



Australian Government

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Ms Jeanette Radcliffe
Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Ms Radcliffe

In the course of preparing a response to a question on notice arising from the Additional Senate Estimates Hearing, conducted on February 2010, the department has determined that a response provided to a question on notice CPD 21 in October 2009, regarding costs associated with a Biofuels review, was inaccurate.

The department has now determined that ABARE costs associated with the review were not fully included with the response in October 2009. Question on notice CPD21 was framed in terms of the reviews (or similar) done in the Department in the period 2008-09.

The original response on biofuels included the costs incurred during the 2008-09 financial year. However, the review was commenced in 2007-08 and incurred additional costs in that year, which were not reported.

This has been updated in the context of the 6 February 2010 Additional Estimates hearings. Attachment A, reporting the cost of the entire review, provides our correction of CPD21 from the Supplementary Budget Estimates hearings in October 2009 for the consideration of the committee.

I apologise for the incorrect information supplied to the committee and for any misunderstanding that may have arisen. It would be appreciated if this correction could be brought to the attention of the members of the Committee.

If you have any queries on this matter, please contact me on 6272 2100.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P Glyde'.

Phillip Glyde
Deputy Secretary

22 June 2010

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2009
Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: CPD 21

Division/Agency: Corporate Policy Division

Topic: Reviews

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Colbeck asked:

1. How many reviews (or similar) did the Department conduct in the period 2008-2009?
2. And currently? Broken down by review title and dates of start and end (if any).
3. What was the total cost of each of these reviews?
4. What is the budgeted cost for any incomplete or ongoing reviews?

Answer:

The following major policy reviews were conducted (commenced, completed or underway) in the period 2008-2009 financial year:

Review title	1994 National Recreational Fishing Policy Review
Start date	May 2008
Anticipated end date	30 June 2011
Budgeted cost	\$2 million

Review title	2008 Dairy Quota Review
Start date	April 2008
End date	8 October 2009
Cost	\$420,000

Review title	Drought Policy Review
Start date	23 April 2008
End date	May 2009
Budgeted cost	\$3.877 million

Review title	Feasibility of alternatives to the cancellation provisions under the Fisheries Management Act 1991
Start date	June 2008
Anticipated end date	30 June 2010
Budgeted cost	Approximately \$132,500

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Question: CPD 21 (continued)

Review title	Internal government review of biofuels policy
Start date	Announced May 2008
End date	Under consideration by government
Cost	\$62,891

Review title	Primary Industries Ministerial Council Equine Influenza Expert Review Panel (PIMC EI)
Start date	Review commissioned by PIMC in November 2008 and commenced January 2009
End date	Report received in October 2009 and remains under PIMC consideration
Budgeted cost	Total budgeted cost of \$330,500. Of this, an estimated \$315,000 will be shared by the Commonwealth and states in accordance with an agreed ministerial council formula

Review title	Review of Quarantine and Biosecurity Arrangements (Beale Review)
Start date	February 2008
End date	30 September 2008
Cost	\$1,743,213

Review title	Review of the Sugar Industry Reform Program (SIRP) 2004 to 2008
Start date	April 2008
Anticipated end date	December 2009
Budgeted cost	\$320,000

Review title	Review of testing protocols of imported seafood
Start date	May 2009
Anticipated end date	9 December 2009
Budgeted cost	\$57,860

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Additional Estimates February 2010

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: CPD06

Division/Agency: Corporate Policy Division

Topic: Reviews

Hansard Page: Written (08/02/2010)

Senator Barnett asked:

1. How many Reviews are currently being undertaken in the portfolio/agency or affecting the portfolio agency?
2. When will each of these reviews be concluded?
3. Which Reviews have been completed since Budget Estimates?
4. When will the Government be responding to the respective reviews that have been completed?
5. What is the total number of Reviews *both completed and ongoing* in the portfolio/agency or affecting the portfolio agency since November 2007?
6. What is the estimated cost of these Reviews?
7. What further reviews are planned for 2009 - 10 FY?

Answer:

Questions 1, 2, 5, 6: current reviews

Eight major policy reviews are currently being undertaken in the portfolio. These reviews, their anticipated dates of conclusion and their estimated cost are as follows:

Review Title	Anticipated End Date	Estimated Cost
Primary Industries Ministerial Council Equine Influenza Expert Review Panel (PIMC EI).	Report received in October 2009 and remains under PIMC consideration.	\$330 500. Of this, an estimated \$320 000 will be shared by the Commonwealth and states in accordance with an agreed ministerial council formula.
Internal government review of biofuels policy. Joint review by DAFF and Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism (DRET). DRET has policy lead for this review.	Under consideration by government.	\$109 615 (DAFF costs)
Review of the Sugar Industry Reform Program (SIRP) 2004 to 2008.	May 2010	\$320 000

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Review Title	Anticipated End Date	Estimated Cost
DAFF and Department of Finance and Deregulation: Efficiency & Effectiveness Review of the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority.	June 2010	\$49 500 (DAFF will meet the cost of the review.)
Feasibility of alternatives to the cancellation provisions under the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1991</i> .	30 June 2010	Approximately \$132 500
Wheat Export Marketing Arrangements - Public Inquiry.	1 July 2010	The review is being undertaken by the Productivity Commission at nil cost to the department.
Review and revision of the 2004 National Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks.	17 January 2011	\$141 938.50
1994 National Recreational Fishing Policy Review.	30 June 2011	\$2 million

3. Three reviews have been completed since Budget Estimates in May 2009—the review of testing protocols of imported seafood, the 2008 Dairy Quota Review and the Drought Policy Review.

4. Responding to reviews is a matter for the government.

5. Twelve reviews were either completed or ongoing since November 2007.

6. Four major policy reviews have been completed since November 2007. These reviews, their dates of conclusion and their estimated cost are as follows:

Review Title	End Date	Estimated Cost
Review of testing protocols of imported seafood.	22 December 2009	\$57 860
2008 Dairy Quota Review.	8 October 2009	\$420 000
Drought Policy Review.	May 2009	\$3.877 million
Review of Quarantine and Biosecurity Arrangements (Beale Review).	30 September 2008	\$1 743 213

7. No further reviews are planned for 2009-10.