

## Questions on Notice (Hansard and Written) Supplementary Budget Estimates 2009-2010

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Portfolio  
Monday 19 October 2009 and Tuesday 27 October 2009

QON No.	Date Asked	Hansard page reference/ Written	Senator	Question
ABARE 01	19/10/09	93-94	Adams	<p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—I think I mentioned before that there is, if you like, an element of signal to noise to try to work through here, to the degree that there is a whole lot of other factors that come into play in terms of debt levels and consolidation of farms, as you suggest. All of that would need to be worked through. Certainly ABARE has been looking at the broad issue in terms of its surveys, trying to get an understanding of the status of the farming business in terms of prices of property, debt levels and other things, as it normally does in its business. A lot of work would need to be done in that area.</p> <p><b>Mr Glyde</b>—If you are interested, we could provide you with the basic historical material. We survey on a regular basis, so we have information about levels of debt and the extent of land purchases and things like that. We do survey the sorts of issues that you were talking about and we do describe them as they go forward. As Dr O’Connell says, they are complex enough in their own right. We have not looked at how they build on the climate change work. That is why it is often easier to model out to 2030 than to model what is going to happen next year. We would be more than happy to provide that to you, if you like.</p> <p><b>Senator ADAMS</b>—Yes. I would appreciate that. Where I am coming from is not from the top down but from the bottom up. This is involving people and these are our communities that we represent. At the moment, as I said, there is uncertainty. I am not playing politics here. I am just really concerned about where we are going</p>
ABARE 02	19/10/09	94	Adams	<p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—The issues that you are raising are not ones that the sort of modelling that ABARE is looking at can address. ABARE is not looking at that scale or timing.</p> <p><b>Senator ADAMS</b>—But the problem is that the overall policy is going to affect these people, and that is really where I was coming from. Is anyone doing that sort of modelling? You are doing surveys. But is anyone else doing modelling that I can get information from?</p> <p><b>Mr Glyde</b>—Not that I am aware of. I can take that on notice and have a look around to see if any of the universities are doing anything. We could have a look to see if there is anything like that. I am not aware of anything like that.</p>
ABARE 03	19/10/09	94	Williams	<p><b>Mr Glyde</b>—We have done two pieces of work, as I mentioned earlier. We have done long-term work that looked at each of the sectors and broadacre as a whole. Similarly, we have done short-term work that has broken that down by sector as well.</p> <p><b>Senator WILLIAMS</b>—Can you give me offhand some of the results of that work? Do you have</p>

				<p>any results there?</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—Those are covered by the same report with all the same discussion around that being a spreadsheet based exercise.</p> <p><b>Mr Glyde</b>—I would be happy to draw out the relevant tables and send them to you, if that would help—</p> <p><b>Senator WILLIAMS</b>—That would be good, thanks.</p>
ABARE 04	19/10/09	95	Wiliams	<p><b>Mr Glyde</b>—We have done some research in the past where we looked at, as Mr Quinlivan mentioned earlier, what the carbon price would have to be before you saw a change in land use from an agricultural land use to a forestry land use. Again, I would be happy to provide the specifics on notice. I just do not have them to hand. But we published some work—</p> <p><b>Senator WILLIAMS</b>—You are referring to the price of carbon.</p> <p><b>Mr Glyde</b>—Yes.</p> <p><b>Senator WILLIAMS</b>—At what level would the price of carbon have to go to where farmers would be better off planting trees than growing food?</p> <p><b>Mr Glyde</b>—That is exactly right.</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—We have had some discussions at previous estimates. We can pull out the information that was relevant then. I do not think there is anything new that has been done. So we can update what we were previously provided.</p>
ABARE 05	19/10/09	95-96	Nash	<p><b>Senator NASH</b>—The department very kindly replied to a question on notice from me from the last estimates around the debt burden and indicated that rural indebtedness was around \$58.2 billion in 2007-08, which was an increase of 175 per cent over that decade. From 2006-07 to 2007-08 the debt burden on agriculture increased by around \$7 billion. I am just interested in what work ABARE may have done or may not have done in terms of what that debt load means to the sustainability of regional communities and the viability of farmers.</p> <p><b>Mr Glyde</b>—As I mentioned earlier on, we do collect that data in terms of level of indebtedness. Someone might be able to help me.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—If you do not do it, that is fine. I am just trying to ascertain if you do or not or if anybody does.</p> <p><b>Mr Glyde</b>—We also collect information in relation to the purpose for which that debt has been got. So we will have some understanding of the purpose to it. Debt is not all bad and people borrow in order to invest in their properties. You need to get an understanding of the nature of the debt.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—Sorry, I cannot hear. You were saying you did have that additional information?</p> <p><b>Mr Glyde</b>—We have some information. I do not know whether it is sufficient to completely answer your question.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—In the interests of time, I am very happy if you would like to take that on notice and supply any of that information that you have got and if ABARE does have any view having looked at that additional information on how serious that debt load is in terms of future sustainability.</p>

ABARE 06	19/10/09	97	Colbeck	<p><b>Dr Penn</b>—In formulating our commodity forecast for the September quarter we assumed the value of the Australian dollar was an average US83c for the financial year as a whole. We do not make any assumptions for point value of the Australian dollar. We only make assumptions in terms of the average for the financial year. So far in this financial year the Australian dollar has averaged around US84c but currently it is trading at around US91c. Over the past few weeks the value of the Australian dollar has appreciated very significantly.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—In the March quarter, for example, what was the assumption that you made for the out year on that and the previous quarter before that?</p> <p><b>Dr Penn</b>—I can provide you with some answers on notice. I know that we have been progressively increasing our exchange rate assumptions. When we were formulating our exchange rate assumptions for the March quarter, at that time the Australian dollar was trading significantly below US80c. It would not have been practical, given the difficulties in forecasting the exchange rate—we would have assumptions which would have given a lower value for the Australian dollar.</p>
ABARE 07	19/10/09	114 & 124	Nash	<p><b>Senator NASH</b>—Dr O’Connell, we had a discussion at the last estimates around marginal land and the definition of ‘marginal land’. It was quite a lengthy discussion—I think it was also with Mr Glyde—at a very late hour of the evening.</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—I suspect it was Mr Glyde, yes.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—But we did have an exchange about the definition, and there was some confusion around the different types: whether we were talking about physical marginal land, where you cannot do X, Y or Z sorts of things, or whether it was economically marginal. At the time, you did agree that there should be some attention given to the terminology and some work to be done on that. I wondered if the department did, indeed, follow on from your thoughts of last estimates and do some work in terms of clarifying that definition of ‘marginal land’ which you so kindly agreed to look at.</p> <p><b>Mr Glyde</b>—We did provide an answer to that, but I do not have it with me. Rest assured we are onto it.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—Thank you. Could you give me a rough time frame for how long you think it might take you to do some determination in regard to the terminology?</p> <p><b>Mr Glyde</b>—I would like to review the answer that we provided to the previous question before I give that. I am struggling to remember exactly where we got to on that issue, so perhaps I can come back to you—we will be here for a while tonight after BRS has finished—and give you a precise answer.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—That would be good. If you cannot do that tonight—and I would hope that you could— perhaps you could take on notice to come back to the committee as soon as possible with a time frame for a determination around the terminology</p> <p><b>Mr Glyde</b>—Senator Nash asked me to follow up on a question in relation to the definition of ‘marginal land’. I need to ask Senator Nash a clarifying question, if that is okay.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—Please do.</p> <p><b>Mr Glyde</b>—We have had the opportunity to go back and look at the answers that we provided,</p>

				<p>both in May and in February, in relation to your question. We provided maps, as requested in the question on notice, to demonstrate where the areas of marginal land were referred to in the ABARE modelling. I understand what you now would like to see is actually a definition of what ABARE used and how it describes 'marginal land'.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—Exactly.</p> <p><b>Mr Glyde</b>—We will come back on that basis.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—When we had the discussion last time, you were not able to get a proper definition of 'marginal land' because there were both capacities of 'marginal land'—in terms of use of that land and also land that was economically marginal.</p>
ABARE 08	N/A	Written	Nash	<p>In a media conference with the Minister for Climate Change and Water, on the 25<sup>th</sup> February 2009, The Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, stated; <i>'Now, the Government has always acknowledged that you do need to have some land-use change, and that will be an implication and an outcome of the White Paper. But our advice has always been that we'd be looking at marginal land.'</i> The Minister also stated; <i>'The advice that came back to me was that under the White Paper and the proposals that are there, prime agricultural land would not be at threat. It would be marginal land, where the economics stacked up, for people to be looking at doing more tree-planting.'</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What will be the 'land-use change' the Government has always acknowledged that you do need which will be an implication and an outcome of the Government's Emissions Trading Scheme referred to by the Minister?</li> <li>2. Where will that 'land use change' take place and how will it take place?</li> <li>3. How many hectares of trees are estimated to be planted under the Government's Emissions Trading scheme?</li> <li>4. What is the definition of 'marginal land' that the Minister was referring to when he stated <i>'our advice has always been that we'd be looking at marginal land'</i>? (please provide maps of land which the Government considers 'marginal' and on what basis it is referred to as marginal ie rainfall, carrying capacity etc).</li> </ol>
ABARE 09	N/A	Written	Nash	<p>The Minister during the press Conference on the 25<sup>th</sup> of February, 2009 also stated; <i>'The carbon price that's been spoken about, the emissions targets that have been set, were then put through ABARE.'</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Is this information publicly available?</li> <li>2. Is this work that was 'put through ABARE' reflected in 'Analysing the economic potential of forestry for carbon sequestration under alternative carbon price paths' produced by ABARE in November 2008 which was commissioned by The Commonwealth Treasury to estimate the potential increase in afforestation on agricultural land under four hypothetical carbon price scenarios or is it different advice?</li> <li>3. If the work that has been 'put through ABARE' is not the modelling in the document 'Analysing the economic potential of forestry for carbon sequestration under alternative carbon price paths' is it publicly available and does it supersede the work commissioned by Treasury?</li> </ol>

AFMA 01	19/10/09	105	Siewert	<p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—I would like to move on to the Montara oil spill if that is possible, please. Were AFMA consulted over the development of the long-term monitoring plan that was just released by the company and the minister for the environment?</p> <p><b>Prof. Hurry</b>—We have been involved with answering the daily briefings on this and we have just been monitoring it and providing information back to industry and to the Commonwealth Fisheries Association on what is happening. But the level of any involvement we have had in a plan I would be unsure of. It is not really an issue of ours; it has been an issue very much for AMSA on the way through.</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—That is on the clean-up operation, but they have made it very clear to us that they are responsible for the clean-up operation but not for the long-term monitoring, and the minister for the environment released a plan last week that they had developed in concert with the company.</p> <p><b>Prof. Hurry</b>—Let me take it on notice and I will come back to you.</p>
AFMA 02	19/10/09	105	Siewert	<p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—That would be appreciated, if you could, because obviously we are interested in the impact the oil spill and the chemical dispersants are having on the fishery. If you were putting in place a monitoring plan, looking at the impacts of this particular type of spill, what would you say would be the length of time you should monitor—for looking at long-term impacts on the fisheries in the area—the northern demersal fishery?</p> <p><b>Dr Findlay</b>—That is something we would seek a fair bit of advice on. We are not experts necessarily in that field. That is very much a scientific question and I think we would be looking for expert advice on that. I do not think we have a view at the moment.</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—I am looking for some expert advice on that, too. Thank you. If fishers could demonstrate that their fishery had been affected by the oil spill, is there provision for compensation for the fishers from the company?</p> <p><b>Prof. Hurry</b>—We have had no discussion on that at the moment and I think most of this is a Western Australian fishery—the fishery that is fishing in that area. But again I would have to take it on notice. It is not an issue that we have pursued.</p>
AFMA 03	19/10/09	106	Siewert/ Colbeck	<p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—In terms of the monitoring plan, I would very much appreciate any information you can provide on input you have distributed through the agency, any request from you for input into that monitoring plan and what role you see AFMA playing into the future in any long-term monitoring.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—I will ask a couple of questions on the back of that. What work have you got or what input have you had into the process that Senator Siewert has just been talking about, about potentially impacted species? The industry up there is telling me it is one of the spawning grounds for tuna, for example. What work has been done in looking at that?</p> <p><b>Prof. Hurry</b>—We have looked at the spawning times for goldband snapper and red emperor, which are the two species whose eggs will float up into the top of the water and could potentially be impacted. I think one is January and the other is November.</p> <p><b>Dr Findlay</b>—October for red emperor.</p>

				<p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—That is what I thought.</p> <p><b>Prof. Hurry</b>—Yes, and then February for goldband snapper. I think they are the two spawning periods, so goldband should be all right. As to what might happen in October, it is a matter of how dispersed the slick is when the red emperors spawn. That was the concern for us. But I was not aware that this was a tuna spawning ground. The southern bluefin tuna spawning ground is over between there and Indonesia.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—I am only going on what the fishermen are telling me.</p> <p><b>Prof. Hurry</b>—I am not arguing with you on this.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—If that is something new that needs to be put into the equation, so be it. But that was the information that I was given when I was up there three or four weeks ago. They expressed a concern about that for similar reasons, but also about the issue of dispersal and the impact down through the water column and what impact that might be having on the overall fisheries, so I will just get a sense of what your thoughts are on that.</p> <p><b>Prof. Hurry</b>—Again, we would be better off taking it on notice and coming back to you on it. It is not something that we have been heavily involved in. We have been monitoring it because we are concerned about it and we are particularly concerned about the spawning, but we have kind of left it with AMSA to try to manage as an oil spill and monitor the impact on the side of it. Let me come back to you on that.</p>
AFMA 04	19/10/09	106	Colbeck	<p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—Can I just do a supplementary to your supplementary of mine? What do you mean when you say ‘monitoring’? Are you actually doing any physical monitoring of when the spawning—</p> <p><b>Prof. Hurry</b>—No, we are just staying in touch with the process as it is being managed by AMSA and advising industry, where we can, on where they are up to. The attempts to cap the wells and where the oil slicks are spreading are part of the briefs that come out, but we are not monitoring over there ourselves.</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—Thank you.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Are you being advised of who is and what they are doing?</p> <p><b>Prof. Hurry</b>—Have you got any more on that, Dr Findlay, or do we need to come back on that?</p> <p><b>Dr Findlay</b>—Come back, I think. It is part of the same story.</p>
AFMA 05	19/10/09	106-107	Macdonald	<p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—Thank you for providing us with the details of the number of patrol days for the <i>Oceanic Viking</i> for the last four financial years following last May’s estimates. You gave me a figure for 2008-09 of 185 days but you indicated that was up to 9 June, not 30 June. Would you have any idea whether that changed to 30 June?</p> <p><b>Dr Wilson</b>—I do not have an update on that for those last few days in June. I know that that particular patrol covered June and July. That was a 45-day patrol for June-July.</p> <p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—So it must have been post 9 June.</p> <p><b>Dr Wilson</b>—I think that is correct, yes. I do not think that included that last patrol.</p> <p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—Just for completeness, could you provide those details on notice. We do count them apparently by financial year, so you might have to go halfway into that last</p>

				patrol.
AFMA 06	19/10/09	107	Macdonald	<p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—Just for completeness, could you provide those details on notice. We do count them apparently by financial year, so you might have to go halfway into that last patrol. Whilst I appreciate that this is a Customs operation on the boat, although you have people on board and direct operations, what can you tell me about the program for the current financial year, without giving away any secrets? Do you have funding?</p> <p><b>Dr Wilson</b>—I am not aware of the funding details. As you alluded to, the actual patrol of the boat is a matter for Customs.</p> <p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—But the policy is in your area, isn't it?</p> <p><b>Prof. Hurry</b>—That is right. We have funding for this program still and we are still actively engaged with it, but the days for the boats are controlled by Customs. They have part of the funding for the operation of the boat. The funding that we have is for the holding of the vessels and the prosecutions and the cost of putting our observers on the boat.</p> <p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—Yes, but they are only doing it to save the fishery which you manage.</p> <p><b>Prof. Hurry</b>—Yes, that is true.</p> <p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—Without giving away too many secrets, is it intended to maintain approximately 200 days patrol this year?</p> <p><b>Prof. Hurry</b>—That is my understanding of it. I will check when I go back and if there is any difference in that, I will let you know. But it is our understanding that the patrol continues and we are still involved with the French patrols as well.</p>
AFMA 07	19/10/09	107	Macdonald	<p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—Do you also have access to—or can you get it for me on notice, because I did not ask for it at the appropriate place—what we know of other catches in the Indian Ocean fishery and also what is thought to be sustainable in that fishery?</p> <p><b>Prof. Hurry</b>—We can do that.</p>
AFMA 08	19/10/09	107	Macdonald	<p><b>Prof. Hurry</b>—The policy setting for it has always been a DAFF responsibility in all the regional fisheries organisations. We go along to them to provide technical support, where there is a need for us to do that. We are probably more active in the forum fisheries agency in the western and central Pacific and in the CCSBT than we have been in the Indian Ocean over the years. But we have been to a number of the meetings over the years, and we were at the last one in Oman, and we may well go to the future ones.</p> <p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—Who was there?</p> <p><b>Prof. Hurry</b>—Trish Stone was at the meeting in Oman last year.</p> <p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—Are you able—if I can seek the indulgence of the committee—to tell us what happened at Oman?</p> <p><b>Prof. Hurry</b>—No. I would have to go back and check. I have not stayed in touch with it personally, but I can find out for you.</p> <p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—You do not have a website report on those activities, do you?</p>

				<p><b>Prof. Hurry</b>—No. They are usually on the IOTC website. There would be a report of the meeting and the minutes of the meeting. But we would have provided a brief, I would imagine, to the western tuna management advisory committee. Let me get that. I will check with our committee.</p> <p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—Could you make that available—</p> <p><b>Prof. Hurry</b>—I will be happy to do that.</p>
AFMA 09	19/10/09	108	Macdonald	<p><b>Prof. Hurry</b>—It has been an issue, because the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission is an agency under the FAO, whereas in all the other regional fisheries organisations around the world which are intergovernmental organisations Taiwan is often in there as Chinese Taipei or the Fishing Entity of Taiwan. They are not members but they are usually associate members of those commissions, so they sit at the table with everybody else and, in effect, just operate as a normal fishing member of those commissions. They have different membership arrangements in each of the bodies. They were the biggest—I do not know whether they still are—catcher in the Indian Ocean for a number of years. But the problem is more the link that the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission has to the FAO. If China is concerned, it is because of that FAO link. I am not sure where the negotiations with the FAO are on that. I know that they started the process and then there was some resistance from the other members of the IOTC—and not just China—about whether they wanted to get out. There are a number of African coastal states and developing Indian Ocean states in that, and you can probably understand the process as well as I can. I do not know where it will end up. It is one of the few fisheries bodies that is left with the FAO and it is the only tuna commission that is under the FAO at the moment.</p> <p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—If it is possible to give me a two-paragraph summary of where that is at, I would appreciate that.</p>
AFMA 10	19/10/09	108-109	Macdonald	<p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—I see my colleague Senator Boswell is here. That leads me on to my next set of questions. I was told by the environment department at last estimates—and I thought I had this this morning when I sort of half asked about this, but I do not think I have, on looking at my notes—that they only had the 2006 east coast marine regionalisation profile catch figures, and they indicated that 2007-08 figures would be available in mid-October. Do you have the catch figures for the Coral Sea Fishery and that part of the Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery that is contained within that section? Or do you have separated, and are you able to give me, the figures for the Coral Sea section of the East Coast Tuna and Billfish Fishery?</p> <p><b>Prof. Hurry</b>—We can, but we will take it on notice and get them to you. The figures would be available.</p> <p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—So you have the 2007-08 calendar year?</p> <p><b>Prof. Hurry</b>—We would have the 2008 figures.</p> <p><b>Dr Findlay</b>—We will have everything up to about three months ago. There is a lag with logbook data up to about three months, but we can give you everything up to about three months ago.</p> <p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—That is out of the Coral Sea Fishery and also—</p> <p><b>Dr Findlay</b>—Eastern tuna as well.</p> <p><b>Prof. Hurry</b>—Yes, we should be able to give you that as well.</p>



AFMA 11	19/10/09	109	Macdonald	<p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—Finally, can you tell me—and I ask this of the department—if the management authority, as opposed to the department, has been part of the ongoing consultations on the proposal by the Pew Foundation and by the environment minister to have some sort of conservation zone in the Coral Sea Fishery?</p> <p><b>Prof. Hurry</b>—We did provide some information on that in a question. We monitor it to the extent that we have a real interest in having a viable and productive east coast tuna fishery, so we are interested in what is happening with that proposal and what impact it is likely to have on our fishery. We are monitoring it quite closely, but we are not, as far as I am aware—and I will check—actively involved at the table in the discussions on this.</p>
AFMA 12	19/10/09	110	Boswell	<p><b>Senator BOSWELL</b>—When will the East Marine Bioregional Plan come to fruition? Has there been an extension of six months on that?</p> <p><b>Prof. Hurry</b>—We said we would need to come back on that. We are unaware of when DEWHA would try and finalise these, but we have been actively involved with the fishing industry on those bioregional marine plans right around the north of Australia.</p> <p><b>Senator BOSWELL</b>—Is there at present, or will there be in the near future, a bioregional zone in the gulf?</p> <p><b>Prof. Hurry</b>—I assume there is, because I saw some maps that industry brought in the other day for the Northern Prawn Fishery that showed the initial areas of interest on the Northern Prawn Fishery. It was the large portions of the ecosystem that they were initially interested in, but then they have to come down and take specific areas out of that that then may form part of the final bioregional marine plan.</p> <p><b>Senator BOSWELL</b>—When is that likely to be finalised?</p> <p><b>Prof. Hurry</b>—Again, we would have to take it on notice, because it is a timetable driven by DEWHA and not by us.</p>
AFMA 13	19/10/09	111	Boswell	<p><b>Senator BOSWELL</b>—I am concerned about this new bioregion in the gulf which will impact on Queensland and the Northern Territory. What information has been put to the user groups, whether they be commercial fishermen or amateur fishermen? Are there any constructive meetings being held?</p> <p><b>Prof. Hurry</b>—There have been a series of meetings held around the coast. James, do you want to run through where they were held? We were present at them. There was an initial round of discussions with stakeholders on the fisheries.</p> <p><b>Dr Findlay</b>—Yes, there have been a series of public meetings.</p> <p><b>Senator BOSWELL</b>—When did they first take place? When was the first one?</p> <p><b>Dr Findlay</b>—There have been a series of them. I will have to go back and get those dates for you. This is not our process and it is not something I have got to hand, but we are happy to come back with past and future dates for both consultation and finalising the plans, if that helps. There have been a series of stakeholder and general public meetings in Darwin, Cairns and Brisbane.</p>
AFMA 14 (transferred from	20/10/2009	122	Fierravanti-Wells	<p><b>Senator Fierravanti-Wells</b> asked (L&amp;C Hansard p. 122): In relation to illegal foreign fishers, give me a profile or an outline of how we have dealt with, the process, the numbers we have dealt with over the last year and how we have dealt with them. Start with ‘X Bloggs’—do not give me</p>

Immigration)				the names, for privacy reasons—and then how we have dealt with them and whether they have been flown backwards and forwards to be dealt with.
AFMA 15 (transferred from Immigration)		Written	Fierravanti-Wells	Further to the information to be provided on notice, can you confirm that some illegal fishers are arranging to be caught in Australian waters so that they can use our generous medical benefits scheme to have minor procedures done in Australia, including having moles removed, dental work and optometry?
AFMA 16 (transferred from Immigration)		Written	Fierravanti-Wells	Is it correct that those illegal fishers, once arrested, are sent back to Indonesia and then flown back to Australia for their court hearings, all at the taxpayers' expense?
AFMA 17 (transferred from Immigration)		Written	Fierravanti-Wells	What mechanisms have been put in place to deter illegal fishers?
AFMA 18 (transferred from Immigration)		Written	Fierravanti-Wells	How many illegal fishers have been detained and held in the Darwin Detention Centre this year?
AFMA 19 (transferred from Immigration)		Written	Fierravanti-Wells	How does this number compare to previous years?
AFMA 20 (transferred from Immigration)		Written	Fierravanti-Wells	What is the average age of illegal fishers detained at the Darwin Detention Centre?
APD 01	19/10/09	17	Nash	<p><b>Senator NASH</b>—Dr O’Connell, when would it be most appropriate for me to deal with the Youth Allowance issue today?</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—I think we might be able to help you now, Senator.</p> <p><b>Mr Grant</b>—We talked to the secretariat who are looking at the running of the Bradley review during the consultations when that review was ongoing. We talked about the Youth Allowance issues but, in the end, the Bradley review did not necessarily pick up all the issues that we discussed with them.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—What types of issues did you see as relevant or that could potentially have an impact on regional Australia?</p>

				<p><b>Mr Grant</b>—I will have to take that on notice. We could probably come back and address the broad range of issues that youth suffer. These are now also picked up in the Community Networks and Capacity Building program. That has four elements; one of which is youth. A series of grants have been provided under the project called Next Gen Farmers. The youth elements of that project are picked up in that grants program as well.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—That would be quite useful to give the committee an understanding of the department’s view of where the priorities lie in that particular area.</p> <p><b>Mr Grant</b>—Sure. I am happy to do that.</p>
APD 02	19/10/09	58-59	Heffernan	<p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b>—I will hop to the minister. Minister, agriculture in Australia is under great pressure not only from the weather changes and the competitive nature of the global market. For instance, the price of cross-bred wool now is cheaper than it has been for 10 years and there is an average of seven fleabags in the system that handle and get a levy out of the wool from when it leaves the auction until someone uses it. We have the pressures of the global emissions, the rising dollar—a whole range of things—and a falling off of research. Do you think that it is proper behaviour to put political pressure on research and development organisations to edit their reports to reflect a position in which they do not believe?</p> <p><b>Senator Sherry</b>—I am not aware of—</p> <p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b>—That is an honest answer; you would not be. But I am.</p> <p><b>Senator Sherry</b>—All I can do, Senator Heffernan, is take it on notice and refer it to the minister.</p>
APD 03	19/10/09	59	Nash	<p><b>Senator NASH</b>—My question is probably to the minister—and I do appreciate that you are not the minister, Senator Sherry, so you might want to take it on notice for your minister. My question is around the global financial crisis and what other countries have done in terms of agriculture—the \$600 billion Chinese package, which had a significant agricultural component. Indeed, on 1 April the Chinese Premier said that agricultural development and higher rural incomes are the key to the economy’s recovery. I do understand that our Prime Minister was very supportive of the Chinese package. Why then do we see millions of dollars going to the coal industry and billions of dollars going to the car industry and yet we see cuts to organisations such as Land and Water, who are particularly working with the one sector that is most likely to be able to contribute to the country’s economic recovery?</p> <p><b>Senator Sherry</b>—I just make a couple of points. Firstly—and this is only from my general knowledge and observation about China—I think it is correct to say that they have always placed significant emphasis on development in their agricultural sector for a fairly obvious reason: the sheer number of people who are dependent on agriculture in China. There are a range of related issues there as well—development in rural and regional China. Whilst I do have some knowledge of the various stimulus packages in my capacity as Assistant Treasurer, I do not have a detailed knowledge comparatively of the various packages and the extent to which there is what you would describe as a rural component within those packages. I do not have that knowledge, although I think we could take it on notice. I do not know whether officers here have knowledge of the rural components, if I could use that term, within the various stimulus packages. Beyond that—and you have made some general observations and comments—I would need to take the general critique, if</p>

