

**Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2008

**Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry**

**Question:** MS 01

**Division/Agency:** Management Services

**Topic:** 2007-08 DAFF Annual Report tabling

**Hansard Page:** 5 (20/10/08)

**Senator Colbeck asked:**

**Senator COLBECK**—Can I ask when the minister signed it off? Do you have that information?

**Mr Pahl**—Senator, I can get that information this morning for you, I just do not have it right at this moment. I will get someone to check and we will give you that information later on in the morning.

**Senator COLBECK**—Thank you.

**Answer:**

The Minister reviewed the draft of the DAFF Annual Report and agreed to the tabling of the report prior to 31 October 2008 on 30 September 2008. The report was then sent to the printers on 2 October.

The timeframe for having the print proof produced, corrected and amended by the printers was 3 October to 13 October. A press check was conducted on 16 October, when errors in the table of contents were discovered. The errors were corrected and printing of the report commenced 16 October.

The print run of the report was completed on Monday, 20 October for delivery to the Parliament House loading dock by 2.30 pm on that day.

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**Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry**

**Question:** MS 02

**Division/Agency:** Management Services

**Topic:** 2007-08 program underspends

**Hansard Page:** 10 (20/10/2008)

**Senator Colbeck asked:**

**Senator COLBECK**—How many of your programs were under spent during the 2007-08 year?

**Mr Pahl**—I do not know that I have that. I will probably have to take that one on notice. Ms Berry might have it.

**Ms Berry**—I do not have the number as such, but we can take that on notice and actually get it back to you this morning.

**Answer:**

There were 48 administered programs with underspends in 2007-08.

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**Question:** MS 03

**Division/Agency:** Management Services

**Topic:** Frequent Flyer Points

**Hansard Page:** 13 (20/10/08)

**Senator Adams asked:**

**Senator ADAMS**—Thank you. Coming back to a question asked, Mr Pahl, about the frequent flyers and your efficiency dividend, you did say that you were going to go back and look at that when you were reviewing the travel areas. How many frequent flyer points have been used by your staff for government business since budget estimates in May?

**Mr Pahl**—I don't have that, but I can certainly get it for you.

**Senator ADAMS**—As pertaining to your efficiency dividend and the work you were going to do on travel?

**Mr Pahl**—Certainly we can get the number of points that have been used for official travel for you.

**Senator ADAMS**—And the number of people that have used them.

**Mr Pahl**—Okay, so the number of staff and the number of points?

**Answer:**

The department is unable to access the information required to answer this question due to the airline's privacy statement, as it is an arrangement between the staff member and the airline, not the department. The department's chief executive instructions prohibit the use of accumulated points from official travel for personal use.

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**Question:** MS 04

**Division/Agency:** Management Services

**Topic:** Research and Development Funding

**Hansard Page:** 17 (20/10/08)

**Senator Heffernan asked:**

**Senator Sherry**—Are we taking a question on notice that goes to 10-year funding?

**CHAIR**—I am trying to try to find out.

**Senator HEFFERNAN**—A 10-year snapshot.

**Senator Sherry**—Okay, so will take that on notice.

**Answer:**

The following table provides a breakdown of commonwealth levy matching contribution to Levy Recipient Bodies since 1999/2000.

