips into China?</p> <p>.....</p> <p><b>Senator MILNE</b>—Can you take it on notice? I would like to know what price we get for native forest woodchips into China. You also mentioned the global financial crisis and changed attitudes towards certification and environmental issues as being reasons why the Japanese woodchip market has declined.</p> <p>Would you care to comment on the competition also from the plantations coming on stream from around the rest of the world? What is the trend? The information we have been given is essentially there is a wall of wood on stream from plantation hardwoods around the world.</p>
<b>ABARE 03</b>	24/05/2010	74	Colbeck	<p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—I am heading for your website first thing in the morning. When did you stop doing the forward projections on forestry?</p> <p><b>Mr Glyde</b>—We might have to take that one on notice. It would be at least five years ago. It was quite some time ago.</p>
<b>ABARE 04</b>	25/05/2010	87	Colbeck	<p><b>Mr Glyde</b>—There was a report that was released in January 2007 that was called <i>Mineral resource taxation in Australia: an economic assessment of policy options</i>. Its number is ABARE Research Report 07.1. On the basis of that paper the author was invited to an International Monetary Fund conference and presented a paper at that conference entitled <i>International minerals taxation: experience and issues</i>. It is known as ABARE Conference Paper 08.11. Also at an IMF conference, held in Washington DC in September 2008, there was <i>Taxing natural resources: new challenges, new perspectives</i>. And again, following that conference there was some work that was published as a chapter in a book</p>

				<p>that the IMF and ABARE did jointly. The book was called <i>The taxation of petroleum and minerals: principles, problems and practice</i>. That was published by the IMF in April 2010. That chapter is a revised version of the conference paper, with a greater discussion of international mineral developments in recent decades.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Could you give me the name of the book again?</p> <p><b>Mr Glyde</b>—The book was called <i>The taxation of petroleum and minerals: principles, problems and practice</i> and it was published by the IMF in April 2010. If it helps, we can provide the links to these—the first two are on our website.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Yes, that would be great. They might provide some debating points, if nothing else.</p>
<b>ABARE 05</b>	25/05/2010	95	Nash	<p><b>Senator NASH</b>—Mr Glyde, we have just been talking about the reduced water and the SDLs we are going to have to deal with in the middle of the year. To date, what is your understanding, just in terms of the basin, of the overall allocation, say for each of the last five years, compared to the actual licensing across the basin?</p> <p><b>Mr Glyde</b>—I would have to take the specifics of that question on notice. I just do not have that information in my brief or in my head.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—That is understandable, but it is an important point I think.</p> <p><b>Mr Glyde</b>—I understand.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—If you could come back to the committee on that...</p>
<b>ABARE 06</b>	25/05/2010	97	Nash	<p><b>Senator NASH</b>—Mr Glyde, in terms of the resource economics side of ABARE, do you do any work on water retention and capacity for cities?</p> <p><b>Mr Glyde</b>—We have published some work in the past. I would have to refresh my memory as to the exact nature of it. But, generally speaking, no. We tend to focus on what is happening in the bush, what is happening in agriculture.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—If you could provide for us what you have done in the past, that would be useful.</p>
<b>BRS 01</b>	24/05/2010	74	Nash	<p><b>Senator NASH</b>—I did just want to put it on notice that, in 2007, BRS did a study, an overview of tools for assessing groundwater, surface water connectivity, so I am just interested to know what input you have been asked to give or what role BRS is going to play in terms of the draft basin plan coming out in the middle of the year. I am happy for you to take that on notice, but if could you come back with the detailed input—if there is any—that BRS will have to drafting the plan.</p>
<b>BRS 02</b>	N/A	Written	Colbeck	<p>BRS released a publication in April titled 'Evaluating fisheries co-management trials: a discussion paper'.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Can you advise on the outcomes of this paper?</li> <li>2. How would expect this paper to impact Federal and State fishing agencies?</li> </ol>



<b>SRM 01</b>	24/05/2010	8/9	Macdonald	<p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—Dr O’Connell, my impression of the department is that you are getting less and less involved in caring for our country, you are getting less and less involved in bioregional planning, which are things that your department used to do conjointly with Environment, and you seem to be getting less and less involved in fisheries. For example, your international fisheries now do not seem to have a dedicated area. First of all, can you tell me whether I am wrong on either of those. If you cannot tell me I am wrong can you give me, perhaps on notice but perhaps later in the hearing, the reduction of your staff in those areas?</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—Between this year and next year in terms of budgeted requirements we can certainly look at that.</p> <p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—I am talking, really, about last year to the year in which we are now. I am interested in—</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—Not the forward year.</p> <p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—And the forward year. I am asking for the current year and the forward year, because my impression is that there seem to be cutbacks in certain areas of the department which used to be a significant part of the department’s work. It now seems to have been abandoned to Environment, which is of great concern, of course, to agricultural Australians.</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—We can provide those numbers on notice. You are looking, really, for three years from last year, this year and the budget year that is ahead.</p> <p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—Yes. But am I generally correct?</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—It would be no surprise to suggest that I think we are just as involved in caring for our country as we have been in the past in terms of the work jointly with our colleagues in the environment department. We still run joint process.</p> <p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—I am pleased to hear that. I do not think that is the case, but I am pleased to hear that you are telling me it is.</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—We still run the process jointly. We still have the ministerial board jointly making decisions. It is all joint approvals all the way through on that, so I do not see that that has been reduced. When we come to the other areas obviously we can talk through the specifics, but I am happy enough to take those numbers on notice.</p> <p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—Thank you.</p>
<b>SRM 02</b>	24/05/2010	89	Colbeck	<p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—What is your budget for entering into new contracts over the next 12 months? You would have a number of contracts that would be signed now which would have a liability attached over the life of the contracts—we would like to know what</p>

				that is. Then there would be a budget that you will have up to which you could obviously enter into contracts. <b>Mr Thompson</b> —I do not have the numbers of the detail of the potentially contracted amounts of the stewardship. As our discussions have identified. it gets a bit complicated because of those forward year figures. I would have to take that on notice and get back to you.
<b>SRM 03</b>	24/05/2010	108	Colbeck	<b>Senator COLBECK</b> —Can you tell me whether the minister has responded to their letter of 22 February seeking some assistance with support for Recfish as an organisation? <b>Mr Pittar</b> —I do not know the answer to that directly. I need to take that on notice. If I can take that on notice, that would be helpful.
<b>SRM 04</b>	24/05/2010	111	Macdonald	<b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b> —I know we have spoken about basa at previous estimates committees. I will table this email, which I and every other senator received, from a Mr Glen Santacaterina. Forget the political comments in it, but it talks about ‘brought up with high levels of poisons and bacteria’, ‘raised in Vietnam with the food that comes from Peru’, ‘their hormones, which are injected into the female fish, come from China’ et cetera. There is a bit of material there. Could I ask either AFMA or the department—do not spend a lot of time on it—to do a short critique on what is said in the email. Do we know if the comment about the injection of hormones is correct? Could you do that on notice.
<b>SRM 05</b>	N/A	Written	Colbeck	In the lead up to the 2007 election, Environment Minister Peter Garrett visited the electorate of La Trobe and pledged \$15 million funding for a National Weeds Research and Productivity Program (NWRPP). This was in response to a Coalition Government commitment for \$450,000 to develop a biological control for Wandering Trad in the Dandenong Ranges. 1. Has any Government funding been provided since then to develop a biological control into Wandering Trad? 2. Is any budgeted funding earmarked to develop a biological control into Wandering Trad? 3. Is any funding from the NWRPP currently being used to eradicate weeds in the Dandenong Ranges?
<b>SRM 06</b>	N/A	Written	Colbeck	1. How many staff currently work in the Fisheries Policy Unit? Can you please provide a breakdown of staff of their roles within this unit (i.e. recreational fishing, international treaties, etc)

				<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. How has this changed since 2007?</li> <li>3. Can you please provide a breakdown of for each of the financial years from 2007-2008?</li> <li>4. What is the budget for this unit?</li> <li>5. Can you please provide a breakdown of funding for each of the financial years from 2007-2008?</li> </ol>
<b>SRM 07</b>	N/A	Written	Colbeck	<p>Thresher Sharks</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What data does DAFF or other organisations have on the Thresher Shark population?</li> <li>2. Is this data publicly available?</li> <li>3. What is the conservation status of the shark in Australian waters?</li> <li>4. What is the annual catch by a/ commercial and b/ recreational fishermen?</li> <li>5. What tag and release data is available?</li> <li>6. What are the current regulations with respect to Thresher Sharks? State regulations?</li> <li>7. Who was consulted about the IOTC meeting and potential outcomes prior to the 1-5 March meeting in Korea? Rec or Commercial fishing? Environmental groups? How were they consulted? When?</li> <li>8. Which people were directly consulted at the Tropical Tuna MAC over the thresher shark resolution and when?</li> <li>9. Which Departments provided advice prior to the meeting?</li> <li>10. Who attended in either an official or unofficial capacity from Australia? Names, positions, organisations.</li> <li>11. Who paid for them?</li> <li>12. Is Australia able to appeal the resolution or its impact?</li> <li>13. If so, when does this need to be submitted?</li> <li>14. What consultation has occurred with stakeholders following this meeting? When? Who?</li> <li>15. When did DAFF write to State authorities regarding the passed resolution?</li> <li>16. When did DAFF first advise the Minister on the outcomes of the IOTC meeting?</li> <li>17. Will there be any additional restrictions on fishing for Thresher Sharks in Australian waters as a result of the resolution?</li> <li>18. If so, what? How and when will they be implemented?</li> </ol>
<b>SRM/AFMA 01</b>	24/05/2010	115	Colbeck	<p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—What percentage of those staff are based in corporate or administrative roles? The next question is: what are inspection duties? So just do a comparison of whether there has been a fluctuation in those numbers or whether they have stayed relatively—</p>

				<b>Mr Perrott</b> —We do not have that data with us, but we can take it on notice.
<b>SRM/AFMA 02</b>	24/05/2010	117/118	Colbeck	<p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—You mentioned the frozen holding. What sort of stockpile do they have? That was one of the issues that was raised in the film actually. How significant is that stockpile?</p> <p><b>Prof. Hurry</b>—There is a publication that comes out monthly—<i>Seafood International</i>, I think it is—that reports the frozen tuna holdings in Japan and it reports frozen squid and mightfish holdings. It normally sits around 100,000 tonnes as the frozen inventory, and there has always been a question as to whether that frozen inventory was the total amount of frozen fish in Japan or whether the fish that is held in bond is a separate block of frozen fish—because it has not actually entered into Japan as an imported product; it is held in bond stores waiting to come in—and we will never be quite sure just what the total is, but the published total is always around 100,000 tonnes.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—How much has that reduced?</p> <p><b>Prof. Hurry</b>—Last time I looked I think it was down to around 90,000 tonnes, and I have not had a look at it for the last couple of—</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—About 10 per cent.</p> <p><b>Prof. Hurry</b>—Yes. But let me check that and I will come back to you. The word from industry is that the frozen holdings are down</p>
<b>SRM/AFMA 03</b>	24/05/2010	120	Colbeck	<p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—What is the impact that they are having on the fishery? Do we have any sense of what they are taking out?</p> <p><b>Prof. Hurry</b>—I do not know whether James would have a comment on this. We estimate the catch and we factor that into the stock assessment that we do for the toothfish stocks in the Southern Ocean, but I do not know how much we actually factor in. We could probably take that on notice and come back to you.</p>
<b>SRM/AFMA 04</b>	24/05/2010	122	Macdonald	<p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—I have a couple of questions about the Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery.</p> <p>How many boats are operating in the ETBF at the moment?</p> <p><b>Prof. Hurry</b>—I will get Dr Findlay to talk you through these ETBF issues.</p> <p><b>Dr Findlay</b>—The ETBF boats are down. I can check the exact number for you, but it is down to about 79 boats, from memory. The operational number of boats varies according to market conditions—price, weather and things like that.</p>
<b>SRM/AFMA 05</b>	24/05/2010	122	Macdonald	<p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—Is the fishery large enough for you to tell me on notice, unless you have it there, what every owner of any statutory fishing right pays up there? Can you give me the details of all of those, without their names of course?</p> <p><b>Dr Findlay</b>—We could probably tell you the range of levy fees by company or something like that.</p>