				I could describe it as that, on notice for the minister. As I say, if there are officials who can add to detail about stimulus packages in the agricultural sector around the world—
APD 04	19/10/09	114-115	Nash	<p><b>Senator NASH</b>—I have one, just to kick off. Gentlemen, we had some discussion at the last estimates around the Wheat Export Technical Market Support Grants Program.</p> <p><b>Mr Grant</b>—Yes.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—Thanks, Mr Grant. You very kindly took on notice and gave us a list of all of those companies that had indeed been recipients of the funding. What does the department do in terms of tracking the efficacy of funding those organisations to access those markets?</p> <p><b>Mr Grant</b>—A lot of it is about capacity building, so we sign funding agreements with those recipients of the grants. The funding agreements contain milestone payments, and the grantees then receive the next component of the milestone payment once they have implemented what they committed to implement as part of that funding agreement. Until they have actually done what they said they would do, they do not get the next tranche of money.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—Okay.</p> <p><b>Mr Grant</b>—If you are looking more broadly at whether down the track they will export more wheat to more countries—because in a sense this program is about capacity building—we would hope in perhaps a few years to identify that some of these companies will have the capacity and expertise to export wheat more broadly than they currently do. Most of those companies that we have provided funding to have not exported in the past or have exported in minimal amounts. So we are hoping that the funding will help them develop capacity and expertise to export into the longer term.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—I am very happy for you to take this on notice, but can you provide for the committee what these organisations had previously exported before gaining these grants that you were just referring to.</p> <p><b>Mr Grant</b>—Yes, I can. Was it in the questions on notice that we pointed out how many of them had previously exported? I can do that as well. We had a discussion about that. I cannot remember whether it was in there or not, but we can do that.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—I do not think so, so if you could give us that—and, obviously, also the amounts comparatively.</p> <p><b>Mr Grant</b>—I know about half of them were not previous exporters at all.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—And half were? That would be very useful. Have any of those milestones come up yet?</p> <p><b>Mr Grant</b>—Yes, some of the milestones have come up, and we have made second and potentially third payments. In fact, there has been another round of grants, so we have actually had two rounds of grants. The first round of grants—milestones—have been paid and in some cases, I think—and Peter Ottesen can confirm—we have actually paid out the full amount of the year 1 grant.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—Did any of the organisations not meet the milestones?</p> <p><b>Mr Grant</b>—Not that I am aware of, no.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—Excellent. In relation to that second round—sorry, it was a bit remiss of me—</p>

				could you take that on notice and provide for the committee the next round of recipients that you were just referring to.
APD 05	19/10/09	117	Back	<p><b>Senator BACK</b>—Just picking up on the question of the need to produce more food to feed another 1.9 billion people in Asia by 2050, can you tell me if you are doing any research on nutrient loss and how we might capture nutrients for recycling in the Australian agricultural cycle?</p> <p><b>Mr Grant</b>—I am not aware of specific work that is being done in the department. Again, there may be work that has been done in the RDCs, or the Bureau of Rural Sciences might be in fact doing some work.</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—Unfortunately they have just gone. They were on just previously.</p> <p><b>Senator BACK</b>—Can I ask then is there any cooperative work between your department and the CSIRO, for example, in this area of capturing lost nutrients, or do we have to put that on notice for those who—</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—I think we would have to take that on notice, given that the people have just gone.</p>
APD 06	19/10/09	117-118	Back	<p><b>Mr Grant</b>—I think we touched on labour issues this morning to a small extent. The department, through the Agricultural Productivity Division, implements the Community Networks And Capacity Building program.</p> <p>One of the areas of focus in that program is on youth and there are a number of grants that are focused at trying to encourage and skill and involve youth in agriculture into the future. The issue of broader labour skilling and the role of some of the institutions has also been looked at through the Primary Industries Ministerial Council. The council, including all of the states and the Commonwealth, asked for a report to be provided about the current capacity and activities that are happening through tertiary education, through agricultural institutions and trying to identify whether there is a stronger role that agricultural ministers can play in this. That report will be considered by the ministerial council at its next meeting in November.</p> <p><b>Senator BACK</b>—Is it likely that there would be a communique from that council meeting?</p> <p><b>Mr Grant</b>—Yes, I think there will be a communique.</p> <p><b>Senator BACK</b>—Which will be publicly available?</p> <p><b>Mr Grant</b>—Yes, there will.</p> <p><b>Senator BACK</b>—I would be most interested to receive it, if that is possible.</p>
APD 07	19/10/09	121	Colbeck	<p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Thanks, Acting Chair. I will get you to take this question on notice, but I am just going back to the chestnut I started with at the beginning of the day, the change in FTEs as a result of productivity and the additional \$12 million impact on the department, so that I get a sense of what has happened in your area. Do you have some holistic numbers for us, Dr O’Connell?</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—I think we do have the numbers for our current status which we can give you. I will just make sure we have those.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—You gave us the whole-of-agency information, but what I am looking for is the breakdown. There is probably not a chance to interrogate that now.</p>

APD 08	19/10/09	122	Colbeck	<p><b>Mr Grant</b>—The Horticulture Code Committee has finalised its deliberations and provided its report to the minister, and the minister is still considering the Horticulture Code Committee’s recommendations on the implementation of the ACCC’s recommendations.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—How long has that advice been with the minister?</p> <p>Mr Grant—I do not know the exact date. A couple of weeks is my guess, but I can take that on notice and confirm that.</p>
APD 09	N/A	Written	Colbeck	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Does the Government have a food manufacturing industry strategy and, if so, what format does it take?</li> <li>2. If not, are there plans for such a strategy to be developed?</li> <li>3. What programs does the Government run to support small and medium sized food manufacturers?</li> <li>4. Are there any available for non-rural areas?</li> </ol>
APD 10	N/A	Written	Colbeck	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What involvement has DAFF had in the Plant Breeders Rights Review?</li> <li>2. What is the status of this review? (began in 2007, was suppose to report back to Government in “late 2008”) (Plant Breeder’s Rights – division in IP Australia, to provide input)</li> </ol>
APD 11	N/A	Written	Colbeck	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. When did the Department first provide advice to the Minister on the state of the dairy farmers in Tasmania with respect to the concerns raised by these dairy farmers in recent weeks regarding milk prices, power outages and flooding conditions?</li> <li>2. What advice was provided to the dairy farmers by Mr Murnane and Ms Ford last week in the Circular Head region?</li> <li>3. What recommendations from farmers were received?</li> <li>4. What advice and/or recommendations have been provided to Minister Burke following this visit?</li> <li>5. Has the Department put forward any recommendations to the Government or Minister recommending any funding assistance for the dairy farmers?</li> <li>6. Has the Department been contacted by the Prime Minister's office, either directly or through the Dept of Prime Minister &amp; Cabinet or the Minister's office, regarding natural disaster relief for dairy farmers in Tasmania affected by severe storms and power outages? (following a 30 September letter from Senator Colbeck to the Prime Minister)</li> <li>7. If so, what advice was provided to the Minister?</li> <li>8. When was the advice provided to the Minister?</li> </ol>
APD 12	N/A	Written	Colbeck	Could the Department please provide a full breakdown of expenditure on the Horticulture Code of Conduct 2008-2009 and 2009-2010?
APD 13	N/A	Written	Colbeck	Could the Department please give an explanation for the rise in the level of Regional Food Producers' Innovation and Productivity Program funding available from budget year 2008-2009 to budget year 2009-2010 and from budget year 2009-2010 to budget year 2010-2011?

APD 14	N/A	Written	Colbeck	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Could the Department please provide a full list of recipients of the Regional Food Producers' Innovation and Productivity Program in 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 – broken down by location (electorate if available), State and level of funding?</li> <li>2. What is the level of funding expended on administration of the program?</li> </ol>
APD 15	N/A	Written	Colbeck	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Could the Department please provide a full breakdown of expenditure on the Promoting Australian Produce Program for 2008-2009 (actual) and the years 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 (expected)?</li> <li>2. What is the explanation for moving this expenditure item from Program 1.10 to Program 1.5 over the financial years?</li> <li>3. What is the level of funding expended on administration of the program?</li> </ol>
APD 16	N/A	Written	Colbeck	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Could the Department please provide a full breakdown of expenditure on the following programs – broken down by financial year (including 2008-2009 and 2009-2010), recipient, State (if applicable) and level of funding? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– AAA Advancing Agricultural Industries</li> <li>– AAA Farm Help</li> <li>– New Industries Development Program</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. What is the level of funding expended on administration of all of the above programs? (broken down by program and financial year)?</li> </ol>
APD 17	N/A	Written	Colbeck	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Could the Department please provide a full breakdown of expenditure on the following programs – broken down by financial year (including 2008-2009 and 2009-2010), recipient, State and Electorate (if applicable) and level of funding? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– FarmReady Reimbursement Grants</li> <li>– FarmReady Industry Grants</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. What is the level of funding expended on administration of all of the above programs? (broken down by program and financial year)?</li> </ol>
APD 18	N/A	Written	Back	<p>On World Food Day, the Minister has made comments in the media that overcoming food shortages around the world will require “every possible path of scientific research” and that the world wouldn’t be able to sustain the projected population growth based on the amount of food produced at present.</p> <p>What research / development can you point to that will assist in expanding out capacity to produce more food?</p>
APD 19	N/A	Written	Nash	<p>I refer you to the Document ‘Labor’s Plan for Primary Industries’, Election 2007; Page 20 which states;</p> <p>Consideration of amendments to the Food Standards Code to clarify county of origin labelling requirements.</p>

				<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What 'Consideration' has the department undertaken to clarify country of origin labelling requirements?</li> <li>2. What are the current requirements for the country of origin labelling on fresh food and on processed food?</li> <li>3. Is it currently possible of a consumer to find out where processed food which is labelled 'packaged in Australia from import products' comes from?</li> <li>4. How would the consumers find out where the imported products came from?</li> <li>5. Is it possible for the department to find out where the imported products came from?</li> <li>6. Has the department undertaken any work or training exercises on being able to trace back and trace forward ingredients used in processed food?</li> <li>7. Who within the Department has been talking to Treasury about amending the Trade Practices Act? When were these discussions held?</li> </ol>
APD 20	N/A	Written	Nash	<p>I refer you to the Document 'Labor's Plan for Primary Industries', Election 2007; Page 19 which states;</p> <p>'A Rudd Labor Government will simplify and strengthen food labelling laws. This will include;</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">A new 'Grown in Australia' label under the Trade Practices Act for products that are not only made in Australia, but also grown in Australia.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What work has been undertaken on developing a new 'Grown in Australia label'?</li> <li>2. Who within the Department is undertaking the work?</li> <li>3. What consultations and with whom have they been held in relation to the Grown in Australia label?</li> <li>4. When will the label 'Grown in Australia' be introduced?</li> <li>5. What products will the label apply to?</li> <li>6. Will it be compulsory for all food retail and wholesale outlets to display the label?</li> <li>7. What is the expected cost to food manufacturers?</li> <li>8. Who within the Department has been talking to Treasury about amending the Trade Practices Act?</li> <li>9. When were these discussions held?</li> </ol>
APD 21	N/A	Written	Nash	<p>I refer you to the Document 'Labor's Plan for Primary Industries', Election 2007; Page 20 which states;</p> <p>'Strengthening compliance arrangements'</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What work has the Department undertaken to strengthen food labelling compliance arrangements?</li> <li>2. Has the department made any inspections of major retailers to ensure they are labelling country of origin the food properly?</li> <li>3. Who within the Department has been talking to Treasury about amending the Trade Practices Act? When were these discussions held?</li> </ol>
APD 22	N/A	Written	Nash	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Is the Department satisfied that the Horticultural Code of Conduct is achieving its aim?</li> <li>2. Is the Department aware of any reviews in the Horticultural Code of Conduct by the ACCC?</li> <li>3. Has or will the Department be contributing to this review?</li> </ol>



				<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Has the Department undertaken any independent inspections of the markets to ensure the code is operating effectively?</li> <li>5. Is the Department aware of any industry concerns that the Government is attempting to water down the code?</li> <li>6. When will the Government be releasing its response to the Horticultural Code of Conduct by ACCC?</li> <li>7. When was the industry consultation completed on the Government's response?</li> <li>8. Hasn't the report been sitting on the Minister's desk for over two months? When will the report be released?</li> </ol>
APD 23	N/A	Written	Nash	<p>I noticed in 2006 the previous Coalition Government launch National Food Chain Safety and Security Strategy. It was titled "A National Strategy for enhancing the safety and security of our food supply" it essentially aims at managing risks associated with food supply. Now three years on I would like to ask some questions regarding ongoing strategies that are being implemented. One of the strategies listed was a commitment to undertake regular food supply chain safety and security exercises to assess plans and arrangements.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Are you able to tell me when the last exercise had taken place?</li> <li>2. How often are they undertaken?</li> </ol>
APD 24	N/A	Written	Nash	<p>The strategy also called for industry and government to continue to review the adequacy of existing plans and protocols to identify gaps and what could be done to improve arrangements. This required an inventory of current plans and protocols.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Has the inventory of plans and protocols been undertaken?</li> <li>2. How often is the inventory up dated?</li> </ol>
APD 25	N/A	Written	Nash	<p>I was interested to read that it was recommended that supporting research be encouraged for improved abilities to trace food, ingredients and products through the food chain.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What assistance is the government providing to improve abilities to track and trace products?</li> </ol>
APD 26	N/A	Written	Colbeck	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What has been the Department's total financial contribution to the Primary Industries Education Foundation?</li> <li>2. What is the contribution of industries?</li> <li>3. Any other sources of funding?</li> <li>4. How will the Department measure the progress of the Foundation?</li> </ol>
APVMA 01	27/10/09	10	Back	<p><b>Senator BACK</b>—You have had some allegations levelled at you in the media, and in other sectors, of dysfunction. That relates, of course, to the regrettable disclosure of confidential commercial information about product formulation to competitors. I understand that the party affected by this was only advised in August 2008 that that occurred and yet that occurred back in 2007. Could you explain why there was a delay of 12 months before you advised that company?</p>

				<p><b>Dr Bennet-Jenkins</b>—There are a number of processes that we need to go through in terms of advising the person whose information was disclosed. The first step is to get assurance from the person who has received the information that they will not use that information. In this case, because there were applications in process involved that had not actually been accepted for evaluation, their existence was considered to be commercially in confidence. It was a complicated step of getting the authority from the various players in order to be able to speak with the other players. That was a process that we had to go through before we were able to contact the person.</p> <p><b>Senator BACK</b>—Did you establish where in the organisation this error or negligence occurred? Have you reviewed that and established it?</p> <p><b>Dr Bennet-Jenkins</b>—Yes. We did a full audit at the time when it occurred. That audit showed that it was one particular individual who inadvertently in writing letters disclosed information that should not have been disclosed. That person is no longer at the APVMA and we have put things in place. We have had a second audit. That audit has brought good results in terms of the processes we have put in place, which includes peer review of all letters that are written to applicants, in terms of information we need from them, and that continues. We have senior people overseeing the more junior staff in terms of the letters that they write.</p> <p><b>Senator BACK</b>—Just turning to the comment you made a moment ago in terms of establishing communication with the competitors, the allegation was made that in fact a bullying letter was sent to the competitor’s registration consultant threatening even a jail term of up to two years if they disclosed it. Would you care to comment on that? Is that wide of the mark?</p> <p><b>Dr Bennet-Jenkins</b>—The basis to that is that the provisions in our legislation in terms of disclosure of commercial-in-confidence information actually has the provision for the penalties that might apply if that information is used. An important step is to get the assurance from the person who has received the information that they will not use it.</p> <p><b>Senator BACK</b>—Presumably the person who left the agency would have also been facing the threat of two years jail in that particular circumstance?</p> <p><b>Dr Bennet-Jenkins</b>—Certainly, yes.</p> <p><b>Senator BACK</b>—Obviously having left the agency they then were not likely to be liable to that threat of a jail term?</p> <p><b>Dr Bennet-Jenkins</b>—Perhaps I can take on notice the actual legal legislative procedures that would apply in this case.</p>
APVMA 02	27/10/09	11	Back	<p><b>Senator BACK</b>—Thank you. I would appreciate that. I turn now to a Western Australian crop chemical company called Entrade. Again, there have been accusations levelled at the authority due to a claim that the APVMA had unlawfully deregistered the products. Would you care to give us some understanding as to where that circumstance is? Was that the case and could you explain the background to it?</p> <p><b>Dr Bennet-Jenkins</b>—The background to that information is that we received information to indicate that Entrade had registered products based on false information. We did some investigations and, given that the registrations were based on false information, took the step to</p>

				<p>consider those decisions to have been invalid. That was challenged at the AAT and then also to the Federal Court, where it was determined that the APVMA should not have made that decision to take the products off the register on its own. It should, at first, have received advice through the courts in terms of whether we should do so. <b>Senator BACK</b>—Can you tell me how the processes and procedures have changed in the authority to ensure that you do not have a repeat of that circumstance? <b>Dr Bennet-Jenkins</b>—Of having false information being received? <b>Senator BACK</b>—Yes. <b>Dr Bennet-Jenkins</b>—The registration system is a paper based trust based system. We are now working with the chemicals that are imported from other countries from the importing countries with the regulatory authorities there to be able to verify and check sources of chemicals that are claimed on application forms in that way and we are also being much more stringent in terms of verifying the authenticity of the paperwork that is submitted to us. <b>Senator BACK</b>—Is it available, too, as to the level of the settlement and the legal fees incurred? <b>Dr Bennet-Jenkins</b>—We will take that on notice.</p>
APVMA 03	27/10/09	11/12	Milne	<p><b>Senator MILNE</b>—I wanted to ask about Endosulfan. I read an article this week suggesting that it has come closer to being listed as a persistent organic pollutant under the Stockholm convention. What is Australia's position in relation to it? Were you in attendance at that recent meeting? Can you update the committee in relation to that matter? <b>Dr Bennet-Jenkins</b>—Certainly. It is actually the responsibility of the department in terms of providing input to the Stockholm convention. I might pass to my colleague to comment on that. I can give you some information that the department certainly was there at the Stockholm convention and participated at the meeting. <b>Mr Glyde</b>—The convention POPs review committee met from 12 to 15 October and has agreed to undertake the second phase of a three-phase process for assessing the risk profile of endosulfan. The work plan is being developed and it will be considered under the third phase at the next meeting of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee in October 2010. They undertake that review before they make a recommendation to the conference of the parties for chemicals to be listed under the convention. I am advised that the earliest Endosulfan could be listed is May 2011. <b>Senator MILNE</b>—Given that there is a reasonable probability at this stage since it has entered the second phase of the assessment that it may well be listed in 2011, what action is the department taking to keep Australian farmers informed about the process, because as I understand it this is a fairly widely used pesticide? <b>Mr Glyde</b>—I would have to take that on notice. I am not quite sure what processes we have for keeping farmers informed about that. I am really not quite sure of the exact methods we use to do that. <b>Senator MILNE</b>—Could you just inform me if you have anything?</p>

				<b>Mr Glyde</b> —Yes.
APVMA 04	27/10/09	12/13	Milne	<p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b>—I want to ask a question about that particular family of chemicals. I do not want to do a commercial ad here, but why have we not moved to the next generation of pesticides? The atrazine family of chemicals is old-fashioned now. One of the problems in Tassie, as with elsewhere, is that it is a large particle chemical that they put on at double the rate because it does not have the residual effect that the new generation of chemicals has. Why the hell are we using it? There is a new generation of chemicals. If you do not know about it, go and ask someone. There is no need to use this. It is a deadhead policy.</p> <p><b>Dr Bennet-Jenkins</b>—Yes.</p> <p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b>—I do not know whether it explains the double-headed Tasmanian thing.</p> <p><b>CHAIR</b>—That comment was probably not called for whilst pointing to one of your colleagues. You might think it is hilarious at other times. We are running very short of time. Senator Colbeck has probably one question.</p> <p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b>—Are you aware of the new generation?</p> <p><b>CHAIR</b>—Senator Heffernan, we are running to a very tight schedule, with the indulgence of the rest of the committee—</p> <p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b>—I will put that on notice.</p> <p><b>CHAIR</b>—Yes, put that on notice.</p> <p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b>—And he can go and find out.</p> <p><b>Dr Bennet-Jenkins</b>—I will do that.</p>
APVMA 05	27/10/09	13	Colbeck	<p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—What are the major agricultural uses for Endosulfan in Australia? Can you give us a sense of the volume that is used?</p> <p><b>Dr Bennet-Jenkins</b>—The approved uses, I would have to say, for Endosulfan are cotton, canola and vegetables mostly and some tree crops, such as citrus, mangoes, pome fruits, avocados, macadamias and some vine crops. I am unable to give you the volume of use. We do not collect the volume of use data, but I understand the volume of use has dropped considerably in the last few years particularly in terms of the greater use of genetically modified cotton crops.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—What is the key use in Tasmania?</p> <p><b>Dr Bennet-Jenkins</b>—I would have to take that on notice. I am not sure.</p>
APVMA 06	N/A	Written	Abetz	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Is it APVMAs view that atrazine is an endocrine disruptor which may affect humans? If not, what is APVMAs view?</li> <li>2. Given the fact that the US EPA has launched a comprehensive re-investigation of the health impacts of atrazine and that APVMA has also decided to re-examine more recent studies on the issue, when it is anticipated that the examination will be complete?</li> </ol>
APVMA 07	N/A	Written	Abetz	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Is it the APVMAs view that mixing atrazine with other chemicals, including wetting agents, before spraying may increase toxicity?</li> </ol>

				<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. If Yes, to what extent and what is APVMA’s view about banning the use of such mixtures until it has reached a view about whether such mixtures may harm human health?</li> <li>3. If No, on the basis of what research and findings has APVMA formed this view given?</li> </ol>
APVMA 08	N/A	Written	Abetz	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Does the APVMA undertake compliance monitoring for aerial spraying to confirm that its modelling for aerial spraying is correct? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) If so, what are the findings from that monitoring?</li> <li>(b) What is APVMA’s view about those findings?</li> </ol> </li> <li>2 Is the APVMA satisfied that the rules/guidelines established for aerial spraying agricultural chemicals are <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) adequate to protect human health; and</li> <li>(b) complied with?</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. Is it the APVMA’s view that there should be a national competency scheme to certify aerial sprayers?</li> <li>4. If so, what steps has APVMA taken to achieve such a scheme, and when did they take them?</li> </ol>
APVMA 09	N/A	Written	Abetz	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Is it APVMA’s view that the public should be notified: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) when research permits for agvet chemicals are granted;</li> <li>(b) of the chemicals involved in those permits; and</li> <li>(c) the locations and dates on which those permits may operate.</li> </ol> What are the reasons for APVMA’s view? </li> </ol>
APVMA 10	N/A	Written	Back	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What measures have been taken at APVMA to streamline operations at APVMA in accordance with their commitment to work on “COAG’s regulatory reform agenda”?</li> <li>2. Has APVMA taken an additional staff and can it confirm which areas are they working in?</li> <li>3. Has APVMA accepted staff cut from other divisions?</li> </ol>
APVMA 11	N/A	Written	Back	<p>APVMA has undertaken a cost recovery review:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Is this completed and if not, when is it expected to be completed and what is the cause of the delay?</li> <li>2. Can you provide of the names of the individuals and positions responsible for this review?</li> <li>3. Has its cost been factored into the budget?</li> <li>4. What are the implementation costs?</li> <li>5. What impact will the extension of the implementation time frame have on the budget for the review?</li> </ol>
APVMA 12	N/A	Written	Back	<p>APVMA has indicated that it is experiencing high volumes of work stating at last estimates that “at any one time it 2,500 registration applications before it and about the same were finalised every year and 700 or so permit applications of which 700 – 800 are finalised each year.”</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Can you provide me with accurate information on the number of registrations and permits applications received and processed each year?</li> <li>2. Have you made any progress with the addition of extra staff members and the implementation</li> </ol>

				<p>of regulatory reforms?</p> <p>3. If not, why?</p>
APVMA 13	N/A	Written	Back	<p>It has been reported in the Business Spectator that APVMA is "dysfunctional" and revealed that on two occasions APVMA has disclosed confidential commercial information about product formulations to competitors.</p> <p>APVMA only advised the victim by letter of APVMA's error in August 2008 that these incidents had occurred in March and April 2007.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Why did APVMA decide to take no action until over a year later?</li> <li>2. Was a review conducted into how this had occurred?</li> <li>3. What action has been undertaken to address this negligence?</li> <li>4. Is there any substance to the allegation that a bullying letter was sent to competitor's registration consultant threatening a jail term of up to two years if the consultant disclosed the confidential information to anyone else?</li> <li>5. APVMA's governing legislation provides for up to two years jail for disclosing confidential information. Why was a company who was only privy to this information, due to apparent negligence on APVMA's part threatened with jail?</li> <li>6. If the person responsible within APVMA is / has been identified, is imprisonment being considered?</li> <li>7. Have there been other cases of disclosure of product formulation information by APMVA? Or any administrative blunders?</li> </ol>
APVMA 14	N/A	Written	Back	<p>Further accusations of dysfunction have been levelled at the APVMA who has settled and will pay legal costs with Imtrade a WA crop chemical company who claimed that APVMA had unlawfully deregistered their products.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To date has APVMA been successful in increasing their fees to cover the cost of the settlement and payment of legal costs to Imtrade?</li> <li>2. What does this equate to?</li> <li>3. Has there been an increase in services fees and of how much?</li> <li>4. Can you provide me with a breakdown?</li> <li>5. Will this increase be added to the final costs outlined in the forthcoming cost recovery review?</li> <li>6. Finally, how does APVMA respond to concerns that this is causing a high level of dissatisfaction and now reluctance by business in registering their products or dealing with it?</li> <li>7. What is APVMA doing to safeguard its reputation or even better, restore confidence?</li> <li>8. Has the Minister been briefing or advised of the increasing reports of dysfunction and administrative blunders within his own Department at APVMA?</li> <li>9. What action has been taken to restore confidence the agricultural chemical industry's confidence in the national regulator?</li> </ol>