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MS 04 Attachment

Act	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009 f
<i>Australian Meat &amp; Livestock Act 1997</i> - MLA Research	20,184	16,558	23,498	26,304	33,077	39,643	40,370	37,576	37,060	39,000
<i>Australian Wool Research &amp; Promotion Organisation Act 1993</i> <sup>3</sup>	6,934									
<i>Dairy Produce Act 1986</i> - Dairy					16,400	14,533	15,359	15,998	18,297	18,650
<i>Egg Industry Service Provision Act 2002</i>				441	1,133	760	802	829	827	808
<i>Forestry Marketing and Research and Development Services Act 2007</i>									8,648	8,472
<i>Horticultural Marketing and Research and Development Services Act 2000</i>			29,464	30,185	35,120	32,876	33,505	33,990	35,114	37,100
<i>Horticultural Research and Development Corporation Act 1987</i> <sup>1</sup>	15,652	9,406								
<i>Pig Industry Act 2001</i> <sup>2</sup>			3,303	3,893	4,097	4,584	3,874	3,328	3,589	4,566
<i>Primary Industries &amp; Energy Research and Development Act 1989</i> - Cotton Research and Development Corporation	6,431	6,693	6,785	6,704	6,080	4,083	6,033	4,577	3,128	2,952
- Dairy Research and Development <sup>4</sup>	13,745	14,702	14,241	14,128						
- Dried Fruits Research and Development				309						
- Fisheries Research and Development Corporation			38	118	133	3,826	16,081	15,971	16,287	15,858
- Forest & Wood Products Research and Development Corporation			2,029	2,924	3,886	2,971	2,988	3,062	0	0
- Grains Research and Development Corporation - Grains - Wheat	19,124	20,679	22,170	23,493	25,418	21,445	25,839	21,461	22,572	27,929
- Grains Research and Development Corporation - Other		13,786	18,607	15,662	16,945	14,297	17,226	14,307	15,048	19,074

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Grains	12,749									
- Grape and Wine Research and Development Corporation	4,502	4,714	6,104	7,610	7,678	7,328	12,158	14,515	11,356	13,400
- Pig Research and Development	3,647	3,542								
- Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation	3,757	1,276	5,626	2,997	3,364	1,559	2,580	2,710	2,690	2,609
- Sugar Research and Development Corporation	5,067	4,389	4,121	4,433	4,608	4,562	4,766	5,308	5,282	5,010
- Tobacco Research and Development		508	5	235	232					
<i>Wool Services Privatisation Act 2000</i> <sup>3</sup>		4,114	22,516	16,170	14,124	13,513	11,048	11,572	12,312	12,220
<b>Total</b>	111,792	100,367	158,507	155,606	172,295	165,980	192,629	185,204	192,210	207,648

**Note 1:** The Australian Horticultural Corporation and the Horticultural Research and Development Corporation were privatised as Horticulture Australia Ltd in February 2001.

**Note 2:** The Pig Research and Development Corporation, the Australian Pork Corporation and the Pork Council of Australia were privatised as Australian Pork Ltd in July 2001.

**Note 3:** The Australian Wool Research and Promotion organisation was privatised on 1 January 2001 to form Australian Wool Innovation Pty Ltd.

**Note 4:** The Australian Dairy Research and Development Corporation and The Australian Dairy Corporation were privatised in July 2003.

**Note 5: f – Levies Revenue Service forecast**

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**Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry**

**Question:** MS 05

**Division/Agency:** Management Services

**Topic:** Efficiency Dividend

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator WILLIAMS asked:**

What programmes have been cut as a result of the 4% efficiency dividend which the government demanded the Department meet this year?

**Answer:**

Nil.

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**Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry**

**Question:** MS 06

**Division/Agency:** Management Services

**Topic:** Staff Information

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Williams asked:**

What is the current FTE for the department? (provide a yearly breakdown for 2005/06, 2006/07, 2007/08 and 2008/09)

**Answer:**

The Full Time Equivalent (FTE) number for the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry as at 30 June of each year is shown in the table below. The figure for 2008/09 is up to and including 7 November 2008.

<b>As at date (FY)</b>	<b>FTE</b>
30/6/2006 (05/06)	4223.2
30/6/2007 (06/07)	4425.2
30/6/2008 (07/08)	4525.9
7/11/2008 (08/09)	4601.5

Note: Figures shown do not include Office Holders or staff on leave without pay for more than 2 weeks.



