

## **Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

The committee met on Monday, 27 May 2013 from 9.00 am to 10.35 pm.

The committee called the:

- the department and agencies of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry portfolio, including the Interim Inspector-General of Biosecurity, Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer, Animal Health Australia; Meat and Livestock Australia; LiveCorp, Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation and the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences.

Among other issues, the following matters were discussed:

- budget expenditure for the department, Meat and Livestock Australia, LiveCorp and Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation
- the amount of sick leave taken by staff
- the outbreak of Bovine Johne's disease in Queensland and whether the Australian Government will offer compensation to affected farmers
- the implementation of the National Johne's Plan and the role of states and the Commonwealth
- Industry Equalisation Reserves movements and balances
- the establishment of horse exercise facilities in the new post-entry quarantine facility at Mickleham, Victoria
- the National Fruit Fly Strategy
- the importation of table grapes from the United States of America and the pest risk assessment
- importation of cut roses from South American countries and the number of inspections carried out on arrival  
the Australian Centre of Excellence for Risk Analysis' findings on the Peace Report and a broader discussion surrounding the methodologies used in import risk assessments
- wild dog management and the increase in the movement of wild dogs into agricultural areas
- wood supply projections
- the eastern wheat belt in Western Australia in relation to the provision of multi-crop insurance and crop forecasts
- the submission of a departmental employee, formerly a private sector veterinarian on 57 live animal export voyages, to the Australian Government's review of the Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock.