

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

The committee met on Wednesday, 28 May 2014 from 9 am to 10.44 pm.

The committee called the department and agencies of the Agriculture portfolio, including the Australian Chief Plant Protection Officer, Australian Landcare Council, Landcare Australia Limited, Plant Health Australia, Animal Health Australia, Australian Chief Veterinary Officer, Meat and Livestock Australia Limited, Australian Meat Processor Corporation Limited and LiveCorp.

Among other issues, the following issues were discussed:

- the impact of budget cuts on the Agriculture portfolio
- the establishment of an office for the Minister for Agriculture in Armidale, New South Wales
- the role and activities of the Department's Rapid Response Team
- the possible integration of the Department's biosecurity functions with border security functions in other agencies
- matters relating to fruit fly, including the National Fruit Fly Strategy
- the resignation of members from the Australian Landcare Council and the Council's future
- consultation with Landcare Australia Limited in regard to the Green Army initiative
- the consequences for live animal exporters who breach laws and regulations
- the recovery from exporters of costs to fund regulatory services
- the current state of the meat and livestock industry in Australia.