				<p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—Yes. Notwithstanding the answer you will give me on notice, it does seem, if it is about \$50,000, to be an enormously high figure for management of an area with so few boats in it. The question is: what makes up the \$1.9 million?</p> <p><b>Dr Findlay</b>—Those are the recovered costs for management of the fishery. It includes the costs of observers in the fishery and the industry contribution to the management. There also is a contribution by government to management action undertaken in the fishery—things like development of management plans, running the fishery on a day-to-day basis, issuing rights, collection of data, processing data, undertaking stock assessments, issuing statutory fishing rights, maintaining our systems for the trading of those rights and enforcing them with either the input or the output control arrangements that have been placed with the fishery.</p> <p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—Would I find how the \$1.9 million is made up somewhere else or, if not, can you give it to me on notice?</p> <p><b>Dr Findlay</b>—The costs that are calculated are part of a management advisory committee discussion, so those calculations are provided through the management advisory committees to the industry and other stakeholders. I do not see that there is any reason why we could not provide you with that breakdown</p>
<b>SRM/AFMA 06</b>	24/05/2010	123	Macdonald	<p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—Would you have any idea of the profitability of the fishery?</p> <p><b>Dr Findlay</b>—The profitability of the fishery is assessed through the ABARE statistics. I am not sure how recent their data would be, but we can certainly give you on notice the current information on the profitability of the fishery</p>
<b>SRM/AFMA 07</b>	24/05/2010	125	Siewert	<p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—Yes, I do. Can I please ask about albatross? I am going to anyway!</p> <p><b>CHAIR</b>—Is there an animal we have missed in your questions, Senator Siewert? Sorry.</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—I refrained from doing SBT, because Senator Colbeck covered that. We have talked in the past about longlines, and I am just following up on the trawl issues. With the BRS report talking about the cumulative impact and now looking at issues around trawl, I am wondering what you are doing about updating plans to deal with the issues that have now been raised about the impact that trawl fishing may be having on albatross.</p> <p><b>Dr Findlay</b>—We have had our bycatch and discards group down on the [inaudible] is now developing vessel operational plans to deal with issues, in particular, in relation to warp strikes from seabirds. Learning from some of the experiences in New Zealand, we think</p>

				<p>there are some fairly practical measures we can put in place on those boats, although it is important to actually go and talk to each of the operators about how they run their boat, to understand what those operational plans might mean for them. Essentially, it comes down to keeping birds away from trawl lines, and that looks mostly at how you discharge offal or other discards from the boat. The response from skippers has been pretty positive and they are quite keen to get these vessel operational plans rolled out right throughout our trawl fleet.</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—What is the timetable for rolling the measures out?</p> <p><b>Dr Findlay</b>—I will have to come back to you on the exact time frames for that program.</p>
<b>SRM/AFMA 08</b>	24/05/2010	125	Siewert	<p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—We have already talked about observer coverage and that has increased to 120 days, hasn't it? So you are already working on observer coverage in general.</p> <p><b>Dr Findlay</b>—That is 120 days in relation to sea lions. We have a broader observer program for the entire South East Fishery, which has a larger amount of coverage; obviously it involves more effort. I can get you the exact numbers on that.</p>
<b>SRM/AFMA 09</b>	24/05/2010	127	Colbeck	<p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Going to the southern ocean vessel surveillance days, you mentioned that you would have had four patrols in this year. You obviously have issues with that, given the timing of the ship coming on. Funding has been reduced from \$280 million in 2009-10 to \$200 million in 2010-11 and then down to \$120 million in the forward years. How does that fit in with what you would see as the patrol program? Obviously you are not going to do four patrols when you are cutting the budget from \$280 million to \$120 million.</p> <p><b>Prof. Hurry</b>—Are they the Customs figures?</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Yes, they are.</p> <p><b>Prof. Hurry</b>—I am sure we budgeted on four, didn't we?</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—So someone is not telling you what is going on?</p> <p><b>Prof. Hurry</b>—No, hang on.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—I am sorry to break it to you that way.</p> <p><b>Prof. Hurry</b>—No, that is okay. Peter might have some better information than I have on it anyway.</p> <p><b>Mr Venslovas</b>—The resources that we would normally have sent on that fourth patrol would be redirected towards the capacity-building initiatives that I was referring to earlier. It relates to what is happening not only in northern waters but also in southern waters in terms of providing assistance for countries like Malaysia in training on catch documentation schemes, how to identify toothfish to enhance their port state control measures. That will provide us with resources to focus a greater effort in that area in the</p>

				<p>forthcoming years.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—It is a significant reduction in presence. I am wondering how that matched up with—</p> <p><b>Prof. Hurry</b>—I have not seen those figures, and we were just assuming that we had a rolling program of four patrols a year down there. I would need to take that on notice and see what I can do with it.</p>
<b>SRM/AFMA 10</b>	N/A	Written	Colbeck	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is the level of personnel at AFMA now?</li> <li>2. How does that compare to previous years?</li> <li>3. What percentage of these staff are based in corporate or administrative roles?</li> <li>4. What proportion of staff are employed for inspection duties or similar?</li> <li>5. How does this compare to previous years?</li> <li>6. Please provide a financial year breakdown since 2007-2008.</li> </ol>
<b>SRM/AFMA 11</b>	N/A	Written	Colbeck	<p>The Minister for Home Affairs issued a media release on 28 April announcing the Australian Government had entered into a contract for a new Southern Ocean patrol vessel – to be named the Ocean Protector.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Will this vessel replace the <i>Oceanic Viking</i>?</li> <li>2. What discussions did AFMA have with Customs in the lead up to this announcement?</li> <li>3. What specification requirements for a new ship did AFMA submit to Customs, if any?</li> <li>4. Is AFMA aware of the progress in refitting that ship in Newcastle?</li> <li>5. Will it be ready by August as suggested by the Minister?</li> </ol>
<b>SRM/ AFMA 12</b> <b>(also referred to Customs)</b>	N/A	Written	Colbeck	<p>The Government has indicated there will be savings of \$18.182m as a result of a decline in illegal foreign fishing, which has in turn resulted in reduced activity relating to apprehensions and detention of illegal foreign fishers as well as a reduction in the cost associated with the towing and destruction of their vessels.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Can AFMA provide further detail on the reason for this cutback?</li> <li>2. What will the efficiencies involve? Less personnel? Less patrols?</li> </ol>
<b>SRM/AFMA 13</b> <b>(also referred to Customs)</b>	N/A	Written	Colbeck	<p><u>Southern Oceans Patrols</u></p> <p>A saving of \$7.250m related to a reduced number of patrol days to be undertaken by the Southern Oceans Patrol. This is due to a focus on a risk-based approach to patrol activity.</p> <p>AND</p> <p>Southern Ocean vessel surveillance (patrol days). Funding reduced from \$280 million in</p>

				<p>2009-10 to \$200 million in 2010-11 and then to \$120 million in following forward estimates years.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Why is the Government leasing a new patrol vessel at the same time it is also drastically cutting back the budget for Southern Ocean patrols?</li> <li>2. Can AFMA please provide detail on these budget cuts and how they will impact on Southern Ocean patrols?</li> <li>3. How many Southern Ocean patrol days are budgeted for in each of the forward estimates years?</li> <li>4. Are you aware of how many northern waters patrol days are to be undertaken by the Southern Ocean patrol boat in the coming financial years?</li> <li>5. Was industry consulted about these budget cuts prior to their announcement?</li> <li>6. What feedback has been received since the Budget was announced?</li> </ol>
<b>SRM/AFMA 14</b>	N/A	Written	Colbeck	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What advice did AFMA provide to DAFF regarding the IOTC meeting in Korea in March with respect to thresher sharks both in advance of the meeting and then since?</li> </ol>
<b>APD/APVMA 01</b>	24/05/2010	128	Back	<p><b>Senator BACK</b>—Excellent. Has there been a reduction in FOIs in the agency in the financial year which is coming to a close?</p> <p><b>Dr Bennet-Jenkins</b>—I would have to take that on notice. I do not have the FOI numbers. Just from memory, FOI requests are pretty steady; there is no increase or decrease. But I could get the exact number for you.</p>
<b>APD/APVMA 02</b>	24/05/2010	129	Back	<p><b>Senator BACK</b>—Legal costs are issues that we have discussed with you in the past—\$1.0 million, \$1.4 million. Can you tell us what legal costs you anticipate in the coming financial year? Are you aware of any impending challenges that are going to have an impact on your budget from a legal cost point of view?</p> <p><b>Dr Bennet-Jenkins</b>—We are not aware of any impending legal challenges. I do not have the exact amount that we have set aside for next year’s budget for legal costs. Again, we could provide that on notice.</p>
<b>APD/APVMA 03</b>	24/05/2010	131	Xenophon	<p><b>Senator XENOPHON</b>—Finally, the final report into the review of the management of carbendazim, when is that likely to come out?</p> <p><b>Dr Bennet-Jenkins</b>—The draft report—what we put out is a draft report—on the human health, the public health and occupational health side of things is likely to come out sometime this year. We are awaiting the draft report from the Department of Health and Ageing, who are writing this report for us. It will then go out for a period of public comment before we make the final decision. But because we had feedback of some certain concerns about the exposure assessments, in terms of residues as well as public health worker exposure, we took some suspension action quickly to remove those uses while we</p>



				went through the public comment period and finalised the report. <b>Senator XENOPHON</b> —So by September, do you think? Is that a reasonable time line? <b>Dr Bennet-Jenkins</b> —I would really have to take that on notice. I am not quite sure how far along it is in the work order that we have in the department, but I believe it is very close to finalisation.
<b>APD/ APVMA 04</b>	N/A	Written	Colbeck	<p>There have been a number of concerns lately about the perceived delays in companies having their products – particularly farm chemicals – registered by APVMA.</p> <p><i>The Land</i> newspaper reported on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May:</p> <p><i>"The delays are so long that the average time taken to approve a new agricultural crop chemical is now 72 months (six years).</i></p> <p><i>Officially, on paper, the industry-funded Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) has a target time to complete its registration approvals in just 13 to 15 months."</i></p> <p>In addition it said:</p> <p><i>"Last month its Swiss-based manufacturer, Novartis, launched Zolvix in the UK and has recently confirmed its registration across Europe and in Uruguay.</i></p> <p><i>"It's ironic that this product was developed basically for the Australian market and was submitted to the Australian regulator first, but we seem to be one of the last countries to get approval for it," Animal Health Australia's chief executive officer, Dr Peter Holdsworth said.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Can you provide some comment on the registration of Zolvix?</li> <li>2. How long has it taken?</li> <li>3. What are the delays, if any?</li> <li>4. Can you provide some comment on the perceived delays in chemicals registration?</li> <li>5. What is the APVMA's average target time for registrations?</li> <li>6. How many registrations have not met that target over the past financial year?</li> <li>7. How do APVMA's target times compare with international agencies?</li> </ol>
<b>APD/ APVMA 05</b>	N/A	Written	Colbeck	Croplife Australia chief executive officer, Paula Mathewson, recently said

				<p><i>"The APVMA has to get back to its core business of evaluating and approving products instead of being pressured to spend more time and money giving government policy advice or responding to claims from activists campaigning against endosulfan."</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Is there such a problem with activists taking up the time and resources of APVMA?</li> <li>2. What is the level of correspondence from those opposed to the use of endosulfan?</li> <li>3. Have extra resources been put on to deal with this matter?</li> </ol>
<b>TMAD 01</b>	25/05/2010	6	Milne	<p><b>Senator MILNE</b>—Just in terms of that consultation, how fair is it to ask industry to input to this process before the Productivity Commission has released its report on an evaluation of the effectiveness of previous free trade agreements?</p> <p><b>Mr Burns</b>—I think on that, the decision to enter into a negotiation is not one for the department, if you like. Our job is to consult with industry, as Mr Ross said, and we do that through a range of mechanisms, and to then input into the DFAT process to maximise the benefit for our portfolio industries. The decisions on when negotiations commence et cetera is really not one the department takes, but our job, and the job we pursue, is to maximise the benefits for our portfolio industries.</p> <p><b>Senator MILNE</b>—Your job is to maximise the benefits, but no-one can tell me what the benefits are and no-one has ever been able to tell me what the benefits are because we still do not have any evaluation of the benefits or the costs associated with the free trade agreements. You said your job is to consult with the commodity groups or the interest groups and so on. How many of those has DAFF actually been engaged in to date, on this particular issue?</p> <p><b>Mr Burns</b>—I would have to take on notice an exact number, but there are several mechanisms by which we do that and some are formal and some are informal. The National Farmers Federation, for example, regularly convenes a trade group that meets and, through a day or sometimes two days, talks through where we are up to with the WTO negotiations, all the FTA negotiations, and then a range of other market access issues. These are fairly intense discussions on where things are up to. DAFF participates in that and so does DFAT. We have other mechanisms, like a meat market access committee, where things like the TPP are on the agenda for that. That is very meat specific. We have the same process with the horticulture industry and other industries. So, through a range of formal mechanisms, we consult with industry, and we have strong informal links with industry, and they are either picking up the phone to us and telling us what they think we should be doing, or vice versa, on a regular basis.</p>

