

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

Question: 41

Division/Agency: Biosecurity - Policy Division

Topic: Outbreak management plan for branched broomrape

Proof Hansard page: 67 (21/05/2012)

Senator EDWARDS asked:

Ms Ransom: A working group has been putting together a proposal for a transition to management plan for branched broomrape. That plan has been, I believe, submitted to the national management group and proposals for costings have also been attached to that plan. The focus of the plan is very much around establishing and maintaining property freedom and mitigating the risk of spreading the branched broomrape from the properties that are known to be infected.

Senator EDWARDS: As part of that plan is there an outbreak management plan? When do you intend to table the branched broomrape management plan, ongoing, as this working group has finished its work?

Ms Ransom: I will have to take that on notice; I am not quite sure what the process will be around that.

Answer:

The transition to management plan for branched broomrape does not specifically contain an outbreak management plan. However, the objective of the transition to management plan is to contain branched broomrape while industries, businesses or individuals prepare and adopt risk management measures with a view to long term management, which includes limiting the spread of branched broomrape to new areas.

The plan was developed by the National Steering Committee for Branched Broomrape. It is not a requirement that the plan be tabled in the Commonwealth Parliament.

The plan is available on the Primary Industries and Regions South Australia website at www.pir.sa.gov.au/biosecuritysa/branched_broomrape.

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

Question: 42

Division/Agency: Biosecurity - Policy Division

Topic: Date for finalisation of management plan for branched broomrape

Proof Hansard page: 67 (21/05/2012)

Senator EDWARDS asked:

Senator EDWARDS: So there is no committee handing down a management plan for branched broomrape; it is just an ongoing containment—

Ms Ransom: No, there is a plan and it is based around the biosecurity outcomes that the transition to ongoing management will deliver. That will have funding associated with it and there will be some management of the outcomes to ensure that they are actually doing it.

Senator EDWARDS: So when will that plan be finalised?

Ms Ransom: I will have to take that on notice.

Dr Martin: My understanding is that South Australia is going to publish that plan, similar to what we have done for Asian honey bees and myrtle rust. So we can certainly see whether we can get you a copy of the plan.

Answer:

The transition to management plan was developed by the National Steering Committee for Branched Broomrape and was noted by the Standing Council on Primary Industries meeting in April 2012. The plan is publicly available on the Primary Industries and Regions SA website at www.pir.sa.gov.au/biosecuritysa/branched_broomrape.

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

Question: 61

Division/Agency: Biosecurity - Policy Division

Topic: Funding for quarantine protection versus implementation of new legislation

Proof Hansard page: Page 106 (21/05/2012)

Senator NASH asked:

Senator NASH: Fantastic. Of the \$144.3 million—correct me again if I am wrong—allocated to cover the ongoing quarantine border activities, I think you said, Ms Mellor, part of this area is the new biosecurity legislation?

Ms Mellor: Yes.

Senator NASH: So what percentage of that funding is actually going to be used for the implementation of the new legislation and what percentage goes to the maintenance of the quarantine protection? Can you divvy that up for me?

Ms Mellor: That funding, that \$144 million or thereabouts, covers a whole range of things. We have been funding the development of the legislation just departmentally, so there is no specific allocation in that \$144 million. We have a branch with a number of people in it that are developing that, and then we have a proposal to go forward and do the public consultation, from within existing resources.

Senator NASH: Would you mind taking on notice for me then just what funding has been expended so far in relation to the new legislation?

Ms Mellor: Yes, sure.

Senator NASH: Also if there is any estimate on how much may be spent between now and when and if the legislation actually comes in.

Answers:

- a) Between 2009/2010 and 30 April 2012, the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) had spent approximately \$4.8 million on the development of the new biosecurity legislation. Costs include policy development, legal advice, staff costs and consultation costs.
- b) DAFF estimates future expenditure on developing the new biosecurity legislation to be approximately \$3.5 million for consultation, legal advice and policy finalisation.

