

**Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee**  
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Budget Estimates May 2012  
**Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry**

**Question:** 48

**Division/Agency:** Biosecurity - Plant Division

**Topic:** Import risk analysis for fresh ginger from Fiji

**Proof Hansard page:** 77-78 (21/05/2012)

**Senator NASH asked:**

**Senator NASH:** Perhaps you could take on notice as well any of the other pests or diseases that are contained or have been considered that are not in Australia but that you have determined are below the ALOP so therefore do not need to be addressed, in the same way that you have alerted us to this one.

**Mr Schwartz:** Just to be clear: you are asking for all the pests that we have considered which we do not believe are above ALOP.

**Senator NASH:** Yes, please—those that are not currently in Australia. Perhaps you could do both lists for me: any that are currently in Australia—

**Mr Schwartz:** I think that is set out in the report in the appendix, but I am happy to provide that to you separately.

**Senator NASH:** That would be great. Thank you.

**Answer:**

The full list of pests considered in the Import Risk Analysis (IRA) is set out in Appendix A of the draft IRA report for fresh ginger from Fiji. Recognising that at the time of the hearing there were four weeks left in the comment period, this advice was provided to the Senate Committee on 25 May 2012.

**Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
Budget Estimates May 2012  
**Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry**

**Question:** 49

**Division/Agency:** Biosecurity - Plant Division

**Topic:** Old registration fee for seed exports

**Proof Hansard page:** 83-84 (21/05/2012)

**Senator McKENZIE asked:**

**Senator McKENZIE:** What was the old fee for seed exporters?

**Ms Calhoun:** I would have to take that on notice. I have it somewhere here. I can probably provide that by the end of the day.

**Answer:**

The registered establishment fee for a seed exporter was \$420 under the previous fees and charges that ceased on 31 December 2011.

**Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
Budget Estimates May 2012  
**Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry**

**Question: 51**

**Division/Agency:** Biosecurity - Plant Division

**Topic:** Import applications

**Proof Hansard page:** 91 (21/05/2012)

**Senator BOSWELL asked:**

**Senator BOSWELL:** Let me put it this way: are there any applications that have never followed through with imports?

**Dr Grant:** Yes, and I could give you a list of those.

**Senator BOSWELL:** I would like a list of those, please.

**Dr Grant:** We can take that on notice.

**Answer:**

Commodities that have not yet been imported following the completion of import risk analyses setting out the measures under which imports can occur, are:

Unshu mandarins from Japan

Apples from Japan

Bananas from the Philippines

Table grapes from Chile

Stone fruit from the USA

Table grapes from China

**Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee**  
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Budget Estimates May 2012  
**Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry**

**Question: 52**

**Division/Agency:** Biosecurity - Plant Division

**Topic:** Fungi (US Apple imports)

**Proof Hansard page:** 93 (21/05/2012)

**Senator COLBECK asked:**

**Mr Barbour:** To these three fungi.

**Senator COLBECK:** Can you tell me what those three fungi are?

**Mr Barbour:** Off the top of my head, I think there is a *Sphaeropsis pyriputrescens* and *Truncatella hartigii*, and there is a third one in there, but we can either provide it on notice, or I can check my notes.

**Senator COLBECK:** Provide it to me on notice so that I do not have to try and pronounce them.

**Answer:**

*Phacidiopycnis washingtonensis*

*Phacidiopycnis pyri*

*Sphaeropsis pyriputrescens*

**Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
Budget Estimates May 2012  
**Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry**

**Question: 57**

**Division/Agency:** Biosecurity - Plant Division

**Topic:** Cost of the post graduate course in plant biosecurity

**Proof Hansard page:** 103 (21/05/2012)

**Senator EDWARDS asked:**

**Senator EDWARDS:** What is the cost of that?

**Dr Grant:** Again, it depends on whether they register. It is a modulised course, so you go through modules and, dependent on what level you are doing, it will be (a) longer and (b) more expensive over the time period of the duration of the course. I am getting some advice very quickly.