<b>TMAD 02</b>	25/10/2010	6	Milne	<p><b>Senator MILNE</b>—Do you advertise in the rural media?</p> <p><b>Mr Burns</b>—The process for advertising for submissions for free trade agreements is managed by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Where they put those advertisements, I would have to take on notice. I know that they are in the national press. Whether they are in the rural media, I could not answer.</p>
<b>TMAD 03</b>	25/05/2010	10	Heffernan	<p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b>—We will have to appeal. The import risk analysis says we are going to bring it in, and we have got pears and they do not have pears. I know it all backwards. What happens to this process if there is an election called?</p> <p><b>Mr Burns</b>—If we were in caretaker mode, the caretaker provisions would come into effect and the normal course of events would be that all interested parties would be consulted and would be advised about what is happening.</p> <p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b>—That is mumbo jumbo. This committee has a lot to do with this stuff on the practical side—not the bureaucratic, lawyer-speak but the real effect on the farmer. Are you trying to tell me that you would think about what we would do? Why do we not have a plan? What are we going to do if we are in election mode now?</p> <p><b>Senator Sherry</b>—In terms of whenever the election is and for however long the campaign lasts, but let us assume that it is four or five weeks for the sake of the discussion, we are in caretaker mode. I will take on notice—</p> <p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b>—But is this in caretaker mode?</p> <p><b>CHAIR</b>—Senator Heffernan, why don't you just let the minister finish.</p> <p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b>—You are right. Sorry, Minister.</p> <p><b>Senator Sherry</b>—The normal processes of government continue outside the caretaker mode. When we go into caretaker mode, for however long that may be, whenever that may be, the understood conventions are that no policy decisions are taken without consultation with the opposition of the day. I will take on notice what the minister's attitude to this issue would be during the caretaker convention and I will get a response from the minister.</p>
<b>TMAD 04</b>	25/05/2010	11	Colbeck	<p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—In the current circumstance, since the commencement of the WTO dispute, how many meetings have we had with the New Zealanders to consider the option of a negotiated agreement?</p> <p><b>Mr Burns</b>—I will take that one on notice, thanks. I do not know the answer.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Is it 10, 20?</p> <p><b>Mr Burns</b>—I really do not know. I will have to take that on notice.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—There is a bevy of people out the back who might be interested. Have we had</p>

				discussions? <b>Mr Burns</b> —We would have to take it on notice. We have side discussions in regular, scheduled meetings on biosecurity issues with New Zealand but, as you said, some of the biosecurity people would probably be able to answer that better than I can. The best thing, I think, is to take it on notice.
<b>TMAD 05</b>	25/05/2010	11/12	Colbeck	<b>Senator COLBECK</b> —Could you give us the dates of those meetings and, if it is possible, we would also like the minutes of those meetings. <b>Dr O'Connell</b> —We would also have to consult with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, who are obviously engaged in the discussions with New Zealand as well. <b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b> —We would want to see— Dr O'Connell—Any government confidentiality issues would obviously also need to be managed in the normal way. <b>Senator Sherry</b> —I think it is fair to say that this issue is raised in all manner of meetings. I can recall it being raised last year at the Australia and New Zealand economic ministers meeting. On that occasion, I referred them back to the process that was in place. <b>Senator COLBECK</b> —What I am asking you is quite specific. What I am asking about are specific discussions about a negotiated agreement between Australia and New Zealand. I think it is fair enough that we actually ask that question. We all know that there has been a dispute process that has been going on. I am interested in what discussions about a negotiated agreement have been occurring during that process. I understand it is sensitive and I do not ask the question lightly, but I think it is reasonable that the committee ask for that information. <b>Senator Sherry</b> —We will take it on notice.
<b>TMAD 06</b>	25/05/2010	13/14	Heffernan	<b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b> —What is the labour disadvantage between Australia and China? <b>Mr Burns</b> —I am not sure. <b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b> —There is a 26 to one labour disadvantage to the United States. What is it to Australia? <b>Mr Glyde</b> —We will have to take that one on notice. <b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b> —I thought you would have known that. This highlights why you would want to be a bit sensitive about agriculture. These blokes get paid a peanut a month out in the back country in China. We do not want our farmers to live like that. The United States have a 26 to 1 labour disadvantage. <b>Senator Sherry</b> —We have indicated we will take the question on notice. <b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b> —Could we have the labour ratio with us and China?

				<p><b>Senator Sherry</b>—Just with China?  <b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b>—You know what I am talking about. Thanks.</p>
<b>TMAD 07</b>	25/05/2010	14/15	Heffernan	<p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b>—Could you report back to this committee—if they are interested; I am—on the impact of a non-market currency in trade negotiations? Do you blokes understand what I am talking about?  <b>Senator Sherry</b>—I do appreciate the issue you are talking about. In fact, I notice there was some press coverage about this issue again this morning—the currency value of the Chinese yuan. It is an issue for Foreign Affairs and Trade and possibly for Treasury. They may have some economic impact analysis on this particular issue. I will take it on notice, even though it is not the correct committee. We will try and ensure that the secretariat passes that over to the other two estimates committees.</p>
<b>TMAD 08</b>	25/05/2010	19	Nash	<p><b>Senator NASH</b>—What would be the benefit in—it is hard to talk generally. Obviously, there is a number of different projects, but what is the outcome that we are trying to get from investing money and doing this in other countries?  <b>Mr Burns</b>—It covers a range of things and it goes from building the working relationship with the agriculture department or, quite commonly, with quarantine officials in other countries. In the case of the sort of work we do with the animal welfare area, it is improving the handling of our animals and in other cases it is looking at what we can do to build the capacity of our trading partners to operate. Consider one example where we have in the past looked at what we can do to help Malaysia and Indonesia export some of their product elsewhere, not necessarily to Australia, because when we negotiate, say, free trade agreements with a lot of countries, as I indicated before, we have not got a lot of tariffs to negotiate. Countries are looking to increase their exports and sometimes we can work with those countries to increase their capacity to export and it may not necessarily be to Australia.  It may be to increase export of their tropical products to Europe or somewhere else. We are helping other countries and in doing so we are building goodwill, building those relationships with the trade and quarantine officials in other countries so that when we have got an issue that we need to deal with, with them, we have got that strong basis there to negotiate.  <b>Senator NASH</b>—Okay, thank you. And if you could take on notice and just provide that detailed list of projects and the costings.  <b>Mr Burns</b>—For the last two years?  <b>Senator NASH</b>—Yes, that would be really useful, thanks. Can I just ask you also if you</p>

				could provide— and again, I am sure you will probably want to take this on notice as well—and you talk about assistance that we have given to countries to help them export and you say not necessarily into Australia. How many instances are we giving other countries assistance to export into Australia? You say it is not always into Australia. Do I assume then from that we are giving other countries financial assistance in some areas to come into Australia?
<b>TMAD 09</b>	25/05/2010	20	Nash	<b>Senator NASH</b> —Finally, are there any specific instances where we have given financial assistance to other countries to assist them to export their product into Australia? <b>Mr Burns</b> —Not specifically that I know of. I would have to take that on notice.
<b>TMAD 10</b>	N/A	Written	Colbeck	Over the past two Estimates Hearings, I have raised the matter of red meat trade with Russia. Australia is reported to have gained access to the 'shared allocation' quota of 448,000 tonnes of beef – this will put us in competition with countries such as NZ and the South Americans. 1. Has this been finalised with the Russians? 2. What expectations in terms of tonnes does DAFF have for beef exports to Russia under this new quota arrangement? (69,000 tonnes exported in 2008; 15,000 tonnes in 2009) 3. Is DAFF confident Australian beef exporters can compete with the lower price South American beef for allocation? 4. What are the criteria for the shared quota allocation? 5. Will any new criteria prevent any previous beef exporters from shipping product to Russia? 6. Can you provide an update on kangaroo meat exports to Russia – how do the exports compare to the level they were in mid 2008 when the first suspensions of exports occurred? 7. Are there still 6 establishments which remain suspended from the Russian market? 8. What actions is DAFF taking to resolve this problem?
<b>BSG 01</b>	25/05/2010	28	Abetz	<b>Senator ABETZ</b> —We can read the Hansard but, with great respect, my question was about consultation with Australia Post. Allow me to ask the question again, just in case there was any misunderstanding. What consultation, if any, occurred between your department and Australia Post in determining the \$5 million figure? ..... <b>Senator Sherry</b> —It is perfectly reasonable. It is perfectly justifiable for a commercial service to be paying for the services that are provided by another government department, agency, or outside private operator. It is perfectly reasonable. The government has taken

				<p>the decision as to the charge that is to be applied and that Australia Post will pay. If Minister Burke has anything to add beyond that, I will take it on notice.</p> <p><b>Senator ABETZ</b>—It is perfectly reasonable to add this impost, which is a more than 100 per cent increase on that which was previous charged. Dr O’Connell, can you tell us what the previous charge was? \$3.2 million, from memory. Does that sound right?</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—Yes, I believe that is correct.</p> <p><b>Senator ABETZ</b>—Right. This is more than a 100 per cent increase without consultation with the commercial supplier and without giving them any prior notice until the budget that this was going to be dropped on them. So I do not misquote you, Minister, you describe that as ‘perfectly reasonable’?</p> <p><b>Senator Sherry</b>—I was referring, if you check the <i>Hansard</i>, to the basis of the charge. It was a budget policy decision. I stand by it. It has been made and the charge will be applied.</p> <p><b>Senator ABETZ</b>—Why was the figure of \$5 million achieved, as opposed to \$4.5 million or \$5.5 million?</p> <p><b>Senator Sherry</b>—I will have to take that on notice.</p>
<b>BSG 02</b>	25/05/2010	34	Xenophon	<p><b>Senator XENOPHON</b>—Sure. Perhaps I will put some questions to FSANZ. Similarly, in terms of olive oil imports—and maybe some of this would cross over to FSANZ; you may wish to take some notes—how much is imported in bulk and how much is prepackaged? What steps does AQIS have in place to ensure that prepackaged oil is suitable for sale in Australia?</p> <p><b>Ms Mellor</b>—In terms of the volume, we will take that on notice.</p>
<b>BSG 03</b>	25/05/2010	35	Back	<p><b>Senator BACK</b>—At that time, I was asking about possible vaccination scenarios. Dr Carroll, I think, advised us that there were four primary scenarios that were being proposed by the expert review panel on equine influenza. I was asking questions about the possibility of vaccination and we went into those discussions and did not go too much further. But on the next day, 9 February, there was in fact from you—from the department—a fifth scenario put to the horse industry. Do you recall that?</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—Yes. I am not precisely sure of the dates but, yes, I do recall the extra scenario.</p> <p><b>Senator BACK</b>—I was just concerned: on the day before, would you have known that you were going to put a fifth scenario to the industry?</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—I do not recall the precise discussion we had at the time. I would have to look at the <i>Hansard</i> and just check what the content of the discussion was and whether or not it would have been relevant.</p>

<b>BSG 04</b>	25/05/2010	38	Back	<p><b>Senator BACK</b>—Could I ask a question? Senator Heffernan gave the demonstration here, humorous and all as it was, and I think you just made the observation about the degree to which it adheres. When he actually put the product into water, it was clear there was absolutely no marinade at all. Clearly, the marinade was a powdered form in the bottom of a packet and the prawns themselves did not come into contact with it. If he could perform such a simple test here, I would ask: is that similar to the type of test your officers would conduct to satisfy themselves as to the extent of adherence of the marinade to the product?</p> <p><b>Ms Cupit</b>—There are two parts to that and I will just answer one first. When we first started looking at the amount of marinade applied to prawns, we did a verification survey and there was a large number of surveyed product that did not meet the import conditions. We have actually tightened up that and have now instituted mandatory inspection.</p> <p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b>—Good.</p> <p><b>Ms Cupit</b>—Since that time, the inspection results now are showing a much reduced failure rate for product. As to the exact inspection process applied at the border, we would have to take that on notice. We have actually got a training program in place for our—</p> <p><b>Senator BACK</b>—You might have achieved something, Senator Heffernan, with your demonstration.</p> <p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b>—Yes, the job has improved, but the likeable rogues are still getting it in.</p> <p><b>Ms Cupit</b>—We will just take on notice the exact detail of what they actually inspect for, but it does involve a visual inspection and actually looking at how much marinade is applied to those. The work instructions that our inspectors use are national, so all the inspectors at all borders, at all points, apply the same standards.</p>
<b>BSG 05</b>	25/05/2010	41	Milne	<p><b>Senator MILNE</b>—Whilst I hear what you are saying about the food standards, what about the issue of Australian producers being discriminated against? Is there no other mechanism to deal with this other than through FSANZ?</p> <p><b>Dr O'Connell</b>—It is a health benefit, yes. I think we can take it on notice. I do not need to say anything else, but there is essentially a health related barrier, so it does, I think, require that FSANZ work. If there is anything else, we can take that on notice and get back to you, but the basic point is what I understand.</p>
<b>BSG 06</b>	25/05/2010	54	Heffernan	<p><b>Senator NASH</b>—Does the apple itself have to come from those provinces or can those provinces bring it in from another province that has said that they are not planning on exporting?</p> <p><b>Dr V Findlay</b>—No, there are very strict controls on the movement of apples between</p>