APVMA 15	N/A	Written	Colbeck	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Can the APVMA give an update regarding the status of endosulfan?</li> <li>2. What is the volume of endosulfan used for agricultural purposes in Australia?</li> <li>3. What are the major industries to use endosulfan in Australia?</li> <li>4. Can the APVMA provide a breakdown by industry?</li> <li>5. Do you have any statistics on use in Tasmania?</li> <li>6. Can the APVMA provide a breakdown by State/Territory?</li> <li>7. What is the process with which the APVMA would bring about a deregistration of endosulfan?</li> <li>8. What consultation processes are required?</li> <li>9. What are the timeframes for a deregistration?</li> </ol>
APVMA 16	N/A	Written	Colbeck	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is the status of the Final Cost Recovery Impact Statement, and the introduction of the new arrangements?</li> <li>2. What is the reason for the extended review period and what impact will this have on APVMA's budget?</li> <li>3. What will the delay mean in terms of fee increases?</li> <li>4. Will applicants be paying higher fees once the new arrangements begin, to offset the presumed lesser fees paid by applicants during July 1 2009 and June 30 2010?</li> </ol>
AWI 01	19/10/09	138	Back	<p><b>Senator BACK</b>—Thanks, Chair. Mr Merriman, Ms McGahan, I wonder if you could just give us some prediction as to which way you think wool prices are going over the next one to two years in terms of helping wool producers make their decisions.</p> <p><b>Mr Merriman</b>—They are trying to go up now, but we have a Reserve Bank that keeps raising interest rates and that puts our dollar up. Our customers are paying more in US dollars, but it is not getting through to us. I do not know the figures over the last couple of weeks, but I think the wool market has risen something like 17 per cent or something in the US. I could take that on notice and find it for you.</p>
AWI 02	19/10/09	138-139	Back	<p><b>Senator BACK</b>—Very quickly, the industry report recently spoke about governance issues. Would you care to comment on how you think they can be improved? Do you accept that criticism that came of governance issues and, if so, can you give us advice on how they are to be addressed?</p> <p><b>Mr Merriman</b>—Since the new board was appointed, we identified several governance issues and steps have been taken to address those already. I will just let Brenda take you through them.</p> <p><b>Senator BACK</b>—Just briefly. I can take it on notice if necessary.</p> <p><b>Ms McGahan</b>—Yes, we can.</p> <p><b>Mr Merriman</b>—We will take it on notice</p>
AWI 03	N/A	Written	Williams	<p><b>AWI</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. With AWI's announcement in July that it was unlikely to meet the 2010 deadline for eradicating mulesing, has a new timetable been set?</li> <li>2. What was the market's reaction to the announcement?</li> <li>3. What percentage of Australian woolgrowers are still using conventional mulesing techniques?</li> </ol>

				<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Is it affecting our ability to sell overseas?</li> <li>5. Has there been a backlash from consumers?</li> <li>6. You mentioned at the may estimates there had been a successful launch of merino fresh garments in Paris and Shanghai; has that interest continued?</li> <li>7. What age group is being targeted?</li> <li>8. Is the market growing?</li> <li>9. Can you update me on what AWI has done to try and get more wool use in homes both here and overseas?</li> </ol>
AWI 04	N/A	Written	Heffernan	<p><b>AWI</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What work has AWI done on the impact of the CPRS on the Wool Industry?</li> <li>2. What has that work shown?</li> <li>3. Have you considered any alternative policy positions that might provide new income sources for farmers?</li> <li>4. Have you looked at the way the US Waxman Markey bill treats agriculture and the generations of agriculture offsets?</li> <li>5. Do you think that would be a good approach for Australia to take?</li> <li>6. For the past 50 years the wool industry and the accompanying government funding has been doing extension work to get farmers to take up best management practices such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Switch from set stocking to rotational grazing systems;</li> <li>• Unimproved pastures to improved pastures;</li> <li>• Smarter application of fertilizer; and</li> <li>• Nutrition management.</li> </ul> </li> <li>7. A Waxman Markey style ag offset style scheme would be the first time there would be a chance for monetizing the incentive for growers to take up these management and carbon emission reducing practices is that right?</li> <li>8. If these offsets were allowed, the money for farmers would be coming from the market and would not be in the form of government assistance is this correct?</li> <li>9. The tax payer would be pretty happy with that, and they will still be able to buy a Junee or Humula Roast lamb?</li> <li>10. The wool industry has a very long pipeline. What are you doing about working with your processors to reduce carbon emissions along the wool pipeline?</li> <li>11. Wool's ultimate customer is the consumer wanting to buy clothes, if you can work with your processors and growers to reduce their emissions in all stages of production, you would increase demand for your fibre by making it meet consumer preferences, is that right?</li> <li>12. In the Waxman Markey Bill there is a section calling for the establishment of a US Caron Labeling system for importation of products into the US, everything from Fendt tractors, Holden Police Cars to Wool jumpers. This could be a huge threat to wool or a monumental opportunity for increased demand if we get all the policy right and you work with your pipeline? What have you done about that?</li> </ol>



				<p>13. Similarly the UK Carbon Trust is expanding its Carbon Labeling program for consumers, are you doing anything on that?</p> <p>14. What experts are you working with to assist you with this work?</p> <p>15. <b>Last week in The Land (15/10/09) there was a Carbon Calculator launched by Australian Farm Institute.</b> It didn't paint a very good picture for people to stay in wool production did it?</p> <p>16. That work was funded by the Australian Government, is that right?</p> <p>17. So the <b>Farm Institute</b> is pushing the government's story for ruining agriculture and wool production?</p> <p>18. The Chairman of the Farm Institute is John Keniry, is that right? Isn't he the bloke cruising AWI and the upcoming elections? Wasn't he on the board of AWI until recently? Why would he be pushing for the destruction of the wool industry and agriculture by pushing the government's policy on the CPRS?</p>
BRS 01	19/10/09	41	Colbeck	<p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—But there is effectively no support from government as part of the process, by the sound of it? Apart from turning up to consult and having meetings, there is no support from government in assisting the fishing industry to deal with the issues that they have in responding to DEWHA.</p> <p><b>Dr O'Connell</b>—Do you mean financial support?</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Well, any support. BRS are consulting with DEWHA and providing them with industry information, but it does not appear—and I will check that later; we will go through that later—whether or not that is being correlated with the industry themselves.</p> <p><b>Dr O'Connell</b>—But BRS are part of this department, and they are playing that role to ensure that potentially—</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—But we have not been able to establish yet what support is being provided to the industry. It is all very well for the department to provide information, but is that information being shared and checked with industry? What if industry disputes the information that is being provided? What happens to them then is that DEWHA says, 'We've been provided this information by BRS which is prepared from your information.'</p> <p><b>Dr O'Connell</b>—I am not sure that that has happened. I have not heard that that has happened. We could certainly check that.</p>
BSG 01	27/10/09	24/25	Milne	<p><b>Senator MILNE</b>—I want to go to the Australian Wildlife Health Network. How is it resourced? How many people are funded? Can you give me exactly how much we are spending on it, how many people are employed and what is its resourcing?</p> <p><b>Dr Carroll</b>—I would have to take that on notice. There is some funding through administered programs.</p> <p><b>Senator MILNE</b>—That is fine. In the interest of time you can take it on notice. I want to know exactly how well that is resourced.</p> <p><b>Dr Carroll</b>—Yes.</p>

BSG 02	27/10/09	25	Milne	<p><b>Senator MILNE</b>—You said there was currently a low incidence of some of these diseases. Can you tell me what is the incidence of the chytrid fungus in the Tasmanian frog population?</p> <p><b>Dr Carroll</b>—I would have to take those sorts of questions on notice. I do not have the information.</p>
BSG 03	27/10/09	25	Milne	<p><b>Senator MILNE</b>—Can you tell me how this system with the Wildlife Health Network deals with wildlife health issues that overlap with other government sectors such as health, agriculture and the environment?</p> <p><b>Dr Carroll</b>—They would provide information and assessment where it is likely to have an impact on another sector. They would provide that information or the CVOs would provide that information through to the relevant state or federal—</p> <p><b>Senator MILNE</b>—How much information has that network already provided of that kind?</p> <p><b>Dr Carroll</b>—I would have to take that on notice.</p>
BSG 04	27/10/09	26	Milne	<p><b>Senator MILNE</b>—You say that they stay across these diseases, but I have just told you that as far as I know there is no emergency response to the spread of chytrid fungus in the World Heritage area. I doubt that anybody can tell me how widespread mucormycosis is in terms of the platypus in Tasmania. In fact, I will ask: how far has it spread and what has its impact been on the population throughout Tasmania? I know you will have to take that on notice, but it is to illustrate the point that I do not think there is any analysis going on. You say they get information from a wide variety of sources; like who? Where are they getting their information from in Tasmania?</p> <p><b>Dr Carroll</b>—The information they get would be from the zoo and wildlife vets. They would not be specifically funding things such as a survey of platypus for disease. That would fall under the responsibility of the environment or the agriculture department depending upon the state. With that sort of specific work, if there were felt to be a disease problem within a jurisdiction, within a state or a territory, then the on-the-ground work of that nature would fall to the state or territory.</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—Senator, given your particular interest in Tasmania, we could ask the relevant Tasmanian department to provide the information and we could get back to you. In terms of the World Heritage area, obviously the environment department has the Commonwealth government level responsibility for the management of the World Heritage area in collaboration with the state World Heritage authority. That has a set of management arrangements that are quite separate from the rest of the land use.</p> <p><b>Senator MILNE</b>—I appreciate that, but it is not just Tasmania. I am told that there is a bettong in Western Australia that has had a 90 per cent crash in its population. It is speculated that it could be disease. Where is this Australian Wildlife Health Network in relation to that?</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—We can take that on notice and provide you with any other specifics.</p> <p><b>Senator MILNE</b>—Given what you have said about this predictive capacity—and how they stay across these diseases—can you explain to me why there has been the extinction of eight</p>

				<p>Australian frog species because of chytrid fungus, if they are so good at keeping across everything?</p> <p><b>Dr Carroll</b>—As I said, they act as a monitoring unit. They are not involved in response to incidents of disease. They can only provide information and a lot of that depends on what base information is available through the state jurisdictions or other research. They are networking on what information is available, but they are not necessarily actively gathering information.</p> <p><b>Senator MILNE</b>—That is the point I am getting to. They are not actively gathering information. You said that you would be looking at the wildlife or zoo vets. I would like you to take on notice exactly how many of those there are in Tasmania employed by the state government or by the health network, because I think you will find there are none. Is it a concern to you that there is no-one out there actually looking for disease in wildlife, given what we know about the potential biodiversity impacts but also about the spread into domestic and human health?</p>
BSG 05	27/10/09	27/28	Milne	<p><b>Senator MILNE</b>—Having said that, do you accept that wildlife disease can be a canary in the coalmine, in terms of emerging disease that can cross species?</p> <p><b>Dr Carroll</b>—As I have said, that is one of the reasons why we attempt to monitor what is happening in the non-livestock sector and make assessments of that and also maintain a scanning capacity. We look to see whether anything is happening overseas as well.</p> <p><b>Senator MILNE</b>—I shall appreciate the information you can get for me about the incidences of all those diseases in Tasmania and what we can find out about them. I have one other matter, which is different. There was an incidence of an incursion of mainland yabbies into the Great Lake in Tasmania. I understand that these yabbies were brought in on the <i>Spirit of Tasmania</i> by mainland anglers. They walked straight through, took them up to where they were fishing in the Great Lake, put them into the lake and they were subsequently found. Firstly, I want to know whether anyone has been charged as a result of that—so what action was taken. Secondly, I want to know how it could occur that you could leave the <i>Spirit of Tasmania</i> with yabbies. Were they in an esky? How did this happen?</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—This is a state issue. We do not regulate that sort of issue.</p> <p><b>Dr Carroll</b>—Under the animal health arrangements in Australia, we do not look at introduced species, such as yabbies or invertebrates that might be introduced. Our involvement on the animal side is with diseases.</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—We can certainly check with Tasmania as to whether anybody has been prosecuted.</p>
BSG 06	27/10/09	30	Colbeck	<p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—What process did we go through to determine that it came from New Zealand, which is where it actually came from? Can you give us any more details about who brought the shipment in and what the process was? What follow-up action has been taken to ensure that you do not have these sorts of discrepancies occurring again?</p> <p><b>Dr Parker</b>—There is some difficulty for us: we are unable to change those particular data entries. The</p>

				<p>system does not allow us to physically change them; they have to be changed by the Customs brokers. The system that we have put in place is one of reminding all our officers who work in that particular area that, when they clear consignments and recognise discrepancies on the documentation, they must get back to the Customs brokers, who then are able to correct that particular data entry on the system.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Do we know who brought them in and confirmed that they came from New Zealand?</p> <p><b>Dr Parker</b>—On tracing it back to that particular entry, we were able to determine on the documentation that was cleared that it was New Zealand product and not product out of China.</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—It is probably worth emphasising that, from the biosecurity perspective, the check is made on the documentation that comes through, not on that entry in the Customs system. From the documentation it was clearly New Zealand, and the documentation would always come up with that being correct, assuming it had been put in correctly.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Do we know who imported the stuff?</p> <p><b>Dr Parker</b>—I would have to take that on notice. I do not have that specific information.</p>
BSG 07	27/10/09	32	Back	<p><b>Senator BACK</b>—Could you take on notice and advise us, please, of the number of horses that have come into Spotswood and Eastern Creek in the last couple of years, the average length of time they are in there and the cost per animal during their quarantine process? Is it not the case that the lease on Eastern Creek expires in 2015?</p> <p><b>Dr McDonald</b>—That is correct.</p>
BSG 08	27/10/09	32	Back	<p><b>Senator BACK</b>—Finally, I put on notice: the risk mitigation strategies that you have in place in the event that horses have to be evacuated from Eastern Creek for any reason—fire in the barns or whatever. I understand that time has run out, Chairman. I think you for your patience.</p>
BSG 09	N/A	Written	Back	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Has the Varroa mite been detected in Australia?</li> <li>2. If yes, what analysis has been undertaken concerning the impact this will have on Australian industry and will you make this available?</li> <li>3. What economic impact would that have?</li> <li>4. What measures are in place to detect and manage Varroa mite?</li> <li>5. What measures are being taken to keep the mite out of Australia and WA?</li> <li>6. How much has been committed to the National Sentinel Hive Program to date and going forward?</li> </ol>
BSG 10	N/A	Written	Back	<p>At the last Estimates we discovered that almost 9000 kilos of frozen beef patties were allowed to be imported from China to Australia in March.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How this was allowed to occur when beef of Chinese origin is not permitted because of concerns about mad cow’s disease?</li> <li>2. What was the outcome of the review into this terrible breach in AQIS inspection protocols?</li> <li>3. The Minister appeared to be of the view that it was a clerical procedure. Was it?</li> <li>4. If there was an error identified, what action has been taken to ensure that this does not occur</li> </ol>

				<p>again?</p> <p>5. A review has been undertaken into this – what was the outcome?</p> <p>6. How was this able to occur and can you provide this Committee with the importer’s documents?</p>
BSG 11	N/A	Written	Back	<p>1. What is the role of Biosecurity CRC?</p> <p>2. How many staff are currently working at Biosecurity CRC?</p> <p>3. Has this changed since Budget estimates?</p>
BSG 12	N/A	Written	Back	<p>What is the mechanism/process whereby AQIS / BA communicates with equivalent agencies overseas to assess possible risks of diseases being introduced to Australia and impact on Australian agriculture?</p>
BSG 13	N/A	Written	Back	<p>1. Does Biosecurity Australia work with or conduct any research with Australian Biosecurity CRC?</p> <p>2. Are you aware that the Australian Biosecurity CRC put forward their application for new funding beyond 2010 based on the “One Health Initiative” and it was knocked back?</p> <p>3. Are there any other agencies that are able conduct similar co-operative research between animal health and human health practitioners to ensure better public health outcomes?</p> <p>4. AB CRC has co-operative multi-institutional relationships with offshore research facilities to assist Australia in research and alert us to emerging threats in the Asian region. Is any other agency in a position to do the same?</p> <p>5. Can you provide me with information on whether there are plans to continue these relationships?</p>
BSG 14	N/A	Written	Back	<p>Can you advise what consideration, if any is being given to how we conform to our international obligations and also ensure the safety of Australians from new and emerging diseases that occur through transmission between animals and humans?</p>
BSG 15	N/A	Written	Back	<p>1. Who in DAFF is responsible for product integrity testing of imported agricultural products?</p> <p>2. What is this agency’s budget?</p> <p>3. Change over time in budget allocation?</p> <p>4. Number of samples taken and outcomes of testing?</p>
BSG 16	N/A	Written	Back	<p>1. Bulk wine imports: whose responsibility is it to check?</p> <p>2. What are the implications for labelling?</p>
BSG 17	N/A	Written	Back	<p>Horse Importation Programme:</p> <p>1. How many horses are currently (and over the lifetime of the establishment of the horse importation program) at each facility?</p> <p>2. Average length of stay of horses in quarantine?</p> <p>3. Average cost per animal for Post –Arrival Quarantine?</p>

BSG 18	N/A	Written	Back	<p>The recommendations from the Callinan Review into Equine Influenza recognised amongst other things that Eastern Creek particularly was poorly-equipped, under-funded and under-resourced.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What has been done to address all these concerns and ensure that Eastern Creek is a world-class quarantine facility?</li> <li>2. How much have the Government invested in re-mediating these problems? Point to where this funding has been drawn.</li> </ol>
BSG 19	N/A	Written	Back	<p>Last Wednesday I understand AQIS has entered into discussions with the horse industry regarding the proposed closure of Spotswood in Victoria which would leave only one, dedicated horse quarantine station in Australia – Eastern Creek:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Can you confirm these discussions took place?</li> <li>2. The outbreak of EI was determined to have originated from Eastern Creek and while horses at Spotswood tested positive it did not spread outside the quarantine facility – why when it seemingly had higher quarantine controls in place has AQIS decided to close it down instead of Eastern Creek?</li> <li>3. What was the basis for this decision? (Did business plan reflect that it was less profitable and fewer horses were being imported through here)</li> </ol>
BSG 20	N/A	Written	Back	<p>AQIS has identified \$700,000 in savings that can be gained through Spotswood’s closure.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How was this figure calculated?</li> <li>2. Can you provide me with the detail?</li> <li>3. This decision is intended to result in the reduction of costs of imports:</li> <li>4. What overall will this savings result in all levels of applicants for this service?</li> <li>5. If this hasn’t been determined can you tell me when?</li> <li>6. Are you able to assure industry that there will be a saving and by a minimum of how much?</li> </ol>
BSG 21	N/A	Written	Back	<p>With regard to quarantine considerations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Was a risk analysis undertaken in formulating this decision and what risks have been identified from a horse quarantine perspective?</li> <li>2. Has AQIS considered how they will overcome problems arising from co-mingling of horses from places of different health status ie. all being accommodated in one facility? Surely this isn’t a desirable quarantine outcome?</li> <li>3. If improvements have been made to address this can you provide details on current and projected projects?</li> <li>4. With only one quarantine station what measures would be taken in the event horses had to be moved in an emergency ie. fire – would this not render their quarantine status invalid causing them to be removed to their country of origin to recommence their quarantine program?</li> <li>5. If there is a quarantine breach where are horses going to go?</li> <li>6. Are you likely to see more horses being imported via NZ if it becomes a more cost-effective pathway?</li> </ol>

				7. Is this a concern?
BSG 22	N/A	Written	Back	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. An interim arrangement has been made to ceases importation at Spotswood for 6 months can you confirm this and what factors will determine future closure of this facility?</li> <li>2. When is this decision likely to be made and by who?</li> <li>3. Can you make any assessment on this decision when it is completed available to this Committee?</li> <li>4. Can you confirm whether Eastern Creek's lease due to expire by 2015?</li> <li>5. What consideration has been given to quarantine arrangements beyond that date?</li> <li>6. Is DofD in negotiations to extend this prior to the closure of Spotswood?</li> </ol>
BSG 23	N/A	Written	Colbeck	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is the status of the 6 Ministerial Taskforces with respect to the reform process? Are there any current plans for further meetings?</li> <li>2. Can AQIS provide a full breakdown, by financial year and by the 6 broad industry groups, of projected fees and charges received over the next 2 financial years?</li> <li>3. Has AQIS completed any comparisons of export certification fees and charges with other nations? How do Australia's schedule of fees and charges compare with our competitors? What impact does this have on our international competitiveness?</li> <li>4. What is proportion of billable time for AQIS export inspectors compared with full work hours? (AHEA claim billable time is just 32%) What takes up the balance of the inspectors' hours?</li> <li>5. What is the level, broken down by industry, of the industry liability accounts?</li> <li>6. What does AQIS budget to have these accounts at the end of 2009/10 and 2010/11?</li> <li>7. When does AQIS/DAFF plan to recover these debts?</li> <li>8. Can AQIS advise what legal advice it received with respect to the collection and retention of 'over-charged' fees following the disallowance motion? Did the Minister approve this action?</li> <li>9. What is the level of fees that will be returned to industry as a result of the disallowance motion? Can AQIS please provide a breakdown of these by industry and by type of charge, that is, weekly, monthly or annual?</li> <li>10. What is the value of fees that won't be returned? (that is, weekly or monthly charges paid prior to the disallowance motion)</li> <li>11. Minister Burke, following the disallowance motion claimed the move would have a significant impact on Australia's ability to keep pests and diseases out of Australia and to gain access to overseas markets. Is Minister Burke confirming that in fact export inspection programs in some way subsidise border protection and import programs?</li> <li>12. Can AQIS provide information about the \$20 million promised by the Minister as a sweetener to the Greens Party? Was this new money? Or was it money out of additional departmental funds such as underspends?</li> <li>13. When was this additional funding requested by the Minister? What advice was provided to the Minister regarding this additional funding? When was this advice provided?</li> <li>14. What advice was provided by other agencies with respect to this additional funding? When</li> </ol>

				was this advice provided?
BSG 24	N/A	Written	Colbeck	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Who was the importer of the 'Beef – Frozen Burgers' under tariff code 2023000 on the 27/03/2009?</li> <li>2. Has this importer imported any previous products or products since 27/03/2009?</li> <li>3. What was the nature of these products?</li> <li>4. Which port did the above products arrive at?</li> <li>5. When were the above products inspected by AQIS?</li> <li>6. When did AQIS realise there was an error with the data?</li> <li>7. Has AQIS found any other errors in all other data contained in the same Excel spreadsheet provided to the Senate?</li> </ol>
BSG 25	N/A	Written	Colbeck	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is contained within the 'response package' proposal in relation to the export of kangaroo meat to Russia?</li> <li>2. What is the anticipated cost of the proposed package to industry including processors?</li> <li>3. What is the timeline for the presentation of the proposal to Russia?</li> </ol>
BSG 26	N/A	Written	Nash	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What Import Risk Assessments IRA's on Chinese, Russian, Indian, Indonesian, Philippine, Brazil, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay and South African products are currently under way?</li> <li>2. Are they close to being finalised?</li> </ol>
BSG 27	N/A	Written	Nash	Can the department provide a list of all new and existing import applications for food and agriculture/fisheries/forestry products from China, Russia, India, Indonesia, Philippine, Brazil, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay and South Africa?
BSG 28	N/A	Written	Nash	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What agriculture/food products are currently imported from China, Russia, India, Indonesia, Philippine, Brazil, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay and South Africa?</li> <li>2. Please provide a country by list of all imported food and agriculture products.</li> </ol>
BSG 29	N/A	Written	Nash	Please provide a country by country breakdown in percentage terms and the number of tests conducted on food products (fresh and manufactured) being imported into Australia from China, Russia, India, Indonesia, Philippine, Brazil, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay and South Africa?
BSG 30	N/A	Written	Nash	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Please update the previous list of all food inspected by AQIS during the 2008/09, and 2009/10 financial year provided in during the last Senate Estimates Committee Hearing from China?</li> <li>2. Please provide the same list for Russia, India, Indonesia, Philippine, Brazil, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay and South Africa.</li> </ol>
BSG 31	N/A	Written	Nash	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How many of the items from China, Russia, India, Indonesia, Philippine, Brazil, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay and South Africa inspected by AQIS were rejected?</li> <li>2. What were the reasons for rejecting the shipments?</li> <li>3. Have any prosecutions been launched?</li> </ol>
BSG 32	N/A	Written	Nash	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How many shipments of agriculture products were held up and or rejected by AQIS last year because of breaches to Australia's Quarantine rules in 2008/09?</li> </ol>



