

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

Questions on Notice

Additional Estimates 2011-2012, Monday 13 February 2012

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Portfolio

Q no.	Program/ Division or Agency	Senator	Broad topic	Question	Proof Hansard page & hearing date or Written Q	Date rec'd	Date tabled
1	Government Division	Colbeck	Strategic Statement	<p>Dr O'Connell: The process was primarily one where the executive had sessions with staff across the board discussing the identity, the mission and the vision of the department to ensure that staff both understood what the objectives we had were and also to get feedback from them as to how to better state that, if you like. So primarily this was driven by discussion between the executive and staff, and by working, I guess, off of some feedback we had going through a process of engaging with stakeholders through processes like the secretary's biosecurity round table, which I run. It was clear to us that we were not giving our message clearly enough in terms of the function of the department. Rather, there was a tendency for our stakeholders to see component parts of our department, such as ABARES or AQIS. Historically they have the primary drivers. So it was an attempt to just capture that and make sure all our people were operating to the same set of ends.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK: How much did we spend on it?</p> <p>Dr O'Connell: On the process of getting the strategic statement? The strategic statement was predominantly done internally, in terms of the normal work of the executive. I would have to get an estimate for you of how much it costs in executive time. But we could do that.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK: What about consultants?</p>	5-6		

2	Government Division	Colbeck	Strategic Statement	<p>Senator COLBECK: So effectively, 77½ thousand dollars was spent on inputs into what became this new strategic statement?</p> <p>Dr O'Connell: No, that \$77,000 went to setting the framework for a whole range of other things, including identity work, branding work, the look and feel of productions and documentation. It went on to website work and things like that. That fed in to all these other things. So it certainly informed the development of this strategic statement, but it was doing a whole range of other things about, essentially, branding and presentation.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK: So what has actually changed in all those other presentations?</p> <p>Dr O'Connell: We have changed quite a lot. We could provide you with before and after material if you want, just to see how that has been developed. There are quite significant shifts.</p>	6-7		
3	Government Division	Colbeck	Strategic statement	<p>Senator COLBECK: How often would these 'let's talk' conversations or processes go on?</p> <p>Ms Freeman: We have had them on a range of issues. We would have to take that on notice. We can find that out for you today. That is not hard. They are on a range of issues that are running. They are to seek the views of staff. It is part of the business.</p>	7		
4	Finance & Business Support	Ian Macdonald	Efficiency dividend	<p>Senator IAN MACDONALD: What I want to know is what employees you had in each section of your department a year ago—or at a convenient time in the last 12 months—what it is now and what you expect it to be in the future. Then we can make an assessment of where the cuts are being made, rather than this answer to question six. You may as well have saved your ink.</p> <p>Dr O'Connell: Sure. Each division head is responsible for carrying out their budget for which the targets have been applied to. Various parts of the department have had reductions applied. In the finance and business support division I can list off what we have done. We have reduced positions so far by 23—</p>	11-12		