				<p>provinces, particularly with regard to certification under the Australian protocol that we are proposing.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—How do we verify that they are not moving across provinces within China itself?</p> <p><b>Dr V Findlay</b>—That is going to be the responsibility of AQSIQ which is the equivalent of BSG in China.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—Do you want to say that for me in English?</p> <p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b>—Are you able to provide the so-called protocol to this committee?</p> <p><b>Dr V Findlay</b>—I think that we could provide the protocol.</p> <p><b>Dr Grant</b>—We would need to agree that with the Chinese authorities as it is a government to government agreement.</p>
<b>BSG 07</b>	25/05/2010	55/56	Heffernan	<p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b>—..... Are there regions within the continent of China which would have an apple industry for which we would knock them back on the known detail we have got now? Are there no-go zones?</p> <p><b>Dr Findlay</b>—If they cannot meet our requirements and they cannot meet the pest-free area production requirements, then yes, there are no-go zones. But there have been none that have been blanket banned.</p> <p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b>—But there have been no pests, diseases or anything identified that are allegedly endangering our industry.</p> <p><b>Dr Findlay</b>—There have been none for which we have not been able to put in place a set of measures to give ourselves the confidence that safe trade can occur.</p> <p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b>—In terms of an area that is a no-go zone, adjacent to an area that is a go zone, what is the setback? How do you protect one from the other?</p> <p><b>Dr Findlay</b>—There are very stringent rules around pest-free places of production—</p> <p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b>—Could you provide the details?</p> <p><b>Dr Findlay</b>—Sure.</p>
<b>BSG 08</b>	25/05/2010	58	Heffernan	<p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b>—In this FSANZ thing where we are going to ensure the animal side of it, can you supply to us a list of the chemicals that we ban that China uses?</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—That is a good question.</p> <p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b>—Can I give you a couple of hints? Carbon bisulphide, dieldrin—</p> <p><b>CHAIR</b>—If you cannot answer that, can you take it on notice.</p> <p><b>Mr Read</b>—We will need to take that on notice. I am not sure whether we can get exactly</p>

				or the full answer to that. On the information we have, we can take that on notice.
<b>BSG 09</b>	25/05/2010	59/60	Back	<p><b>Senator BACK</b>—Thank you; that is very clear. If I can return to cherries, a complaint has been put to me by a constituent in the sense of, again, equivalence. The point is that the US requires their officers to supervise disinfection treatments here in Australia for cherries leaving Australia, and they do not recognise AQIS officers. The cost of such visits means that there is no trade because it would be prohibitive. He goes on to talk about the different temperatures at which fumigation takes place, and his complaint is that we want equivalence, that the Americans are at an advantage because of what they impose on us compared to what we impose on them. Could you give me some advice on that point.</p> <p><b>Ms van Meurs</b>—The situation for our exports of, for example, citrus is very different in that it is a cold disinfestation treatment. We undertake that in transit, so it means that we start the treatment and the treatment has a readout as it travels on the ship to the US and they accept that.</p> <p><b>Senator BACK</b>—That is for citrus—what about for cherries?</p> <p><b>Ms van Meurs</b>—We only export cherries from Tasmania, and that is area free so there is no requirement for a US officer to be in Australia. They are different situations.</p> <p><b>Senator BACK</b>—Is there any potential for states that export cherries, other than Tasmania, to be held up by these differences? The point he makes is that: currently their cherries—Americans’—can be fumigated down as low as six degrees. We are required to fumigate to 17 degrees. I know we are talking about different pests but there will be no trade in Australian cherries as if we are required to fumigate at 17 degrees, and the Americans know that. That is the statement that was made. I am very keen to be able to respond to that.</p> <p><b>Ms Mellor</b>—We might take that on notice and help you out in more detail.</p>
<b>BSG 10</b>	25/05/2010	60	Heffernan	<p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b>—Can this committee be given an assurance that—as we have done with many others of these, and to your great grief we did it with beef from Brazil—we will see before it is approved the final proposition that you are going to put to China as to the protocol?</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—We will go through the regulatory process as we always do.</p> <p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b>—Can we then be briefed?</p> <p><b>Senator Sherry</b>—We cannot give you an assurance—</p> <p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b>—You have always done it in the past.</p> <p><b>Senator Sherry</b>—That is not right, as I am advised. In relation to a briefing: I will take on notice whether and what we can provide to you at the appropriate stage.</p>

				<p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b>—I do not think it is fair for us, on behalf of the growers, to have any chance of a reasonable judgment that what you propose scientifically and bureaucratically will pass the human failure test unless we see it.</p> <p><b>Senator Sherry</b>—Senator, we are going back over a conversation we had earlier. We are really going back over that. We will take it on notice. I am keen to assist you as much as we reasonably can within the understood practices, protocols and processes—</p> <p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b>—We are pretty keen to make sure we do not bugger it up.</p> <p><b>Senator Sherry</b>—and I will have to take it on notice for you.</p>
<b>BSG 11</b>	25/05/2010	62	Heffernan	<p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b>—But did you consult the bee people?</p> <p><b>Dr Nunn</b>—There was consultation about the need to suspend because of those diseases.</p> <p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b>—Could you provide us with the paper trail of that consultative process?</p> <p><b>Dr Nunn</b>—I can attempt to.</p> <p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b>—Thanks very much. You can take that on notice.</p>
<b>BSG 12</b>	25/05/2010	63	Nash	<p><b>Senator NASH</b>—There has been in the past—and I think it might have even started in 1997—an interest from some horticulturalists in being able to import the bumblebee, and I gather that <i>Bombus terrestris</i> is its proper name, for use in glasshouses for pollination. I understand they already exist in Tasmania, and I think Senator Colbeck has some questions as well. Could we just have a bit of a background on the issue and the reasons why access to import has been denied for the specific purpose of using the bumblebees for pollination in glasshouse environments?</p> <p>.....</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—...Could you take on notice for me any information that Biosecurity can provide for the committee in terms of Biosecurity’s involvement. In the past there was an application, it was knocked back. I was generally trying to get more of an understanding of what happened, the time line and the process from Biosecurity’s point of view. If you could get that back to the committee that would be very useful.</p>
<b>BSG 13</b>	25/05/2010	63	Colbeck	<p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—From a Biosecurity perspective, do we have any sense of how the bumble bees actually got to Tasmania?</p> <p><b>Dr Grant</b>—To the best of my knowledge, they have been there a very, very long time. Precisely how many years—</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—My advice is 15 years.</p> <p><b>Dr Grant</b>—I think it is longer than that.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Okay, my advice is 15 years.</p>

				<b>Dr O’Connell</b> —We will have to take that on notice.
<b>BSG 14</b>	25/05/2010	64	Heffernan	<p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b>—When considering the AHGA application, were the quite considerable economic and food safety benefits of bumblebee technology given appropriate consideration in the face of any environmental damage claims?</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—Can you please clarify what you are referring to?</p> <p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b>—The industries that want the bumblebees say they will get a 30 per cent, roughly, increase in production, for example, in a closed tomato farm, or whatever. You have obviously used the precautionary principle, and I do not have an objection to that. The question is: is there a balance between the economic benefit and the environmental risk?</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—I think we are going to take on notice getting you the history of any application that has occurred. If there is any environmental ban or constraint on that movement, how that decision making occurs is best put to the environment portfolio.</p>
<b>BSG 15</b>	25/05/2010	64	Heffernan	<p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b>—So this question can be put on notice. Given that reference was made by the environmental lobby of the alleged negative impact of the poor old bumblebee in New Zealand, why did DEEWR ignore the independent expert advice of Barry Donovan that countermanded the letter attached to this evidence?</p> <p><b>Ms Mellor</b>—We will come back on notice with a range of issues, some of which we may have to seek input from DEEWR on around whether or not there has been an import permit application for bumblebees and what the reasons were, if any, for not allowing it.</p>
<b>BSG 16</b>	25/05/2010	65	Heffernan	<p><b>Senator BACK</b>—..... I have a couple of questions, if I may, regarding Eastern Creek, the quarantine station or centre. Its lease is due for expiry at the moment or in the near future—is that correct?</p> <p><b>Mr Chapman</b>—The current lease expires on 31 December of this year. We have a renewal option for another five years.</p> <p><b>Senator BACK</b>—Yes, and at the end of that five years?</p> <p><b>Mr Chapman</b>—At the end of that five years, it is unlikely that the owner of the property would agree to any further extensions.</p> <p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b>—Who owns it?</p> <p><b>Mr Chapman</b>—I am not sure who the actual owner is off the top of my head.</p> <p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b>—Could you let us know.</p> <p><b>Mr Chapman</b>—I can take that on notice.</p>
<b>BSG 17</b>	25/05/2010	66/67	Back	<b>Senator BACK</b> —Thank you for that. My final question goes back to importation of some bovine products: semen and embryos. I have some figures for the importation of bovine

				<p>semen over the last two or three years.</p> <p>Can you give me or take on notice the information I would like to have on the importation of bovine embryos from other countries, obviously including countries that have had BSE: the UK, the US, Canada et cetera? Do you have that information available?</p> <p><b>Ms Mellor</b>—No, but we are happy to take that on notice.</p>
<b>BSG 18</b>	25/05/2010	67	Nash	<p><b>Senator NASH</b>—Do you have any ballpark figure of a time line for that, or do you simply not know at this stage when in-country inspections might take place?</p> <p><b>Dr Grant</b>—FSANZ have indicated that their process will run for the order of six to eight months. The incountry inspections will take place during that period; so, assuming that we will get an application reasonably soon, sometime between now and the early part of next calendar year, and I would say something in the order of four or five months time.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—Could I ask you to take on notice, if you would not mind, when that decision has been made for the in-country inspections to take place? Could you inform the committee of how many officers are going, where you are going and what the purpose of the visit will be?</p> <p><b>Dr Grant</b>—Yes, we will certainly do that.</p>
<b>BSG 19</b>	N/A	Written	Williams	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How does AQIS ensure its health certification procedures are accurate and correct?</li> <li>2. What is the process for dealing with any problems raised with health certificates by Authorised Officers who have to sign these?</li> <li>3. Have any officers refused to sign health certificates based on their concerns, and what did AQIS do in response?</li> <li>4. What would be the likely consequences of health certificates that are not correct and true in every respect?</li> <li>5. What is the process of dealing with complaints or allegations about AQIS or its officers?</li> <li>6. Can you provide any examples where this has occurred?</li> <li>7. What is the process of dealing with complaints or allegations by AQIS authorised officers about those they regulate?</li> <li>8. Can you provide any examples where this has occurred?</li> <li>9. How does AQIS ensure animal products imported into Australia meet our requirements?</li> <li>10. Do we perform audits like the US and EU do to verify our system is working?</li> <li>11. Have any of the equine flu inquiry recommendations been looked at in context within the AQIS export programs due to their similarities, or did they just remain with the quarantine sector.</li> <li>12. If not, why not?</li> </ol>

<b>BSG 20</b>	N/A	Written	Siewert	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Has DAFF's investigation into the reasons for the high number of deaths of cattle and sheep - on the first shipment on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February 2010 from Fremantle Port to Egypt since 2006 - been completed?</li> <li>2. If yes, could I be provided with a copy?</li> <li>3. What were the weather conditions in the port of Fremantle from 19 February to 23 February when MV <i>Ocean Shearer</i> sat loaded with cattle bound for slaughter in Egypt?</li> <li>4. Is the road transport or loading onto ships of animals prohibited in extreme heat; and, if so, under what weather conditions is transport or loading suspended?</li> <li>5. For what period was an officer of the animal welfare unit present during the loading of the MV <i>Ocean Shearer</i>?</li> <li>6. What was the reason for the four-day delay in departure?</li> <li>7. Why is live export to Egypt being resumed when it was banned only 3 years ago due to cruelty concerns?</li> <li>8. How many cattle are anticipated to be exported live to Egypt this year and from where?</li> <li>9. Does this indicate that the Minister intends on resuming the export of live sheep to Egypt as well?</li> <li>10. Is it true that the Animal Welfare Unit in Western Australian currently only has one inspector for the whole state?</li> <li>11. What resources (staff and funding) does the federal government provide to monitor compliance with the ASEL standards in the Port of Fremantle?</li> </ol>
<b>BSG 21</b>	N/A	Written	Nash	How many exotic pests and diseases have been identified in Australia in the past three years and what were they?
<b>BSG 22</b>	N/A	Written	Nash	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Is every international port in the country manned by an AQIS inspector on a 24/7 basis?</li> <li>2. If not which ports are opened and have AQIS inspectors available 24/7?</li> <li>3. What are the hours for the other ports?</li> <li>4. What happens if a ship arrives outside of business hours?</li> </ol>
<b>BSG 23</b>	N/A	Written	Nash	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is the basis of the 'New Sea Container Risk Management Policy'?</li> <li>2. How many containers are inspected under the old system?</li> <li>3. How many will be inspected under the new system?</li> <li>4. How will a container be considered high risk?</li> <li>5. Does the Department expect to save money going to the new risk management policy?</li> </ol>