				<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. What was the nature of these breaches?</li> <li>3. How many of the breaches resulted in the goods not being allowed into Australia?</li> <li>4. What happened to the goods?</li> <li>5. Have any prosecutions been launched?</li> <li>6. How many of these prosecutions were successful?</li> </ol>
BSG 33	N/A	Written	Nash	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Has anyone from the Department or Minister's office sought to place any pressure on any industry body or exporter to convince the Coalition to support a rescinder motion of the disallowance motion on the increased AQIS Export Certification Fees and Charges?</li> <li>2. Including but not limited to threats that overtime bans would be implemented which could be extremely costly, especially if demurrage is involved (ie want to load a ship at 4am but have to wait for an AQIS inspector to sign off on the cargo could result in a USD\$20,000 plus demurrage charge by the shipping line)?</li> <li>3. How does the Department justify these outrageous comments?</li> </ol>
BSG 34	N/A	Written	Nash	Since the Senate Disallowed the new fees and charges for AQIS Export Certification what measures has the Government put in place ensure the smooth operation of the program?
BSG 35	N/A	Written	Nash	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is the current budget for the AQIS Export Certification program?</li> <li>2. Please provide a detailed list of the specific reform items the Government wants to implement in this area for each of the industries, include the indicative initial costs of each of these reforms and the timeframe for implementation of each of the individual reforms?</li> </ol>
BSG 36	N/A	Written	Nash	In relation to the Minister's media statements that he had reach an agreement with the Greens to provide an additional \$20 million to implement efficiency reforms with the AQIS Export Certification program, was this \$20 million additional funding from Treasury or was it to come from within the existing DAFF budget?
BSG 37	N/A	Written	Nash	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Is the Government aware of industry concerns that the Department attempted to meet the Government's efficiency dividend demands by transferring departmental administration costs onto industry cost recovery programs such as the AQIS Export Certification Program?</li> <li>2. Please provide a breakdown of each of the administration overheads for the AQIS Export Certification program for 2006/07, 2007/08, 2008/09 and estimate costs for 2009/10?</li> </ol>
BSG 38	N/A	Written	Nash	When will the Government publicly release the Ernst Young audit into the actual costs associated with the AQIS Export Certification program for the Meat Industry?
BSG 39	N/A	Written	Nash	What were the major findings of the Ernst Young audit into the actual costs associated with the AQIS Export Certification program?
BSG 40	N/A	Written	Nash	Please provide a complete breakdown of all individual costs for each industry of the costs to run the AQIS Export Certification program, including the cost of inspection services and AQIS administration costs for 2007/08, 2008/09 and the projected costs for 2009/10 and 2010/11? (where the costs are demand driven and unknown please provide an estimate)
BSG 41	N/A	Written	Nash	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Has the Government informed industry that it will be seeking to recover the fees and charges which are disallowed by the Senate through the industry liability accounts?</li> <li>2. Will the Department be seeking to recover any fees and charges via the industry liability</li> </ol>

				accounts? 3. What was the level of debt for each industry in 2006/07, 2008/09, and what will be the projected level of debt for 2009/10 for each industry?
BSG 42	N/A	Written	Nash	Does the Department agree with Beale that the costs associated with market access arrangements are a legitimate cost to Government and should be paid for by Government?
BSG 43	N/A	Written	Nash	1. Are industry groups proposing alternatives to axing the 40 percent rebate which was disallowed by the Senate? 2. If so what are they?
BSG 44	N/A	Written	Nash	Please table all correspondence and interim reports between AQIS and all relevant users of AQIS export services and the six Ministerial Taskforces
BSG 45	N/A	Written	Nash	1. Which industry groups has the Minister met with in relation to the abolition of the 40% rebate and on how many occasions has the Minister met with these groups? 2. Please give a date on which the meetings occurred.
BSG 46	N/A	Written	Nash	1. How many meetings has the department held with export industry groups in relation to the axing of the 40% rebated? 2. When did these meetings take place?
BSG 47	N/A	Written	Nash	Please provide copies of all correspondence, (including emails) with industry bodies, and exporters since the regulation allowing the new massive fees and charges was disallowed by the Senate.
BSG 48	N/A	Written	Nash	Has the Minister or Department given industry groups a deadline to have come to agreement on the new fees and charges as a result of the Senate disallowing the Government's new fees and charges?
BSG 49	N/A	Written	Nash	Why did AQIS mislead this Committee, by claiming the beef had come in from China, yet now claim it had come from New Zealand?
BSG 50	N/A	Written	Nash	1. Please provide a copy of all documents in relation to the 8.8 tonnes of Chinese Beef which the Department told the committee was imported into Australia, and subsequently stated via a letter from Dr O'Connell that the Department had mislead the Committee and it was in fact Beef from New Zealand? 2. In particular please provide a copy of the document showing the incorrect country of origin code which the Secretary states was wrongly entered by an Australian customs broker into the integrated Cargo System (ICS). 3. How often are these types of mistakes made? 4. How many times has a product which country of origin was Chinese mistakenly been entered as coming from New Zealand? 5. What action if any has been taken against the customs broker for using the wrong country of

				origin code?
BSG 51	N/A	Written	Nash	The Minister stated in a Media release that; 'I have asked the Director of Quarantine to review the quality of our management, training needs, coordination and verification to ensure people have confidence in our biosecurity and quarantine system. ' 1. Has this review been completed? 2. If not why not?
BSG 52	N/A	Written	Nash	1. What were the key findings and the review and given the Minister has correctly stated the review was to be undertaken to 'ensure people have confidence in our biosecurity and quarantine system, when will the review be publicly released? 2. If it is not going to be publicly released why not?
BSG 53	N/A	Written	Nash	1. How many graduate program positions were employed within all of the Quarantine and Biosecurity division in 2007 -08, and 2008 -09? 2. What were these graduate program positions and where are they located? 3. Will the division be employing any staff under the graduate program in 2009 -10?
BSG 54	N/A	Written	Nash	The Budget Related Paper No. 1.1, Portfolio Budget Statements 2009 -10, Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Portfolio, states on page 67; "Outcome 2: Safeguard Australia's animal and plant health status to maintain overseas markets and protect the economy and environment from the impact of exotic pests and diseases, through risk assessment, inspection and certification, and the implementation of emergency response arrangements for Australian agricultural, food and fibre industries.' 1. How does cutting 125 staffing positions possible help deliver Outcome 2? 2. How does the decision to cut 125 staff positions comply with the Beale Review Recommendation to increase annual funding by \$260 million per annum?
BSG 55	N/A	Written	Nash	Page 202 of the Beale Review states that there is a lack of Senior Executive staff within AQIS and Bio-security Australia which 'has inhibited critical decision making'. What has the Department done to resolve this issue?
BSG 56	N/A	Written	Nash	On page 205 of the Beale Review it states: 'In addition, the Panel is recommending a remediation investment of approximately \$225 million over a number of years to upgrade information technology and business systems for the National Biosecurity Authority.' 1. Have any provisions been made in the budget to upgrade technology and business systems with AQIS and Bio-Security Australia? 2. When will these upgrades begin and how much funding is being provided?
BSG 57	N/A	Written	Nash	Budget Related Paper No. 1.1, Portfolio Budget Statements 2009 -10, Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Portfolio, page 68, Program 2.1: Quarantine and Export Services, Departmental Expenses; Ordinary Annual Services (Appropriation Bill No. 1) the estimated actual expenses for

				<p>2008 -09 was \$121,049,000 which will be cut to \$95,353,000 in 2009 -10.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Doesn't this represent a cut to the Governments contribution of \$25,969,000?</li> <li>2. From which program areas is this funding to be cut?</li> <li>3. Isn't it a fact that the Beale Review into quarantine and bio-security arrangement has cost taxpayers \$1,728,067?</li> <li>4. Isn't it a fact the Beale Review Recommendation 73 states; The Commonwealth should increase its bio-security investment by an amount in the order of \$260 million per annum, subject to a full costing by departments, to meet the recommendations of this report.?'</li> <li>5. Is it a fact that the Minister in a media release announcing the release of the Beale Review stated 'the Rudd Government had accepted all 84 recommendations in-principle'?</li> <li>6. Why is the Government deliberately ignoring the Ministers 'in-principle' support for an additional \$260 million per annum and cutting the Government's contribution by \$25.969 million in 2009-10?</li> <li>7. Does the Government have any intention of adopting Beale Recommendation 73?</li> </ol>
BSG 58	N/A	Written	Nash	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What Beale Recommendations is the Government adopting in 2009-10?</li> <li>2. How much will these measures cost to implement?</li> <li>3. When is it the Governments intention to adopt implement all of 84 of the Beale Review Recommendations?</li> </ol>
BSG 59	N/A	Written	Nash	<p>Page 205 of the Beale Review states; 'It is impossible to escape the conclusion that the agencies are significantly under resourced, putting Australia's economy, people and environment at significant risk.'</p> <p>Does the Government concur with that view?</p>
BSG 60	N/A	Written	Nash	When will the Government be implementing the Beale Review recommendations?
BSG 61	N/A	Written	Nash	<p>Given the fact that the Beale review states 'Without these additional resources, the National Biosecurity Authority will not be able to deliver the One Biosecurity: a working partnership model envisaged by the Panel.'</p> <p>Does the Government believe it can implement any recommendations from the Beale Review without increasing funding by \$260 million per annum?</p>
BSG 62	N/A	Written	Nash	<p>Budget Related Paper No. 1.1, Portfolio Budget Statements 2009 -10, Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Portfolio, page 71, Program 2.1 Key Performance Indicators states that in 2008-09 'zero markets lost'.</p> <p>Does the Government stand by this claim?</p>
BSG 63	N/A	Written	Nash	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Does the Government not consider the disruption during the year to the Russian red meat market as a market lost?</li> <li>2. Have all companies, including kangaroo exporters who lost markets in Russia again exporting to Russia?</li> </ol>

				3. What was the reason for the suspension of access for red meat exporting companies to Russia? 4. What impact has the lost market access in Russia had on the Kangaroo industry?
BSG 64	N/A	Written	Nash	How much did the Beale Review cost? Please provide a breakdown of all individual costs
BSG 65	N/A	Written	Nash	What is the Government's timetable for responding formally to the Beale Review? When will legislation be introduced?
BSG 66	N/A	Written	Nash	Who has the Government consulted within industry on the Beale Reviews recommendations
BSG 67	N/A	Written	Nash	Has industry welcomed all aspects of the Beale Review? Are there any alternative views within industry on any recommendations, particularly in relation to market access arrangements and establishing new markets, particularly import protocols in relation to quarantine matters including cost?
BSG 68	N/A	Written	Nash	Is the government reviewing its 'in principle support' for any of the Beale Review recommendations?
BSG 69	N/A	Written	Nash	What is the Government's estimated cost of implementing the Beale Review Recommendations? (Please provide a breakdown, including any additional costs and/or savings)
BSG 70	N/A	Written	Nash	Given the Government's 'in principle support' has it acted on recommendation 79 which states; 79 Export certification functions should return to 100 per cent cost recovery as scheduled at the beginning of July 2009, noting that this would require an early decision and announcement by the Government to allow businesses to prepare for the additional costs as well as for the necessary consultation on revised fee structures.
BSG 71	N/A	Written	Nash	Provide a breakdown of what it will cost each affected industry per annum to implement recommendation 79?
BSG 72	N/A	Written	Nash	Has the Government received any industry responses to this recommendation? If so what were they?
BSG 73	N/A	Written	Nash	How does increasing the costs to exporters increase our international competitiveness in the current financial circumstances, particularly given exports are expected to decline in the foreseeable future?
BSG 74	N/A	Written	Nash	What are the current arrangements and responsibilities of State Governments under CAOG bio-security arrangements, animal health, plant health, particularly in relation to disease monitoring, and surveillance and cost sharing?
BSG 75	N/A	Written	Nash	Does the Government have any concerns in relation to the botched reforms and amalgamations of the Rural Land and Protection Boards into the Livestock Health and Pest Authorities, which play an integral part in on-the ground animal health surveillance?
BSG 76	N/A	Written	Nash	Does the Government have any concerns about the NSW Government decision that it will close the Orange Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory?
BSG 77	N/A	Written	Nash	Given the failure of the Government to implement its increased fees and charges agenda on industry at a time of Global financial problems can the Department please clarify the following

				<p>and explain whether the budget papers are still accurate:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Budget Related Paper No. 1.1, Portfolio Budget Statements 2009 -10, Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Portfolio, page 69, Program 2.2: Plant and Animal Health Departmental Expenses; Ordinary Annual Services (Appropriation Bill No. 1) the estimated actual expenses for 2008 -09 was \$75.674 million which will be cut to \$65.493 million in 2009 -10. Doesn't this represent a cut to the Governments contribution of \$10,181 million?</li> <li>2. From which program areas is this funding to be cut?</li> <li>3. Isn't it a fact that the Beale Review into quarantine and bio-security arrangement has cost taxpayers \$1,728,067?</li> <li>4. Isn't it a fact the Beale Review Recommendation 73 states; The Commonwealth should increase its bio-security investment by an amount in the order of \$260 million per annum, subject to a full costing by departments, to meet the recommendations of this report.?'?</li> <li>5. Is it a fact that the Minister in a media release announcing the release of the Beale Review stated 'the Rudd Government had accepted all 84 recommendations in-principle'?</li> <li>6. Why is the Government deliberately ignoring the Ministers 'in-principle' support for an additional \$260 million per annum and cutting the Government's contribution to Plant and Animal Health programs by \$10.181 million in 2009-10?</li> <li>7. Does the Government have any intention of adopting Beale Recommendation 73?</li> <li>8. What Beale Recommendations is the Government adopting in 2009-10?</li> <li>9. How much will these measures cost to implement?</li> <li>10. When is it the Governments intention to adopt implement all of 84 of the Beale Review Recommendations?</li> </ol>
BSG 78	N/A	Written	Nash	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What activities are undertaken at the Australian Animal Health Laboratory, (AAHL)?</li> <li>2. Has routine diagnostic surveillance for classical swine flu or any other diseases been increased in 2008-09 or will be increased in 2009-10?</li> <li>3. Has the diagnostic workload of the AAHL increased in 2007-08, and 2008-09?</li> <li>4. Why has the government failed to recognise the vital role AAHL plays in disease diagnostics and research not only here in Australia, but internationally as well?</li> <li>5. Why has the government failed to increase its contribution in real terms to the operating costs of the AAHL, with an increase of just \$21,000 in 2009-10?</li> <li>6. How many graduates are employed at AAHL under the Departments graduate program?</li> </ol>
BSG 79	N/A	Written	Nash	<p>Does the Government still give 'in principled support' to recommendation 59 of the Beale Review which in part states; 'The panel's view is that access to positive control samples such as the FMD virus is vital and should be permitted ... to approved laboratories and to AAHL (Australian Animal Health Laboratory)?</p>

BSG 80	N/A	Written	Nash	<p>In previous answers the Government has indicated that it is in discussions with the Thai Government in relation to establishing a formal relationship with Regional FMD Lab at Pak Chung in Thailand.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What discussions have taken place with the relevant Thai authorities?</li> <li>2. Which agency was leading the discussions and how many meeting have taken place?</li> <li>3. When will there be a formal relationship and in what form will this relationship take?</li> <li>4. Is it the Government's intention to help ensure that Pak Chung reaches OIE Reference Laboratory status for FMD?</li> </ol>
BSG 81	N/A	Written	Siewert	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Please advise on what basis the level of 50kGy for pet food undergoing gamma irradiation was accepted as             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) being an efficient level to achieve the required quarantine outcome?</li> <li>(b) being a safe level for the foodstuff/animal eating the foodstuff?</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. On what evidence was the level of 50kGy determined? Practical experimentation or reference to existing published studies? If the latter please provide references.</li> <li>3. What studies were either undertaken or reviewed to establish the safety of irradiating food at this level?             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Studies on the effects of nutrient content of the food irradiated at 50kGy? Please provide references.</li> <li>(b) Studies on the effects on animals of feeding diets irradiated at 50kGy? Please provide references.</li> </ol> </li> <li>4. What are the specific perceived risks in importing pet food that has not been sufficiently heat treated during production to meet quarantine requirements that requires either further heat treatment or gamma irradiation to render it quarantine safe?</li> <li>5. What particular pathogens are of concern in pet food that are not found in imported food intended for human consumption?</li> <li>6. For what reasons do these risks/pathogens warrant treatment at a level so much higher than that used on foods intended for human consumption?</li> </ol>
BSG 82	N/A	Written	Adams	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How are 'persons of integrity' defined under the Act, in relation to the granting of an Australian Meat Export License?</li> <li>2. Would the directors of a company holding a meat export license, that;             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) had defaulted on a multi-million dollar judgement awarded against them by a State Supreme Court;</li> <li>(b) who then proceeded to form a new company with a very similar name;</li> <li>(c) who all became the directors of the new company;</li> <li>(d) who then sought to change the name on the meat export license from the former company to the new company;</li> </ol> <p>Would these directors be considered persons of integrity under the Act?</p> </li> </ol>

BSG 83	N/A	Written	Colbeck	Can the Department please provide an explanation for the cessation of any expenditure on 'Other Services (Appropriation Bill No.2) for Program 2.2 (Plant & Animal Health) – broken down by program?
BSG 84	N/A	Written	Colbeck	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Has the Department provided any advice to the Minister on the cost(s) of implementing recommendations from the Beale Review?</li> <li>2. When was this advice provided?</li> </ol>
BSG 85	N/A	Written	Colbeck	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Can the Department please provide an explanation of the cessation (following 2009-2010) of any expenditure on the National Livestock Identification System under Program 2.2?</li> <li>2. Has any advice been developed on continuing this expenditure beyond 2009-2010?</li> <li>3. What is the nature of this advice?</li> <li>4. Has it been provided to the Minister?</li> </ol>
CC 01	19/10/09	17-18	Sterle	<p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—Chair, I have some information on the member for Forrest’s letter, if that is helpful. I am told that the response has been slightly delayed as the issues are also subject to a parliamentary inquiry. But we expect that the response will be sent very soon.</p> <p><b>CHAIR</b>—Would that be a federal parliamentary inquiry?</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—That is my sense of it.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—You do not know which parliamentary inquiry we are talking about?</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—We will have to get that as further information to you, if we could. That is the limit of my knowledge at the moment.</p> <p><b>CHAIR</b>—That is fine, Dr O’Connell, but it might be helpful if you can find out which government it is.</p>
CC 02	19/10/09	69-70	Colbeck	<p><b>Mr Gibbs</b>—The funding for the FarmGAS calculator was agreed by the previous government just prior to the election.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—There is another calculator on the market. Is that correct?</p> <p><b>Mr Gibbs</b>—My understanding is that there is a dairy based gas calculator.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Where does that emanate from? It is perhaps an unfortunate term!</p> <p><b>Mr Gibbs</b>—My understanding is that it is industry driven, but we can take that on notice and get back to you about that.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Is there one that was developed in New Zealand as well.</p> <p><b>Mr Gibbs</b>—I am unaware of one at this time. We could undertake to get back to you.</p>
CC 03	19/10/09	71	Nash	<p><b>Senator NASH</b>—Is the department aware that the calculator, as I understand it, is weighted, if you like, to gearing farmers to burning stubble and using those practices, because there are actually other rules which count the methane emissions of the natural breakdown of the stubble? Of itself, it is steering farmers to burning stubble in terms of the financial implications.</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—I would certainly have to take on notice the specifics around the issue that you raise, but I do understand that there is the issue of the potential for some methane emissions from the breakdown and of course that would be a legitimate thing to have some regard to. Whether</p>



				that in itself outweighs either the productivity gains or the other land use benefits would also clearly have to be taken on board. The point would be: what would be the policy framework you would want to put around this in order to encourage the cost benefit, if you like.
CC 04	19/10/09	71-72	Nash	<p><b>Senator NASH</b>—I have one last question. It is really just to clarify this for me, and it is a different issue. It seems to be there is some confusion here in terms of the actual methane emissions from animals. The minister recently talked about including agriculture, and he said: The problem with agriculture is that the science is not where we need it to be to make that final call. The CSIRO last week was very clear and definitive in saying that 10 to 11 per cent of the methane emissions come from animals. Why, on the one hand, is the minister saying that the science is not there to make these deliberations and, on the other hand, the CSIRO is claiming quite definitively that they do believe they have the science to measure it?</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—I am not sure precisely which is the quotation you are referring to from the minister.</p> <p><b>Mr Quinlivan</b>—I think you might be talking about the measurement of two separate things, Senator. On the one hand, CSIRO is talking about the measurement of emissions from the sector generally and totally, whereas the minister is talking about translating that into what is essentially a commercial transaction which needs to be on a property or a per animal basis. He is saying at that point the science and the measurements are not sufficiently precise that you can turn it into what is a financial transaction. They are quite different things.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—So the actual emissions that the CSIRO is talking about that they can measure are not what you need to say, ‘This much is coming out the back end of an animal’? That is not the measurement you need. Is that what you are saying?</p> <p><b>Mr Quinlivan</b>—I do not think that is what they are saying. They are saying the practices—</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—The CSIRO is saying exactly that.</p> <p><b>Mr Quinlivan</b>—They are talking about emissions from ruminates generally, as I understand it, and they talk about 16 per cent, which is quite different to saying, ‘Animals on this property are emitting X tonnes,’ which—</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—True. But to get to this—</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—Senator, my preference anyway would be to be very clear as to which reference to the minister you are making before we go and head off on explaining what the minister has said or not.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—It is quite a long extraction from the interview. So why do I not supply that to you? Then you can give me an answer on notice.</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—That is not a problem</p>
CC 05	19/10/09	72	Colbeck	<p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—I just want to go quickly back to EC, but I will be back to climate change. In fact, to save time I will put the EC stuff on notice. That will save that problem. The visit that you had or the department had to Tasmania last week—and I think it was Mr Murnane who was down there—related to the service provided effectively in administering EC through Centrelink and that process. The concern that has been raised with me is that it is taking 12 or 13 weeks to</p>

				<p>assess claims. Obviously, in the current circumstances that exist that have found politicians, ministerial staff and members of departments trotting around the countryside to talk to these people, circumstances are quite dire. The reason people are fronting up to make claims for these support payments is that they bloody need them, yet they are being told when they get there that it is going to take 12 or 13 weeks. They will get their payments after Christmas. They are in doo-doo right now and it is deep. Is there any way that can be mitigated? I understand it is complicated. I spent some time working with Centrelink on a lot of their forms and stuff, so I understand that. But can additional resources be thrown at this or what can be done so that they are not waiting until after Christmas to receive support payments that are, without question—and I do not think anybody is doubting—desperately needed?</p> <p><b>Mr Mortimer</b>—We will follow up on that. We will take it on notice and get you an answer. I would be surprised if it is taking that long, but I cannot really say anything more than that. If you like, we will come back to you.</p>
CC 06	19/10/09	74	Nash	<p><b>Senator NASH</b>—I am sorry; I should have asked this when we were on the questions before about the measurement issue and saying how the overall 10 and 11 per cent that the CSIRO was talking about is not the same as individual emissions. Do you not have to have a baseline figure per animal for CSIRO to come out with an overall figure of the 10 to 11 per cent that it is talking about?</p> <p><b>Mr Gibbs</b>—There are certain accounting rules and measurement techniques that the CSIRO use for the national number—the 10 per cent number that you are referring to. What we are trying to do over the course of the research over the next few years is to try to understand the different breeds of cows in the different regions of Australia and what sort of emissions come out of that and how you ingrain that into the accounting rules. At the moment, the accounting rules encapsulate an average across the nation, but they have difficulty going down to specific types of animals, what they may eat and how old they are. So that is the difference between—</p> <p>-----</p> <p>---<b>Senator NASH</b>—Just stop there, because this might be the easiest way to describe it. So that 10 per cent is rough calculations from, say, the cattle emissions across the country?</p> <p><b>Mr Gibbs</b>—Yes.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—And you are saying that, because they are rough calculations, it is a ballpark sort of figure. You cannot then drill that down to the accounting necessary for each individual animal on a farm because of all the different scenarios that might be in place for that animal.</p> <p><b>Mr Gibbs</b>—That is correct.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—So that 10 per cent should probably not be put as a definitive figure should it? If it is just this rough ballpark figure, how does the CSIRO say so definitively, ‘This is what it is?’</p> <p>-----</p> <p>-----<b>Senator NASH</b>—That slightly clears it up for me, but not terribly well. Perhaps you would like to take that on notice and in more detail supply to the committee exactly how that CSIRO figure is arrived at. That would be very useful.</p> <p><b>Mr Gibbs</b>—Absolutely.</p>

CC 07	19/10/09	76	Colbeck	<p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—What are the risks to the system? We will have to go on to that later, Bill. I will come back to food processing and manufacturers. Does the department have a sense of how many food processors might be considered large emitters under the scheme?</p> <p><b>Mr Gibbs</b>—We do not have an exact number. I think the number ranges from about 100 to 200. At the end of the day, it depends on what the threshold is for the emissions trading scheme, if we go down that path. If it is a 25,000-kilotonne threshold, I think the number is in the order of 100 to 200. I can check that for you and come back to you on that.</p>
CC 08	19/10/09	80	Adams	<p><b>Senator ADAMS</b>—This particular toolbox was raised at the last seminar I was at a couple of weeks ago. They were asking how long it was going to take for it to be completely developed. They were told that there are more discussion papers to come out on it. How long is it going to take to get a toolbox that really does work and that farmers can actually use practically?</p> <p><b>Mr Gibbs</b>—I do not have the answer to that question. It would be best put to the Department of Climate Change.</p> <p><b>Mr Mortimer</b>—Mr Gibbs is entirely right on that.</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—We can take that on notice and ask the Department of Climate Change to provide us with information and provide it to you</p>
CC 09	19/10/09	82	Milne	<p><b>Senator MILNE</b>—Are you looking at plantation blue gums and other monocultures as feedstock for biochar?</p> <p><b>Mr Gibbs</b>—I would have to take that on notice. I know we are looking at different wastes. But I am not sure about the blue gum side of it.</p> <p><b>Senator MILNE</b>—Any forestry plantation—softwood or hardwood? I would be interested to know if you are doing any work on using forest plantations as biochar.</p> <p><b>Mr Gibbs</b>—There will certainly be work done on plantations. The detail of which plantations I do not have with me at the moment.</p> <p><b>Senator MILNE</b>—If you could provide that for me, I would appreciate it.</p>
CC 10	19/10/09	85-86	Milne	<p><b>Senator MILNE</b>—I am very pleased to hear that, so we will not have a repeat of that in the future. At the estimates hearing last year I asked in particular in relation to the Tasmanian Forest Industry Development Program, the Tasmanian Softwood Industry Development Program and the Tasmanian Country Sawmills Assistance Program. I asked for the details of how the money was disbursed and whether it was on the website. Mr Mortimer, you indicated that you did not have a full list at that time, that it is not on the website and that you could take it on notice and provide that to me.</p> <p>As far as I can find amongst all my records I have never received the full list of the grants that were made— the disbursement of moneys under that program. What I did get back was at 30 June how much was left over from those three programs and where that money went—that \$2.9 million was later disbursed to Caring for our Country and Landcare and so on. But what I actually wanted in addition to that was a list of the grants—how that money was disbursed, not as a generic or a large figure; I want to know specifically who got the grants and how much under those programs. Would you please be able to make that list available to me? I apologise if you have made it</p>

				<p>available to me. We have been right back through our records and I cannot find ever having received it.</p> <p><b>Mr Mortimer</b>—Senator, I will have to go and check our records. My apologies if we have not done it, or if the question has been misinterpreted. I did not come briefed on that issue, so—</p> <p><b>Senator MILNE</b>—Maybe if you can just take it on notice, but I would like to see a list of who got the money and how much under those three programs, because they have all been concluded now. It has been finalised. That would be extremely useful.</p>
CC 11	19/10/09	86	Milne	<p><b>Senator MILNE</b>—Thank you. The next question is in relation to Minister Burke’s announcement in relation to two particular programs on carbon. One is the Indonesia-Australia Forest Carbon Partnership. That is dated June 2008. The other was the Papua New Guinea-Australia Forest Carbon Partnership. Apart from the announcement of the partnerships, we have not been able to get a copy of the actual partnership agreements. Are you in a position to make that available publicly? Can somebody explain to me where we can get the text of those two partnership agreements?</p> <p><b>Mr Talbot</b>—We will have to take that on notice, Senator.</p>
CC 12	19/10/09	88	Milne	<p><b>Senator MILNE</b>—If you were to aggregate the legislated sustainable yield of sawlog against the aggregate mature plantations, would you still say there is not enough sawlog out of plantations to be able to displace native forest sawlogs around the country?</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—I would probably want to take that on notice, but I think my answer would be yes.</p> <p><b>Senator MILNE</b>—I would appreciate your taking it on notice because I would like to know what your assessment is of the shortfall.</p> <p><b>Senator Sherry</b>—I think in taking that on notice we could indicate there are a range of timbers—and I think you would be aware of this, Senator Milne—that are unable to be sourced from plantations that are used by the sawlog industry. We can provide you with a list of timbers that are unobtainable from plantations that are used by the sawlog industry, for example.</p>
CC 13		89	Colbeck	<p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—I want to go to some things that we have covered before. We were told at the last estimates in respect of the forestry database that you are in the final stage of contractual negotiations with a successful tenderer. Can you tell us where that is up to at this stage?</p> <p><b>Mr Talbot</b>—Yes, I can. The successful tenderer was URS. It has started the database project. There are a number of things that have already been done. It has already circulated a consultation paper to industry. It has also completed a series of workshops around the country. These were held over the last month in Canberra, Melbourne, Hobart, Mount Gambier and Albany. It has already started identifying key information gaps relating to the industry workforce and options for addressing these gaps. So it has made a start.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Are there any key milestones in the contract? Can you tell us what they are and what the dates are?</p>