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

Question: 62

Division/Agency: Biosecurity - Policy Division

Topic: Biosecurity funding

Proof Hansard page: 106 (21/05/2012)

Senator NASH asked:

Senator NASH: And what happens if that legislation does not go through in terms of that funding that has already been spent?

Ms Mellor: That funding is spent.

Senator NASH: It is just gone?

Ms Mellor: Yes.

Senator NASH: Right, so, if you could take on notice for me to just provide exactly what it is to date, that would great. Thanks.

Answer:

Please refer to the answer to QoN 61 Biosecurity - Policy Division from the Budget Estimates hearings in May 2012.

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

Question: 86

Division/Agency: Biosecurity - Policy Division

Topic: Funding for eradication programs

Proof Hansard page: 42 (22/05/2012)

Senator WILLIAMS asked:

Senator WILLIAMS: There was \$95.9 million over seven years in the budget for the Caring for our Country Program, for eradication programs for nationally significant agricultural, environmental, animal and plant pests and diseases. Current eradication programs include red imported fire ants, four tropical weeds, electric ants, chestnut blight, branched broomrape, low pathogenic influenza, slam weed and cocoa pod fora. How much is allocated to eradication and how much is allocated to support the collaborative approach of government and industry?

Mr Thompson: That \$95 million is all allocated to eradication programs. The exact detail of those programs that might emerge in the future we do not know. If it is in terms of how much we spend on the current suite of pests, that information we could take on notice. In terms of the future ones, we do not know. They are the ones that come into the country.

Answer:

The \$95.9 million is allocated to eradication. Of this, \$20.9 million is allocated over 2011–12 and 2012–13 to fund the current nationally cost-shared eradication programs for branched broomrape, cocoa pod borer, red imported fire ants, electric ants, chestnut blight, four tropical weeds, siam weed and low pathogenic avian influenza. The remainder of the allocation will assist in ensuring future incursions of nationally significant agricultural, environmental, animal and plant pests and diseases can be brought under control as soon as possible.

While funding is not directly allocated to support the collaborative approach of government and industry, under the framework, the combat state is required to develop a response plan, which usually contains an element of stakeholder engagement and communication.

Affected industry signatories to the Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement or the Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed are also represented on the National Management Group, which is the key decision making body for emergency animal disease and plant pest responses. The other members of the National Management Group are the CEOs of the Commonwealth, state and territory agriculture departments.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2012

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: 181

Division/Agency: Biosecurity Policy - Division

Topic: New Biosecurity legislation

Proof Hansard page: Written

Senator COLBECK asked:

- (a) When will the new biosecurity legislation be available?
- (b) When the decision was made to update the biosecurity legislation, what were the aims and objectives of the update?
- (c) Who did DAFF consult with in determining the aims and objectives of the new legislation?
- (d) What work has been done to quantify how the new legislation will better manage biosecurity legislation?

Answers:

- (a) The Government is making available drafts of the Biosecurity and Inspector-General of Biosecurity Bills (the Bills) as they are ready. It is anticipated that the Bills will be introduced into Parliament in the spring sitting of 2012.
- (b) In December 2008, the government agreed in-principle with the recommendations of the 2008 independent review of Australia's biosecurity system: *One Biosecurity: a working partnership*. The review recommended that a new Biosecurity Act should be drafted to replace the Quarantine Act 1908 (recommendation 43). The recommendation went on to say that the legislation should give effect to the Panel's legislative recommendations, drawing on a much broader set of the Commonwealth's Constitutional powers and providing for modern and effective management of biosecurity risks. For more information please see:
www.daff.gov.au/quarantinebiosecurityreview/report_to_the_minister_for_agriculture_fisheries_and_forestry
- (c) For information on consultation undertaken to support *One Biosecurity: a working partnership* please see:
www.daff.gov.au/quarantinebiosecurityreview/report_to_the_minister_for_agriculture_fisheries_and_forestry
- (d) A consultation Regulation Impact Statement (RIS) has been prepared to elicit stakeholder views on the impacts (quantitatively and qualitatively) of the new biosecurity legislation. The consultation RIS was released on 4 July 2012 for public consultation.

