

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates May 2013
Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: 80

Division/Agency: Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences

Topic: Wild Dogs

Proof Hansard page: 114-115 (27/05/2013)

Senator BACK asked:

Mr Morris: I might start off on this and then hand over to one of my colleagues, who can add a bit more detail. ABARES is doing some work directly on the wild dog issue, which I think we mentioned last time and also in a response to a question on notice. As well, we fund work under the Australian Pest Animal Research Program. So it is a combination of those two things.

In terms of the work that ABARES is doing, a report should be published in the next few weeks on some of the socioeconomic impacts of wild dog management in Australia. Some of the results of that research has been previously released at conferences and things like that in preparation for this, and you may have seen some of it reported in the media recently, particularly around the stress that farmers feel about having their animals attacked by wild dogs. So we are looking at both the economic impacts of the costs of wild dogs and the psychological impacts on farm families, because I think both are very important.

The other element of our work, as I mentioned, is what we fund under the Australian Pest Animal Research Program. The government has been funding that program for quite a number of years. In the latest incarnation of that program, since 2008, around \$700,000 a year has gone into that program, of which a proportion goes into wild dogs research and potential management techniques that can be applied. I think at the last estimates we provided you with some details of the research projects that were being undertaken under that program. On notice, we would be happy to provide an updated list, but I think it is pretty similar to what you received previously. I will hand over to my colleague, Ms Elliston, to see whether there is anything further that we could add on that question.

Answer:

There has been no change since the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES) provided you with a list of projects tabled on the day of the February 2013 estimates hearing and additional information as a response to QoN 53 (ABARES) from the February 2013 estimates.

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Division/Agency: Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences

Topic: Plantations

Proof Hansard page: 117 (27/05/2013)

Senator COLBECK asked:

Mr Morris: We have quite a number of publications coming out shortly on issues relevant to what you were talking about there. The main one in terms of plantations is the 2013 update of Australian plantation statistics. That is due for release in early June, so very shortly. That will contain data up to June 2012. We also have our Australian forest and wood product statistics for the September and December quarters of 2012 coming out shortly as well. In addition, at the moment we are working on long-term forecasting models for consumption and production and trade of major wood products. Those forecasts go out to around about 2050, I believe. That is looking at the demand side.

In terms of plantation numbers, there are already quite a lot of statistics that we have published previously on that. Our previous figures obviously show the quite significant decline in new plantation areas over the last few years. That is going to be reflected in terms of wood supply going forward. As I understand it, wood supply from plantations continues to rise quite significantly out to around about 2030 or 2035 or thereabouts. Then we start to see some easing off of wood supply from plantations due to that sort of easing off of new growth areas. But we could certainly provide you with some more detailed figures on that if you are interested.

Answer:

The Australian Bureau of Agriculture and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES) published on 16 May 2012, the *Australia's plantation log supply 2010-2054* report, which forecasts the volume of plantations logs available for timber production. The volume of plantation logs available for timber production is forecast to increase from nearly 26 million cubic metres per year in the 2010-14 period to reach an annual peak of around 33 million cubic metres in the 2030-34 period before easing off to around 31 million cubic metres out to 2050. These forecasts were based on the assumption implicit in plantation manager's survey responses that all harvested areas will be replanted.

ABARES is currently working on long-term forecasting models for consumption, production and trade of major wood products to provide further insights into the future of the forestry sector.