

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2013

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: 13

Division/Agency: Agricultural Productivity Division/Australian Egg Corporation Limited

Topic: Waste Efficiency

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Senator COLBECK asked:

Senator COLBECK: So is there any sense around what the conversion rates, or the efficiency rates, of the waste might be—from the work that has been done so far?

Mr Kellaway: I would have to take that question on notice.

Answer:

The annual energy capacity rates are expected to be in the order of 57 to 88 MW for the estimated 1.6 million m³ of poultry litter produced by the Australian egg industry each year (A scoping study of egg and litter disposal options, Harris, A. The University of Sydney, 2007). More recently, the Australian Egg Corporation Limited (AECL) reviewed anaerobic digestion of spent hens (Assessment of anaerobic digestion for the disposal of end-of-life laying hens, Harris A. The University of Sydney, 2011). The analysis suggested that one tonne of organic matter, with a solids composition of 23 per cent, would generate 890 MJ (247 kWh) of electricity and 780 MJ of heat (within a 25 per cent variation).