				<p><b>Mr Talbot</b>—There are key milestones in the contract. I do not have the contract with me, so I will take that on notice and provide the information to you.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—How are we looking as far as our September 2010 deadline for completion is concerned?</p> <p><b>Mr Talbot</b>—The project is to be completed in July 2010. So we would be looking at the delivery of a database portal and a final project report to industry by 30 June 2010.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—So that has come forward?</p> <p><b>Mr Talbot</b>—I will have to check that. My notes say it is July 2010.</p>
CC 14	19/10/09	90	Colbeck	<p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Because we are running out of time, could you take on notice the progress on the reviews of the RFAs?</p> <p><b>Mr Talbot</b>—Okay.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—I know that, for example, Tasmania's was done at the beginning of last year, so that is a fair while back. Perhaps you could inform the committee on notice of where we are at with the respective processes on all the RFAs so that we can get an update on the review programs, when the responses are likely to occur and what the current program is. I have some stuff on illegal logging. I notice that the minister made a comment last week in respect of illegal logging. Where are we at in the overall program as far as timing is concerned?</p>
CC 15	19/10/09	90-91	Milne	<p><b>Senator MILNE</b>—I have just a couple more questions, and you may want to take these on notice. I am interested in these new committees, councils or advisory groups that the minister has set up in relation to forestry. I think there are two of them; is that correct?</p> <p><b>Mr Talbot</b>—There is the forest industry round table.</p> <p><b>Senator MILNE</b>—Yes, that is one of them. Is there another one? Maybe there is just the round table.</p> <p><b>Mr Talbot</b>—I think there is just the round table, because the Forest and Wood Products Council has been going for a while now.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—What about Senator Carr's group?</p> <p><b>Mr Talbot</b>—Yes, there is the Pulp and Paper Industry Strategy Group, which is being run by Senator Carr.</p> <p><b>Senator MILNE</b>—So in this department it is the round table?</p> <p><b>Mr Talbot</b>—That is correct.</p> <p><b>Senator MILNE</b>—Would you be able to provide me with a list of people involved in the round table, the meetings that have been held to date and any other information about agendas and what has actually happened with that council—unless you can give me an update now?</p> <p><b>Mr Talbot</b>—I will take that one on notice. There has been one meeting to date.</p>
CC 16	19/10/09	91	Milne	<p><b>Senator MILNE</b>—In relation to the three programs I asked about earlier in terms of the disbursement of the funds, now that those three programs have concluded, what evaluation was done about the success of the program against the objectives of the program? It is stated clearly that the objectives of the program were to help the industry adjust to higher levels of conservation and get the industry retooled in order to take advantage of more plantations, regrowth et cetera.</p>

				<p>What evaluation was done, who did the evaluation and is that publicly available?</p> <p><b>Mr Talbot</b>—Is this the TCFA, Senator?</p> <p><b>Senator MILNE</b>—This is the Tasmanian Forestry Industry Development Program, the Tasmanian Softwood Industry Development Program and the Tasmanian Country Sawmills Assistance Program and the \$42 million that was spent under those three programs.</p> <p><b>Mr Talbot</b>—I will take that one on notice.</p> <p><b>Senator MILNE</b>—Can you tell me whether any evaluation has been done?</p> <p><b>Mr Talbot</b>—My understanding is that to date it has not been done, but I would like to take it on notice because we would be working with colleagues in Tasmania to start this evaluation process.</p> <p><b>Senator MILNE</b>—Will there be an evaluation?</p> <p><b>Mr Talbot</b>—I would like to take it on notice.</p>
CC 17	19/10/09	91	Milne	<p><b>Senator MILNE</b>—Because we have spent \$42 million; I think the community would like to know whether it actually achieved any of the objectives set out in the program, or the extent to which it did. Finally, on notice, I asked before about sawlog. I would now like to ask for an aggregate figure on export native forest woodchips from around the country. I would like to know whether there is a sufficient plantation resource to displace that entire amount of export woodchips. Finally, what is the volume of Tasmanian native forest logs that are going to Japan to be burnt in furnaces? I would be interested to know the volume of that in the last year.</p> <p><b>Mr Talbot</b>—I will take those on notice, Senator</p>
CC 18	N/A	Written	Williams	<p><b>Climate Change</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It depends who you talk to as to what work is being done on livestock emissions. What programmes are your Department undertaking?</li> <li>2. How will methane expulsion be measured from livestock?</li> <li>3. How long will the project cost and how long will it take?</li> <li>4. How many applications were received for the first round of the <b>FARMREADY</b> grants and how much was handed out?</li> <li>5. How many applications were received for Round 2 which closed on September 30?</li> <li>6. Treasury has forecast a 40 percent drop in greenhouse gas emissions from sheep and cows between 2015 and 202, yet the sheep and cattle population is actually forecast to increase. Have you done any modelling on this?</li> <li>7. What modelling has been done on carbon off-sets for farmers?</li> <li>8. The Government is setting aside \$200 million for structural adjustment to assist those communities hardest hit by a CPRS in NSW. Based on your modelling, will that be enough?</li> </ol>
CC 19	N/A	Written	Colbeck	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Can the Department please provide a list of all regions currently under Exceptional Circumstances (EC) and the expiry date for each of these regions?</li> <li>2. Which EC regions is the Department and/or the National Rural Advisory Council (NRAC) currently reviewing to determine whether a region's EC status is renewed?</li> </ol>

				<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. What has NRAC's touring schedule been since 1 July 2009?</li> <li>4. What is NRAC's touring schedule up to the end of 2009-2010?</li> <li>5. How many completed NRAC EC reports are with the Department for advice to the Minister?</li> <li>6. How many completed NRAC EC reports have been provided by the Department to the Minister for his approval?</li> <li>7. How many NRAC EC region recommendations did the Minister agree to in 2008-2009? And since 1 July 2009?</li> <li>8. Which regions are these?</li> <li>9. How many NRAC EC region recommendations did the Minister <b>not</b> agree to in 2008-2009?</li> <li>10. And since 1 July 2009?</li> <li>11. Which regions are these?</li> </ol>
CC 20	N/A	Written	Colbeck	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What was the total cost of EC support to farmers and small businesses in 2008-2009?</li> <li>2. And from 1 July 2009 to now?</li> <li>3. What has the Department budgeted for EC support to farmers and small businesses in 2009-2010?</li> <li>4. What was the underspend of EC funds in 2008-2009?</li> <li>5. What happened to these funds?</li> </ol>
CC 21	N/A	Written	Colbeck	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What briefs has the Department provided to the Minister on the inclusion/exclusion of agriculture from the Government's ETS?</li> <li>2. What was the nature of this advice?</li> <li>3. What advice has been developed and/or provided to the Minister about the nature of offsets? What was the nature of this advice?</li> </ol>
CC 22	N/A	Written	Colbeck	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Has the Department provided advice to Government of the impact of the Government's CPRS and RET legislation on food manufacturing in Australia?</li> <li>2. Was the Department asked for this advice?</li> <li>3. Has the Department done any modelling on the impact of climate change on the food industry?</li> <li>4. Has the Department examined what measures are being taken by other international jurisdictions with respect to the food industry and climate change?</li> </ol>
CC 23	N/A	Written	Colbeck	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What actions is the Department taking to foster research into crop varieties which deal with climate challenges?</li> <li>2. What plans has the government to increase the amount of work in this area?</li> </ol>
CC 24	N/A	Written	Colbeck	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What modeling or advice has the Department developed in the period 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 on the affects of the Government's CPRS or other Emissions Trading Scheme on agriculture and/or the food processing sector?</li> <li>2. What recommendations were made in such advice?</li> </ol>

				3. What financial implications to agriculture and/or the food processing sector were contained in such advice/modeling?
CC 25	N/A	Written	Colbeck	<p>1. Could the Department provide a breakdown (where possible), by Exceptional Circumstances region, level of funding, number of recipients and by time period (2008-2009 and 1 July 2009 to current) of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- EC relief payments (ECRP)</li> <li>- Interim Income Support Payments</li> <li>- Professional Advice &amp; Planning Grants</li> <li>- Re-establishment Assistance</li> <li>- Support for Irrigators in the Murray Darling Basin</li> <li>- EC Interest Rate Subsidy Payments</li> <li>- Small business ECIRS payments</li> <li>- Small business ECRPs</li> <li>- Small Business Interim Income Support Payments</li> </ul> <p>2. What is the level of funding expended on administration of all of the above programs? (broken down by program and financial year)?</p>
CC 26	N/A	Written	Colbeck	<p>1. Can the Department please provide an explanation for the levels of its forward projections (increases and decreases) for Rural Financial Counselling Service from 2008-2009 through to 2012-2013?</p> <p>2. Particularly, why is there a decrease from 2009-2010 to 2010-2011?</p>
CC 27	N/A	Written	Colbeck	Which two Rural Financial Counselling Service providers are expected to cease from 2008-2009 through to 2009-2010? (reduction from 16 to 14)
CC 28	N/A	Written	Nash	How will processors/manufactures seek to recover the cost imposts associated with the Government's CPRS? Will they pass the cost back onto farmers or consumers?
CC 29	N/A	Written	Nash	Is the Emission Trading Scheme a tax for collection purposes?
CC 30	N/A	Written	Colbeck	<p>1. Page 35 of the DAFF Portfolio Budget Statements 2009-2010 refers to 'Preliminary market research undertaken' as part of a communications strategy for the Climate Change Adaptation Partnerships Program. Can the Department please provide an explanation of this expenditure and the nature of the market research?</p> <p>2. Who was interviewed/surveyed as part of this research?</p> <p>3. How many people/organisations?</p> <p>4. Which consultant(s) was used to carry out this research and what was the cost?</p>



				<p>5. What were the findings of the market research?</p> <p>6. What recommendations were provided as part of this market research?</p> <p>7. Can DAFF please provide this market research work (in part or full)?</p>
CC 31	N/A	Written	Colbeck	<p>1. Page 35 of the DAFF Portfolio Budget Statements 2009-2010 refers to 'Communication strategy implemented' as part of a communications strategy for the Climate Change Adaptation Partnerships Program. Can the Department please provide an explanation of this expenditure and the nature of the communication strategy?</p> <p>2. Has a tender process begun?</p> <p>3. Has a consultant been engaged to undertake this work?</p> <p>4. What is the cost (actual and/or expected) of this work?</p> <p>5. Will there be advertising as part of this work and what will be its nature?</p>
CC 32	N/A	Written	Nash	<p>I refer to the front page article in Land Newspaper story published on Thursday 15th October, titled 'CPR-Stressed; Proof' Emissions Trading will cost this farmer \$75,000', and two stories on page 7 'Adding Up the Cost' and 'Cumnock's Good Work Undone'</p> <p>Is the Department aware of the FarmGas Calculator developed by the Australian Farm Institute and currently being trialled around Australia?</p>
CC 33	N/A	Written	Nash	<p>Did the Department provide funding to help develop the Australian Farm Institute's, FarmGas Calculator?</p>
CC 34	N/A	Written	Nash	<p>Can the department confirm whether it believes the FarmGas Calculator gives an accurate reading of what the ETS will cost farmers when they are included in the CPRS in 2015?</p>
CC 35	N/A	Written	Nash	<p>Isn't it a fact that the FarmGas calculator is based on accounting rules used by the Department of Climate Change?</p>
CC 36	N/A	Written	Nash	<p>Does the Department agree with Mr Munro's findings which were reported in the Land. If not, why not?</p>
CC 37	N/A	Written	Nash	<p>I refer you to ABARE's Australian Farm Survey Results 2006-07 – 2008-09 which states that farm cash income for all broadacre enterprises for 2008-00 was \$80,000 and for the same year farm business profit was -\$7000; how can any broadacre farm absorb an artificial cost impost imposed by the Government's Emissions Trading Scheme of \$75,000 per annum as calculated by the FarmGas calculator for Hamish Munro's Cumnock property in Central Western NSW and</p>

				reported in the Land Newspaper?
CC 38	N/A	Written	Nash	What modelling has the Department done to refute Mr Munro and the Australian farm Institutes work with the FarmGas Calculator? If none has been done why hasn't it been done?
CC 39	N/A	Written	Nash	Does the Department believe that burning stubble (the plant material left after harvesting) and using traditional farming methods is the way of the future or does the Department encourage farmers to use minimum and no-till farming methods?
CC 40	N/A	Written	Nash	Does the Department agree with Mr Munro's findings that the Government's 'CPRS promotes stubble burning because there are other rules which actually count the methane emissions generated by the natural breakdown of stubble?'
CC 41	N/A	Written	Nash	Is Mr Munro correct when he states that 'By burning stubble calculated he'd save himself 20 tonnes of carbon a year, or close to \$500 for his wheat alone? (assuming a \$25 a tonne carbon price). If the department does not agree with Mr Munro why not and what research has the Department undertaken to refute these findings?
CC 42	N/A	Written	Nash	Does the Department concede Mr Munro is correct when he stated in the Land Newspaper that 'My calculations tell me my environmentally beneficial management practices are disregarded. Stubble and groundcover reduce water run-off, erosion and evaporation and maintain and build carbon in the soil – but this is not encouraged (under the Govt CPRS).
CC 43	N/A	Written	Nash	Does the Department agree with Mr Munro's conclusions "... if you want to make a profit, my conclusion is to burn your stubble, scarify, and keep stock for less than 12 months. As a Councillor at the Cattle Council of Australia, Mr Munro also fears the scheme will promote livestock operators to switch from breeding to short-term trading, which would be "disastrous" for the industry. "Breeders, stud and commercial will have significantly higher emissions than a trader with the same number which will potentially cripple our livestock sector." If not what research has the department done to refute Mr Munro's conclusions?
CC 44	N/A	Written	Nash	Is Mr Munro correct in his conclusions after using the FarmGas calculator as reported by the Land Newspaper where it states; 'He believes the current CPRS could be wrongly encourage farmers to play around with their enterprise mixes to reduce emissions rather than focusing on increasing productivity?
CC 45	N/A	Written	Nash	What practical measures are the government telling farmers can be taken by primary producers at

				the farm level to reduce emissions?
CC 46	N/A	Written	Nash	What are these measures (please provide a list, including the main benefits and/or problems surrounding implementation, the cost of successfully implementing each measure and the estimate carbon reductions that can be achieved by implementing each measure)?
CC 47	N/A	Written	Nash	What support/grants/funding/training is available to farmers to undertake these initiatives?
CC 48	N/A	Written	Nash	Is the Department concerned about any schemes being promoted to farmers to reduce their carbon footprint, provide carbon sinks or offsets?
CC 49	N/A	Written	Nash	How are the benefits of these measures benchmarked? Ie how are the emissions measured and accounted for? Can they actually be accounted for?
CC 50	N/A	Written	Nash	How will the government work out the emissions on a livestock enterprise, a mixed farming operation or grain growing enterprise?
CC 51	N/A	Written	Nash	Is it not a fact that emissions released by livestock are a natural occurrence and part of a natural cycle?
CC 52	N/A	Written	Nash	Is it not a fact that the only industry to have reduced its emissions footprint is the red meat livestock industry, which has seen sheep and cattle numbers drop to the lowest level in also a century?
CC 53	N/A	Written	Nash	Will all agriculture, fishing and forestry industries be covered by the fuel excise cut for the first three years of the operation of the ETS to ensure there is no net increase in price in the price of fuel as result of the ETS?
CC 54	N/A	Written	Nash	What will the cut in excise be worth per litre?
CC 55	N/A	Written	Nash	What will be the estimated increase in diesel, petrol and gas as a result of the Government CPRS when the fuel excise cut is phased out in 2013?
CC 56	N/A	Written	Nash	How many food processors or manufactures are consider to be large emitters and will be included in the initial CPRS scheme?

CC 57	N/A	Written	Nash	How many food processors or manufactures will be eligible for free credits?
CC 58	N/A	Written	Nash	How will Australian grown, processed or manufactured products compete with on both the international and domestic markets against produce from nations who have no emission trading scheme?
CC 59	N/A	Written	Nash	Has any economic modelling been done by the department on the cost to food manufacturing, processing sector of the ETS? If not why not?
CC 60	N/A	Written	Nash	Has this economic modelling given any indication of increases in the price of food?
CC 61	N/A	Written	Colbeck	Can the Department explain the reason for the decrease in forward funding for 'program support' for Program 1.3 (Forestry Industry) between financial years 2011-12 and 2012-13?
CFD 01	19/10/09	10	Colbeck	<p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—What is your general allocation for the reserve?</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—At the moment it is I think \$6.9 million that we have, if you like, in that reserve area. That will be probably used through the year for contingencies or drawn on, if you like, for contingencies.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—So it is a contingency—</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—It is essentially a contingency.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—that you allow within your budget that you would expect to expend during the year?</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—Yes.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Would it cover things like redundancies and costs of that nature?</p> <p><b>Mr Schaeffer</b>—Potentially, it could do, yes.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—If possible, could you give us on notice what your allocations within that are? You mentioned that you do have a rough idea of what you are going to do, so I am happy to take on notice what your allocations might be. Senator Nash, do you want to have a quick go?</p>
CFD 02	N/A	Written	Colbeck	Could the Department please provide an explanation and full breakdown of 'payment of refunds not elsewhere appropriated' (under the Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997) for 2008-2009 and 2009-2010?
CFD 03	N/A	Written	Colbeck	Can the Department please provide an explanation of the Movement of Administered funds between years of all items listed (for all financial years) on Table 3.1.1 in the DAFF Portfolio Budget Statements 2009-2010? (broken down by item and financial year)
CFD 04	N/A	Written	Nash	1. Budget Related Paper No. 1.1, Portfolio Budget Statements 2009 -10, Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Portfolio, page 69, Outcome 2 Totals by Appropriation type, Departmental Expenses; Revenues from Independent Sources (Section 31) states; 2008-09 Estimated

				<p>Actual Expenses, \$229.220 million, increasing to \$273.011 million Estimated Expenses 2009-10. Why is there an increase of \$43.891 million in revenues from Independent Sources in 2009-10?</p> <p>2. Please identify each of the taxes, charges and/or user fees covered under the budget line item Revenues from Independent Sources by name and under which Act they are collected?</p> <p>3. How is each of the Revenues from Independent Sources collected and for what reason they are collected?</p>
CFD 05	N/A	Written	Nash	<p>1. Please provide a breakdown/list of every program which has terminated in 2007 – 08, 2009 – 10 and is set to terminate in 2010 – 11 and the actual amount of funding provide per year of each terminating program?</p> <p>2. What was the purpose of these terminating programs and for how many years did they operate?</p> <p>3. How much of the funding each year of operation of terminating program was spent in 1) Canberra; or 2) regional, rural or remote regions; or 3) other capital cities?</p> <p>4. How much funding over the life of the program was spent on administration for each terminating program?</p> <p>5. Over the life of the program how much funding was spent on actual grants for each terminating program?</p> <p>6. Have any of the functions of these terminating programs been absorbed by other programs within the Department?</p> <p>7. If so what functions and to which Department have they been absorbed?</p> <p>8. Has funding been increased to match this increased workload?</p> <p>9. Did these terminating programs fulfil all their objectives and bench marks?</p> <p>10. If not in what areas were they deficient?</p>
CFD 06	N/A	Written	Nash	<p>1. Budget Related Paper No. 1.1, Portfolio Budget Statements 2009 -10, Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Portfolio, page 69, Outcome 2 Totals by Appropriation Type; Departmental Expenses, Ordinary Annual Services (Appropriation Bill No.1) states: in 2008-09 Estimated Actual Expenses was \$196.723 million, the 2009 -10 Estimate Expenses of \$160.846 million. Doesn't this represent a cut of \$35.877 million in Government funding?</p> <p>2. Please provide a detailed breakdown from which program areas is this funding to be cut?</p>
CFD 07	N/A	Written	Nash	What programs formerly administered under these programs have been moved to other Departments or Treasury?
CFD 08	N/A	Written	Nash	Provide a breakdown of the actual cost to the Department of providing each service which is paid for by either a tax, fee, charge, and/or user charge (ie AQIS Export Inspection Services) for Revenues from Independent Sources collected in 2008-09 and 2009-10?
CFD 09	N/A	Written	Nash	How much profit did/will the Government make from the taxes, fees, charges and/or user charges it collects from the Revenues from Independent Sources in 2008 -09 and 2009-10?
CFD 10	N/A	Written	Colbeck	Can the Department please provide an explanation for the levels of its forward projections for administered expenses for RIRDC from 2008-2009 through to 2012-2013?

CFD 11	N/A	Written	Nash	<p>Given the failure of the Government to implement its increased fees and charges agenda on industry at a time of Global financial problems can the Department please clarifying the following and explain whether the budget papers are still accurate:</p> <p>Budget Related Paper No. 1.1, Portfolio Budget Statements 2009 -10, Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Portfolio, page 69, Program 2.2: Plant and Animal Health, Departmental Expenses; Revenues from Independent Sources (Section 31) states the estimated actual expenses for 2008 -09 was \$45.087 million and for 2009 -10 estimated expenses climb to \$53.742 million.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Why is there an increase of \$8.655 million in revenues from Independent Sources?</li> <li>2. Please identify each of the taxes, charges and/or user fees covered under the budget line item Revenues from Independent Sources by name and under which Act they are collected.</li> <li>3. How are each of the Revenues from Independent Sources collected and for what reason they are collected?</li> <li>4. Provide a breakdown of the actual cost to the Department of providing each service which is paid for by either a tax, fee, charge, and/or user charge (ie AQIS Export Inspection Services) for Revenues from Independent Sources collected in 2008-09 and 2009-10.</li> <li>5. How much profit did/will the Government make from the taxes, fees, charges and/or user charges it collects from the Revenues from Independent Sources in 2008 -09 and 2009-10?</li> </ol>
CFD 12	N/A	Written	Nash	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is the total expenditure on staffing for the Department and for all portfolio agencies?</li> <li>2. What is the SES and non-SES breakdown?</li> </ol>
CPD 01	19/10/09	4-5	Macdonald	<p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—To all the department: Merry Christmas. It is getting up close to Christmas time. We are all looking forward to the end of the year. Tell me, Dr O’Connell, will the minister be sending out a Christmas card this year?</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—I do not like to take the first question on notice, Senator, but I suspect I will have to do that and ask the minister. As a rule he does, but I do not—</p> <p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—Senator Sherry, will you be sending out a Christmas card this year?</p> <p><b>Senator Sherry</b>—Yes, I will.</p> <p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—Would your Christmas card have on it: ‘This card is paid for by taxpayer expense’?</p> <p><b>Senator Sherry</b>—I would have to take some advice on that. I have not yet got around to Christmas cards, I have to say.</p> <p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—You are getting very late, Minister; you will never get them done.</p> <p><b>Senator Sherry</b>—Gosh, it is October—although I did notice when I went into Coles-Kmart on the weekend that the Christmas decorations were out, which did remind me, although I must confess I was a little surprised to see them out in mid-October. I am not aware of any details in terms of my own Christmas cards, personal or ministerial, as yet</p>

				<p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—Dr O’Connell is going to take that on notice, and perhaps Senator Sherry could in his own area because there is a ruling out from the government that all Christmas cards or anything printed with taxpayer funds must have it on each page, so that would be four times on the Christmas card I would think: front page, middle page, third page and fourth page. They must have a statement that these cards are printed by taxpayer funds—unless, of course, the minister is actually paying for them out of his own pocket, in which case, of course, that will not be required.</p>
CPD 02	19/10/09	14-15	Colbeck	<p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Do they fall within similar categories? How many of the 1,672 are signed by the department, how many are signed by the minister and how many are just non-reply type correspondence?</p> <p><b>Ms Bie</b>—We had 437 signed by the minister and 814 have been signed by departmental officers.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—So 300- or 400-odd have not required responses?</p> <p><b>Ms Bie</b>—That is to date. Some may still be within our systems being drafted.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Do you have any statistics on the breakdown of those by government members and senators, coalition or opposition members and senators or individuals and organisations?</p> <p><b>Ms Bie</b>—Not on me. I will have to take that on notice.</p>
CPD 03	19/10/09	15	Colbeck	<p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Can you please run through the cost of the advertising and marketing for 2008-09.</p> <p><b>Mr Starr</b>—If you are talking about advertising budgets, in the last financial year we had only one advertising campaign, which was Quarantine Matters! I can give you the figures on that. The total spend for the past financial year was \$4.3 million, of which \$2.1 million was spent on television.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Quarantine Matters! Is a fairly long-running campaign, isn’t it?</p> <p><b>Mr Starr</b>—Yes, it is. It has been running for quite some period of time.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Do you have figures on expenditure going back, say, four or five years_I think it has been going that long—and can you give us a sense of projection?</p> <p><b>Mr Starr</b>—I could go back to the previous year. For 2007-08 it was \$5.3 million—\$2.7 of which was spent on television and cinema advertising. I do not think I have the figures for previous years. I will have to take that on notice.</p>
CPD 04	19/10/09	16	Colbeck	<p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Has the department made any assessment of the awareness it creates of issues that the department needs to deal with that might come up in the Quarantine Matters! Type scenario?</p> <p><b>Mr Starr</b>—No formal research, but certainly it adds to the whole picture for us. It is a very successful program that has a very high audience reach and very high ratings. From our point of view, any message to the community that demonstrates good behaviours and not-so-good behaviours is a good thing. To answer your question specifically: no, we have not made an assessment of the effectiveness of that campaign.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—You say that there is no financial contribution. Does the program have any impact on the operations at the border?</p>

				<p><b>Mr Starr</b>—I am not an expert on the operations, but really the show follows people doing their work, so the impact is minimal. The benefits would far outweigh the cost of staff time.</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—When the Biosecurity people come on later, they could let you know if there is any difference. I have seen the filming happening at the airport and it is pretty straightforward. As Mr Starr says, it follows a standard pattern of work and does not appear to distract or interfere as far as I could see.</p> <p><b>Mr Starr</b>—No.</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—Certainly our import people could give you any other information later today.</p> <p><b>Mr Starr</b>—The other important factor is that our staff are very happy to participate in that because it demonstrates the important work they do.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Do you have a process of staff signing off to agree to involvement?</p> <p><b>Mr Starr</b>—I will have to check on that. I do not think we have a formal process, but certainly we ask staff if they are prepared to participate. For most of the communication things we do we have a talent release form. I suspect that we do not have it in this case, but we do ask staff if they are happy to participate.</p>
CPD 05	N/A	Written	Nash	How much has the Department spent on advertising and marketing since November 2007?
CPD 06	N/A	Written	Heffernan	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In your answer to Budget Question CPD03, you state DAFF was not consulted in relation to the Division 7A measure prior to the Budget but now state they are in consultation with Treasury. Why now and not before? Is this an oversight, I would have thought it only makes sense to receive feedback from a department that has responsibility for agricultural issues, please explain why you're liaising with DAFF now and not before Budget?</li> <li>2. From the Treasury discussion paper that was released and closing date for submissions was 3 July 2009, why didn't DAFF make a submission on behalf of the rural sector/agriculture?</li> </ol>
CPD 07	N/A	Written	Colbeck	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How many Ministerials were received by the Department from the Minister's office in the 2008-2009 financial year? And from 1 July 2009 to now?</li> <li>2. How many Ministerials were processed by the Department in this period?</li> <li>3. What is the breakdown of senders of these Ministerials by: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. a/ Government Members or Senators</li> <li>b. b/ Coalition Members or Senators</li> <li>c. c/ Individuals and/or organisations</li> </ol> </li> <li>4. What was the average time for the processing of a Ministerial (i.e. the period between being received by the Minister's office and being sent by the Minister's office) in 2008-2009? What was the average time for 2007-2008? And from 1 July 2009 to now?</li> <li>5. What was the average time for the processing of a Ministerial from a Government Member or Senator? And for a Coalition Member or Senator?</li> <li>6. What is the breakdown of Ministerials by Departmental division/agency in the period 2008-</li> </ol>