<b>BSG 24</b>	N/A	Written	Nash	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What involvement has the Department had with the exotic mealy bug in cotton discovered in Queensland around Emerald?</li> <li>2. What damage is this mealy bug doing and or capable of doing to the cotton industry?</li> <li>3. Is it a fact that it took the Queensland Government three months to identify that this was an exotic bug?</li> </ol>
<b>BSG 25</b>	N/A	Written	Nash	<p>In relation to the proposal to Import <i>Bombus Terrestris</i> into mainland Australia for Crop Pollination purposes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Australian Hydroponic and Greenhouse Association was initially informed of the Ministers determination through the publishing of a media statement in the newspaper, rather than from the Department itself. What measures are there to ensure that an applicant is appropriately notified of any decision made?</li> <li>2. In the minister's reasons for decision, the minister acknowledges the unlawful feral population of <i>Bombus terrestris</i> in Tasmania. Is the department engaging in any eradication activities to get rid of this population?</li> <li>3. Has the department considered the impact of weed pollination already occurring by honeybees?</li> <li>4. Did the department consider the risk reduction mechanisms and approaches by government's overseas?</li> <li>5. All submissions received in response to the draft report are distributed to the applicant. Is the department able to get their own independent advice on scientific issues, if so, is such advice shared or kept confidential? Why?</li> <li>6. Upon the disallowance of an application, what recourse does the applicant face other than costly legal action?</li> <li>7. Is there an opportunity for an applicant to work with the department to address any issues raised by the department?</li> <li>8. By what means can the Minister be satisfied under the "precautionary principle"? Could it not be used to refuse every application?</li> <li>9. On what criteria did the Minister base his view that the risk of bumblebees escaping would be very high?</li> </ol>
<b>BSG 26</b>	N/A	Written	Back	<p>Minister Burke has said that the Government is examining "the current network of quarantine facilities for plants and animals entering Australia, to better plan for future needs."</p> <p>The first step in looking at alternatives given that leases for the current 5 sites expire in</p>

				<p>2015 is underway and has been identified as “the two-pass” process in conjunction with the Department of Finance.</p> <p>In this Budget Estimates, DAFF officers confirmed that the first pass of the “Two pass” process was now complete.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Confirm that the first pass of the two pass process has been completed?</li> <li>2. What steps does the first and second pass consist of?</li> <li>3. What documentation or reports have been produced outlining the considerations and recommendations of this process and what is this name?</li> <li>4. If one has been produced can a copy be provided?</li> <li>5. What were the recommendations of the report?</li> <li>6. Does it include assessments of current and proposed locations including business cases and risks around each location? What are these and can you provide a copy of this advice?</li> <li>7. Does it include identified risks to Australian biosecurity if so, what are these and can you provide a copy of this advice?</li> <li>8. Who is responsible for resourcing or providing finance for each of these options?</li> <li>9. If the first pass has been completed, does the second part include consultation?</li> <li>10. If so, when is this scheduled to take place?</li> <li>11. Can you identify the names of all the groups that will be consulted and names of their representatives?</li> <li>12. Will consultation take place only in Canberra or other locations and if in other locations, where will this be?</li> <li>13. What document will be provided to the horse industry consultation group and can you provide a copy of this?</li> </ol>
<b>BSG 27</b>	N/A	Written	Back	<p>I refer to the response to a question placed on notice at the last estimates about risk mitigation strategies in place at Eastern Creek. I mentioned that the risk could be for any reason and the example of fires in the barns.</p> <p>The response was that emergency plans were in place including for fires but was advised “Emergency plans do not include the evacuation of animals from the stations”.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What plans are in place should evacuation be required and preventative measures have not been sufficient and the station and animals lives are at risk?</li> </ol>
<b>BSG 28</b>	N/A	Written	Back	<p>“Secret fifth scenario” directed to Dr O’Connell at Additional Estimates on 8 February 2010.</p>



				<p>Senator Back – can you tell me whether or not compulsory vaccination of horses is being considered as part of this review?</p> <p>Dr O’Connell – I do not think that compulsory vaccination of all horses is part of any scenario that we have looked at, at all.</p> <p>Dr Carroll – There is from a Commonwealth perspective, no ability to put in a compulsory vaccination for horses.</p> <p>Senator Back – It would require co-operation from the states and territories.</p> <p>Dr Carroll – I am not aware of any scenarios that assume compulsory state-regulated or Commonwealth-regulated vaccination.</p> <p>Senator Back – Not an option? Not being considered?</p> <p>Dr O’Connell – It is certainly not flagged in that report that the panel produced.</p> <p>Senator Back – But it is something that is being considered at all?</p> <p>Dr O’Connell – I do not think that I have seen it considered at all. It would be certainly extremely expensive.</p> <p>Dr Carroll – I am not aware of any moves for compulsory vaccination of horses amongst the states.</p> <p>At the last estimates on the 8 February 2010, Dr O’Connell and Dr Carroll insisted that there was no consideration of another scenario considering vaccination. However on the 9 February, horse industry representatives were presented by the Department of Agriculture with a “secret fifth scenario detailing just that.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Can Dr O’Connell and Dr Carroll confirm that they were no aware of this option on the 8<sup>th</sup> February?</li> <li>2. Were you aware that there was to be a meeting of horse industry representatives consulted on the EI Expert Review Report the next day on the 9<sup>th</sup> February?</li> <li>3. Did you know that they were being presented with a 5<sup>th</sup> scenario that included vaccination just prior to the deadline for submission of comments to the 4 scenarios outlined in the initial report?</li> <li>4. Can you advise which scenario was supported by each of the representatives groups?</li> <li>5. How many were in favour of the 5<sup>th</sup> scenario of voluntary vaccination? Who were they?</li> <li>6. Which scenario was recommended and advanced by PISC?</li> <li>7. What was the response from NZ representatives on PISC to the 5<sup>th</sup> scenario of voluntary vaccination?</li> <li>8. Did they provide advice on the impact this would have on the free movement of horses between Australia and New Zealand? Can you provide this advice?</li> </ol>
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				<p>9. Despite a widespread lack of support for this 5<sup>th</sup> scenario it was advanced by PISC and subsequently to PIMC – was there a consensus by all Ministers on the resolution outlined in the communiqué?</p> <p>“In the absence of any funding agreement, Ministers agreed that there would be no nationally cost shared response to any exotic horse disease incursion and steps would be put in place to enable voluntary vaccination of horses against Equine Influenza as a disease impact mitigation strategy.”</p> <p>10. Given there are 1500 (1473) horse movements from Australia to NZ last year have the implications of this on our current relationship with NZ been established?</p> <p>11. Are minutes from the Primaries Industries Ministries Council meeting in Darwin on the 23 April 2010 available? If so, can copies be made available?</p>
<b>BSG 29</b>	N/A	Written	Back	<p>In the absence of a horse industry EADRA by the 1 December 2010, the communiqué following the PIMC meeting in Darwin on 23 April 2010, said it would advance measures to allow voluntary vaccination</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. By what mechanisms would voluntary vaccination be allowed?</li> <li>2. Does this require legislation at a state / territory / federal level?</li> <li>3. Who will be responsible for the cost of surveillance?</li> <li>4. Has advice been sought about what vaccine would be used in the event there was another outbreak of EI? Can you make this advice available?</li> <li>5. Would it use a kill vaccine – which includes the H3N8 virus; or the genetically modified vaccine – which was used at the last outbreak of EI?</li> <li>6. Under a voluntary vaccination system how does the Government propose to defend out EI free status other countries?</li> <li>7. What documentation or evidence would it present in defence of our EI-free status?</li> </ol>
<b>BSG 30</b>	N/A	Written	Back	<p>With the announcement yesterday, I am delighted that the Minister has listened to the Coalition and finally together with the Queensland Premier announced that they will co-fund a Hendra Vaccine. With another case of Horse Hendra confirmed at a property in southern Queensland, near Noosa on the 20 May – it is a timely reminder of the animal and human biosecurity threats from zoonotic diseases.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Will this funding be delivered through the Department of Agriculture?</li> <li>2. If so, will it be through the Department of to an agency? If so, which one?</li> <li>3. How will this be spread this budget period and over the forward estimates?</li> <li>4. Was consideration given to this being partly funded by Health and Ageing given that</li> </ol>

				is in effect a human health preventative measure? 5. Are there any plans to fund a research centre of emerging infectious diseases?
<b>BSG 31</b>	N/A	Written	Colbeck	1. Can you please provide a breakdown of projected efficiencies as identified by the 6 industry taskforces for Export Certification reforms. Please include summary of efficiency, level of savings, intended timeframe for achievement of efficiency and other relevant details.
<b>BSG 32</b>	N/A	Written	Colbeck	1. How many people process Weed Risk Assessments (WRA)? 2. How many work full time on WRA and how many those people are qualified botanists? 3. Why are WRA not processed in the order they are received? 4. Why is seed approved species not added to the ICON as live plant material of the same species is added? 5. Does AQIS have any objections to this being changed so that seed and live plant material of approved species are added to the ICON at the same time?
<b>APD/RIRDC 01</b>	25/05/2010	71	Heffernan	<b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b> —Could you give us a list of the crops that you think are ‘space age’, as it were, on notice? <b>ACTING CHAIRMAN (Senator O’Brien)</b> —Senator Heffernan, can we just have one questioner at a time. If you have questions after Senator Nash is finished, I will give you the call. <b>Senator NASH</b> —There will be plenty of time. If you could provide that on notice, Mr Byrne, that would be very useful. Obviously with those sorts of projects you would need to do trials, I would imagine, on farm. How do you connect with farmers out on the ground? How do you pick where you are going to do the trials for any of these new products?
<b>APD/RIRDC 02</b>	25/05/2010	71/72	Nash	<b>Senator NASH</b> —...Obviously with those sorts of projects you would need to do trials, I would imagine, on farm. How do you connect with farmers out on the ground? How do you pick where you are going to do the trials for any of these new products? <b>Mr Byrne</b> —The location will depend on being able to engage with both the researchers and farmers. We attempt, in establishing the R&D program for a particular crop, to ensure that there is engagement with producers. <b>Senator NASH</b> —I assume you have to have somebody to grow it for you, so you would need a producer. <b>Mr Byrne</b> —Yes. ..... <b>Mr Byrne</b> —We try and do that to effectively build in a pathway to the future, when the

				<p>results are available and there is interest in adopting the crop.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—So how do you find a farmer to do these for you—just in general. I am just interested in how it works. You have RIRDC over here and you have farmers out there that are going to need to grow this stuff. Do you sort of bump into them at the pub or do you have a way of identifying who are going to be appropriate landowners for you to work with?</p> <p><b>Mr Byrne</b>—In the case of the new rural industries, we start with a planning process in which we try to set up an advisory committee of people who may already be trying out these crops. That might have representatives of the people who are already trying it out, with some research capacity representation to try and develop a plan for future R&amp;D.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—How much funding for the next financial year is going to be allocated to those types of projects?</p> <p><b>Mr Byrne</b>—I have not got the figure, but I can provide it.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—That is all right. If you could take that on notice, that would be useful.</p>
<b>APD/RIRDC 03</b>	25/05/2010	73	Nash	<p><b>Senator NASH</b>—You go on to talk about the sustainable environmental resource management area and, again, projects that you are doing. These ones relate to opportunities for farmers to be more environmentally sustainable. What sorts of projects are you doing in that area?</p> <p><b>Mr Byrne</b>—We have had a program for a number of years on agroforestry, looking at the prospects for trees to deal with groundwater recharge and the impact on salinity. That is probably the principal area that we have been involved in.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—Have any of the funding cutbacks affected your ability to continue with these particular types of projects?</p> <p><b>Mr Byrne</b>—The agroforestry program has been going for about 10 years and has continued just as individual projects, but I would have to take the question on notice to give you the exact projects that were affected.</p>
<b>APD/RIRDC 04</b>	25/05/2010	73	Nash	<p><b>Senator NASH</b>—You talk about a number of programs. What is the methane to markets program?</p> <p><b>Mr Byrne</b>—The methane to markets program is a joint program with a number of the other RDCs. It focuses on using methane from animal production sources as a fuel.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—What have you found in the project so far? Has it kicked off yet?</p> <p><b>Mr Byrne</b>—It has kicked off, but I would have to provide you with the detail on notice.</p>
<b>APD/RIRDC 05</b>	25/05/2010	74	Nash	<p><b>Senator NASH</b>—You talk about investigating new feed stocks for biofuels and bioenergy to mitigate</p>