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

Question: 182

Division/Agency: Biosecurity - Policy Division

Topic: Centre of Excellence for Biosecurity Risk Analysis (CEBRA)

Proof Hansard page: Written

Senator COLBECK asked:

1. Is the centre of Excellence going to be part of the Department?
2. What will the management structure of the centre be?
3. What role will the Minister have in overseeing activities of the centre of excellence?

Answer:

1. No.
2. An example funding agreement and a copy of the program guidelines for the centre which outlines the management structure can be found at www.daff.gov.au/CEBRA.
3. None. The Centre is independent of government and will deliver practical, rigorous solutions and advice to the department on the assessment, management, perception and communication of biosecurity risk. The Centre will operate under a funding agreement between the department and the successful appointee.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2012

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: 186

Division/Agency: Biosecurity - Policy Division

Topic: Strengthening Australia's ability to combat foot and mouth disease

Proof Hansard page: Written

Senator COLBECK asked:

1. How does the FMD Action Plan rate the risk of a FMD outbreak associated with the illegal importation of produce from countries known to have FMD?
2. What activities and strategies are designed for this "unique risk profile"?
3. Does the FMD Action Plan include actions for non-regional areas like suburban Sydney?
4. Was an assessment done regarding the risk the illegal importation of food from Korea played to Australia remaining food and mouth disease free?
5. What actions have been taken to improve the verification activities undertaken by AQIS inspectors?
6. What, if any, changes are planned for auditing and the use of unannounced random audits as opposed to annual, announced audits?

Answer:

1. The Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) Action Plan (the Action Plan) does not rate the risk of a FMD outbreak associated with the illegal importation of produce specifically from countries known to have FMD.
2. The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry's move to risk profiling of quarantine operations has allowed for the implementation of investigations such as Operations Hayride and Abercorn.
3. The Action Plan is intended to improve Australia's FMD preparedness across the pre-border, border and post-border biosecurity continuum. It does not specifically target regional or non-regional areas.
- 4.
5. Yes.
6. Enhanced verification activities arising from the inspection of illegally imported food products from Korea include: ongoing and new targeted operations and surveys, risk profile revisions, reconnaissance activities, unannounced compliance audits, and full unpack inspections of potentially noncompliant goods.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2012

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: 186 (continued)

7. Auditing regimes and systems are used for the management of Quarantine Approved Premises. The current program of regular auditing and the use of unannounced random audits is reviewed on a regular basis to ensure the effectiveness of these programs and the ongoing compliance with the department's import requirements and third party arrangements.

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

Question: 234

Division/Agency: Biosecurity - Policy Division
Topic: Caring for our Country – eradication programs
Proof Hansard page: Written

Senator COLBECK asked:

1. Provide detail of how much of the \$95.9 million is allocated to:
 - On the ground eradication activities
 - Collaboration activities between government and industry
 - Departmental staff
 - Other activities (specify activity and budget)
2. Where in the department will these funds be managed from?

Answer:

1. The \$95.9 million has been allocated for the Commonwealth's contributions to nationally cost-shared eradication programs.

While funding is not directly allocated to on the ground eradication activities, collaboration activities between government and industry and other activities, under the framework the combat state is required to develop an emergency response plan, which will include details and costings for on the ground eradication activities, stakeholder engagement and communication and other activities.

Affected industry signatories to the Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement or the Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed are also represented on the National Management Group, which is the key decision making body for emergency animal disease and plant pest responses. The other members of the National Management Group are the CEOs of the Commonwealth, state and territory agriculture departments. A responsibility of the National Management Group is the consideration and approval of emergency response plans, including indicative budgets.