				<p>2009?</p> <p>7. How many Ministerials in the period 2008-2009 were sent back from the Minister's office to the Department for amendment?</p> <p>8. How many briefs (or similar) were provided to the Minister in the period 2008-2009? How many were agreed to or approved? How many were not agreed to or approved?</p>
CPD 08	N/A	Written	Colbeck	<p>1. What Departmental resources (e.g. human, multimedia, stationery, other) are currently assigned within the Minister's office?</p> <p>2. What is the financial value of these resources?</p> <p>3. Are there any changes expected to this during 2009-2010?</p>
CPD 09	N/A	Written	Colbeck	<p>1. How many Departmental employees were assigned to the Minister's office on a casual or temporary basis in the period 2008-2009?</p> <p>2. And for what lengths of time?</p> <p>3. And for what purpose?</p> <p>4. Who pays for these staff, the Department or the Department of Finance &amp; Regulation?</p> <p>5. Have any staff left the Department to work for the Minister's office on a permanent basis since the start of 2008?</p>
CPD 10	N/A	Written	Colbeck	<p>1. How many Departmental employees work in the Ministerial and Parliamentary Branch? How does this compare to 2007-2008 and 2008-2009?</p> <p>2. How many media and/or communications staff are there in the Department?</p> <p>3. How does this compare to 2007-2008 and 2008-2009?</p>
CPD 11	N/A	Written	Colbeck	<p>1. How many requests for media releases from the Minister's office were there in the period 2008-2009?</p> <p>2. And from 1 July 2009 to now?</p> <p>3. How many requests for speeches from the Minister's office were there in the period 2008-2009?</p> <p>4. And from 1 July 2009 to now?</p> <p>5. How many media releases were provided to the Minister's office in the period 2008-2009?</p> <p>6. And from 1 July 2009 to now?</p> <p>7. How many speeches were provided to the Minister's office in the period 2008-2009?</p> <p>8. And from 1 July 2009 to now?</p>
CPD 12	N/A	Written	Colbeck	<p>1. How much was spent on media monitoring services by the Department in the period 2008-2009?</p> <p>2. And from 1 July 2009 to now?</p> <p>3. How many requests for media monitoring services were received from the Minister's office in the period 2008-2009?</p>

				<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. And from 1 July 2009 to now?</li> <li>5. What was the cost of this media monitoring?</li> </ol>
CPD 13	N/A	Written	Colbeck	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How many media releases were issued by the Department (or its agencies) during the period 2008-2009? And from 1 July 2009 to now?</li> </ol>
CPD 14	N/A	Written	Colbeck	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What was the actual spend of the Corporate Policy Division, broken down by each of its branches for the period 2008-2009; and from 1 July to now; and the projected figure for 2009-2010?</li> </ol>
CPD 15	N/A	Written	Colbeck	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What was the cost of all advertising and marketing conducted by the Department in 2008-2009 – broken down by Division/Agency and by campaign?</li> <li>2. What is the projected cost of all advertising and marketing to be conducted by the Department in 2009-2010 – broken down by Division/Agency and by campaign?</li> </ol>
CPD 16	N/A	Written	Colbeck	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is the current status of each Government 2007 election commitment within the portfolio?</li> <li>2. What has been the financial spend of each commitment</li> </ol>
CPD 17	N/A	Written	Nash	What is the status of each election commitment within the portfolio?
CPD 18	N/A	Written	Nash	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Which election commitments are experiencing slippages?</li> <li>2. Why?</li> <li>3. Where relevant, what are the revised implementation dates?</li> <li>4. What are the implications of this slippage?</li> </ol>
CPD 19	N/A	Written	Nash	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Are there plans to publish a full suite of electoral reports on the Department's website?</li> <li>2. If not, why not?</li> <li>3. If so, when?</li> <li>4. What data will be included?</li> </ol>
CPD 20	N/A	Written	Nash	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Does the Department prepare electorate level reports for Ministers?</li> <li>2. What data is included in these reports?</li> <li>3. How often is this updated?</li> <li>4. Why is this material not publicly available?</li> <li>5. If such reports exist, please provide a copy of latest reports?</li> </ol>
CPD 21	N/A	Written	Colbeck	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How many reviews (or similar) did the Department conduct in the period 2008-2009?</li> <li>2. And currently? Broken down by review title and dates of start and end (if any).</li> </ol>

				<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. What was the total cost of each of these reviews?</li> <li>4. What is the budgeted cost for any incomplete or ongoing reviews?</li> </ol>
CSD 01	N/A	Written	Colbeck	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What have been the primary areas of cutbacks since the May Budget was announced? Please provide a breakdown by area and financial value</li> <li>2. What are the planned areas of cutbacks for the remaining parts of 2009-2010? Please provide a breakdown by area and financial value</li> <li>3. What was the cost of redundancies for the period 2008-2009 (actual) and for 2009-2010 (budget)?</li> </ol>
CSD 02	N/A	Written	Colbeck	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What has been the level of FTEs at DAFF, broken down by division (or agency) and branch, over the financial years 2007-2008, 2008-2009, currently and end of 2009-10 (expected)?</li> <li>2. Which parts of the Department have seen a loss in FTEs?</li> <li>3. How many part time staff are in the Department currently? What was the level of part time staff at the end of 2007-2008 and 2008-2009? What is the projected level?</li> <li>4. How many contractors are employed by the Department currently? What was the level of contractors at the end of 2007-2008 and 2008-2009?</li> <li>5. What is the level of SES staff for the periods 2008-2009, currently and projected? (broken down by separate levels)?</li> <li>6. What was the value of redundancies in the period 2008-2009 and what is projected for the period 2009-2010?</li> <li>7. How many staff reapplied for their positions in the period 2008-2009? And between 1 July 2009 and now?</li> <li>8. How many graduates were there for the period 2008-2009? How many of these have continued employment in the Department? Is it still policy to not have a graduate program this coming year? When will the graduate program re-start? How many graduates is the Department expected to take-in when it re-starts the program?</li> <li>9. How many retirements were there for the period 2008-2009? How many are projected for 2009-2010?</li> <li>10. What was the total number of sick leave days taken in the period 2008-2009? And between 1 July 2009 and now? What was the total number of sick leave days taken by SES staff in the same periods?</li> </ol>
CSD 03	N/A	Written	Colbeck	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How many Departmental employees were subject to an internal investigation owing to improper behaviour in the period 2008-2009 and from 1 July 2009 to now?</li> <li>2. How many of these were SES employees?</li> <li>3. What types of actions were taken against individuals?</li> <li>4. How many employees were terminated?</li> </ol>

CSD 04	N/A	Written	Colbeck	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What was the value of items stolen or lost from the Department during the period 2008-2009?</li> <li>2. And from 1 July 2009 to now?</li> </ol> <p>Please give a breakdown of items with a value of more than \$100.00.</p>
CSD 05	N/A	Written	Colbeck	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What was the cost of the Department leasing carpark for use by employees (broken down by city) during the period 2008-2009?</li> <li>2. And projections for 2009-2010?</li> </ol>
CSD 06	N/A	Written	Colbeck/Nash	<p>Could the Department provide a list of all discretionary grants, including ad hoc and one-off grants since November 2007?</p> <p>Please provide details of the recipients, the intended use of the grants and what locations have benefited from the grants.</p>
CSD 07	N/A	Written	Nash	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What are the current staffing levels for SES and non-SES officers?</li> <li>2. What is the breakdown by location?</li> </ol>
CSD 08	N/A	Written	Nash	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What have been the changes in ASL since November 2007?</li> <li>2. Why have these changes occurred?</li> <li>3. What have been the Budgetary implications?</li> </ol>
CSD 09	N/A	Written	Nash	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In the case of reductions in staff numbers, how have these reductions been absorbed by the Department?</li> <li>2. What functions have been sacrificed and why?</li> </ol>
CSD 10	N/A	Written	Nash	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Has there been a target for staff reductions to achieve savings?</li> <li>2. What is that target and what strategy is being implemented to achieve this?</li> </ol>
CSD 11	N/A	Written	Nash	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Have any voluntary or involuntary redundancies been offered to staff?</li> <li>2. If so, how have staff been identified for such offers?</li> <li>3. Are there such plans for the future?</li> </ol>
CSD 12	N/A	Written	Nash	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How much has the Department spent on consultancy services since November 2007?</li> <li>2. How can the department justify this expenditure?</li> </ol>
CSD 13	N/A	Written	Nash	<p>Could the Department provide a complete list of current consultancy services. For each consultancy, please indicate the rationale for the project and its intended use. For each consultancy, please indicate why the Department or its agencies could not have undertaken the work themselves.</p>

CSD 14	N/A	Written	Nash	Could the Department provide a complete list of current contracts. Please indicate the rationale for each service provided and its intended use.
CSD 15	N/A	Written	Nash	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Budget Related Paper No. 1.1, Portfolio Budget Statements 2009 -10, Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Portfolio, page 69, Average Staffing Level shows a cut of 125 jobs in 2009 -10 from the previous year, please provide a breakdown from which programs each of these jobs will be lost.</li> <li>2. Which programs will be affected by job losses? (please included which areas and classification the terminated positions will be?)</li> <li>3. Will these job losses be as a result of forced redundancies, voluntary redundancies, natural attrition or by axing the graduate program?</li> <li>4. If a mix of all of these please provide a list of how many fall into each category and where those positions are currently located?</li> <li>5. What rights do employees have to refuse the termination of their jobs? Is any form of arbitration available for these employees which could over-turn the Departments decision to terminate their employment?</li> <li>6. How many positions which are to be terminated will be outsourced?</li> </ol>
CSD 16	N/A	Written	Colbeck	What was the total cost of bottled water paid for the by the Department during the period 2008-2009?
CSD 17		Written	Colbeck	What was the cost to the Department of any retreats/conferences (or similar) taken by its staff? Broken down by retreat/conference name, its purpose and cost.
CSD 18	N/A	Written	Colbeck	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What brand and type of printing paper does the Department currently use?</li> <li>2. What is the country of manufacture of this paper?</li> <li>3. What was the value of printing paper used in the period 2008-2009?</li> </ol>
CSD 19	N/A	Written	Colbeck	What was the cost of Christmas decorations (or similar) during the period 2008-2009? And from 1 July 2009 to now?
CSD 20	N/A	Written	Colbeck	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What was the total cost of travel undertaken by the Minister and Ministerial advisers during the period 2008-2009?</li> <li>2. And from 1 July 2009 to now?</li> <li>3. What was the total cost of travel taken by Departmental employees to accompany the Minister during the period 2008-2009?</li> <li>4. And from 1 July 2009 to now?</li> <li>5. What was the total cost of international travel taken by Departmental employees during the period 2008-2009?</li> <li>6. And from 1 July 2009 to now?</li> <li>7. And any projections?</li> </ol>

				<p>8. What was the total cost of domestic travel taken by Departmental employees during the period 2008-2009?</p> <p>9. And from 1 July 2009 to now?</p> <p>10. And any projections?</p>
CSD 21	N/A	Written	Colbeck	<p>1. What is the status regarding the replacement for Mr Delane?</p> <p>2. Has a recruitment consultant been hired to identify candidates for the position?</p> <p>3. What are the timeframes for an appointment?</p> <p>4. What is the additional cost of appointing a new AQIS Executive Director? (e.g. relocation costs, cost of recruitment company, etc.)</p>
CSD 22	N/A	Written	Colbeck	<p>1. Can the Department please provide an explanation for the levels of its forward projections for special appropriations through the National Residue Survey Administration Act 1992 s.7?</p> <p>2. Particularly, why is there a projected drop in levels from 2010-2011 through to 2011-2012?</p>
CSD 23	N/A	Written	Nash	Has electoral specific data been used by the current Government in any grants scheme since November 2007?
CSD 24	N/A	Written	Colbeck	Can the Department please provide an explanation for the levels of its forward projections for special appropriations for the Cotton R&D Corporation from 2008-2009 through to 2012-2013?
GRDC 01	19/10/09	129	Nash	<p><b>Senator NASH</b>—I did not think you would. Can I just very quickly, to finish up, go to the issue of segregation and the GrainCorp announcement which we were discussing at the last lot of estimates. Have you had any discussions with GrainCorp since then about their approach? I know we were discussing at the time that the cost of the segregation was going to fall on the non-GM grower, and I do not want to revisit all of that—we had that discussion last time—but have you had any correspondence or discussions with GrainCorp since about how they intend to approach it, or has anything changed in terms of their approach in the meantime?</p> <p><b>Mr Reading</b>—No, I have not had any direct discussions with them. I do believe, though, they are offering the segregations now. I believe that but I am not sure. I have not had direct contact with them.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—My understanding, though, was they were always going to offer an ability to segregate but the cost to segregate would fall on the non-GM grower. Is that correct?</p> <p><b>Mr Grant</b>—The information I have is that the farmers who want to deliver into non-GM canola segregation will not have to pay for additional tests to prove that their crops are not genetically modified.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—That is good news, because at the time it was definitely reported that they would.</p> <p><b>Mr Grant</b>—It was uncertain.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—So something has changed in the meantime?</p> <p><b>Mr Grant</b>—That is the information I have.</p>

				<p><b>Mr Reading</b>—Yes, I had heard the same. But, as I said, I have not had direct contact with GrainCorp to confirm that.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—Could you undertake to take on notice and to clarify that for the committee and come back to us?</p>
GRDC 02	19/10/09	129-130	Williams	<p><b>Senator WILLIAMS</b>—Yes, exactly. So you are still continuing research into black point, crown rot and grain colour.</p> <p><b>Mr Reading</b>—Correct.</p> <p><b>Senator WILLIAMS</b>—How is that going?</p> <p><b>Mr Reading</b>—We have just done a major survey into crown rot, which is particularly a problem in the northern areas, as you are probably aware. When we have done the work, there is the farming systems approach to crown rot control and also the potential genetic side of it. With the crop rate in the farming systems, we have surveyed a number of growers—in fact, the leading growers who use very detailed crop rotation programs—and they can effectively control crown rot in their systems. We have identified what is best practice in farming systems, what growers are not adopting crops in their rotation and what we can do about lessening their concerns and increasing their confidence in growing crops in the rotation, particularly the legumes. On the genetic side, we are doing work with the Queensland department of primary industries about identifying potential genetic advances that may give some control of the disease.</p> <p><b>Senator WILLIAMS</b>—What is your budget for disease research per year?</p> <p><b>Mr Reading</b>—Disease research specifically? I will need to take that on notice. I could not give you the exact number.</p> <p><b>Senator WILLIAMS</b>—If you could take that on notice, and also whether that budget has increased this year or remained stable or decreased.</p>
GRDC 03	19/10/09	131	Adams	<p><b>Senator ADAMS</b>—Does GRDC provide any funding to Australian universities?</p> <p><b>Mr Reading</b>—Absolutely. I could give you the exact amounts on notice, but they are one of our major areas. If you look at where our partners are, we have CSIRO—we are a major investor in CSIRO—and, obviously, the states' departments of agriculture and the universities. If you hang on one minute, I can probably tell you the exact number. Certainly in Western Australia—we were looking at it the other day—of the five universities we fund, Murdoch and UWA are in the top five. The biggest is the University of Adelaide, because that is the Waite Research Institute. I think the dollars that we are putting into the universities—I will keep flicking—are probably about \$30 million, but let me take that on notice, unless I flick to it in a minute, because I have that here somewhere. No, I will take it on notice.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>----</p> <p>I will just give you that number on the universities, if I can read it: University of South Australia, 1.13; University of Melbourne, 1.39; Murdoch University, 1.97; University of Sydney, 2.96, University of Western Australia, 7.4; University of Adelaide—but I will give you that on notice formally.</p> <p><b>Senator ADAMS</b>—That would be good.</p>

GRDC 04	N/A	Written	Williams	<p><b>GRDC</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In May Estimates I was told there had been a number of trials of GM Canola, although three looking at yield failed. Could you update me on any other trials conducted and the yield compared to conventional Canola?</li> <li>2. It was mentioned a three year study is taking place on the relationship between growers of GM canola and their neighbours who are not growers of GM canola. Has that started?</li> <li>3. Any results in yet?</li> <li>4. Why is this survey being done?</li> <li>5. Are more and more conventional Canola growers switching to GM canola?</li> <li>6. There was a report recently of an outbreak of GM canola in southern NSW – apparently it was found on the roadside – are you aware of that?</li> <li>7. Can you bring me up to date with research on GM lupins and wheat?</li> <li>8. What effect will the decision by Elders and CBH not to buy GM canola have on grower returns?</li> <li>9. Is this a significant setback for growers of GM canola?</li> <li>10. You invest \$16 million into climate change research – what projects are underway now?</li> </ol>
GRDC 05	N/A	Written	Nash	<p><b>GRDC</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In Budget estimates 2009, Mr Perrett advised that a report has been commissioned to look at the impacts and other issues surrounding volunteers and contamination of other crops. What is the progress of this report?</li> <li>2. What data have you to date?</li> <li>3. What data can you provide from the growers?</li> <li>4. What data can you provide from the neighbours?</li> <li>5. When is this report due to be finalised?</li> </ol>
GRDC 06	N/A	Written	Nash	<p><b>GRDC</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In September 2009 in the Berrigan Shire, New South Wales, genetically modified canola plants were found growing on the side of the road, metres from non-GM fields and that of the 20 tests undertaken on a 20 km stretch of the Riverina Highway, 19 tested positive for GM. Has the GRDC investigated this claim?</li> <li>2. What was the outcome of this investigation?</li> </ol>
LWA 01	19/10/09	47	Milne	<p><b>Senator MILNE</b>—I saw on an update that was made available that 10 per cent of the projects being conducted by Land and Water Australia had to be terminated. Can you indicate which of those programs were terminated?</p> <p><b>Dr Robinson</b>—At the time of the announcement, there were about 150 projects on our books. About 50 of those were in what we have called ongoing programs, like the National Program for Sustainable Irrigation, that have found new managing agents. Of the remaining approximately 100, yes, we had to terminate about 10, based on the amount of funding that we had left. I cannot</p>



				<p>give you the 10 now, but those projects are detailed on the annual operational plan, which is also available on the website.</p> <p><b>Senator MILNE</b>—So you cannot tell me what they were?</p> <p><b>Dr Robinson</b>—I can take that on notice, to give you that particular list.</p>
LWA 02	19/10/09	48	Back	<p><b>Senator BACK</b>—I think you also told us at the last Senate estimates that there were a number of PhD students. Was it 26 or 27 or more?</p> <p><b>Dr Robinson</b>—We had 20 PhDs, if I recall correctly, on the books at the time of our closure. All of those—bar one, which was terminated after being on hold for several years—essentially were converted to grant funding so that those PhDs could continue. We put a high priority on making sure that they would continue in some form.</p> <p><b>Senator BACK</b>—So they are continuing their studies. Can you give us an idea which agencies they may have transferred to?</p> <p><b>Dr Robinson</b>—Essentially we converted those contracts to grants to be administered by their home university.</p> <p><b>Senator BACK</b>—Grants to their home universities?</p> <p><b>Dr Robinson</b>—Yes. Under our PhD system we would fund and contract a university—essentially the student would be at that university. Our funds, instead of being a contractual arrangement, are now a grant arrangement. So the university has the funding to manage those PhDs from this point on. So they are fully funded through to the end of their PhDs.</p> <p><b>Senator BACK</b>—They are fully funded through to the completion of their doctorate. Could you give us some idea now or on notice what that grant figure may have totalled?</p> <p><b>Dr Robinson</b>—Sure. I will have to take that on notice.</p> <p><b>Senator BACK</b>—Perhaps you could also take on notice what the cost has been to date of the 36 redundancies or what you predict the full cost of the 41 to be. I am anxious to know—I am not sure whether I got the answer—whether government has retained or lost much of the skill that existed within those 36, and you can answer that for the other five as well.</p>
LWA 03	19/10/09	50	Colbeck	<p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—I have some final questions on the overall wrap-up of the organisation. Senator Back has asked you a few questions already. You said at previous estimates that you had 146 projects that were still alive at that point in time. You might have to take this on notice, but could you give us the status of each of those and the total value of those 146?</p> <p><b>Dr Robinson</b>—We would have to take the total value on notice and we can update the status according to the current annual operational plan.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—That information could give us who was responsible for each of those projects following the winding up of Land and Water?</p> <p><b>Dr Robinson</b>—Yes. The annual operational plan for this current financial year describes how each individual project or program will be managed into the future. Though that was basically at 30 June, there are a couple of changes since, as we have worked through each project.</p> <p>----- ----</p>

				<p><b>Mr Grant</b>—Dr Robinson agreed to take on notice and provide a list of those projects that were cancelled and terminated. So that will be the start.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—I think it is appropriate to get a list of those that have failed or whatever. I would like to know what was lost as part of process. I am not sure how much it is appropriate to put the Land and Water through, given its current level of resources. I think the committee through its questioning has expressed its opinion on what has occurred. If you could take on notice to give us advice on which of those have been curtailed, perhaps that can give us a sense of where it is finalised.</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—Just to clarify that, you are looking for the 10 projects or whatever it was that were ceased?</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—However many there were based on the fact that that level of detail is not in the operational plan</p>
LWA 04	19/10/09	52	Nash	<p><b>Senator NASH</b>—I am having a little trouble reconciling the department’s strategic direction, what actually seems to be happening and certainly what the minister is actually doing here. We can look at the strategic direction, which says things like ‘ensuring Australia plays a strong role in efforts to tackle global food security’ and ‘helping our primary industries prepare for climate change, droughts and extreme weather events and boosting productivity by investing in research and development’, but the minister in a media release only three days ago was talking about the world population rising to 9.1 billion by 2050 and he said that the only way we can meet what the world will demand is by following every possible path of scientific research. So I cannot reconcile how sacking 30 people and getting rid of an entire research institute complies with what the minister is saying and intending to do. Can somebody perhaps explain that for me? Dr Robinson, have you had—</p> <p><b>Senator Sherry</b>—That is the minister’s view and I do not think anyone—</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—Sorry, Dr Robinson, you are shaking your head.</p> <p><b>Senator Sherry</b>—That is the minister’s view.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—I just have to say that for the <i>Hansard</i> record.</p> <p><b>Senator Sherry</b>—That is the minister’s view. He has expressed it. It is not the only issue that is taken into account from a whole-of-government point of view, and I will pass your views on and ask if he has anything further to add. We have discussed this matter on a number of occasions at previous estimates.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—I think we have probably discussed it at previous estimates because it is an extremely important issue, Minister, and I would say that that is why it continues to be raised.</p> <p><b>Senator Sherry</b>—Fine, and I will pass it on to the minister.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—Lovely. Do you think perhaps we might—</p> <p><b>Senator Sherry</b>—But it is not open to public servants to give their view of the minister’s comments, and I will pass it on to the minister. If he wants to add to his commentary and observations on this matter, he will. I will pass it on and I will take it on notice for you</p>

LWA 05	19/10/09	55	Macdonald	<p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—Has the TRaCK program reported since we last spoke at estimates? Is there anything new that I have not caught up with?</p> <p><b>Dr Robinson</b>—I think there have been some ongoing releases—I could not tell you how many—of scientific reports, but in the last two weeks there has also been a milestone report delivered back to research funders. The Water Commission and the department of the environment are the two main funding agencies now. So they have had milestone reports recently, but there have been ongoing releases, I think, of technical reports, which should be available on the TRaCK website, but we could also—</p> <p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—So the major reports are publicly available? They are on their web—</p> <p><b>Dr Robinson</b>—I would have to check that, but once they are approved—I cannot recall, but yes, they should be.</p> <p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—Sorry?</p> <p><b>Dr Robinson</b>—I cannot recall whether they are released publicly, but—</p> <p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—But they will be, you say?</p> <p><b>Dr Robinson</b>—I presume they will be once they are approved through the environment department and the Water Commission.</p> <p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—Are they big reports?</p> <p><b>Dr Robinson</b>—Yes. They are largely administrative reports, as well as the technical content.</p> <p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—Could you answer that on notice, or could someone just direct the committee to the website where it will be released.</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—Certainly.</p>
LWA 06	N/A	Written	Colbeck	<p>Dr Robinson said back in May that negotiations would be had will the remaining project partners as to whether or not they would accept the level of funding now available to their project.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Did any of these partners choose not to proceed at all?</li> <li>2. What happens to any funding that was previously allocated to them and which would not be spent based on their decision not to continue?</li> <li>3. What liabilities does LWA have now?</li> <li>4. And what liabilities will it leave upon being wound up?</li> <li>5. How many staff remain at LWA (until its final days in December)?</li> <li>6. How many of the 41 staff have found jobs elsewhere in DAFF or other agencies since May's Budget Estimates?</li> </ol>
MLA 01	19/10/09	139	Back	<p><b>Senator BACK</b>—Thank you, Chair. Obviously the question of the time is to do with the circumstances associated with AQIS fees as they relate to meat and livestock. In that context, can you give us some advice, please, on just where industry plans have progressed in recent weeks.</p> <p><b>Dr Johnsson</b>—Firstly, David Palmer, our managing director, sends his apologies; he could not join us tonight. I am not sure whether we should take that one on notice. I do not know if we have</p>

				any information that we can give you tonight on that.
MLA 02	19/10/09	140	Back	<p><b>Senator BACK</b>—Could I also then ask: what is the fate of the fees that have been collected to date with regard to inspections, particularly as they relate to the meat industry, or, again, is that something that you will have to take on notice?</p> <p><b>Mr Grant</b>—I think that would be an issue for the government through AQIS. They would need to answer those—</p> <p><b>Senator BACK</b>—I am sorry, I just did not hear what you said.</p> <p><b>Mr Grant</b>—I think those questions should be taken by AQIS.</p> <p><b>Mr Glyde</b>—Biosecurity Services Group.</p> <p><b>Mr Grant</b>—Or Biosecurity Services Group, yes. It is a government issue. It is the collection of money from industry.</p> <p><b>Dr Johnsson</b>—The fees do not come to MLA. Is that what you are implying?</p> <p><b>Senator BACK</b>—I would have thought MLA might have had some interest or involvement in the process, but you are saying it is entirely an AQIS matter?</p> <p><b>Dr Johnsson</b>—We had some discussion at the last meeting on this and we gave you some information as a follow-up. My understanding is that we had no consultation on the setting of the fees; that is what we would expect. That is not our role.</p> <p><b>Senator BACK</b>—I think the last time you appeared before the committee we were discussing economic modelling that may have been conducted to assess the removal of the rebate and what effect it would have on the red meat and livestock industries. Could you comment on those effects.</p> <p><b>Dr Johnsson</b>—On the removal, sorry, of which rebate?</p> <p><b>Senator BACK</b>—AQIS, the 40 per cent rebate on inspections.</p> <p><b>Dr Johnsson</b>—Again, I am not sure that we have actually looked at that. I will take it on notice and get back to you.</p>
MLA 03	N/A	Written	Williams	<p><b>MLA</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. You invest \$16 million into climate change research – what projects are underway now?</li> <li>2. What markets were targeted?</li> <li>3. What subsequent increase if any has there been in the consumption of beef as a result of this marketing?</li> <li>4. How much this additional levy raise for the MLA?</li> <li>5. What is the justification for continuing with this levy if consumption has dropped?</li> <li>6. How much this additional levy raise for the MLA?</li> <li>7. What is the justification for continuing with this levy if consumption has dropped?</li> <li>8. When promoting the case for the \$5 levy, did the MLA balance the argument by also promoting the NO case?</li> <li>9. Has the MLA provided any funding to the major supermarket chains?</li> <li>10. On a percentage basis, what is the efficiency of NLIS?</li> <li>11. What sort of flaws are still being identified with the scheme?</li> </ol>