				<p>against and adapt to climate change. What are you doing there? What sorts of feed stocks for biofuels are you looking at, and what are you planning to do?</p> <p><b>Mr Byrne</b>—I need to take that on notice. I have been in this position only three weeks, and I am not across the detail of everything that is being done in the organisation.</p> <p><b>Mr McAllister</b>—I might be able to help. There was a conference held in Queensland last year and that whole methane market is looking at all sorts of things, including algae, et cetera. It is right out there.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—Could you perhaps come back with a detailed plan of what RIRDC is planning on looking at within the new feedstocks for biofuels, particularly if you are focusing it all on lignocellulose. If there is any work being done there, that would be very useful for the committee.</p>
APD/RIRDC 06	25/05/2010	75	Heffernan	<p><b>Senator NASH</b>—Absolutely. Finally, what is the Rural Women Mentoring Program and how does it work?</p> <p><b>Mr Byrne</b>—It is a new program associated with the Rural Women’s Award. It has been going for a year and it is a method of trying to ensure that the recipients of the current award are able to keep in touch with each other and also able to maintain contact with past recipients who have the experience of undertaking their projects as winners and the success of their own activities once they have completed them.</p> <p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b>—What is the budget allocation?</p> <p><b>Mr Byrne</b>—I have to take that on notice. It is not a large amount.</p>
APD/RIRDC 07	25/05/2010	76	Colbeck	<p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Mr McAllister, is there a piece of research, a paper or something that is going to come out of that process that might inform the inquiries that are being undertaken surrounding the issues of IP and gene patenting and things of that nature? Obviously it does have some potential implications for the research work that is done. I think that is the foundation. The fact that the chair’s committee is looking at it is a good thing, but will there be some comment, paper or piece of research coming out of the processes occurring at the chair’s level?</p> <p><b>Mr McAllister</b>—I am unaware of that because I do not participate in the chair of chairs. I have only been to one meeting, so I am not fully across that.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Perhaps we could ask you to take that point on notice and come back to us, because it is an issue that is of interest to members of the committee. That actually deals with Bill’s issue in the sense that it is being addressed in a form, but the question of what will come out of it being addressed is the thing that we need to get an answer on.</p> <p><b>Mr McAllister</b>—Yes.</p>

<p><b>APD/RIRDC 08</b></p>	<p>25/05/2010</p>	<p>77</p>	<p>Heffernan</p>	<p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b>—I would like to make it explicitly clear that the research industry for agriculture needs to come to terms with patents that do not define the inventive step away from the discovery. The gene is the discovery; the work on the gene, the methodology and the outcome are the invention, but the patents that have been granted now to Monsanto and other people are locking up access to the gene. So Billy Bloggs cannot have a crack at it, if he is a one-man operation, unless he pays someone.</p> <p><b>ACTING CHAIR</b>—Is there actually a question here? This is estimates, not speech time.</p> <p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b>—Yes, but I just want to make sure you understand what the problem is.</p> <p><b>Mr McAllister</b>—I understand.</p> <p><b>Senator Sherry</b>—We are taking it on notice—the extent to which the chairs meet and consider this issue— and we will respond.</p> <p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b>—My question then is: having done that, could you come back to this committee with an impact statement on the potential damage of those broad patent applications succeeding in access to the gene?</p> <p><b>Senator Sherry</b>—It is not the remit of RIRDC to do impact statements at your request. They will come back with as much relevant information within the ambit responsibilities of RIRDC. We will take that on notice and they will do their best to come back and report on the information they can make available.</p>
<p><b>APD/RIRDC 09</b></p>	<p>25/05/2010</p>	<p>77</p>	<p>Colbeck</p>	<p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—I have just got a couple of very quick questions on this. You indicated before that you had received about \$3.2 million in revenue from outside sources; a transfer from Land and Water Australia and also some funding for DAFF. You said to Senator Nash that you will give her an answer on notice about the projects that you have had to let go. But that \$3.2 million would have come with some obligations for work, I would have thought—particularly the stuff from Land and Water Australia. Could you—on notice, because we are time constrained—give us a list of what those obligations were as far as projects that you have to conduct? I think you mentioned one of them from Land and Water Australia. Could you provide us with a list on notice of the projects from Land and Water Australia and the additional responsibilities that you have had to take on board in response to the additional funding out of DAFF?</p> <p><b>Mr Byrne</b>—Yes, we can do that.</p> <p><b>Mr Grant</b>—Can I just clarify? I think we did report that in the transfer of projects out of LWA into other partner organisations that they did come with funding. We can take that on notice, but I just wanted to make that point.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—That is recognised in the \$3.2 million.</p> <p><b>Mr Byrne</b>—Yes, correct.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—So can we get a split up of how much funding came from Land</p>

				<p>and Water Australia and how much came from DAFF, and the respective obligations that came with that funding along with the list of projects that RIRDC has had to relinquish because of the overall budgetary constraints?</p> <p><b>Mr Byrne</b>—We can provide that. Some of the money came with projects that were underway, so that was an obligation. Some of the money was not tied to projects, but is now with us to move forward.</p>
<b>APD 01</b>	25/05/2010	21	Colbeck	<p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Were you consulted on the government’s changes to the R&amp;D tax laws? Do you have a view on the impact, particularly on the food manufacturing sector, of the proposed R&amp;D tax laws?</p> <p><b>Mr Glyde</b>—I will have to take that one on notice in terms of the first part of your question in relation to the extent of the consultation that we had during that process. My recollection of that was that it was a cabinet process and so, in that sense, we would have been consulted but I would have to refresh my memory.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—That is all right.</p> <p><b>Senator Sherry</b>—It is a Treasury tax policy.</p> <p><b>Mr Glyde</b>—Yes, and I would have to refresh my memory to the extent of the consultation.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—I understand that, Senator Sherry, but one of the major impacts, according to the evidence that I have seen over the last month or so, is that one of the major areas of impact will be in manufacturing. Obviously that has an impact on the food sector and the concern from those in the manufacturing industry and the unions and the consultants who assist companies with their R&amp;D work is that we will have a major negative impact on manufacturing. I just want to know what work or consultants that this agency had had in respect of that work. Have we had any?</p> <p><b>Mr Glyde</b>—That is why I said I will have to take that question on notice to know the extent of it. But I think the other thing to be aware of is the Productivity Commission inquiry into agricultural R&amp;D, which is underway at the moment, and I suspect that—</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—I understand that, and I will be talking to the Productivity Commission later on, but that is a separate issue</p>
<b>APD 02</b>	25/05/2010	85/86	Colbeck	<p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—I thought I might try and tease some sort of response out of you in a different format but obviously that is not going to happen, so we will just have to wait and see what the government decides to do, I suppose. Is the government continuing to get representations from industry to provide a response? What is the current status of representation from industry on this? Are they asking what is going on?</p> <p><b>Mr Grant</b>—The government continues to meet with the industry as part of normal business. I am not aware that there has been a strong lobby about the timing of the release of the government’s response</p>

				to the code but I can take that on notice, if you like. <b>Senator COLBECK</b> —You mention the continued consultation, so could you take on notice to provide us a list of meetings that have been undertaken between the department and/or the minister and industry on the matter.
<b>APD 03</b>	N/A	Written	Colbeck	At the last Estimates, I asked some questions State Government agriculture R&D efforts including what data DAFF had on State Government expenditure and the number of personnel employed at such facilities. 1. The answers to me indicated DAFF didn't have any information whatsoever on State expenditure. Is this still the case? 2. Is DAFF aware of industry and community concerns about closure or downgrading of such agriculture R&D facilities in recent years by State Governments? Does DAFF share these concerns? (e.g. Temora, Griffith and Condobolin agricultural research stations in NSW, Elliott Research Station in Tasmania, Walpeup Research Station in Victoria)
<b>APD/AWI 01</b>	25/05/2010	100	McGauran	<b>Senator McGAURAN</b> —My colleague raised the matter of the internal report that has been commissioned by the board of AWI relating to conflict-of-interest matters of board members and also to general governance matters I suspect. Will the minister be seeking a copy of the report and will he be acting upon the governance recommendations of that report? <b>Senator Sherry</b> —I will take part of the question on notice. Obviously, I have to refer to the minister for his specific response: (1) whether he has sought or has received a copy of the report and (2) what his response is or would be when and if he receives a copy of that report. Reports of conflicts of interest and governance type matters are certainly a matter of concern but, as I say, I will have to take on notice the minister's specific requests for copies—whether he has requested, will receive or has received—and what his response will be. But they are matters of concern.
<b>APD/AWI 02</b>	25/05/2010	101/102	McGauran/ Fierravanti Wells	<b>Senator McGAURAN</b> —If the minister were to request the three reports, would you present them to him? <b>Mr Merriman</b> —I would take advice from the board and our legal people. The board are privy to the reports and they are not for everybody else. I do not have the authority to present any of those reports. <b>Senator McGAURAN</b> —Minister, you were listening to that. There are three reports and in some way or fashion they go to the governance problems of AWI. <b>Mr Merriman</b> —Sorry, not governance problems. The Arche report on our performance stated that we should do something to improve our governance, and this is part of that



			<p>program of improving our governance.</p> <p><b>Senator McGAURAN</b>—All right, to improve the governance, which has been subject to criticism, Minister. You might be interested to know, following my previous request on notice, that there is extreme reluctance—you might want to pass that on to the minister too—and legal advice would have to be taken first before any of those reports go to the minister. I would ask you to take that on advice, and whether you have any further comments.</p> <p><b>Senator Sherry</b>—Firstly, I note from Mr Merriman that as a matter of fact there have been three reports carried out. Secondly, they go in part to improved governance, so I think it could be reasonably supposed that they criticise existing governance. I think that would be a reasonable supposition. As to the legal position of declining to make those public, I would have to take that on notice, because I do not know whether that is the correct legal position in terms of whether or not the committee’s request should be met.</p> <p><b>Senator McGAURAN</b>—Yes, to take advice on whether they can be made public would be good. I was really pointing out to you the reluctance of the board, who would take legal advice prior to presenting them to the minister. I am just doing your work, if you like, wanting the reports to at least get onto the minister’s table. If they are as damning as is reported, I have enough faith in him to believe he would act upon them. My concern is whether they will even get to the minister’s desk.</p> <p><b>Senator Sherry</b>—I can only take that on notice for the minister.</p> <p><b>Senator McGAURAN</b>—I point out, though, that the board is resisting already.</p> <p><b>Senator Sherry</b>—You have asked a reasonable question about the availability of those reports for this committee.</p> <p><b>Senator McGAURAN</b>—I did not. You have extrapolated that. It was initially just to get them to the minister, but I now add, ‘Yeah, why not?’</p> <p><b>Senator Sherry</b>—I may have misheard you. I thought you actually requested information on them yourself as a member of the committee.</p> <p><b>Senator McGAURAN</b>—No, I had not asked them to be tabled to this committee. I was asking for them to be tabled to the minister. I think the minister is going to have enough problems, without the committee getting them, quite frankly.</p> <p><b>Senator Sherry</b>—I will take it on notice, but the board will obviously have to consider whether or not to provide them to the minister should the minister request them. I will pass that on to the minister and then he will act as he determines.</p> <p><b>Mr Merriman</b>—I would like to point out before we leave this topic that this Arche report was over a three-year period, not the one-year period that this board was in power.</p> <p><b>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS</b>—I know that, Mr Merriman, but it does traverse directors that were previously on the board, so it did look at the performance of AWI over</p>
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				<p>a three-year period, as you correctly said, and it also made a series of recommendations which one would assume that the current board would take on board.</p> <p><b>Mr Merriman</b>—Which is what they are doing with these three reports.</p> <p><b>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS</b>—Thank you, Mr Merriman. You are here to answer questions; I am here to ask them. Minister, I think the point that Senator McGauran was making was that, within the purview of the minister’s obligations under the agreement that is currently being reviewed—and you were not here previously for that part of the exchange with Mr Grant—it is open to the minister to require AWI to provide, apart from regular briefings to the minister on company performance in performing its functions and in delivery of the government’s priorities for research and development, such other matters as the minister may request.</p> <p>Our question to you is: within the purview of those responsibilities, could you take on notice whether the minister will request those documents? If so, then they can be dealt with accordingly at further estimates or, potentially, their release can be considered within the parameters of the minister’s purview.</p> <p><b>Senator Sherry</b>—Yes, I think that is perfectly reasonable.</p>
<b>APD/AWI 03</b>	25/05/2010	113	Sterle	<p><b>CHAIR</b>—You can take this question on notice, because I am keen to wind up: it is reported that your predecessor was on \$350,000 per year. You, Mr McCullough, like us, do not do this job for the money; it is for the love. It does say that you are being paid well below your predecessor. If you can let the committee know that, we would appreciate it.</p> <p><b>Mr McCullough</b>—We are just going through some finalisations of that contract, but it will be very public in the annual report, I am sure.</p> <p><b>CHAIR</b>—That is fine; take it on notice,</p>
<b>APD/AWI 04</b>	N/A	Written	Fierravanti-Wells	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Given the involvement of Mr Olsson and Dr Sheil with pain relief and mulesing, is there not a conflict of interest or at least a perceived conflict of interest for Mr Olsson to chair the marketing sub-committee and Dr Sheil the On farm Science and welfare committee?</li> <li>2. Please outline the specific roles of the marketing sub-committee and the On farm Science and welfare committee and the basis for appointment of the respective chairs to these committees, including their expertise in those respective areas.</li> <li>3. In relation to the marketing committee, please outline its role including a list of its members and their respective qualifications for appointment to the marketing committee.</li> </ol>

