



AUSTRALIAN SENATE
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
Budget Estimates 2017-18
Wednesday, 24 May 2017
Daily summary

Here is the summary of today's proceedings in the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee's Budget Estimates.

The committee met from 9.00 am until 7.55 pm.

The committee called:

- the department and agencies of the Agriculture and Water Resources portfolio including the Rural Industries and Research Development Corporation, Horticulture Innovation Australia Limited, Landcare Australia Limited, Dairy Australia Limited, Australian Wool innovation Limited, Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC), Plant Health Australia, and Australian Meat Processor Corporation Limited ,

Some areas of interest that the committee covered included:

- expenditure on plant biosecurity through Cooperative Research Centres;
- live animal export mortalities and regulations;
- the department's investigation and management of the white spot syndrome virus outbreak in prawns;
- the accidental destruction of irreplaceable plant specimens by Australian biosafety services;
- the importation of peanut plants from South America;
- screening processes applying to travellers returning from places with foot-and-mouth disease;
- myrtle rust found in Norfolk Island;
- the financing and organisation of the Rural Women alumni's dinner;
- Landcare Australia's engagement with indigenous communities;
- Dairy Australia's programs assisting farmers experiencing difficult times;
- the impact of Murray Goulburn's processing plant closures on farmers;
- plant biosecurity investments by Horticulture Innovation Australia;
- staff redundancies due to GRDC's restructure; and
- the live cattle trade.