				<p>12. I refer you to a report put out by the Kondinin Group which says that in NSW alone, between 30,000 and 40,000 NLIS-registered cattle are losing their lifetime traceability each month due to incorrect or incomplete transfers on the NLIS database. Are you aware of this?</p> <p>13. What is the reason for this?</p> <p>14. Is it being rectified?</p> <p>15. The S.G. Heilbron report that the MLA commissioned in 2001 found amongst other things that Australian Livestock and Meat Producers generally have higher government influenced costs and charges than their international competitors, and receive less assistance from government ,it is also said the profit margin for the meat processing industry is only 2%. There were a number of recommendations from that report – could you tell me what were adopted?</p> <p>16. Bindaree Beef estimates it costs them about \$51 dollars a head to process a beast. How does that compare with overseas competitor costs?</p> <p>17. Have you noted general concerns in the meat industry about costs?</p> <p>18. Is there a concern meat processors are finding it difficult to remain viable?</p>
SRM 01	19/10/09	19	Siewert	<p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—The order of magnitude of the projects is a little over 112 projects, Senator. The reason I am a little unclear is that we have announced 56 Landcare projects and the number of competitive projects was 56, which I think you are aware of. I am not familiar with the number of projects in the National Reserve System or the World Heritage area. There are some projects there as well.</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—Which all come out of that money?</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—They all come out of that money.</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—Out of the \$152 million?</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—The \$152 million over four years, yes.</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—Does anyone have the breakdown of the National Reserve System funding—how many were Landcare and how many were NRM projects?</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—We do have that breakdown. I do not have it broken down in front of me, but it is not a very hard number to pull together. We could do that.</p>
SRM 02	19/10/09	20	Siewert	<p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—You said the camel project was done as an expression of interest. Could you inform the committee why a decision was made to spend \$19 million on a project that was simply an expression of interest?</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—In the business plan a call was made for some large projects in a number of areas. Because they were very large projects that had a degree of complexity potentially involving a large number of partners, we told people to put in an application. Essentially the same application was required from everybody else but, because of the amount of money involved, we said we would approve it in principle and then allow further work to be undertaken with the proponent to develop the project further or hold discussions about the nature of the project or whether all partners were there or whether the research results were being taken into account in the proper manner. Since the announcement of the project in July, we have been working with the</p>

				<p>project proponents to develop that project. It was, in a sense, a risk management measure around a very large project to ensure that both we and the proponents were happy with the final project. The competitive component did not require them to spend an inordinate amount of time developing final details when we may have been able to come to an arrangement doing it slightly differently.</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—Of the \$60 million that was spent this year on projects, how many of them were approved as an expression of interest?</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—My recollection is that we called for expressions of interest only for the large projects, and the camels one was the only one.</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—It was the only large project?</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—It was the only large project funded and the only one that was to be progressed through the expression of interest process.</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—How many expressions of interest did you receive?</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—I cannot recall the exact number of expressions of interest we received for large projects, but there were a number of them. There certainly were not hundreds. It was around the order of nine or 10, to my recollection, but we can give you that answer on notice, Senator.</p>
SRM 03	19/10/09	21	Siewert	<p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—Did you receive a project concerning the possible causes of the decline in the number of fauna in Northern Australia?</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—We may have. I do not recall that project. There were a lot of projects, quite a number for Northern Australia and quite a number relating to biodiversity, land management, fire management and invasive animals in Northern Australia. Unless we had more details, I could not comment on that one in particular.</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—Do you have a breakdown of the expenditure in Northern Australia?</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—I do not have a breakdown of the expenditure in Northern Australia that I can lay my hands on right now, but we can do that analysis. I do not recall us doing a specific one for Northern Australia, but it is one of the records we track for reporting purposes and we are in the process of doing that now for our annual report card.</p>
SRM 04	19/10/09	21	Siewert	<p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—I just wanted to follow up on that last point. Will you report against the six nominated priorities under Caring for our Country in your annual report?</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—Yes.</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—When is your annual report due?</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—We are expecting that to come out quite shortly.</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—So I am better off waiting for that than putting a question on notice. Were you taking it on notice?</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—Whether or not you wish to put it on notice, that information will be made available to you.</p>
SRM 05	19/10/09	22	Siewert	<p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—Thank you. I will go back to the assessment panel. You were saying that you are reviewing the process. So that I do not have to wait until the next estimates to find out what the</p>

				<p>process will be, I ask you on notice to supply an explanation of what the new process will be once you have finalised a review of the current assessment process?</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—Yes.</p>
SRM 06	19/10/09	22-23- 24	Siewert	<p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—How many of the 1,300 projects that were allocated and applied for through the last competitive round were funded out of the \$152 million?</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—As I said, we would have to take on notice the breakdown of the projects against those amounts, because I think I would possibly confuse you by trying to do it here. I do not have the number. In the open competitive component 56 projects and 56 Landcare projects were funded and there were—</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—Fifty-six Landcare projects separate to the 56 other projects?</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—Yes, in addition. Landcare is included within Caring for our Country. There were 56 projects that covered a range of activities such as sustainable agriculture and biodiversity, but there were also 56 Landcare projects.</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—That was under a separate process?</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—It is a similar process in terms of assessment, but they came through the same application process. The 1,300 applications included Landcare applications as well as broader Caring for our Country and Reef Rescue applications.</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—So the 112 projects comprised 56 projects that come under Caring for our Country, the more general bracket, and 56 Landcare projects?</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—Yes.</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—And that makes up the \$60 million?</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—That does not make up the whole \$60 million. In addition—and this is the bit that I wanted to take on notice—there are the World Heritage area and National Reserve projects. I do not have that breakdown with me. These numbers get a little confusing, so I think it would be easier to set them out for you in a table.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>-----</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—But the \$60 million will not be increased. That includes the National Reserve System applications. So an indicative allocation has been made against those projects?</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—I think it would be fair enough to say yes. There is an indicative allocation against them, yes.</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—That is what you are going to provide on notice?</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—That is what we would provide on notice, yes.</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—So out of the 1,300, which includes all national reserve projects et cetera, 112 have been funded?</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—One hundred and twelve, plus a few more that were going to be included in that notice where they include national reserves, because there are all the Indigenous protected areas. The Reef Rescue ones would be included in that number as well. It is a number that is a little larger than 112 but it is probably smaller than 200.</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—Is it possible to provide a table setting out from the total of \$407,920,000</p>

				<p>how many projects were funded, how many you think will be funded and the proportions for Reef Rescue, the National Reserve System and the 56 Landcare projects?</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—It is possible to do that, Senator.</p>
SRM 07	19/10/09	24	Siewert	<p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—Then we will have an ultimate understanding of how many of the 1,300 projects were actually funded.</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—Yes, Senator.</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—Thank you. In terms of the money that is being funded for regional groups into the future, is the \$106.8 million for next financial the 60 per cent guaranteed baseline funding?</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—The \$106 million is the baseline funding, yes. Most regions sought at least two years funding for their regional baseline.</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—Have all regions been given two years or some only one?</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—Regions had programs approved, depending on what their applications were. Some regions sought 12 months funding, most sought two or three years funding, some sought four. Some like to keep a little bit of flexibility for future years, so it varies.</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—Is it possible to give us a breakdown of the projects that regional groups sought from the competitive bid process? Fifty-six seems to be a figure that pops up all over the place. Is it possible to tell me how many of the 56 regions also received competitive projects approvals?</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—Yes, Senator, that is possible.</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—If you could take that on notice, that would be appreciated, and the value of each project would be appreciated as well.</p>
SRM 08	19/10/09	24	Nash	<p><b>Senator NASH</b>—I just have a couple of questions. I want to talk about camels and Caring for our Country. Am I in the right place? There is \$19 million allocated for eradicating camels. How many camels are there?</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—It is not \$19 million to eradicate camels, Senator; it is \$19 million to reduce camels to manageable numbers in those parts of Australia where camels are having a significant detrimental impact on biodiversity in the rangelands.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—How many camels are there and by what level do you want to reduce the number? How many of the million do you want to get rid of?</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—Someone else may have that number, Senator. We have an estimate of the number of camels in that part of Australia. The project is aimed at reducing the number of camels to a level—</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—Obviously if you are going to kill them, you are going to reduce them.</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—No, it is to reduce them to a level where their natural increase is such that they can be controlled. We would have to take the detail of that on notice. It is not to eradicate them; it is to get them down to a level where their impact is manageable.</p>



SRM 09	19/10/09	25	Nash	<p><b>Senator NASH</b>—How will the camels be eradicated?</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—I believe the camels will be culled by shooting, Senator.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—It seems an awful lot of money to reduce an unknown number of camels. It is a lot of bullets.</p> <p><b>Senator Sherry</b>—It is pretty hard terrain where some of those camels are.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—I am fairly sure they would probably use a helicopter, Minister.</p> <p><b>Senator Sherry</b>—The first Senate committee of which I was a member 20 years ago was animal welfare. We spent months looking at how to cull introduced camels, horses, goats and pigs. The transcript is well worth reading, because the terrain is extremely difficult.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—You obviously did not do a good enough job at the time given the problem we now have.</p> <p><b>Senator Sherry</b>—It is really an extraordinarily difficult job in the Australian terrain.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—Mr Thompson, seriously, could you supply the committee on notice with the existing numbers, the target to reduce the number to a manageable level, what the funding will go to and the breakdown, as you were just referring to, of how it was assessed that \$19 million was an appropriate figure?</p>
SRM 10	19/10/09	25-26	Nash	<p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—But what I can tell you is the range of projects that we have, some of which clearly involve community days. For example, managing the cane toad menace is \$23,000. I have the projects but I do not got them reconciled against which ones have got the days.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—Would you take on notice for the committee what funding goes to the volunteer days? That would be very useful. What is actually done? Is it some kind of whacking day festival or something where everybody whacks a cane toad on the head with a big stick? How does it actually work? I am fascinated by the thought of 600 people in the community with a big stick whacking cane toads-</p> <p>-----</p> <p>---</p> <p><b>Dr Troy</b>—We have two community control projects approved for this year. One is the Stop the Toad Foundation for \$204,000. The second is for the Kimberley Toad Busters, \$200,000.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—And how much was that for the Kimberley Toad Busters?</p> <p><b>Dr Troy</b>—Two hundred thousand dollars. There will also have been some funding in some of the regional baseline, the money to regional bodies, that would have gone to cane toad control with community volunteer days, but I do not have those figures.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—Are those projects ongoing or are these individual community days? How do they actually work?</p> <p><b>Dr Troy</b>—My understanding is that that funding is just for this year. They are not necessarily funded into the out years.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—If we just briefly take the Kimberley—sorry, what were they?</p> <p><b>Dr Troy</b>—The Kimberley Toad Busters and the Stop the Toad Foundation.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—Specifically what is that \$200,000 going towards?</p>

				<p><b>Dr Troy</b>—For the Kimberley Toad Busters, it is going for community control activities, community research and a cane toad forum in 2010.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—So how many people is that funding to go and whack a toad?</p> <p><b>Dr Troy</b>—I do not have those figures to hand.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—Sorry, I should not say ‘whack’ a toad; I mean to eliminate the toad. Could you provide for the committee, for both of those projects, exactly the breakdown of that funding and where that is going in terms of the cane toad elimination? That would be extremely useful. Could you also tell us how much per day each volunteer gets paid and how this money actually get utilised out in the community for those projects for the eradication of the cane toads? Finally, are the community volunteer days reducing cane toad numbers?</p> <p>-----</p> <p>-----</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—Dr Troy, if you could come back with information on notice as well about the numbers by which those two projects expect to reduce the cane toad population, that would be extremely useful. Thank you.</p>
SRM 11	19/10/09	26-27	Sterle	<p><b>CHAIR</b>—I want to come back to camels. One very quick question: what extensive damage do camels do?</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—In an agricultural sense, because they are big animals they smash fences, they smash fixed watering points. When they want water and the water is not available in a trough, they have the capacity to break off taps, seals and whatever, so water ends up flowing freely. In the biodiversity sense, they do quite a bit of damage particularly around waterholes, both to the vegetation and to the watering point itself in terms of fouling it, using the water and trampling damage.</p> <p><b>CHAIR</b>—You may want to take it on notice, but it would be helpful to the committee if there were any figures around the damage that they do and around projected damage.</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—We do have that information. I can take that on notice.</p>
SRM 12		27	Colbeck	<p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—With regard to the application from NRM North in Tasmania for management of native grasslands, particularly the area that was recently listed by Minister Garrett as critically endangered, what interaction did the department have with respect to that application, which was rejected?</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—I would have to take that on notice. As has been pointed out, there were quite a large number of applications, and I do not have the detail of every application with us. The general process was that every application was considered on its merits, in terms of both the quality of the project and the magnitude of the problem that was being addressed. Quite a number of the projects were not rejected; they were assessed as quite okay projects but unable to be funded because of limitations on money. Some were placed on reserve lists; some just scored too low to be funded. The major reason for projects not being funded was budgetary, not necessarily the quality of the project. If you want more information on that particular project, I would have to take it on notice.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—I do. I am specifically interested given that, when the listing was made,</p>

				<p>Minister Garrett recommended that the farmers apply under Caring for our Country to assist them with management of those areas and then a week later the application that they had in to do just that was rejected. As you might imagine, that left them somewhat nonplussed as part of that process. There is \$11 million for camels, but farmers who have had their land effectively restricted in its use cannot get assistance to manage it when the recommendation from the minister associated with that says, 'Apply to this program.' I would appreciate that information if you could provide it. Mr Thompson, would it be possible to get hold of the reserve list that you referred to, on notice?</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—I would have to take that on notice. I think it is possible</p>
SRM 13	19/10/09	27	Macdonald	<p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—There is \$19 million for camels. How much is there for tilapia out of the national projects for Caring for our Country? Tilapia is the fish that is destroying most of the rivers in Queensland and Western Australia.</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—I do not recall the tilapia project, so I would have to take it on notice to check.</p> <p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—I can help you: there is nil; nothing for tilapia</p>
SRM 14	19/10/09	28	Macdonald	<p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—There was a target in Caring for our Country for RAMSAR listed wetlands and high-value aquatic ecosystems.</p> <p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—None of the Barrier Reef wetlands received any funding at all. Are they not considered high value?</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—As to the Barrier Reef, I would have to check. I thought there was one wetlands project that was funded in the Barrier Reef, or one project that has benefits for Barrier Reef wetlands. The Barrier Reef wetlands are considered high value. While the wetlands themselves may not have received many projects, there is the \$200 million Reef Rescue program, which is targeted at improving the water quality of the reef over all</p>
SRM 15	19/10/09	29	Macdonald	<p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—That is fine. Can you tell me on notice how many staff are required to undertake the assessments for Caring for our Country and the amount of time taken in the assessment process? Then you can tell me that all the recommendations have been accepted, as I understand it. Can you do that?</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—We can provide the number of staff that were involved, and an estimate of the amount of time involved.</p> <p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—Okay. Can you also tell me how important wetlands are to the goals of Caring for our Country, how many applications were received for funding for wetlands, and how many actually received funding, including both RAMSAR and non-RAMSAR listed wetlands?</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—We could take that on notice.</p>
SRM 16	19/10/09	32-33	Hutchins	<p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—There is an amount for \$10 million for land and sea Indigenous partnerships over five years. That is to involve them in training programs for looking after reef resources in the way they can and using their traditional knowledge in an around the reef lagoon itself. Some of that relates to managing harvests of animals, but it is a reasonably flexible sort of tool. They are called traditional use management arrangements for Indigenous involvement in managing the land and sea country.</p>

				<p><b>Senator HUTCHINS</b>—So that is an agreement between an Indigenous group—</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—It will be an agreement between the Australian government and the traditional Indigenous people in the reef area.</p> <p><b>Senator HUTCHINS</b>—Are there any existing now, or is it the plan for this money to assist in that project commencing?</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—It is in an early stage of negotiation. The Indigenous groups in that area have received assistance through previous programs, so groups exist, but the details of the current land and sea partnerships are being developed. We spent about \$1 million last year, and we estimate to spend about \$1.3 million this year on Indigenous partnerships.</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—From my recollection, at least a couple of the agreements that are in place through the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority are pre-existing. So this builds on an established practice, I guess.</p> <p><b>Senator HUTCHINS</b>—So there is the traditional use agreements and also the sea country management plans?</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—Yes. There is traditional use of marine resource agreements, there are sea country management plans, and there are some Indigenous training programs to build the skills of Indigenous people in implementing those plans.</p> <p><b>Senator HUTCHINS</b>—How many Indigenous people may have gone through the skills program?</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—I do not have that detail with me.</p> <p><b>Senator HUTCHINS</b>—If that could be supplied at some stage, that would be comfortable.</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—Yes.</p>
SRM 17	19/10/09	34	Williams	<p><b>Senator WILLIAMS</b>—Thanks, Dr O’Connell. I might just put something to you. Can you say why, under the functioning criteria, GWYMAC, based at Inverell, this year has a \$40,000 budget out of which comes rent, office running expenses, wages for a Landcare coordinator and programs? Last year the budget was \$80,000. How can Landcare programs be effective when some coordinators and staff are reduced to working two or three days a week because they are not being funded?</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—The amount of money available to individual Landcare groups or networks of Landcare groups varies across the country. They receive their funding sometimes through a direct application to us. They might receive some funding where their coordinator is acting as a project officer. They also receive funding from state bodies and others—and that money does vary. As was pointed out earlier, regional bodies have had some reductions in funding, so their capacity to support some Landcare groups has diminished a little. Also, some state governments have reduced resources as well. As Dr O’Connell said, the Commonwealth is doing what it can by saying there is another 56 facilitators that it will support, and I think Minister Burke has made it very plain that there is nothing to stop people when they are putting forward an application for assistance, if that involves some staff to help deliver that project which is addressing one of the Caring for our Country targets, they can employ some people with that money if it is part and parcel of the</p>

				project. <b>Dr O'Connell</b> —We can certainly take that specific case that you raise on notice and provide some information.
SRM 18	19/10/09	35	Back	<b>Senator BACK</b> —I want to draw attention to some concerns associated with Caring for our Country in the Swan and Canning catchments, which I guess about 75 per cent of the population of Western Australia would be involved in, particularly the Canning wetlands and the work done by the Perth NRM over some time. In recent years, their regional base funding has reduced from a figure of about \$4.2 million annually to \$3.2 million last year and now down to \$2.3 million per annum for the next four years. Could you give us an indication as to what they did wrong to cause them to have such a severe reduction in their funding base? <b>Mr Thompson</b> —It is not what the group did wrong, Senator. The regional base level allocations were made on the basis of a number of considerations, but a significant one was the number of Caring for our Country targets in that region. The Caring for our Country targets do differ from the ones under previous programs. As a result of that, the amount of money may have gone down for some regions. From the numbers that I have, historically, their average was \$3.6 million. In 2008-09 they got \$3.2 million and \$2.3 million will be their ongoing one. It is broadly the numbers you were talking about. The major figure there will be the fewer Caring for our Country targets in that region. The region is able to apply for competitive funding, and I think in this year's business plan, regions in the competitive component got about 25 per cent of the funding. So they are very competitive at seeking additional funding. <b>Senator BACK</b> —Could you check that? The figure that is available to me under the competitive process is that they did not receive anything in 2009-10. <b>Mr Thompson</b> —I was using the 25 per cent across the board. Swan-Canning may well have missed out altogether. I would have to take that on notice.
SRM 19	19/10/09	36-37	Sterle	<b>CHAIR</b> —In conclusion, would the department like to make it very clear what source of funding the regional bodies have? <b>Mr Thompson</b> —The regional bodies have regional baseline funding that is guaranteed. They are also able to apply on the same basis as anybody else for competitive funding. Because of their access to regional base funding and their existence in the regions, they are well placed to put in quite competitive bids. Were you seeking the numbers again? <b>CHAIR</b> —If you could table them, that would be good. <b>Senator SIEWERT</b> —I have already asked you, I think, to provide the funding that each region got under the competitive process? I have already asked for that, haven't I? <b>Mr Thompson</b> —If you have not, we understand that that is what you are after.
SRM 20	19/10/09	37	Siewert	<b>Senator SIEWERT</b> —Also, on notice, could you provide us with a copy of the assessment form that was used by the assessment panels. I mean both the questions that they were looking at in their assessment process and the numerical system that was used to assess the projects? <b>Mr Thompson</b> —I understood on notice we had provided you with a copy of the assessment tool.

				<p>We will check. If we have not provided it, we should be able to do that.  <b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—Okay; that would be appreciated. Thanks.  <b>Mr Thompson</b>—You are just asking for the tool itself?  <b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—I would ask for the projects, but I know I would not get them</p> <p>-----  -----  <b>Mr Thompson</b>—Could I just make one comment? Senator Siewert, we did provide you with a copy of the 2009-10 investment merit tool in response to a question on notice.  <b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—Yes, okay. What I am specifically after is an explanation of how the scoring process was used. It is unclear to me how you then used the scoring process.  <b>Mr Thompson</b>—I would have to take that on notice.  <b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—If you could take that on notice, that would be appreciated. I should have been clearer. That is what I am specifically after.</p>
SRM 21	19/10/09	37	Back	<p><b>Senator BACK</b>—Finally, would it be possible, please—if you could take this on notice—to confirm that there were no metro projects funded at all under the competitive process this last financial year around Australia? Is that correct?  <b>Mr Thompson</b>—I would have to take that on notice</p>
SRM 22	19/10/09	37	Chair	<p><b>CHAIR</b>—On the last one, Caring for our Country—and correct me if I am wrong—just so I have this clear: the ANAO reports were critical of the lack of transparency. When were those reports put out?  <b>Mr Thompson</b>—There have been a couple of those reports put out. Up until about 2007 there were critical ANAO reports. I can recall a couple of them.  <b>Dr O’Connell</b>—In terms of Caring for our Country, to be absolutely clear, my understanding is that there are none that are of Caring for our Country; it is previous programs.  <b>CHAIR</b>—I should have made that clear. Thanks, Dr O’Connell.  <b>Mr Thompson</b>—The last ANAO review of previous programs I think was in 2006 or 2007. We will confirm that on notice. It is when the ANAO did a review of Caring for our Country.  <b>Dr O’Connell</b>—I think it was 2008 and it was done of the previous program, but we will take it on notice.</p>
SRM 23	19/10/09	42	Macdonald	<p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—I expect you would need to take this on notice, but could you tell me how many times officers of your department have met with Environment or fishermen or anyone else in relation to that specific proposal? Is that possible to do?  <b>Mr Pittar</b>—We can look at that. Would you want to include phone conversations? Would it be formal meetings?  <b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—No, formal meetings. If there are none, you could perhaps say, ‘We have a record of 15 phone conversations’, without going into too much detail. I am just curious as to how involved the department is in that proposal.</p>
SRM 24	19/10/09	42-43	Colbeck	<p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Training requirements and programs for vessels. I have been talking, for example, to the pearl guys in the last three or four weeks and I have had some discussions with the</p>

				<p>mussel guys in South Australia. I just wondered what interaction there has been as part of that process.</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—I am aware that they sought advice from us. They have also sought advice from AFMA, and I think that issue is still ongoing. I do not have the details of anything more other than they have consulted with us in the normal manner. I think AFMA has been playing a more significant role than us in that one.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Why would AFMA have a more significant role than the department?</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—AFMA has had a more significant role because of their operational issues relating to the fishing industry. We have some perspectives on the broader consideration about the need for training in the fishing industry from a policy point of view, but I think the issue that has caused some concern in the industry from my understanding is how that translates when you start to look at both sides and what that means for actual numbers of fishermen and those sorts of things, and AFMA have those numbers. My recollection was that AMSA were chasing information about what this actually means for the fishing industry as such, because they did not have a really practical handle on the sizes of boats and the number of boats in particular areas, and they were seeking our advice in that area. They were more familiar with larger scale vessels.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—So there has been no discussion about length of training programs and minimum training requirements and things of that nature as part of the interaction with you?</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—I would have to take that on notice. I am not familiar with the detail of that. As I said, we have had some correspondence with AMSA that I cannot recall at the present time. Other people have been involved over a period of time.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—The concerns that I am getting are the practicalities of what has been proposed in the draft arrangements at this point in time for first time trainees and things of that nature. There is a strong understanding of the need for adequate safety training and initial training programs, but given the ratio of people going through training to actually starting or continuing a career in the industry, there is some concern about that.</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—There are two issues there. One is our discussions with the industry have indicated that, like a lot of industries, they are seeking employees, and training is important, so there is no issue there. My understanding was that AMSA was seeking advice from us on those practical issues, and those discussions are still ongoing. But I can confirm that on notice.</p>
SRM 25	19/10/09	44	Siewert	<p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—I have some follow-up questions on southern bluefin tuna. I am not trying to be sarcastic but if it is appropriate, because the talks are going on this week, could you tell us what position the Australian delegation is taking to those talks?</p> <p><b>Mr Quinlivan</b>—I cannot disclose that, Senator. It is a matter of government policy. We will be handling that negotiating brief very carefully and we will be doing our best to deliver it in the commission meeting, but it is certainly not a public matter.</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—What are the numbers in your delegation that you are taking to the talks? Are you taking the normal number?</p> <p><b>Mr Quinlivan</b>—I am not sure, to be honest. I know from the government side the numbers are about what they normally are, I think there will be a strong industry delegation, and I think that the NGOs chose to participate as observers rather than as members of the delegation. As</p>