<b>APD/AWI 05</b>	N/A	Written	Fierravanti-Wells	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Please outline any engagement or other involvement of Mr Allan Giffard with AWI at anytime in the past 2 years.</li> <li>2. If he has been involved in any way, please outline: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. the basis of that involvement</li> <li>b. the amount of any payment</li> <li>c. the expertise for which he was engaged or is otherwise involved; and</li> <li>d. any disclosed conflicts of interests pertaining to him.</li> <li>e. details of any overseas travel undertaken by Mr Giffard at AWI's expense.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
<b>APD/AWI 06</b>	N/A	Written	Fierravanti-Wells	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Since 2005, has AWI or any of its directors, employees or persons engaged on its behalf had any discussion with PETA since 2005? If so, please outline the nature, date and outcome of such discussions.</li> </ol>
<b>APD/AWI 07</b>	N/A	Written	Fierravanti-Wells	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Please outline all terminations, redundancies and engagement at AWI in the past 2 years.</li> </ol>
<b>APD/AWI 08</b>	N/A	Written	Fierravanti-Wells	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How and why did the UK-based agency, KEEP, come to be used and paid for a marketing pitch?</li> <li>2. Who was responsible for introducing KEEP to AWI, including any director who may have any involvement with the company?</li> </ol>
<b>APD/AWI 09</b>	N/A	Written	Fierravanti-Wells	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Please outline the tender process referred to at the hearing, including the names of the companies involved, any connection or relationship between any of those companies with any member of the board, the cost of the process and the costs paid in relation to any work undertaken by any of those companies.</li> </ol>
<b>APD/AWI 10</b>	N/A	Written	Fierravanti-Wells	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Further to questions at the hearing, please provide details of the marketing activities for Autumn Winter 2010/11 including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. who is overseeing the process</li> <li>b. any agencies involved in the process (please provide full details)</li> <li>c. cost of such activities</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
<b>APD/AWI 11</b>	N/A	Written	Fierravanti-Wells	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Does AWI have any relationship with the Ogilvy agency?</li> <li>2. Does any director or member of his/her immediate family have any relationship with Ogilvy?</li> </ol>

<b>APD/AWI 12</b>	N/A	Written	Fierravanti-Wells	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Has AWI re-employed Mr Rob Langtry – the former marketing Director at AWI and if so, what was the basis and nature of such employment?</li> <li>2. Outline Mr Langtry’s responsibilities at AWI including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. any involvement with marketing plans?</li> <li>b. were such plans executed and if not executed, why not?</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. Further to evidence at estimates, was any of the companies referred to as part of the tender process formerly associated with Mr Langtry? If so, please provide details of that association.</li> <li>4. Was there ever an investigation by AWI in relation to Mr Langtry? If so: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. what was the nature of that investigation including when it occurred, the outcome of the investigation?</li> <li>b. provide an documents into the investigation; and</li> <li>c. any legal advice obtained prior to Mr Langtry’s re-engagement or re-employment of Mr Langtry</li> </ol> </li> <li>5. Please provide details all amounts paid to Mr Langtry and any company that he was associated with including the date and reason for such payment.</li> </ol>
<b>APD/AWI 13</b>	N/A	Written	Fierravanti-Wells	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What has happened with the brand Superior Merino/Australian Merino?</li> </ol>
<b>APD/AWI 14</b>	N/A	Written	Fierravanti-Wells	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Further to the questions at estimates, has the winning marketing agency been announced or contracted?</li> </ol>
<b>APD/AWI 15</b>	N/A	Written	Fierravanti-Wells	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Further to questions at estimates, please advice how is the marketing program for AWI and the Woolmark going including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. what is planned for 2010/11 that surely must all be paid for and put in place now?</li> <li>b. If the money has not been allocated how will it impact on sales if the orders for the Autumn Winter 2010/11 are already being met?</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
<b>APD/AWI 16</b>	N/A	Written	Fierravanti-Wells	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Further to questions at estimates, list all staff resignations (including reason for resignation), retirements, redundancies or sackings/removals.</li> </ol>
<b>APD/AWI 17</b>	N/A	Written	Fierravanti-Wells	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Further to answers provided at estimates regarding the appointment of the CEO, please outline: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. the full process undertaken including the number of applicants</li> <li>b. the basis for the selection of Mr McCullough over other candidates</li> <li>c. an outline of Mr McCullough’s qualifications and previous experience.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>

<b>APD/AWI 18</b>	N/A	Written	Fierravanti-Wells	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Further to evidence at estimates, please provide further details about the UK-based campaign now with HRH Prince Charles including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. what exactly AWI is contributing</li> <li>b. what is AWI getting in return for this campaign</li> <li>c. where is the mention of Australian or even apparel wool in this campaign so far</li> <li>d. What is the commitment AWI has made to this project?</li> <li>e. How are the funds to be managed?</li> <li>f. What is the structure of managing thee funds and this project?</li> <li>g. And who from AWI is managing this project?</li> <li>h. How do we measure the cost/benefit of this program?</li> <li>i. Is this not generic “wool” promotion?</li> <li>j. What are your criteria for this type of project?</li> </ol> </li> </ol>

Questions on notice taken at Budget Estimates hearings on Monday 24 and Tuesday 25 May 2010 – and answered later in the hearing

QON No.	Date Asked	Hansard page reference/ Written	Senator	Question
<b>CSD</b> <b>(tabled at hearing on 25/10/10)</b>  <b>Tabled doc 3 –Q7</b>	24/05/2010	5	Colbeck	<b>Senator COLBECK</b> —Last year you said, as part of this process, that you were not going to take on any graduates, for example. Your graduate program was going to cease for 12 months so that you could manage the ongoing impact of the efficiency dividend. What is the situation with the graduate program? <b>Dr O’Connell</b> —The graduate program will be restarted in the coming year, so we plan to just restart it again. That was a one-year pause. As I mentioned in previous estimates, it was clearly planned that it would be restarted after that one-year pause. <b>Senator COLBECK</b> —What is the cost implication of recommencing the graduate program? <b>Dr O’Connell</b> —I would have to take that on notice.
<b>CSD</b> <b>(tabled at hearing on 25/10/10)</b>  <b>Tabled doc 3 –Q7</b>	24/05/2010	5/6	Heffernan	<b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b> —No, I am calculating it for a full year. Is that 50 grand a head for a full year? <b>Mr Schaeffer</b> —No. It is somewhere between 50 and 100 grand. <b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b> —Could we have the figure? <b>Dr O’Connell</b> —I will take the costings figure on notice. That should be straightforward. <b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b> —Didn’t you say it is \$1.7 million for six months, which is near enough to \$3½ million for a full year, which is near enough to 50 grand a head? <b>Ms Hazell</b> —I will get you an exact figure. <b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b> —Can you then break down the 50 grand into what that represents? <b>Ms Hazell</b> —Most of it will be salary. <b>Dr O’Connell</b> —We will take that on notice so we give it to you precisely
<b>CSD</b> <b>(tabled at hearing on 25/10/10)</b>  <b>Tabled doc 3 –Q7</b>	24/05/2010	6	Adams	<b>Senator ADAMS</b> —Can you tell me what process you use to attract Indigenous graduates? <b>Ms Hazell</b> —The Australian Public Service Commission has a program for attracting Indigenous graduates and also Indigenous cadetships and traineeships, and we are participating in that process. <b>Senator ADAMS</b> —What level of qualification do they need to participate in the program? <b>Ms Hazell</b> —To be a graduate they need to have a graduate degree, like any other graduate. For cadetships and traineeships, it is much less. It is year 10 for a traineeship. For a cadetship, I understand the program is for the end of year 12, and then we put them through a training program. <b>Senator ADAMS</b> —And how many have you had in the past? <b>Ms Hazell</b> —We have had a number in the past. The exact numbers I would need to take on notice.
<b>CSD</b> <b>(tabled at hearing on 25/10/10)</b>	24/05/2010	7	Colbeck	<b>Senator COLBECK</b> —Okay. I was going to come to staffing. If you can give us your staffing numbers and a listing of who and where— <b>Ms Hazell</b> —I can give you some overall figures now. If you wanted detail of staffing by area, I would need to take that one on notice and try and table it. <b>Senator COLBECK</b> —I think you have given us a breakdown at the previous couple of estimates. <b>Ms Hazell</b> —We can organise to table that for you. The current FTE at 30 April was 4,365.

<p><b>Tabled doc 3 -Q4</b></p>				<p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—You do not have with you that detail that you provided to us in previous years?  <b>Ms Hazell</b>—I think it is probably easier if we organise to table it during the day, rather than just read out a list of numbers.  <b>Senator COLBECK</b>—You do not have something that you can put in front of us now so that we can have a look at it?  <b>Ms Hazell</b>—We can get it.</p>
<p><b>CSD (tabled at hearing on 25/05/10)</b></p> <p><b>Tabled doc 3 -Q5</b></p>	<p>24/05/2010</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>Heffernan</p>	<p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b>—Mr Secretary, if you would like to take that on notice and do your best?  <b>Dr O’Connell</b>—What is the question, precisely?  <b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b>—How many 54/11-ers do you have?  <b>Dr O’Connell</b>—And 54/11 means?  <b>Ms Hazell</b>—How many people who are 54 years and 11 months?  <b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b>—They know what it means.  <b>Ms Hazell</b>—How many people have taken it?  <b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b>—How many people in the department, under the old scheme, are 54/11-ers—‘Get out before you are 55’?  <b>Dr O’Connell</b>—During this coming year?  <b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b>—How many are on the payroll now? There you go.  <b>Ms Hazell</b>—How many CSS members on the payroll now who are in the age bracket 54 to 55?  <b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b>—Which will be 54/11-ers, yes; how many people left in the system. That is all. It is not very complicated. I still do not know what your PhD means.</p>
<p><b>CSD (tabled at hearing on 25/05/10)</b></p> <p><b>Tabled doc 3 -Q6</b></p>	<p>24/05/2010</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>Colbeck</p>	<p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Can you just run through the current discretionary grant programs that you have got running at the moment?  <b>Mr Schaeffer</b>—Do you want a list of them?  <b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Yes, please.  <b>Mr Schaeffer</b>—Sorry, are you after a list of our programs or—  <b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Discretionary grants programs that you currently have running at the moment.  <b>Mr Schaeffer</b>—There is a long list. They are throughout our budget papers, and most of our programs have discretionary grants components to each of them.  <b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Okay. You have got a consolidated list there?  <b>Mr Schaeffer</b>—We do have a consolidated list, yes.  <b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Could you table that.  <b>Senator Sherry</b>—It is a long list. We will make a copy and you can have a look at it during the break.  <b>Senator COLBECK</b>—If you could table it for me that would make life a lot easier.</p>
<p><b>CFD (tabled at hearing on 25/05/10)</b></p> <p><b>Tabled doc 3 -Q1</b></p>	<p>24/05/2010</p>	<p>10/11</p>	<p>Back</p>	<p><b>Senator BACK</b>—Dr O’Connell, just turning to biosecurity, the biosecurity group was removed from the schedule of prescribed agencies and transferred to the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry on 1July 2009.  <b>Dr O’Connell</b>—Yes. You are referring to Biosecurity Australia.  <b>Senator BACK</b>—The 2008-09 budget papers indicated \$20,843,000 for biosecurity, with \$21,440,000 for 2009-10. Can you tell us what the level of resourcing for biosecurity is in 2010-11?  <b>Mr Schaeffer</b>—That is not an easy question. The resources have been wound into the department, as you have said, and they have been reallocated across a number of other divisions. We can get you the figure. We will just need to take it on notice.</p>