			<p>Senator IAN MACDONALD: In finance. And in human resources?</p> <p>Dr O'Connell: I'll list them off, if you like.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD: Why didn't you do this in the answer on notice so that we don't have to waste five minutes going over what I asked?</p> <p>Mr Schaeffer: We did not know the answer at the time.</p> <p>Dr O'Connell: Senator, we gave you the answer as best we could at the time—</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD: Well it was a non-answer.</p> <p>Dr O'Connell: because we were still going through the process. What Mr Schaeffer is saying is that these are all handled in the overall internal budget process.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD: I just want the answer. I do not need to know how you get to it. Just tell me the figures, please.</p> <p>Dr O'Connell: I gave you the answer that we could at the time, and now I am giving you the answer which is obviously more complete because we have the budget set.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD: Okay. Is it lengthy? If it is, give it on notice.</p> <p>Mr Schaeffer: It is lengthy, yes.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD: Could you table it, please?</p> <p>Dr O'Connell: We cannot table it, but we can certainly give it on notice. We should be able to get it to you by the end of the day.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD:... So we will get the numbers reduction in figures, please, on notice. Can you tell me as well, on notice for the next time, what you anticipate what that will be in a year's time—what your forward planning is for the department.</p>			
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5	Biosecurity - Plant	Ian Macdonald	NZ Apples	<p>Senator IAN MACDONALD: Can't someone tell me if the minister bought a beer in relation to the New Zealand apple industry issue?</p> <p>Senator Ludwig: Can I be clear: I did not.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD: And your parliamentary secretary did not? Senator Ludwig: You would have to ask him. I do not know whether— Senator IAN MACDONALD: He is not here, minister.</p> <p>Senator Ludwig: I could check.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD: Don't you understand? You are responsible for him.</p> <p>Senator Ludwig: Excuse me. You have now gone from the sublime to the ridiculous. You are now asking a new question as to whether I am aware of whether or not the parliamentary secretary may have bought a beer for some person unknown.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD: Then who do we ask? If we cannot ask you—</p> <p>CHAIR: Allow the minister to complete the answer.</p> <p>Senator Ludwig: If you recall, I said earlier that I would take it on notice in relation to myself and I can ask the parliamentary secretary whether he has bought a beer for anyone in the last 12 months.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD: In relation to New Zealand apple imports.</p> <p>Senator Ludwig: So the qualification is for that?</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD: That is what the question was.</p> <p>Senator Ludwig: I will check.</p>	13		
6	Finance & Business Support	Ian Macdonald	Legal services	<p>Senator IAN MACDONALD: I am conscious of that. I have been going for 10 minutes about the general process. Just give me the two figures for Blake Dawson and I will leave it there. The rest of my questions I will put on notice—yet again. But please can you answer them with facts. Just give me the total bill and the hours.</p> <p>Dr O'Connell: We do not have the hours in front of us at the moment, of course.</p>	14		

				<p>Senator IAN MACDONALD: Okay, so give me the total bill to Blake Dawson for a particular period and the hours they have billed you for.</p> <p>CHAIR: You are taking that on notice. Okay.</p>			
7	Finance & Business Support	Colbeck	Travel expenditure	<p>Senator COLBECK: In question 140 in October you advised that the spend was \$12.6 million. In May 2011 you said the spend was \$11.6 million, and that was in response to question on notice 169 from the May estimates.</p> <p>Dr O'Connell: We think we might have different time periods, but we will try to confirm that for you.</p>	14		
8	People & Service Delivery	Heffernan	Pay Rates	<p>Senator HEFFERNAN: Could you give me the number of people employed under your secretaryship. Could you give me the details of the top 100 employees and their pay rates, and your pay rate.</p> <p>Dr O'Connell: That is all in the annual report. Yes, we can just take it out of the annual report.</p>	15		
9	ABARES	Heffernan	Foreign Investment	<p>Senator HEFFERNAN: To that end, what other information would be useful in understanding both what is happening and the impact of what is happening on foreign ownership and competition? What would add to the useful understanding of that?</p> <p>Mr Morris: In a couple of ways, I think. One way would be to obviously get more of a time series of information. We seem to have quite sporadic collections of information in this area. As you know, there was a survey recently done, but then the previous one was back in 1984 or something like that, from memory. So one way would certainly be to collect information in this area a little more regularly. The other way would be to examine how we are collecting the data and see whether there are ways that that could be improved. Certainly that would be something we would be willing to talk to ABS about.</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN: Going to the 1983-84 survey, who received that, do you know? That was the last survey of this nature?</p>	22		