None of the \$95.9 million is allocated to departmental staff.

2. The funds will be managed from the Caring for our Country Program.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2012

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: 253

Division/Agency: Biosecurity - Policy Division

Topic: Biosecurity

Proof Hansard page: Written

Senator MacDONALD asked:

The Queensland Government has initiated a system of engagement with primary producers to participate in biosecurity through property/industry registration and self-monitoring for biosecurity threats.

1. What programs does the Commonwealth currently have in place or currently have planned to engage with primary producers in addressing biosecurity challenges?
2. Is the commonwealth engaging with local councils and local communities to better understand both the challenges to biosecurity that are faced in localised areas, as well as the human and infrastructure resources that subsist in these communities that can assist in protecting Australia's biosecurity?
3. What plans does the commonwealth have to address biosecurity risk-management at the local level, and in conjunction with the private sector?

Answer:

The Australian Government works collaboratively with state and territory governments, industry representative bodies and organisations to support and fund programs to build on-farm capability to manage a range of risks, including biosecurity risks.

The Farm Biosecurity campaign (available at <http://www.farmbiosecurity.com.au>) is a joint initiative of Animal Health Australia and Plant Health Australia, managed on behalf of members including the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

The department also works with Animal Health Australia and Plant Health Australia to develop Industry Biosecurity Plans which in turn lead to the development of on-farm biosecurity manuals.

The department has recently completed an 'Engaging in Biosecurity project' to investigate how the community could be best engaged to address biosecurity issues. A key outcome of the project was a National Plant Biosecurity Engagement Framework as well as guidelines, tools and other products that can be used by community groups, non-government organisations, industry and governments to create more effective community engagement on biosecurity issues. This framework is available on the department's website at www.daff.gov.au/animal-plant-health/pests-diseases-weeds/biosecurity/biosecurity-engagement.

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

Question: 275

Division/Agency: Biosecurity - Policy Division
Topic: Branched broomrape management plan
Proof Hansard page: Written

Senator EDWARDS asked:

With reference to the \$625 000 the department has committed to the Branched broomrape plan:

1. When will this funding be made available?
2. Who is the department providing the funding to?
3. What specifically is the funding being provided for?
4. Is this a one off payment?

Answer:

1. The funding will be made available to the Department of Primary Industries Regions SA following receipt of invoices by the department for work completed. The funding will be made in two parts, the first in 2012–13 and the remainder in 2013–14, under a national partnership agreement between the Commonwealth and the state of South Australia.
2. The funding will be provided to the Department of Primary Industries and Regions SA.
3. The funding is being provided to support the branched broomrape transition to management plan. The plan is publicly available on the Primary Industries and Regions SA website at www.pir.sa.gov.au/biosecuritysa/branched_broomrape.
4. Yes, this is a one off payment which will be made in two instalments.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2012

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: 276

Division/Agency: Biosecurity - Policy Division

Topic: Reform of Australia's biosecurity system

Proof Hansard page: Written

Senator EDWARDS asked:

1. With reference to the "*Reform of Australia's biosecurity system – An update since the publication of One biosecurity: a working partnership*":
 - a. Page 15 - "Food Import Compliance Agreements were made available to importers in July 2010 to enable importers who have invested in sound sourcing practices, including through contractual requirements and internal testing arrangements to reduce duplicative regulatory intervention. Participating importers' food safety management systems must be approved, and are then audited at least annually.
 - i. How many importers have participated?
 - ii. How many importers have not participated?
 - iii. Quantify the cost/time/resources that have been saved?
 - b. The department is working with importers and their representatives to develop Biosecurity Management Systems. These will allow reduced levels of screening for importers who can demonstrate that they have effective systems for managing biosecurity risks. By reducing inspections for low risk, highly compliant importers, the department will be able to have a greater focus on higher risk importers and imports."
 - i. Are the new Biosecurity Management Systems less work/money for importers to implement than previous biosecurity measures?
 - ii. How have you quantified this?
 - iii. Provide a real example of the time/money savings that an importer might experience under the new regime
 - c. Page 16 - "The Biosecurity Incident National Communication Network has been strengthened through a reporting line to the National Biosecurity Committee and endorsed terms of reference. The network includes communication managers from all jurisdictions, Animal Health Australia, Plant Health Australia, CSIRO and affected industries. It is used to drive and coordinate communication activities nationally in the event of a biosecurity emergency."

