

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

Question: 113

Division/Agency: Agricultural Productivity Division/Australian Livestock Export Corporation Ltd

Topic: Information on the Australian Livestock Export Corporation Ltd web site

Proof Hansard page: 104 (22/05/2012)

Senator RHIANNON asked:

Senator RHIANNON: I am specifically after the strategic plan and the annual operating plan. Does that mean they are viewing the old versions of it or the new versions, or what you are currently working on?

Mr Brown: Most likely the old versions.

Senator RHIANNON: Most likely?

Mr Brown: Yes.

Senator RHIANNON: Can you confirm that?

Mr Brown: I will take that on notice.

Answer:

The Australian Livestock Export Corporation Ltd is in the process of reviewing the 2010–14 (current) Strategic Plan. Amendments are required to reflect the recent changes to the regulations governing the industry.

The 2012–13 Annual Operating Plan is under development and will be made available to the Minister, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and stakeholders upon approval by the Australian Livestock Export Corporation Ltd Board.

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Question: 114

Division/Agency: Agricultural Productivity Division/Australian Livestock Export Corporation Ltd

Topic: Health and welfare outcomes and negotiations of funding agreements

Proof Hansard page: 105 (22/05/2012)

Senator RHIANNON asked:

Senator RHIANNON: Thank you. Your statutory funding agreement states that the plans and spending priorities ‘must foster the development of best-practice animal health and welfare outcomes’ and ‘result in continuous improvement in animal health and welfare outcomes’. I picked that up when I was looking at your material. How do you measure those animal health and welfare outcomes?

Mr Brown: Health and welfare outcomes? I would have to be perfectly honest with you. I am actually new in this role. I have been here for two months and there is a lot of material I need to get across. I would gladly take that particular question on notice and get back to you about those particular KPIs.

Senator RHIANNON: Yes, fair enough. If you have only been there two months, it is hard. Just to spell out what I am really trying to understand, it is that the development of best-practice animal health and welfare outcomes sounds really good, but so often these days we read the fine words but it is not actually clear how it plays out. How is it measured and then, if that is not being achieved, how do you then work to achieve it? How do you make what is a fine statement actually real? That is in your funding agreement. What I would then be interested in is, when you are negotiating your funding agreement, how do you give consideration to those specific points?

Answer:

The Australian Livestock Export Corporation Ltd meets its commitment to ongoing improvements in best-practice animal health and welfare outcomes in both planning and budget priorities. Key performance indicators to measure these outcomes include:

- Reduced mortality of livestock through the development of new innovations, improved practices and procedures.
- Increased number of people with improved livestock animal welfare skills.
- Increased adherence to standard operating procedures and work instructions.
- Improved effectiveness of training and education programs across animal health and welfare issues.
- Development of training material

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

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Question: 115

Division/Agency: Agricultural Productivity Division/Australian Livestock Export Corporation Ltd

Topic: Animal welfare skills of Livecorp board members

Proof Hansard page: 106 (22/05/2012)

Senator RHIANNON asked:

Senator RHIANNON: Considering this emphasis on a skills based board, and that is certainly what you read about when you are looking into LiveCorp, could you take on notice and provide the committee information about your board members: what their skills are and those that have skills in animal welfare.

Mr Uebergang: That is in the annual report.

Senator RHIANNON: What their skills are?

Mr Uebergang: Yes.

Senator RHIANNON: Spelling out what their animal welfare skills are?

Mr Uebergang: Not specifically their animal welfare skills but their general skills.

Senator RHIANNON: That is what I am asking: if you could take it on notice to provide the committee with the board members who have skills in animal welfare.

Mr Brown: I can provide you with a copy of the skill sets as stated in our constitution and the SFA that does have details about knowledge of animal welfare, transport and the live export industry.

Senator RHIANNON: That sounds like a general statement. I was interested in the skills of the specific members so that we have an understanding that people with animal welfare interests are represented on the board.

Mr Uebergang: We would be pleased to provide that.

Answer:

The skills required of LiveCorp board members are specified in the LiveCorp Constitution and Statutory Funding Agreement (2010–14) between the Commonwealth and LiveCorp. The Board of Directors must demonstrate collective expertise in the following:

- a) corporate governance
- b) livestock management and welfare
- c) transportation of livestock
- d) international market development, international trade or the World Trade Organisation
- e) R&D, technology, technology transfer, commercialisation and adoption
- f) product promotion and finance and business management.

LiveCorp has seven board members. Six of them have had lengthy careers in animal production or animal husbandry which brings with it an understanding of animal health and welfare. Two of the six are veterinarians. These experiences and skills enable them to provide technical advice on animal health and welfare.

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Question: 115 (continued)

Dr Raoul Nieper AM is a veterinarian and was for 13 years the Chairman of Animal Health Australia. He has a demonstrated commitment to animal welfare issues and a sound understanding of the live export industry.

Mr David Galvin is the CEO of the Indigenous Land Corporation (ILC). The ILC is a beef producer with pastoral holdings on indigenous land in Northern Australia and Tasmania.

Dr David Jarvie is a veterinarian with 34 years experience in livestock export, meat and stockfeed manufacturing industries. He is currently Group Veterinarian with Wellard Rural Exports and General Manager Wellard Feeds Pty Ltd.

Mr David Uebergang has been for 20 years the Livestock Export Manager for Elders International Australia Limited.

Mr Malcolm Foster has worked in the meat and livestock industry for over 35 years. He has been a director of the Australian Lot Feeders Association since 1993 and is the Chairman of the National Feedlot Accreditation Scheme.

Mr Terry Enright is a primary producer in the south of Western Australia with a successful farming operation in sheep, beef cattle and grain. He chaired the Grains Research and Development Corporation for five years and the Council of Rural Research Corporations for four years. He is a Director of the Crawford Fund associated with international agriculture research in the developing world.