				<p>Mr Morris: I believe so. In terms of who received it, I am not sure of the history.</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN: Could you take it on notice?</p> <p>Mr Morris: Sure. When you say 'received', could I just clarify that?</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN: Who were the participants?</p> <p>Mr Morris: Who were the participants in the survey?</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN: Are you familiar with the outcome of the 1983-84—</p> <p>Mr Morris: Only to the extent that we have recorded it in the study. The main author of the report would be a bit more familiar than I would be, but certainly we could try to answer your questions or take them on notice, Senator.</p>			
10	Biosecurity - Animal	Back	Skill Set of Staff Dealing with Animal Trade Issues	<p>Senator BACK: So these are just specifically administrative roles, Ms Cale, are they? Or do these 12 persons or full-time equivalents have, or are they expected to have, any knowledge of, expertise or skills in the live export trade and the knowledge of the countries to which we export? Or are they flick-and-tick administrative type functionaries?</p> <p>Ms Cale: No. The people who are within my branch have expertise in the live export trade. Quite a number—</p> <p>Senator BACK: But would they have travelled on ships to the Middle East or to Indonesia? Twelve of them would not know—</p> <p>Ms Cale: Yes, some of them have, not all 12.</p> <p>Senator BACK: No.</p> <p>Ms Cale: We do have a combination of technical resources and administrative resources. One of the officers, for example, was a DAFF counsellor posted in Dubai for the last few years. Others have been operating in the animal export operations branch and so have extensive knowledge. And yes, a few—at least one, if not more— have travelled on vessels overseas.</p> <p>Senator BACK: I would appreciate it if you could advise the committee on notice just a summary of the background of those skill sets.</p>	29		

				Ms Cale: Sure.			
11	Biosecurity - Animal	Back	Cost of Preparing an NOI	<p>Senator BACK: Can you give us some indication as to what you predict the cost would be to the exporter in the preparation of an NOI and an ESCAS for each consignment?</p> <p>Ms Cale: It is hard to say at this point in time. Again, it will depend on the information coming through and the timeliness of the information et cetera. But as with Indonesia we do charge a per head rate, and then for anything beyond 11 hours of normal processing there is an hourly rate that is applied. I can try and get you some estimates, but until we actually see the NOIs coming through and see the quality of the information et cetera, it will be very hard to estimate.</p> <p>Senator BACK: In doing that I wonder if you would refer back to your answer to my question 14 from supplementary estimates in October, in which you gave us figures to that point?</p> <p>Ms Cale: Yes.</p>	29		
12	Biosecurity - Animal	Back	Sheep and Cattle Sent Overseas	<p>Senator BACK: I now turn to the proposals coming forward on 1 March. That is 16 days away. Is it in consideration in the implementation of tranche 1 that export permits that will be issued from or after 1 March, or is it in consideration of livestock that you anticipate would be delivered to the Middle East markets by 1 March? When does the process start?</p> <p>Ms Cale: As Ms Langford said, once the orders are registered the new requirements come into effect the next day. For example, if they are registered on 29 February they will take effect from 1 March and we will apply the ESCAS arrangements from that point. To avoid problems with animals that are being transported to wharf at that time, we are suggesting that exporters will be required to have an ESCAS in place if they do not have their permission to leave for loading by the 29th.</p> <p>Senator BACK: Given that is 16 days away, and given the transit times that we know from eastern and western Australian ports, that really, effectively, is now, isn't it?</p> <p>Dr O'Connell: Sorry—just to be clear—I think you are also</p>	29		

				<p>asking if it would take effect for animals that were being delivered after 1 March, or for permits that were being issued from 1—</p> <p>Senator BACK: That is correct. That is exactly the question.</p> <p>Dr O'Connell: If there is a permit already issued and there are animals on the way, that goes under the old system. It is from that date that new permits must meet the ESCAS arrangements.</p> <p>Senator BACK: Thank you. To save time, I wonder if you could provide on notice a breakdown of the percentage of sheep and cattle that are delivered to the countries, based on 2010-2011 figures for the countries represented in all three tranches so that we have some understanding of the percentage numbers?</p>			
13	Biosecurity - Animal	Rhiannon	Animal Slaughter	<p>Senator RHIANNON: In light of the public demands from some live exporters for an extension to the end of February deadline for Bahrain, Qatar, Turkey and Kuwait to meet the new ESCAS system, did government officials and yourself observe anything that would jeopardise meeting this deadline?</p> <p>Senator Ludwig: What I have asked exporters and importers to do is work through the industry-government working group to have a look at what issues have arisen, what matters that they see and advise me accordingly. I am now advised that that advice is going to come to me tomorrow.</p> <p>Dr O'Connell: We hope tomorrow.</p> <p>Senator RHIANNON: Minister, I just want to return to the issue about the slaughter. When you observed the slaughter of the animals, what method of restraint was used and was there any pre-slaughter stunning used?</p> <p>Senator Ludwig: There was no pre-stunning of the animals involved. As to the rest of the detail, I will take that on notice and see what I can usefully provide.</p> <p>Senator RHIANNON: Could any of the people who were with you on the delegation, because I imagine that must be quite—</p> <p>Senator Ludwig: I am sorry, I missed the beginning.</p> <p>Senator RHIANNON: I was after was the method of restraint. I am after what you saw when you see the animals being</p>	33		