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2012

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: 276 (continued)

- i. On average, how many calls are made per day/year/ever on the reporting line to the National Biosecurity Committee?
 - ii. Who is making the calls? Any industry groups in particular? If one group is making a lot of calls who are they from and what are they about?
 - iii. What are the calls about? Complaints? How are these dealt with?
 - iv. What is the cost of this hotline, how many staff are involved?
- d. “A paperless initiative for air-freight biosecurity screening developed in cooperation with industry came into effect in June 2011. The initiative has seen a shift to electronic documentation for the processing of low value (less than \$1000) air freight items handled by courier companies which has enabled significant efficiencies to industry, the public and the department, estimated to be well in excess of a million dollars per annum.”
 - i. Are there any planned changes to the new system?
 - ii. Has industry made any savings by virtue of the new system?
 - iii. What has been the cost to DAFF of the conversion and is it completed?
- e. Page 19 - “Work on future post entry quarantine arrangements also continues, including refurbishments of current facilities and detailed design work, site acquisition and related procurement activities in partnership with the department of Finance and Deregulation.”
 - i. Provide the work that has been carried out to date?
 - ii. Which sites have been acquired?
 - iii. At what cost?
 - iv. For what purpose? Are there any further costs associated with the acquisition? If so please detail
- f. “Further reforms will focus on: increasing the management of risks offshore enhancing co-regulatory arrangements”
 - i. What “procedures” will be put in place to manage risks offshore? Who is paying?
 - ii. Is there an industry sector which has been prioritised?
 - iii. ‘Co-regulatory arrangements’ – with who? Define the procedures.
- g. Page 34 - 41. “A memorandum of understanding should be developed between the National Biosecurity Commission and the Department of Health and Ageing to cover human health aspects of Biosecurity Import Risk Analyses.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2012

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: 276 (continued)

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry will progress this recommendation now that the Government has decided to retain the biosecurity function within the department.”

- i. What has been present to date with regard to human health and Biosecurity Import Risk Analyses? Why does it need review?
 - ii. How advanced is this memorandum of understanding?
 - iii. Who is responsible for its delivery?
 - iv. What is the deadline?

 - h. Page 38 – 56. “The National Biosecurity Authority should work with state and territory agencies, professional associations and higher education providers to develop a general biosecurity course to be incorporated in health, environmental, marine biology, veterinary and agriculture science curricula. All staff employed in the National Biosecurity Authority should be taught an appropriate adaptation of the general biosecurity course upon commencement of their employment in the agency. The response to this recommendation is ongoing. Departmental staff are provided induction programs that include core training in biosecurity. Several training and post graduate courses have been developed to build capacity and expertise in the field of animal, plant and aquatic biosecurity”
 - i. How many courses incorporate these fields in which the department is seeking to build capacity and expertise?
 - ii. Which qualifications have been deemed suitable in the past?
 - iii. How many staff have done the relevant course?
 - iv. What was the cost and where will this cost be recouped and what value will be provided to industry?
2. With reference to the Biosecurity Industry Roundtable – Summary of discussions document from 14 March 2012: The summary states that it was discussed how Biosecurity can partner to deliver market access. It was further stated that Biosecurity must be “Thinking strategically with a united industry-government voice is fundamental when pursuing new and improved market access opportunities”.
- a. What is the department doing to deliver market access – which industries and where? Who has it partnered with? Which new markets has Biosecurity opened up in the last 6 months?