**Senator EDWARDS:** Yes, that is fine. If you want to, take it on notice.

**Dr Grant:** It is about \$2,500 a unit.

**Senator EDWARDS:** And there are 10 units?

**Dr Grant:** It depends on whether you are doing—

**Senator EDWARDS:** A short course or a long course?

**Dr Grant:** Essentially, yes.

**Senator EDWARDS:** If you could just provide me with a bit of information on that, that would be terrific.

**Answer:**

The cost is \$2600 per unit. The Plant Biosecurity Program has three finishing levels: Postgraduate Certificate; Postgraduate Diploma; Masters Degree. The postgraduate certificate has 4 units; the diploma has 8 units; the masters has the 8 diploma units and requires the completion of an industry based project. All units are provided and accessed remotely. Most students complete one unit per semester.

**Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
Budget Estimates May 2012  
**Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry**

**Question: 58**

**Division/Agency:** Biosecurity - Plant Division

**Topic:** Policy about tuition payment in case of a fail grade in the postgraduate curriculum in plant biosecurity

**Proof Hansard page:** 104 (21/05/2012)

**Senator EDWARDS asked:**

**Senator EDWARDS:** Do you pay for them if they fail?

**Dr Grant:** They are paid for for the first unit and we will assess that afterwards. They have only just started this calendar year.

**Senator EDWARDS:** But what is the policy?

**Dr Grant:** I am not sure that we have a policy in that regard.

**Ms Mellor:** We can get back to you on that.

**Dr Grant:** We can get that to you.

**Answer:**

If a staff member accesses study bank to undertake the study then reimbursement occurs only if the unit is passed.

**Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Budget Estimates May 2012

**Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry**

**Question:** 183

**Division/Agency:** Biosecurity - Plant Division

**Topic:** Trade with Thailand

**Proof Hansard page:** Written

**Senator COLBECK asked:**

What discussions have taken place with Thailand regarding the acceptability of irradiation as a control measure for fruit fly?

**Answer:**

Australia and Thailand recognise the mutual benefit of irradiation as a phytosanitary treatment to facilitate trade between both countries. Discussions regarding the approval of irradiation as a treatment for a range of horticultural commodities, and of irradiation facilities in both Australia and Thailand are ongoing.

**Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Budget Estimates May 2012

**Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry**

**Question: 201**

**Division/Agency:** Biosecurity - Plant Division

**Topic:** Horticultural MTF

**Proof Hansard page:** Written

**Senator COLBECK asked**

Provide an update of the status of negotiations with the horticulture industry and the Horticultural MTF regarding any assistance package related to the reform of Australia's export certification system

**Answer:**

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry has been in ongoing discussions with members of the horticulture export industry since 2009, firstly through the Horticulture Ministerial Taskforce, which last met on 20 December 2011, and more recently with the Horticulture Exports Senior Advisory Group, which had its first meeting on 14 December 2011. This group is comprised of representatives from peak bodies such as Citrus Australia Limited, Cherry Growers' Association, Australian Mango Industry Association, Summerfruit Australia, Australian Horticultural Exporters' Association, Australian Table Grape Industry, and Ausveg.

On 15 February 2012, the Minister held a meeting with a broad range of key peak industry bodies, including the Ministerial Taskforce and other industry representatives to discuss options for fees going forward, and possible transitional funding to facilitate a transition to these new arrangements. The department met with key industry groups on 12 June 2012 and a unanimous recommendation was reached that transitional funding in 2012-13 and 2013-14 would be used to offset registration charges.

New fees and charges for the Horticulture Export Program commenced on 1 July 2012. An Industry Advice Notice was circulated to exporters and stakeholders to inform them of the changes and can be found at <http://www.daff.gov.au/aqis/export/plants-plant-products/ian/12/2012-25>

The Cost Recovery Impact Statement (CRIS) also available on the website at <http://www.daff.gov.au/fees/aqisfees-charges/export> and the document outlines the cost recovery arrangements for the delivery of inspection and certification services for the Horticulture Export Program.



**Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee**  
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Budget Estimates May 2012  
**Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry**

**Question:** 203

**Division/Agency:** Biosecurity - Plant Division

**Topic:** New Zealand apple packhouse failure

**Proof Hansard page:** Written

**Senator COLBECK asked:**

1. How many suspensions of MAF approval have there been for New Zealand apple packhouses in the last 12 months?
2. Have any of the suspended packhouses been involved with the export of apples to Australia?
3. Were Australian apple and pear producers put at risk due to practices in place at these packhouses prior to their suspension?
4. Were these packhouses where apples that were rejected from export to Australia were packed?
5. What are the implications of this failure of internal inspection practices for trade with Australia and for the Australian move towards an AAO system?