				<p>slaughtered in terms of method of restraint.</p> <p>Senator Ludwig: Yes, and I have answered that.</p> <p>Senator RHIANNON: I beg your pardon?</p> <p>Senator Ludwig: I have said that I will see what I can usefully provide. I will take that question on notice.</p> <p>Senator RHIANNON: Considering it must be still quite fresh in your mind and in the minds of the people from the department who went there, could you to share the description of that with the committee, please?</p> <p>Senator Ludwig: As I said, I will take that on notice.</p>			
14	Climate Change Division	Rhiannon	Farm Assistance due to Suspension of Trade	<p>Senator RHIANNON: I would like to move on to the money that is allocated to assist farmers. This is with regard to when the live exports to Indonesia were suspended. I understand a large proportion of the money has not been claimed. Could you tell us the amount that has not been claimed and what has happened to that amount of money?</p> <p>Mr Aldred: I can provide an outline of the funds that have been provided. Under each of the elements under the income recovery subsidy there was an amount of in the order \$60,000 that was spent. Under the business assistance package—there was a \$5,000 business assistance payment—there has been \$3.9 million. Under the business hardship payment—that is the \$20,000 grants—\$7.9 million. Then for the other elements you would be aware of the subsidised rate of interest program. Essentially applications closed on Friday. With that one payments are made six-monthly in arrears, so we are unable to give a precise figure at this time.</p> <p>Senator RHIANNON: When will you be in a position to provide information to the committee on what portion of this money has not been claimed?</p> <p>Mr Aldred: We can, as I have just done, provide the actual expenditures against those. It will be, I suggest, a couple of weeks before we would have any reconciliation of the subsidised rate of interest through from each of the jurisdictions who are administering that on the Commonwealth's behalf.</p> <p>Senator RHIANNON: Could you take on notice for that</p>	33–34		

				information to be provided when it becomes available. Mr Aldred: Yes.			
15	ABARES	Heffernan	Losses Incurred in the Northern Australian Pastoral Industry	Senator HEFFERNAN: That is very good—there are none. Has DAFF quantified the losses to industry participants and service providers caused by the live cattle suspension? You can call for assistance. Dr O'Connell: I am not quite sure if we have got our ABARES colleagues still here. Mr Morris: At this stage we have not got a single number on that. As part of the new regulatory framework there was a regulatory impact statement prepared. That is available on our website. We can give you the link on notice, if you like. That goes through the expected impact of the new regulatory framework on the industry. At this stage that is probably the best available information, in terms of expected impact.	35		
16	TMAD	Heffernan	Food Security Summit	Senator HEFFERNAN: I surrender. We haven't got much time. Did any ministers attend the recent Indonesian Food Security Summit in Jakarta? Senator Ludwig: We can check on that.	36		
17	Quarantine Operations	Williams	AQIS Inspections	Senator WILLIAMS: This fellow I am talking about imported a Caterpillar D4 dozer in October last year and it landed in Brisbane. He was charged over \$2000, which included \$1,140 for the steam cleaning, \$450 cartage, and \$148 AQIS fee. I would like to table, if I could, please, Chair, the dirt in the pre-cleaner. This is after it has been cleaned, inspected by AQIS and then approved to come out to Inverell where I live. The pre-cleaner on the air cleaner was not even cleaned out. There is a photograph of the dirt in it as well as another photograph of more dirt. It had wasps nests underneath the machine. I do not know whether they were formed since it has been in Australia or whether they were imported as well. It had a lump of wood jammed in the drawer bar that I have seen photographs of. The plastic pre-cleaner on top of the air cleaner tube, which you can just see the dirt in it from outside, had dirt in it. I have tabled the	38-39		