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2012

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: 276 (continued)

Answer:

1. –
 - a. –
 - i. At of 15 June 2012, seven importers are operating under a food import compliance agreement.
 - ii. The majority of importers have not taken up food import compliance agreements.
 - iii.
 - iv. This is difficult to determine as the cost-benefit of import compliance agreements will vary from business to business.
 - b. –
 - i. The department is seeking to capitalise on industry-developed quality assurance arrangements for low risk quarantine goods and tasks, subject to appropriate audit arrangements.
As these arrangements offer a flexible, outcome based response to the management of biosecurity risks it is expected that importers will benefit from both direct and indirect savings.
A full cost-benefit analysis of import compliance agreements will vary from business to business.
 - c. –
 - i. – iv. The ‘reporting line’ referred to in the description of the Biosecurity Incident National Communication Network’s (NCN) strengthened role is that the NCN reports to the National Biosecurity Committee; it is not a telephone ‘reporting line’ or ‘hotline’.
 - d. –
 - i. Minor enhancements came into effect on 17 June 2012 to automate some previously manual reports.
 - ii. Industry and government savings in excess of \$1 million have been identified.
 - iii. The project cost was \$250 000 and is completed.
 - e. –
 - i. . Refer to Attachment A.
 - ii. iii. and iv.
Refer to
[http://www.maff.gov.au/media_office/media_releases/media_releases/2012/july/\\$400m-quarantine-facility-for-mickleham](http://www.maff.gov.au/media_office/media_releases/media_releases/2012/july/$400m-quarantine-facility-for-mickleham)

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2012

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: 276 (continued)

- f. –
- i. Under the proposed biosecurity legislation there will be a capacity to enter into an approved arrangement with a commercial entity for the purposes of managing biosecurity risk. This will allow industry to manage the biosecurity risks associated with their operations in the most efficient way. This is similar to the existing arrangements for Quarantine Approved Premises. Under approved arrangements commercial entities will be required to meet the requirements set out in the regulations and the applicant must meet a fit and proper person test. A current working example of this type of arrangement is the Sea Container Hygiene System. The system involves the establishment of a port hygiene and container washing system to ensure that containers are clean prior to arrival in Australia and New Zealand.
The costs of these types of arrangements are met by the commercial entity.
 - ii. No.
 - iii. The department has approved arrangements with a number of biosecurity service providers. These are listed on the departmental website at www.daff.gov.au/aqis/import/general-info/qap/qap-facilities/. The procedures are listed at www.daff.gov.au/aqis/import/general-info/qap/.
- g. –
- i-iv The department works with relevant Australian Government departments when completing Import Risk Analyses; including the Department of Health and Ageing when appropriate. Once the Parliament has considered the legislative environment for Australia's biosecurity system, the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry will be pursuing the implementation of the proposed Memorandum of Understanding.
- h. –
- i. The Certificate III in Government is a core component of the biosecurity training program and is designed to assist staff to develop the skills and knowledge required to fulfil the role as a qualified quarantine officer. In addition to the Certificate III and induction courses, two post graduate courses – the Postgraduate Curriculum in Plant Biosecurity and the Master of Veterinary Public Health (Emergency Animal Disease) – and a training program – the Aquatic Animal Health Training Scheme for practicing aquatic animal health professionals – have been developed to date.
 - ii. Suitable qualifications vary depending on the position an officer holds within the department.
 - iii. 639 staff were accredited in certification III level courses in biosecurity related fields over the 2011-12 financial year. In addition, during 2011-12, 555 new staff also undertook the departmental induction course which contains elements of biosecurity training. .
 - iv. The costs of the Certificate III and induction courses are covered by the department. The costs of the post graduate courses will be covered by the

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2012

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

department through its Studybank Program and generally includes a contribution from the participating officer.

