Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

The committee met on Monday, 21 May 2012 from 9.00 am to 10.10 pm.

The committee called the:

• the Department and agencies of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry portfolio, including the Interim Inspector-General of Biosecurity and the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES).

Among other issues, the following matters were discussed:

- the impact of the efficiency dividend on departmental and agency projects and priorities and staffing numbers;
- key areas of activities for the Interim Inspector-General of Biosecurity
- freedom of information requests on legal advice for live animal exports
- reports of a live export vessel boarded by animal activists
- biosecurity issues from nematodes in ginger from Fiji
- cessation of the Farm Ready program.