				<p>photographs. When he pulled the air cleaner element out that also had dirt in it. You said you are very specific about the cleaning of the machines. How can this be?</p> <p>Mr Chapman: I would need to get the particular details of that importation, but the requirements are quite clear. Without knowing the specific details of this case it is a bit hard for me to comment on it.</p> <p>Senator WILLIAMS: The AQIS inspected the machine after cleaning and then approved it to go out to the countryside of New South Wales.</p> <p>Dr O'Connell: What Mr Chapman is saying is that he will have to have a look at this specific case to verify what actually occurred. He is being faced with a proposition without any—</p> <p>Senator WILLIAMS: I will be glad for you to look at the case, Mr O'Connell—</p> <p>Dr O'Connell: We will.</p>			
18	Biosecurity - Animal	Rhiannon	Independent Animal Welfare Office	<p>Senator RHIANNON: Minister, could you elaborate on the government's plans to establish the national independent animal welfare office? I was interested in what powers the office will have, when it will be established and in what department the office intended to sit—or will it have its own department?</p> <p>Senator Ludwig: This is from the national conference? We will continue to look at that issue.</p> <p>Senator RHIANNON: Could you elaborate on what 'continue to look at this issue' means?</p> <p>Senator Ludwig: I am not sure we have got the right people here at the table. We have just left that area and gone to a new area—biosecurity.</p> <p>Senator RHIANNON: Could you take that on notice?</p> <p>Senator Ludwig: Yes, I will take it on notice as to what range of matters we already deal with in this issue.</p>	40		
19	APD/RIRDC	Rhiannon	Kangaroo Industry	<p>Senator RHIANNON: Okay. Thank you, Dr O'Connell. I would like to go back to an issue about kangaroos relevant to Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation. How</p>	42		

				<p>much funding does RIRDC allocate for the marketing, promotion and development of Australia's kangaroo industry in Australia and overseas?</p> <p>Dr O'Connell: RIRDC was not called for today, but we can have a question taken on notice for them.</p>			
20	Biosecurity – Plant	Edwards	Importation of Oak	<p>Senator EDWARDS: It is the industry's question. To the best of my knowledge, there has not been much scrutiny on this area. The importation of oak changed dramatically in its form and function and the way in which it is carried out, and the costs involved in the import in importing oak. What consultation occurred with the industry, or has occurred with the industry, on these changes to the import classification in that period of time since February 2011?</p> <p>Mr Magee: To clarify initially, are you referring to manufactured items made of oak?</p> <p>Senator EDWARDS: Cooperage.</p> <p>Mr Magee: Cooperage, yes. We had quite a bit of consultation, I think, over the last 12 months in relation to newly manufactured oak barrels for the wine industry. You are possibly aware that the object of the original concern here was sudden oak death, which is prevalent in Europe. We then entered into some discussions about whether the manufacturing process for oak barrels substantially addressed those concerns. So firstly, in the manufacture of the staves in new barrels, there is a lot of heat and steam involved in that process. And as I recall it, there was some concerns around the ends of the oak barrels. I am trying to think what they are called—the bits that do not go through the steaming process. We had a discussion with the world expert on sudden oak death and his view at the time was that newly manufactured oak barrels do not constitute a significant pathway risk, which is a reasonable conclusion. Following that process, we then revised the conditions for new oak barrels.</p> <p>Senator EDWARDS: When did you do that?</p> <p>Mr Magee: I will have to take on notice the exact date, but this was probably March or April last year.</p>	43		