2. –

- a. In addition to broader whole-of-government efforts (such as the recent Malaysia Australia Free Trade Agreement which DAFF provides technical support to) the Department has a dedicated Trade and Market Access Division (60 FTEs) along with staff in the Biosecurity plant and animal divisions who work on securing market access for Australian farm produce in export markets. The department also supports an overseas network for 12 agricultural officers in Australian missions in key overseas markets.

A significant outcome in the last 6 months was the conclusion of the Malaysia Australia Free Trade Agreement, which delivers commercially meaningful outcomes for a range of agriculture products – see table. The full text of this agreement can be found at www.dfat.gov.au/fta/mafta/#full-text.

New market access gained since January 2012		
Country	Market access gained	Achievement
Malaysia	<p>Australia and Malaysia signed a comprehensive free trade agreement (FTA) on 22 May 2012.</p> <p>Full text of agreement can be found at http://www.dfat.gov.au/fta/mafta/index.html#full-text</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Malaysian Free Trade agreement delivers important improvements to market access for a range of agricultural portfolio industries. These are:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ annual increases in import volumes of liquid milk at zero tariff;○ the immediate elimination of tariffs on processed foods; and○ the phase out of tariffs on tropical fruit (melons, mangoes, pineapples and longans) by 2016.• The agreement also provides for:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ commercially meaningful improvements in market access for a number of agricultural products including some meat products (through improved quotas, particularly for pork);○ open access arrangements for Australian rice from 2023, allowing importation of retail product;○ the elimination of all tariffs on rice from 2026; and○ a commitment that Australian wine exporters will receive any reduction in tariffs that Malaysia gives to any other country.

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

Question: 276 (continued)

ATTACHMENT A

Quarantine Station	Works Status	Estimated Site Budget
Eastern Creek		\$ 2,832,600
Refurbishment design and specifications	Complete	
Replacement of glasshouse air conditioners	In Progress	
Upgrade of diagnostic laboratory	In Progress	
Additional access road to cat/ dog compound	In Progress	
Repair of kennel drainage system	In Progress	
Quarantine Station		Estimated Site Budget
Knoxfield		\$ 3,048,400
Refurbishment design and specifications	Complete	
Replacement of glasshouse air conditioners	In Progress	
Office refurbishment	In Progress	
Refurbishment of diagnostic laboratory	In Progress	
Byford		\$ 715,400
Establishment of bushfire protection zones	Complete	\$ 100,000
Replacement of air conditioning	Complete	\$ 30,000
Kennel/ Office Refurbishments	In Progress	\$ 250,000
Torrens Island		\$ 2,213,300
Air handling system upgrade	Complete	\$ 185,000
Refurbishment of internal flooring	Complete	\$ 7,000
Refurbishment of waste water tank	Complete	\$ 30,000
New Incubators	Complete	\$ 60,000
Upgrade to electrical system	Complete	\$ 20,000
Office refurbishment	Complete	\$ 15,000
Autoclave replacement	Pre Tender	\$ 500,000
Spotswood		\$ 849,800
Avian facility refurbishment	Complete	\$ 52,500
Kennel refurbishment	Complete	\$ 160,000
Horse stables upgrade	Complete	\$ 52,500
Autoclave replacement	Pre Tender	\$ 265,000
New Diagnostic Equipment		\$ 1,448,925
Laboratory Diagnostics Equipment	Orders Placed	\$ 665,000
Transmission Electron Microscope	Orders Placed	\$ 620,000
Scanning Electron Microscope	Orders Placed	\$ 180,000
Total		\$ 11,108,425

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2012

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: 295

Division/Agency: Biosecurity – Policy Division

Topic: Equine influenza

Proof Hansard page: Written

Senator NASH asked:

In response to the equine influenza outbreak, Dr Stuart Barber a lecturer in veterinary science at the University of Melbourne is publicly urging farmers to implement their own biosecurity protocols/plans for their individual properties. Is any of the funding going to be allocated to support farmers implement any of the recommendations of Dr Barber

Answer:

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry is not aware of the funding referred to in the question.