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**Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry**

**Question:** MS 07

**Division/Agency:** Management Services

**Topic:** Research and Development

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Williams asked:**

1. What has been the impact of the Drought and reduced production on levies collected by various commodity groups?
2. Please provide a breakdown for each commodity group for the past five years and the estimate levy collection for 2008/09?

**Answer:**

1. There are several antecedents to fluctuations seen in levies collected from commodity groups. Variability in levy collections can be attributed to a range of factors such as levy rate changes, increases or decreases in production arising out of seasonal factors like drought, or an increase or decrease in price due to economic activity impacting on demand and supply.

Overall, from the commodity groups selected in the attached table, the levy collections over the past five years have remained relatively stable. Impacts on individual levies vary from industry to industry according to the geographical distribution of the industry, seasonal conditions and changes in the global market for that commodity.

Levies may be imposed in different ways, for example, dollars per bale (cotton) or value-based, such as a percentage of sales value (grains). The levies based on unit values are more likely to be affected by seasonal factors, while those levies imposed as an ad valorem levy are less likely to be affected. The two commodities impacted directly by drought over the past five years are cotton and rice; however, it is common for both these commodities to fluctuate significantly between financial years. The significant increase in rice in 2006-2007 was attributed to a levy rate increase and good seasonal factors.

In recent years, the drought has reduced levy income and the capacity of some statutory research and development (R&D) corporations and industry-owned companies (RDCs) to invest in rural R&D over the short term. However, we are likely to see increased levy revenue where commodity prices have improved as a result of global market conditions, and more generally when seasonal conditions improve. The RDCs adjust their research expenditure according to their income and use reserve funds where needed to deliver research outcomes according to industry and national research priority.

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**Question: MS 07 (continued)**

The government recognises the potential impact drought may have on industry capability to invest in research and has responded through the *Australia's Farming Future* initiative, which is providing \$130 million over four years to help our primary producers adapt and adjust to the impacts of climate change. One component of the initiative, the Climate Change Research Program (\$46.2million), will invest in the leading edge research and development that is needed to reduce greenhouse gas pollution; improve soil management; and help farmers adapt to a changing climate.

2. Levy Collection by Commodity

Commodity	2003-2004 \$'000	2004-2005 \$'000	2005-2006 \$'000	2006-2007 \$'000	2007-2008 \$'000	2008-2009 \$'000
Chicken	5,183	5,943	5,445	5,637	5,695	5,287
Cotton	2,569	4,646	6,743	4,216	1,990	1,742
Dairy	32,467	32,512	32,337	31,363	28,356	28,684
Dairy Adjustment	219,426	227,443	230,736	246,103	228,038	233,055
Forestry	3,904	3,787	3,738	3,655	4,680	4,991
Grains	28,705	24,925	26,566	23,970	37,432	33,844
Horticulture	28,220	28,133	38,656	24,250	38,414	30,652
Meat and Livestock	80,690	82,710	93,612	111,323	123,160	119,636
Other	565	601	525	576	429	351
Pig	14,047	13,282	12,892	13,025	13,399	13,733
Rice	1,143	1,063	619	3,137	501	21
Sugar Cane	5,186	5,244	5,422	5,050	4,823	5,356
Wheat	41,352	40,660	36,047	28,355	41,427	42,162
Wheat Export	2,421	3,594	2,847	2,936	715	-
Wine	12,128	15,505	19,688	19,481	15,445	15,438
Wool	42,739	42,835	38,359	46,526	45,110	41,700
<b>Total</b>	<b>520,743</b>	<b>532,881</b>	<b>554,232</b>	<b>569,602</b>	<b>589,615</b>	<b>576,652</b>

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**Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry**

**Question:** MS 08

**Division/Agency:** Management Services

**Topic:** Research and Development Corporation Budget

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Williams asked:**

Please provide the correlating government expenditure and funding for Research and Development Corporations for each of the previous five years and the estimated expenditure of 2008/09?

**Answer:**

Please see question MS 04