21	Biosecurity - Plant	Edwards	Importation of Oak	<p>Senator EDWARDS: So you relaxed the levels of scrutiny or the practices of the manufacturers?</p> <p>Mr Magee: No, we did not relax anything; we adjusted our levels of intervention in response to the assessed risk.</p> <p>Senator EDWARDS: Was there any question about the changing the nature of the manufacturer of oak barrels and the impost of carrying out this quarantine procedure offshore prior to the cooperage here changed the nature and put the industry at a competitive disadvantage from a point of view of integrity of barrels and what they are supposed to be used for?</p> <p>Mr Magee: Not that I recall, but I am happy to take that on notice. There may have been more than one importer involved here. AI wonder whether in that part of your question, you're referring you are referring to the actual timber coming in to manufacture the barrels here as opposed to the finished product?</p> <p>Senator EDWARDS: I am.</p> <p>Mr Magee: Yes, okay.</p>	43		
22	Biosecurity - Plant	Edwards	Importation of Oak	<p>Senator EDWARDS: There are manufacturers here which are very sensitive—obviously all manufacturers these days—that are importing wood which is being required to be treated outside this country. What puts them at a competitive disadvantage to anybody importing barrels to this country in a whole form.</p> <p>Mr Magee: Yes.</p> <p>Senator EDWARDS: Obviously we still want to manufacture as much as we can in this country.</p> <p>Mr Magee: I will take the second part of that question on notice, if that is all right.</p> <p>Senator EDWARDS: Yes. Could you provide on notice the time lines and the consultations you have actually had with manufacturers in this country on the issues around the manufacturer of Australian made wine barrels from imported oak?</p>	43		

				Mr Magee: Yes, I am very happy to do that.			
23	Biosecurity - Plant	Edwards	Branched Broomrape	<p>Senator EDWARDS: Okay. Thank you. I will just move to my second one, which is in regard to branched broomrape in South Australia and the abandonment of the eradication program and the move to a containment of branched broomrape in South Australia, which is obviously somewhat disappointing for those people that are affected. What are the ongoing measures being undertaken to deal with branched broomrape in South Australia?</p> <p>Dr Cole: As you said, it was deemed not technical feasible for eradication. It has moved now into a transition to a management program. That is being overseen by a national group. We are actually in the final throes of developing the actual program. Key issues to mitigate the spread to the rest of Australia will include interstate regulations high-risk material like machinery, which might be a pathway for branched broomrape. We are also working with industries such as the grains industry, horticulture industry, looking at what regulations we have in place to mitigate the spread through those pathways.</p> <p>Senator EDWARDS: What Commonwealth funding would be provided to the South Australian department to deal with this?</p> <p>Dr Cole: That is all subject to the national coordinating group, which is a group overseeing this program. That program is in the throes of being put back up to that national committee to then decide about future funding and the progress of that program.</p> <p>Senator EDWARDS: You said earlier that it is no longer feasible to try and eradicate it. Is there a report that led you to that decision, and is that able to be provided to us?</p> <p>Dr Cole: Yes, we can provide that technical report. The main issue about the technical feasibility was, unfortunately, seed longevity. When we first started the program we thought that 12 years would be the maximum that it would be in the seed in the soil. Unfortunately, as part of long term research, the further the program went on, the research continued, and it did not look like that seed bank was going to be decaying, so some of the estimate</p>	43-44		

				<p>for eradication were out to 75 years. At that point that was not deemed technically feasible and then it was transitioned into management.</p> <p>Senator EDWARDS: Will that be in the report?</p> <p>Dr Cole: Yes, that technical information will be there.</p>			
24	Quarantine Operations	Colbeck	Quarantine Risk from Korea	<p>Senator COLBECK: I would like to continue on a similar theme in relation to some of the import risk issues. I want to refer back to question 181 in relation to some imports from Korea of products that were regarded as a significant quarantine risk. I do not think I am gilding the lily in any respect in that context. Are we confident that the flow of product from Korea has now been properly intercepted and stopped?</p> <p>Mr Chapman: Yes. We had a very extensive investigation into a number of importers who were identified as bringing in products for which they did not have the required import permit.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK: What sort of products are we talking about?</p> <p>Mr Chapman: It was a range of food products. They were all food products—ice creams, dim sims and spring rolls. They were all food products of various sorts. Some of them contained meat products—pork, chicken and beef. Some were cooked and some were uncooked, but all prepared end products such as dim sims.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK: Chilled?</p> <p>Mr Chapman: They all came in frozen.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK: But raw?</p> <p>Mr Chapman: No. There was a very wide range, as I said, from ice-creams to dim sims. Some of the dim sims or those sorts of products had cooked product in them; others had uncooked product.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK: So, there was no raw chicken?</p> <p>Mr Chapman: I would need to check on that, but I would suspect that there was uncooked chicken meat in some of the products.</p>	50		