				<p><b>Senator BACK</b>—If you can get us the figure, can you also perhaps assist us a bit further by giving us a breakdown of expenditure revenue and particularly staffing for this coming financial year and beyond?</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—Yes</p>
<p><b>CFD</b> (tabled at hearing on 25/05/10)</p> <p><b>Tabled doc 3</b> –Q3</p>	24/05/2010	18	Nash	<p><b>Senator NASH</b>—Can you give us a more detailed understanding of what that is, rather than just those few categories? Perhaps you could give us the break-up of where the costings are attributed across all of those areas. Just moving onto the total expenses, I think that was \$678 million, which is an increase of nearly \$12 million. It says in the PBS that the change is primarily due to an increase in supplier expenses. Which of those areas that you were talking about are particularly going to contribute to that \$12 million?</p> <p><b>Mr Schaeffer</b>—I will have to take that on notice for you.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—Okay. I am guessing you will have to do that for this one as well, then. It actually shows in the forward estimates that there is going to be a decrease in those supplier expenses, so I am just interested to know where those savings will be made. It is around \$9 million, you say in the PBS.</p> <p><b>Mr Schaeffer</b>—Yes, we can take that on notice. It is not necessarily savings. It could be just the fact that our base continues to move, with measures and different programs coming and going.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—All right. That would be good. If we could have that before next estimates too, that would be really useful.</p> <p><b>Mr Schaeffer</b>—Sure.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—Even by the due date, perhaps. That might be helpful as well. Thank you. I imagine that would be fairly straightforward and not too hard to find.</p> <p><b>Mr Schaeffer</b>—Yes.</p>
<p><b>CFD</b> (tabled at hearing on 25/05/10)</p> <p><b>Tabled doc 3</b> –Q2</p>	24/05/2010	13	Heffernan	<p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b>—Can I just ask whether the department has been asked to provide a contingency plan for out-of-estimate spending for the spring in the event—which will come up tomorrow—of a likely locust plague. It is not only a likely locust plague but a bloody huge one. Can I just say to you there has been a complete failure to address the seeding season—that is, out in the pastoral country there are bloody hundreds of thousands of acres of locusts that have laid eggs now and in the spring. So has the government sort of thought, ‘Gee, we might have a problem in the spring—where is the money going to come from?’ because it will have the capacity, if the eggs that are laid hatch and the season is right, to do huge damage to the crop?</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—And the Plague Locust Commission will be in attendance when the Biosecurity Services Group—</p> <p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b>—Yes, but my question is: have you been asked to provide a contingency plan?</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—I think we can cover the issue of management of locusts when we have the relevant people on.</p> <p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b>—But don’t you know the answer? It is simple: have you been asked to provide anything? You are the boss.</p> <p><b>CHAIR</b>—We know it is coming on later. Senator Colbeck has the call, Senator Heffernan. Senator Colbeck, do you want the call or do you want your colleague to take the call?</p> <p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b>—Do you know the answer or not?</p> <p><b>CHAIR</b>—You have just been told, Senator Heffernan, that it is coming up later. We have a timetable</p>



				<p>here that we agreed that we would follow.</p> <p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b>—Have you been asked to provide a contingency plan? You are the head of department.</p> <p><b>CHAIR</b>—Dr O’Connell, you can answer it later.</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—It would be best answered when we have the relevant people here.</p> <p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b>—Take it on notice if you do not know.</p>
<p><b>CC</b> (tabled at hearing on 25/05/10)</p> <p><b>Tabled doc 3</b> -Q8</p>	24/05/2010	19/20	Macdonald	<p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—Thank you, Mr Chairman. Can someone just give me a very, very quick update on the exceptional circumstances for north-west Queensland. I do not mean exceptional circumstances relating to drought; I mean exceptional circumstances relating to unusual flood.</p> <p><b>Mr Mortimer</b>—That area is one of a group of areas currently in EC which is due to come out in the middle of June. The National Rural Advisory Council—</p> <p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—Sorry, what is to come out in June?</p> <p><b>Mr Mortimer</b>—That area in Queensland that you are referring to, if you are talking about south-west Queensland.</p> <p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—No, north-west. This was not an EC drought; it was an EC flood.</p> <p><b>Mr Mortimer</b>—The gulf region?</p> <p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—Yes, the gulf region.</p> <p><b>Mr Mortimer</b>—The gulf region has been declared to be an EC.</p> <p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—Yes. I am just saying can you give me a quick update. I am aware of that.</p> <p><b>Mr Mortimer</b>—Yes.</p> <p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—How many have applied? How much money has gone? What is happening?</p> <p><b>Mr Mortimer</b>—Mr Macdonald might give some information.</p> <p><b>Mr McDonald</b>—I will just check and see if I have got that information with me. I do not believe I do.</p> <p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—Okay. It is really just an interest in how it is going. It was quite unusual and the first of its kind in exceptional circumstance applications, as I understand it. I was just curious as to how it was being taken up, how many had applied for assistance and what assistance had been made available, so could you get that for me?</p> <p><b>Mr McDonald</b>—We will probably have to take that on notice.</p>
<p><b>CC</b> (tabled at hearing on 25/05/10)</p> <p><b>Tabled doc 3</b> -Q9</p>	24/05/2010	35/36	Nash	<p><b>Senator NASH</b>—But what sort of practical, on-the-ground things are you expecting from farmers if they come to you and say, ‘We’d like to have this grant of \$60,000. We’ve done our farm plan. These are the practical things we’re going to do on the ground with that money?’</p> <p><b>Ms Freeman</b>—The list of possible eligible activities has been made public by the government. For the farm business adaptation grants, for example, that includes things like benchmarking, training in management skills, capacity building and—</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—What does that mean, though? On the ground, as a farmer, what would I be doing if I was meeting that criteria?</p> <p><b>Ms Freeman</b>—Basically, you have gone through your planning process, you have developed your strategic plan and you have identified, with the help of professional advice, what you think will need to be the priority activities that will make your farm business more viable into the future.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—Yes. And what are you expecting some of those to be? There must have been some</p>

				<p>discussions with rural people before this program went into place about the types of things they could see— on-farm activity—that the money could be well-utilised for that would help them prepare for future droughts.</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—Again, we have considerable information on our website in the frequently asked questions.</p> <p>That gives a very significant list of the sorts of things that would quite eligible. To some degree we can easily settle many of your concerns by providing this directly to you.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—If you could table that, that would be great.</p>
<p><b>CC</b> (tabled at hearing on 25/05/10) <b>Tabled doc 3 –Q10</b></p>	24/05/2010	41	Back	<p><b>Senator BACK</b>—The details that I would be keen to pursue as a result of that would be: what has been the take-up of exit grants by farmers who are eligible?</p> <p><b>Mr Mortimer</b>—We probably can give you that.</p> <p><b>Mr McDonald</b>—Sorry, can you repeat that question?</p> <p><b>Senator BACK</b>—Yes, certainly. I want to know what the take-up rate has been by eligible farmers of the exit grants?</p> <p><b>Mr McDonald</b>—Yes. For this financial year to 31 March there have been 110 EC exit grants paid to recipients.</p> <p><b>Senator BACK</b>—Can you tell me, either now or on notice, of those, what was the total number who applied and, obviously, then the deduction would be those who have been ineligible.</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—We can take that on notice.</p> <p><b>Senator BACK</b>—Thank you, if you would. Finally: do you have the information that suggests—or do you have any information other than the pilot area in WA which, I think, Senator Adams and I have a particular concern on—whether there are more farmers wanting to leave the land and avail themselves of these grants?</p> <p><b>Mr Mortimer</b>—I think we will take that one on notice. That would be the best idea.</p>
<p><b>CC</b> (tabled at hearing on 25/05/10) <b>Tabled doc 3 –Q11</b></p>	24/05/2010	46/47	Heffernan	<p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b>—I am aware of the voluntary action. But my point is: you cannot calculate it. Come for a drive with me and I will tell you what I am talking about. You might have all sorts of bushes struck up in a storm in a drought, and your proposition is that, in a drought, the farmer gets a bill. If you are in the scheme and you denude your property and it is not, as Senator Milne says, some sort of natural catastrophe but a calculable denuding, then in theory, if you are in on the debit side, you would get a bill. Could we have the details of the animal emission sites that you say the MLA are supervising?</p> <p><b>Mr Gibbs</b>—Yes, I can organise that for you</p> <p>.....</p> <p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b>—Who decides the actual site for the program?</p> <p><b>Mr Gibbs</b>—There was a process for going through the research program and analysing bids. Through that process, for example, the CSIRO put up a bid to conduct analysis of methane emissions at a site. That was judged by an expert panel and that is how the site was selected.</p> <p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b>—Can we have those details?</p> <p><b>Mr Gibbs</b>—The details of the sites you have asked for have been taken on notice.</p> <p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b>—And how the sites were decided.</p> <p><b>Mr Gibbs</b>—The sites were as a process—</p> <p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b>—But can we have the details involved including the process? I would like to</p>

				<p>see how they decided that that was a good site and perhaps that one was not.</p> <p><b>Mr Gibbs</b>—We can take that on notice, Senator.</p> <p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b>—And so you will let us know the current sites and the extent of what they are looking at—whether they are looking at goats or cows or whatever? Is there a management panel—who controls the game, the MLA or you fellows?</p> <p><b>Mr Gibbs</b>—There is a steering group which is led by MLA and which basically makes sure that the projects are meeting their milestones in a timely way consistent with the contracts. We sit on that steering group with the MLA, and other proponents of the projects sit on that steering group as well.</p> <p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b>—So could we have the details of the people who sit on that panel—their names and who they represent?</p> <p><b>Mr Gibbs</b>—Okay.</p>
<p><b>ABARE</b></p> <p><b>Answered at Hansard p71</b></p>	24/05/2010	66	Joyce	<p><b>Senator JOYCE</b>—The key issue is that it is lineal and slightly exponential in its effect. We have now identified sectors that have not been properly ascertained and because it is a premise of deciding especially what the effect of the SDLs—the sustainable diversion limits—will be, there could be massive disruptions in certain areas within the basin because of this. It has not disaggregated it down to certain areas—for instance, Dirranbandi, Leeton, Deniliquin or Berri—and what exactly could happen in these areas, because we could have a—</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—That is because that was not the task that was set in this case.</p> <p><b>Senator JOYCE</b>—Why do we do it?</p> <p><b>Mr Glyde</b>—It has not been done as yet to get to a basin wide impact of what might happen with the water buyback program, and we are working our way through that. I think it makes sense to start out large and work through within the limitations, model and the data that we have.</p> <p><b>Senator JOYCE</b>—How much did it cost to do this study?</p> <p><b>Mr Gooday</b>—We might take that on notice. Neither of us have got it in our heads.</p>
<p><b>ABARE</b></p> <p><b>Answered at Hansard p71</b></p>	24/05/2010	70	Milne	<p><b>Senator MILNE</b>—I have only got three minutes, so I will not pursue that right now. I wanted to move on to forestry projections. Can ABARE just indicate to me the point at which plantation sawn timber production in Australia displaced native forest sawn timber production? When did that occur? Do you recall?</p> <p><b>Mr Morris</b>—We would probably have to have a close look at the data to make sure we answered that accurately because we are not quite sure on that off the tops of our heads.</p>
<p><b>SRM</b></p> <p><b>Answered at Hansard p97</b></p>	24/05/2010	81	Siewert	<p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—How much was for SeaNet?</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—SeaNet is \$2.6 million over the next three years.</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—When was that funded?</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—The first year of funding under this process was 2009-10.</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—When was the announcement made?</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—I would have to take that on notice. It was September-October last year.</p>
<p><b>SRM</b></p> <p><b>Answered at Hansard p98</b></p>	24/05/2010	83	Siewert	<p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—That is if all the projects were for four years; sometimes they are not. Sometimes they are only for a year or two.</p> <p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—I am only averaging because—</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—Most of the projects have a variable profile but the uncommitted money in the next financial year is \$8.6 million.</p>

				<p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—I think we are starting to stretch the ability to flip the paper backwards and forwards accurately. Would it be useful if we took this on notice and got clarity for you? From what I understand, you are trying to see how the expressions of interest cast over the forward estimates of their expressions of interest match the available funding. Is that right?</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—Yes.</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—I think it is probably easiest if we take that on notice and come back to you.</p> <p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—That would be useful provided we get the answers before the next estimates meetings, which will be well after the next election.</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—We can do those numbers fairly quickly, Senator. We have all the information; it is just a bit scattered.</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—If you could do that, it would be appreciated.</p> <p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—Even if we could get them before this committee finishes tomorrow.</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—I think we can do that.</p>
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