**Answer:**

1. The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) is aware of the suspension of one New Zealand Ministry of Primary Industries (NZMPI) approved apple packhouse in the last 12 months.
2. No packhouses registered for export to Australia have had their licenses suspended.
3. No. Please refer to the answer to Question 2.
4. No. Please refer to the answer to Question 2.
- 5a. There are no implications for trade.
- 5b. There is no link between the NZ system and systems in place or under consideration in Australia.

**Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Budget Estimates May 2012

**Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry**

**Question: 205**

**Division/Agency:** Biosecurity - Plant Division

**Topic:** Export reforms

**Proof Hansard page:** Written

**Senator COLBECK asked:**

1. Has the Department estimated the impact on horticulture exporters of the new export fees?
2. What does that modelling suggest the average cost per tonne would be for an exporter of apples or cherries?
3. How does that compare with the current fee schedule?
4. Given the proposed fee rises has the government taken into consideration the number of exporters which will stop exporting-and how will that be reflected in the future when the costs of the export program will be amortised over fewer growers and the consequence of this?
5. Please detail how, with consideration of division operating costs over the last 5 years, AQIS/DAFF Biosecurity have achieved a 40% reduction in the costs of running the export program?

**Answer:**

1. Yes. The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry has produced a Cost Recovery Impact Statement (CRIS) for the Horticulture Export Program for the 2012/13 financial year. The CRIS has been endorsed by the Department of Finance and Deregulation (DoFD), in line with the Australian Government Cost Recovery Guidelines. An Industry Advice Notice was circulated to exporters and stakeholders to inform them of the changes and can be found at [www.daff.gov.au/aqis/export/plants-plant-products/ian/12/2012-25](http://www.daff.gov.au/aqis/export/plants-plant-products/ian/12/2012-25)
2. The per tonne cost of exporting apples and cherries varies depending upon the specific importing country requirements.
3. The direct costs to exporters, of electronic documentation and fee for service, will be reduced in the proposed new fee model. Registration charges for establishments have increased. All fees and charges have been set to reflect the true cost of the activity.

**Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
 Budget Estimates May 2012  
**Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry**

**Question:** 205 (continued)

<b>Comparison table</b>	<b>2011/12</b>	<b>2012/13</b>
Fee for service (1/4 hour)	\$68	\$34
Daily rate	\$1224	\$1152
Weekly rate	\$4284	\$5760
Electronic documentation	\$26	\$16
Manual documentation	\$51	\$100
Replacement documentation	\$50	\$500
Registration (all establishments)	\$550	\$2844
Annual charge – tier 1	-	
Annual charge – tier 2	-	\$5687
Annual charge – tier 3	-	\$8530
Quantity (per tonne)	\$1.90	Nil
Travel (per km)	\$0.85	Nil

4. The cost model and revised fee structure includes revision of annual charges for registered establishments and does not consider the number of exporters. The cost model, as represented in the CRIS, projects 528 establishments registered for the export of horticultural products in 2012–13 based on discussions with industry. Fees and charges will continue to be reviewed on a regular basis, as per DoFD guidelines.
  
5. The costs of the export program to industry over the last five years has been governed by a number of factors, including staff and travel costs, volume of trade, numbers of exporters, etc. Between 2010–2011 and 2012–2013, the Horticulture Export Program has reduced its annual expense budget from \$8m to \$7.2m. Cost modelling projected an annual expense budget of \$8.5m in 2011–2012 in the absence of implementing cost efficiencies.

**Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee**  
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Budget Estimates May 2012  
**Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry**

**Question:** 289

**Division/Agency:** Biosecurity - Plant Division

**Topic:** Export costs

**Proof Hansard page:** Written

**Senator McKENZIE asked:**

What modelling has been done in relation to the cost recovery measures imposed on nursery exporters and leading to up to 800% increases in fees?

**Answer:**

The Cost Recovery Impact Statement (CRIS) is available on the website ([www.daff.gov.au/aqis/export/plants-plant-products/fees-charges/plant-exports-fees-and-charges/grain-plant-2011-12](http://www.daff.gov.au/aqis/export/plants-plant-products/fees-charges/plant-exports-fees-and-charges/grain-plant-2011-12)). The CRIS documents the amendment of the cost recovery arrangements for the delivery of inspection and certification services for the Grain and Seed Export Program.