				<p>observers, as I understand it, they have an opportunity to make a presentation to the commission meeting and they chose to take that option rather than be part of the delegation. We will take on notice your question about numbers.</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—If you could take on notice whether the delegation is the same in numbers as you have taken every year, that would be appreciated.</p>
SRM 26	19/10/09	44	Siewert	<p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—Are you considering any alternative strategies against non-compliance beyond what you have just mentioned?</p> <p><b>Mr Quinlivan</b>—There were meetings of the compliance committee of the commission yesterday and today. We were seeking further action in that area and more credible reporting, particularly by the distant water nations where we have always been concerned about some levels of leakage. So yes, we do have some proposals in that area.</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—I appreciate at the moment it is difficult for you to answer the answer the questions because you are in the middle of the talks this week. Chair, I am wondering if it is possible for the committee to ask for a briefing subsequent to the meeting.</p> <p><b>Mr Quinlivan</b>—We would be happy to ask the minister about the timing and process for that. I am not sure when commission documents will be released—clearly that would be necessary—but soon after that I think it would be fine, if the minister agrees, so we would be happy to ask him.</p>
SRM 27	19/10/09	45-46	Macdonald	<p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—I have a fisheries question. Mr Quinlivan, perhaps you will recall that some years ago the Australian government initiated a program where every fish shop and supermarket in Australia that you go to will clearly label fish, what it is and, most importantly, its state of origin. I have been told that the Northern Territory has recently introduced regulation or done something that requires restaurants in the Northern Territory to indicate on their menus whether the fish that is being offered at that restaurant is from Australia or where it is from. The Barramundi Farmers Association, indeed Australian fishermen generally, appreciate the success of the original initiative in labelling in the supermarkets. But they are now approaching us in relation to getting restaurants to do the same thing—not, of course, banning where restaurants access their fish but at least letting people know. I recall it was principally a state regulatory issue, but it was the Commonwealth's encouragement that got that to be adopted Australia wide. Is there any way that the Commonwealth can again exert some leadership in that area to assist the Australian fisheries industry by having restaurants clearly label where the fish that they are offering comes from?</p> <p><b>Mr Quinlivan</b>—I think you are mainly referring to development of the fish name standard, which was adopted—</p> <p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—It was really more where it was coming from. The fish name standard was important but it was about where it was coming from.</p> <p><b>Mr Quinlivan</b>—Then the states applied it to the extent they could. I think the short answer to your question is no, unless the labelling of product in restaurants reached a point where it was potentially in breach of the Trade Practices Act. Desirably, that is something that would be done</p>



				<p>nationally as part of the food-labelling arrangements. I do not think we have got any particular levers we can pull to achieve this.</p> <p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—Could I perhaps ask the minister if he would encourage Minister Burke at his next meeting with state fisheries ministers to look at the issue of ensuring that fish sold through restaurants, on restaurant menus, is clearly labelled to show whether it comes from Australia or elsewhere? Could I ask you to raise that with Minister Burke?</p> <p><b>Senator Sherry</b>—I will pass that on.</p>
SRM 28	19/10/09	56	Heffernan	<p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—As we all know, weeds cost Australia in excess of \$4 billion every year. It seems to be that it is in a bit of haphazard limbo at the moment. We are not quite sure who is running it and where the funds are coming from?</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—As I said, there were 39 projects funded last year for \$35 million.</p> <p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b>—Can we have the details of the project?</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—Yes, I could—</p> <p><b>ACTING CHAIR</b>—Senator Heffernan, you are just a bit disorderly.</p> <p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b>—I will fit in as we go.</p> <p><b>ACTING CHAIR</b>—Yes, but you have not got the call.</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—We could provide a list of the projects.</p>
SRM 29	19/10/09	57	Macdonald	<p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—Could you, on notice, just give me details of who constitutes the Australian Weeds Committee and, where changes have been made, can you indicate to us what is the procedure for changing those personnel?</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—Yes, we can do that.</p>
SRM 30	27/10/09	5	Colbeck	<p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Can you tell me about the proposal that Australia took to the meeting as far as our position?</p> <p><b>Dr Kalish</b>—Your question, I believe, goes to the issue of negotiating tactics. We had a framework that we negotiated under, and that is what we did. We sought to reduce the global catch of southern bluefin tuna and to ensure—</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—What proportion of catch reduction was Australia's position going into the meeting?</p> <p><b>Dr Kalish</b>—That goes to negotiating tactics.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Are you not prepared to tell us that?</p> <p><b>Dr O'Connell</b>—We would have to take that on notice and have the minister potentially make an assessment as to whether or not that would have public interest immunity. That goes to the overall negotiating position of Australia in this forum, which of course is still a live issue over time.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—It is very much a live issue. There has been media reporting that I have seen that Australia's position was to cut the quota by 50 per cent. I would be interested to know whether that was in fact the position we took into the meeting. I think it is reasonable that we have some sense of what our position going in was given where we came out, and we will come to some of the results of that shortly.</p> <p><b>Dr O'Connell</b>—I am quite happy to take that on notice and get advice from the minister.</p>

SRM 31	19/10/09	112-113	Colbeck / Macdonald	<p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Yes. You can take this on notice. I am happy with that. Dr O’Connell might have to comment on this too, because it might be in a different part of the agency. As I understand it, there is some work being done at the moment on the status of statutory fishing rights—where and how they stand and what their overall legal standing might be at the end of the day. It is an issue that has been raised with me in the context of the MPA process, because fishermen are concerned about potential recourse should their fishery be significantly impacted by the MPA process and what they believe the statutory fishing rights are. Could you give us some advice on what is happening with respect to that process. In respect of your efforts on protection of Commonwealth fisheries with the use of the <i>Oceanic Viking</i>, how is that going at the moment, given that it is full of asylum seekers?</p> <p><b>Prof. Hurry</b>—The <i>Oceanic Viking</i>?</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Yes.</p> <p><b>Prof. Hurry</b>—Yes, it is operating up north at the moment, but it operates on a regular patrol. It was used up north for a patrol last year too, I think. It is not the first time that it has been used in the north of Australia.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—I understand it has a reasonable range, but currently it is an accommodation vessel, rather than doing another job.</p> <p><b>Prof. Hurry</b>—You have got me on that one. I will have to check for you, but I am unaware that it is holding asylum seekers.</p> <p><b>Mr Quinlivan</b>—What is the actual question you are asking?</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—What is the impact on the vessel’s ongoing role as a policeman for the fisheries, given that it is obviously—and it is very recent information, so I am happy to let you off the hook on that—</p> <p>-----</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—currently holding 78 asylum seekers.</p> <p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—Transporting them from one to the other, or holding them?</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Taken them off the <i>Armidale</i>.</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—The ship was transporting them.</p> <p><b>ACTING CHAIR</b>—There are 78 asylum seekers on board the <i>Oceanic Viking</i>, according to the ABC website.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Yes.</p> <p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—Perhaps the question to take on notice would be how long is it spending doing—</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Other duties.</p> <p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—Not only that, but is it being used as a house rather than a transport vessel? We are running out of room on Christmas Island. Now we know what they are going to do. They are going to live on board the <i>Oceanic Viking</i>.</p>
SRM 32	27/10/09	8	Siewert	<p>Dr O’Connell—It is probably worth Dr Kalish just explaining the full set of decisions, because it goes to the issue of putting in place a management procedure into the future. The current allocation decision is a two year decision, and there is an additional component of the</p>

				<p>decision that agrees to put in place a management procedure to go to the recovery with a default position in the event that that does not come through. The management procedure is really the key thing here in due course.</p> <p>Dr Kalish—The intent is to work on the management procedure in 2010 for implementation in 2011. The management procedure would be used to determine harvest rates starting in the 2012 year. As Dr O’Connell said, if that management procedure is not agreed, there is a default and that default is between 5,000 and 6,000 tonnes for the total allowable catch in 2012.</p> <p>Dr O’Connell—The sequence of events is one of developing the management procedure and getting agreement to it. The allocations in due course will depend on the calculations made as to the time to recovery and against the reduction in take.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT—That is to 2012, and then those cuts are implemented if those management procedures are not put in place?</p> <p>Dr O’Connell—If the management procedure is in place there will be trigger points built into the management procedure, which will automatically bring in measures. That is the way management procedures work.</p> <p>Dr Kalish—There will be a series of decision rules, including rules that determine the rate at which increases or decreases in total allowable catch might be taken, the rate of recovery and other factors.</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—I am aware that I will get pinged in a minute. Would you be able to take on notice the process that you are going to undertake to develop those management procedures?</p>
SRM 33	N/A	Written	Macdonald	<p><b>Caring for our Country</b></p> <p>Monitoring and evaluation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How does the Department intend to meet its commitment to invest 10% of funding to monitoring and research and how does it intend to involve regional organisations and land managers who are ultimately responsible for delivering investment outcomes?</li> <li>2. Why is the Commonwealth implementing a national groundcover monitoring program based on MODIS imagery at 500m that may be of use for identifying hotspots within western regions, but has little value beyond that? It has very little relevance to decision-making at the property level?</li> <li>3. Why is the Commonwealth not building on the work done by State agencies that have made significant investments to develop proven groundcover products?</li> </ol>
SRM 34	N/A	Written	Macdonald	<p><b>Assessment process and approval of CfOC projects:</b></p> <p>Could you please provide an analysis of where the competitive projects were actually located.</p>
SRM 35	N/A	Written	Macdonald	<p><b>Quality of applications:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Could you please explain to the committee whether the quality of applications was high or low, and any theories for why the applications tend to be of that quality?</li> </ol>

				<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. How does the quality of applications or project proposals if you like compare with the quality of project proposals under the regional approach to NRM operating under the NHT 2.</li> <li>3. Did applications generally meet with the Government Targets outlined within the business plan?</li> <li>4. Where any projects approved that did not meet with a strict interpretation of the business plan?</li> </ol>
SRM 36	N/A	Written	Macdonald	<p><b>Volunteer burnout:</b> Is the Department anticipating that volunteers may stop submitting project proposals given the relatively high number of projects that were not successful?</p>
SRM 37	N/A	Written	Macdonald	<p><b>Local ownership of CfOC outcomes:</b> Given that the power to match local priorities with government priorities has been taken away from local people through walking away from the regional process, does the Government believe there will be sufficient ownership of NRM outcomes by local people to ensure long term success of projects that require ongoing monitoring or maintenance – beyond the extent of the funding.</p>
SRM 38	N/A	Written	Macdonald	<p><b>Regional Investment Strategies:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Could you explain how regional investment strategies are being integrated with national targets through the CfOC program? Is there any reason for communities to engage with a regional planning process and the development of an investment strategy?</li> <li>2. Would people not be better off just chasing the money?</li> </ol>
SRM 39	N/A	Written	Macdonald	<p><b>Election commitments funded from CfOC:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How many election commitments have been funded by direct announcement or through “competitive processes” through the CfOC program?</li> <li>2. How much funding has been allocated to those commitments so far?</li> <li>3. How much is left for CfOC work in other areas?</li> </ol>
SRM 40	N/A	Written	Macdonald	<p><b>ANAO reports:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What have ANAO reports said about previous NRM programs such as NHT said that has influenced the design of the CfOC program?</li> <li>2. Why are we still measuring kilometers of fence or number of farmers attending a meeting rather than resource condition change?</li> <li>3. Can projects to monitor resource condition change be funded under CfOC?</li> </ol>
SRM 41	N/A	Written	Macdonald	<p><b>Reasons for program design:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Could you explain why a competitive grants process was chosen for CfOC?</li> <li>2. What are the advantages over other models?</li> <li>3. Are there any disadvantages?</li> </ol>

SRM 42	N/A	Written	Macdonald	<p><b>The CfOC business plan/Consultation on the business plan:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Has the business plan been a success?</li> <li>2. Do NRM groups like the program?</li> <li>3. Has there been any criticism?</li> <li>4. Has there been any formal processes for consultation on business plan? And what form did consultation take?</li> <li>5. Was there participation in these processes?</li> <li>6. What is the general feedback?</li> <li>7. Are you going to scrap this approach in favor of engaging local communities through regional planning?</li> </ol>
SRM 43	N/A	Written	Macdonald	<p><b>Diversion of funds from CfOC for emergency environmental recovery:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. When natural disasters and other emergencies have occurred, have CfOC funds been diverted to aid in the environmental recovery of the landscapes affected by those disasters? e.g. The Victorian Bushfires, Qld Oil Spill, North Qld Floods?</li> <li>2. Has there been underspend of CfOC money that could have been diverted to such projects?</li> </ol>
SRM 44	N/A	Written	Macdonald	<p><b>Environmental recovery:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Does the government have any information on how long the landscape will take to recover from the flood affected areas that suffered inundation for over three months?</li> <li>2. Is the government doing any work to ensure these landscapes can recover?</li> </ol>
SRM 45	N/A	Written	Macdonald	<p><b>Matters of National Environmental Significance:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Have any matters of national environmental significance been affected by the floods?</li> <li>2. How would you know?</li> <li>3. Was there monitoring done?</li> </ol>
SRM 46	N/A	Written	Colbeck	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What advice has the Department provided to other agencies with respect to the Tasmanian native lowland grasslands and the impact of EPBC Act protection of these farmland areas?</li> <li>2. When did the Department receive an application for funding through Caring for Our Country from NRM North in Tasmania to help with managing the native grasslands?</li> <li>3. What was the Department's advice to the Minister or other agencies?</li> <li>4. What involvement, if any, does the Department have in assisting farmers with identifying and managing the grasslands now that they are protected?</li> </ol>
SRM 47	N/A	Written	Colbeck	Can the Department please provide an explanation for the decrease in funding for the Recreational Fishing Community Grants between financial years 2008-2009 and 2009-2010?

SRM 48	N/A	Written	Williams	<p><b>Basis for Questions: as the drought takes hold and less money is given to projects, interest in landcare groups is dropping off or at least not as active as they once were.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How many functioning Landcare groups are there in Australia?</li> <li>2. Is the number increasing or decreasing?</li> <li>3. How many groups are functioning in the New England region?</li> <li>4. Is that number increasing or decreasing?</li> <li>5. How much funding has been given to groups for projects in the New England Area?</li> <li>6. How does that funding compare with other regions through out New South Wales?</li> <li>7. How is the success of the projects evaluated?</li> <li>8. In the current year how many projects through out NSW are funded compared to the number of applications?</li> <li>9. Is Landcare funding a year to year proposition?</li> <li>10. How much has been allocated to Landcare managerial positions this financial year?</li> <li>11. How much has been allocated to Landcare Co-ordinator positions and how does that compare with the previous year?</li> <li>12. Can you tell me why, under the funding criteria, GWYMAC based in Inverell will this year have a \$40,000 budget out of which comes rent, office running expenses, the wages for the Land care Co-ordinator and programmes? Last year the Budget was \$80,000.</li> <li>13. How can Landcare programmes be effective when some Co-ordinators and staff are reduced to working 2 to 3 days a week because they are not funded?</li> </ol>
SRM 49	N/A	Written	Colbeck	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What has been the nature of the Department's involvement and/or advice with respect to the Department of Environment's review of the EPBC Act?</li> <li>2. Has the Department provided any particular advice on RFAs?</li> <li>3. What has the nature of this advice been?</li> </ol>
SRM 50	N/A	Written	Back	<p><b>Under the Caring for our Country (CFOC) Programme, please provide details of the following:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. figures on regional base level funding nationally by round and state?</li> <li>2. figures on funding delivered to Perth Region NRM prior to this program being introduced and since?</li> <li>3. How many people at Perth Region NRM and at NRMs across the country have made cuts to staff as a result of these funding cuts?</li> <li>4. How many local environmental conservation projects no longer receive CFOC funding?</li> <li>5. How much has each state / territory received in Open Grants funding?</li> <li>6. How much has each state / territory received in Community Action Grants?</li> <li>7. What was the basis for no projects in the Perth Metro area being funded in the 2009-10 business plan 'competitive process'?</li> <li>8. When will the 2010-11 businessplan be released?</li> <li>9. How much money will be available for the competitive bid process?</li> </ol>

				10. Will any money be allocated to the Perth Metro Area?
SRM 51	N/A	Written	Colbeck	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Which Government officials attended the CCSBT meeting in South Korea last week?</li> <li>2. What position did the Government take to the meeting of the CCSBT?</li> <li>3. Was it aware of the negotiating positions of other member nations?</li> <li>4. Trade Minister, Simon Crean said in Tokyo this week that the Government was well aware of the significant overfishing by the Japanese in the past – and inferred that the new Centre-Left Government would crackdown on overfishing. If this was the knowledge of the Government, why has Japan received a smaller quota cut than Australia?</li> <li>5. Why were the quota cuts inequitably allocated across the various CCSBT members?</li> <li>6. How is it NZ ended up with 36% MORE quota, while Australia copped a quota cut of 25% (and all other major member nations received quota cuts)?</li> <li>7. When do the quota cuts begin for Australia?</li> <li>8. When do the quota cuts (or quote increase for NZ) begin for other member nations?</li> <li>9. What other key dates are relevant to quota cuts?</li> <li>10. How does AFMA intend implementing the quota cut across quota holders?</li> <li>11. Will it be equitable across all quota holders?</li> <li>12. Does AFMA anticipate further quota cuts?</li> <li>13. If so, what will be the size of these cuts?</li> <li>14. And when will they be announced/implemented?</li> <li>15. What data has AFMA or the Department collected or received on the economic impact of the quota cuts including job losses?</li> <li>16. What advice has been received from other government agencies?</li> <li>17. What advice has been provided to the Minister and when?</li> </ol>
TMA 01	19/10/09	16	Back	<p><b>Senator BACK</b>—Returning to the comments earlier in the day regarding local staffing et cetera in offices overseas, I read recently that we have engaged with the Russians on access for our meat into their markets and that we have sent some officers across to Russia. Could I pursue that for a couple of moments?</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—It might be best to wait for the Trade and Market Access Division. Mr Glyde’s intimate knowledge might well fail us, whereas the people who will come shortly will be able to give you the box and dice. But, yes, there have been efforts to engage local staff as well as to send people from Australia to engage in discussions.</p> <p><b>Senator BACK</b>—Perhaps we can start the questions. I am sure Mr Glyde’s capacity will see the day through. How many officers have gone across to engage in that particular activity?</p> <p><b>Mr Glyde</b>—I will have to take that question on notice. I am aware that we had an Australian based officer placed there temporarily for a period. Also there have been visits; in fact, there was a visit last week. To be precise, I would have to take that question on notice. We have engaged someone locally to represent our interests as well. I do not have details at my fingertips of when that started and how it has changed over the past, say, 12 months.</p>

				<b>Dr O’Connell</b> —I think recently three or four senior level staff went to Russia as well. To be accurate, we will have to wait until the people from the Trade and Market Access Division and Biosecurity arrive, who were the ones that went across.
TMA 02	27/10/09	13	Back	<b>Senator BACK</b> —I draw attention to a joint media release we all received last week from Ministers Crean, Burke, Roxon and a parliamentary secretary. In conversation with various industry stakeholders, we understand they were consulted leading up to this release, beef and other related meat industry personnel; is that correct? <b>Dr O’Connell</b> —Consulted by the relevant ministers? <b>Senator BACK</b> —Yes, and the department. <b>Dr O’Connell</b> —I would certainly have to take on notice the ministers part; the media releases were from the ministers.
TMA 03	27/10/09	13/14	Back	<b>Senator BACK</b> —Can you tell me whether they were asked or required to sign confidentiality agreements prior to those consultations taking place? <b>Mr Morris</b> —They were not asked to sign any confidentiality agreements. <b>Senator BACK</b> —They were not asked to do so? <b>Mr Morris</b> —Not to sign any. <b>Senator BACK</b> —Were they told to keep the information confidential? <b>Mr Morris</b> —There was a very targeted consultation process here. <b>Senator BACK</b> —Does that mean they were told to keep the information confidential or not? <b>Mr Morris</b> —Let me take that on notice. I would have to be clear about precisely what the conditions were.
TMA 04	27/10/09	14	Milne	<b>Senator MILNE</b> —At the last estimates I did ask whether there had been any evaluation put in place of the claims made about all the benefits that were going to accrue to primary industry from the US-Australia Free Trade Agreement or indeed the Chile agreement. You indicated there had been no evaluation at that time but you would provide any information that came to hand. I do not believe I have received anything on that front. I am interested to hear whether you have subsequently done or intend to do an evaluation of the US-Australia one or can give me any update on the Chile one? <b>Mr Burns</b> —I think last time we said that there were some difficulties around actually calculating the benefits because of movements in exchange rates and the fact that our largest agricultural export to the US, beef, had dropped off, et cetera. What we have done subsequently is more of a qualitative study than a quantitative study. We have been talking to some of the industry people about what some of the benefits are that they have received. We have, for example, anecdotal evidence about individual exporters who are benefiting, et cetera. I think as we have said last time, it is very difficult to do a broad macroeconomic analysis of what the benefits might be. But we do have—and I would be quite happy to take this on notice—specific examples of where we have increased exports of certain cheese types to the US. We have had examples of significant increases in wine exports to Thailand since the FTA. A lot of people we have spoken to have said that the benefits are coming as much from what they refer to as a head-turning effect; the FTAs have increased the interest in sourcing products from Australia. A



				lot of the exporters are reluctant to say, 'Well, this is the dollar benefit we have got out of it', but they are saying that, yes, they are seeing in some cases increases in exports to the US and Thailand in particular. But we could table some of those examples for you.
TMA 05	27/10/09	19	Back	<p><b>Senator BACK</b>—Can I return to the line of questioning earlier regarding the joint media release from the various ministers? In Senate estimates last week we asked the Secretary to the Department of Health and Ageing whether or not that agency had the lead in this particular area and they assured us they did not. Could you advise whether your department was the lead agency in this area?</p> <p><b>Dr O'Connell</b>—I think the media release, as I understood it, was through Minister Crean's office originally. I may be mistaken there. I will have to take that on notice as to exactly which office the media release came from. The fundamental issue is a health issue, quite clearly, and it is one related to health standards.</p>
TMA 06	N/A	Written	Colbeck	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How many staff does the Department have stationed overseas currently? And during the periods 2007-2008 and 2008-2009? Broken down by location please.</li> <li>2. What is the total of each of these officers for the period 2008-2009 (actual) and 2009-2010 (budget)?</li> <li>3. For any positions cut back, what was the cost of removing these staff and their families back to Australia? And what was the cost of any other incidentals in removing their positions including but not limited to breaking of house leases.</li> <li>4. Have these staff been reallocated to other positions within DAFF?</li> </ol>
TMA 07	N/A	Written	Back	<p>Trade and Market Access Division:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is your role and how do you differ from AQIS?</li> <li>2. How do you benchmark your success?</li> <li>3. How many markets have you gained in the last 6 years?</li> <li>4. Do you deal with import risk assessment and if not how does it intersect with your division?</li> <li>5. How many staff do you currently have?</li> <li>6. Have there been any changes over the last two budget periods?</li> </ol>
TMA 08	N/A	Written	Back	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It has been reported that the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Stephen Smith is pushing for a free trade agreement with India.</li> <li>2. Has any analysis been undertaken and what are the likely advantages or disadvantages for Australia's agricultural industry?</li> </ol>
TMA 09	N/A	Written	Back	<p>The high Australian dollar is causing considerable concern amongst the industry about the impact this sustained strength could have on our export industry.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Has Trade and Market Access considered the implications of this?</li> <li>2. What analysis have been undertaken and what are the forecasts for agriculture and in which markets?</li> </ol>

				<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Are you aware of claims that international trading partners are attempting to get out of contracts?</li> <li>4. Can you provide details on those that you are aware of?</li> </ol>
TMA 10	N/A	Written	Back	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What impact will the ASEAN Free Trade Agreement have on Australia's balance-of-trade deficit?</li> <li>2. What amount of additional overseas borrowing will be required to fund increased imports in 2009-10 and in forward estimates?</li> <li>3. Will there be an increase in imported fresh and processed foods as a result of the ASEAN Free Trade Agreement and if so, which products?</li> <li>4. Were cost/benefit analyses conducted on the impacts on agriculture, horticulture, the food processing sector and regional communities?</li> <li>5. What impact will increased imports of food, both fresh and processed have on producers and food processors in Australia?</li> <li>6. What are the potential biosecurity risks for Australia and Australian growers?</li> <li>7. What is the biosecurity risk for apple and pear growers in the south west of Western Australia?</li> <li>8. Will imported fresh and processed foods have to meet the same production and processing standards and compliance as those imposed in Australia?</li> </ol>
TMA 11	N/A	Written	Back	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Has the Minister achieved a reduction in the increased dairy tariffs imposed by the United States and EU?</li> <li>2. What is the additional cost of such tariffs to Australian dairy farmers?</li> <li>3. What else has the Minister done to protect Australian dairy farmers from the impacts of the increased tariffs?</li> </ol>
TMA 12	N/A	Written	Nash	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Are any of the positions to be scrapped Agricultural Attaches attached to Australian Embassies?</li> <li>2. In which Embassies are Agricultural Attaches attached?</li> <li>3. Have any been removed in the past twelve months?</li> <li>4. If so why where were they located?</li> <li>5. How will the work previously done by the Agricultural Attaches be undertaken and by whom?</li> </ol>
TMA 13	N/A	Written	Colbeck	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What discussions have taken place with Russian authorities with respect to meat quota arrangements? Who was involved in these discussions?</li> <li>2. What propositions have been put to the Australian Government by Russian authorities? When have they been raised?</li> <li>3. What has been the response of the Australian Government to these propositions?</li> <li>4. What analysis has the Government done of these propositions?</li> </ol>

TMA 14	N/A	Written	Nash	What Australian agricultural/fisheries/forestry products are currently seeking permission from the Chinese, Russian, Indian, Indonesian, Philippine, Brazil, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay and South African Government to import products into China, Russia, India, Indonesia, Philippine, Brazil, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay and South Africa?
TMA 15	N/A	Written	Nash	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How much funding is being made available to industry to help under take all aspects of accessing the Chinese, Russian, Indian, Indonesian, Philippine, Brazil, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay and South African markets?</li> <li>2. Please provide a breakdown of which industries/commodities are receiving funding and how much funding they are receiving?</li> </ol>
TMA 16	N/A	Written	Nash	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Is the Department currently or seeking to charge industry via cost recovery mechanisms for market access or maintenance?</li> <li>2. Provide a complete breakdown of the costs associated with market access.</li> </ol>
TMA 17	N/A	Written	Nash	What work is the Government undertaking to combat the spurious claims of animal activists, such as the NSW executive director of Animal Liberation, Mark Pearson who are using data collected illegally and under highly dubious circumstances to disrupt and discredit the kangaroo industry in Europe and China?
WEA 01	N/A	Written	Nash	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In budget estimates WEA advised of the number of audits conducted and the type of audits conducted of accredited wheat exporters (refer Budget Estimates May 2009 - WEA07) - Further to this question:</li> <li>2. Could the WEA please advise as to which audit was conducted for which accredited wheat exporter eg. Financial audits were conducted on? Risk management on?</li> <li>3. Please outline the process for any follow up which is done on any of the areas where findings and recommendations have been made?</li> <li>4. Of the audits undertaken, which ones were random audits conducted by the WEA and which ones were undertaken by appointed external auditors?</li> <li>5. Currently what costs have been incurred by the WEA in having these audits conducted – both internal and by externally appointed auditors?</li> </ol>