25	Quarantine Operations	Colbeck	Quarantine Risk from Korea	<p>Senator COLBECK: We do not know the context, or the time frame of the delivery of that product, or any other product that might have gone through the system before we actually found out what was happening.</p> <p>Mr Terpstra: That is correct. The reason for that is that we are dealing with illegal activity where the modus operandi is about either misdescribing or importing product that is simply not on a manifest.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK: What happened to that 100 tonnes of product once we got hold of it?</p> <p>Mr Terpstra: Illegal product is all destroyed.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK: How much did it cost to find it all—to round it all up?</p> <p>Mr Terpstra: I do not actually have a final figure on the cost of this particular operation, but I am certainly happy to that on notice.</p>	51		
26	Quarantine Operations	Heffernan	Quarantine Risk from Korea	<p>ACTING CHAIR: Can you provide the exact dates of these seizures, the officials involved and the details on each shipment?</p> <p>Mr Terpstra: Certainly. We will have a look at the sensitivities associated with the ongoing nature of the investigations. Anything that we are able to provide within that process with the consent of the minister—</p>	53		
27	Quarantine Operations	Heffernan	Quarantine Risk from Korea	<p>Senator HEFFERNAN: When did you discover there was meat from a country that has got foot-and-mouth?</p> <p>Mr Terpstra: I would have to check the date when that discovery was actually made.</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN: You might also check if that is the day you released it to the industry.</p>	53		
28	Quarantine Operations	Heffernan	Quarantine Risk from Korea	<p>Senator HEFFERNAN: Can you provide the media release?</p> <p>Mr Chapman: Yes.</p>	53–54		
29	Quarantine Operations	Heffernan	Discovery of Unlawful Importation	<p>Senator HEFFERNAN: But you got information that allegedly there was illegal trafficking. What, did you then take a few</p>	54–55		

months to get your head around the paperwork before you went and had a look or did you have a look at what he was importing the next day?

Dr Cloney: Exactly. It takes analysis to interview the particular person, record the interview, go and verify some of the information. We immediately notify the program so the program knows what is going on, but we have a 1800 number and we get hundreds and hundreds of allegations every year; some prove to be worthwhile, others do not, but we need to—

Senator HEFFERNAN: Was there a whistleblower in this case?

Dr Cloney: make the investigation—

Senator HEFFERNAN: Was there a whistleblower?

Dr Cloney: Was there a whistleblower?

Senator HEFFERNAN: How did you discover this one?

Mr Chapman: It was discovered by one of our audit inspections that we do to confirm that importers are doing what they are supposed to be doing.

Senator HEFFERNAN: That is a meaningless answer. Is it meant to be?

Dr O'Connell: Quarantine approved premises get audited by our people and in this case the audit showed that there was illegal activity—as simple as that.

Senator HEFFERNAN: But this does not really add up. It has been going on for 12 months. You discovered that when?

Mr Chapman: We discovered it on 23—

Senator HEFFERNAN: You discovered it had been going on for 12 months in December.

Dr O'Connell: No, you are not—

Senator HEFFERNAN: When did you discover it had been going on for 12 months?

Mr Terpstra: The information we were given was subsequent to that time, at a subsequent interview with—

Senator HEFFERNAN: But when?

Mr Terpstra: I cannot give you an exact date but it would have

				<p>been—</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN: Well, take it on notice.</p> <p>Mr Terpstra: mid-January, or thereabouts.</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN: You discovered in mid-January that this has been going on for 12 months?</p> <p>Mr Terpstra: Approximately that time.</p>			
30	Quarantine Operations	Heffernan	Foot and Mouth Disease	<p>Senator HEFFERNAN: You would not be able to establish if there was an outbreak of foot-and-mouth because you would not have disclosed.</p> <p>Mr Chapman: There was certainly no intention to keep it quiet. Considering the fact that foot-and-mouth in Korea had been in the news, it would have been my expectation that interested parties would have taken note of the media release. We have had discussions with the National Farmers Federation and Australia Pork Limited and I think that—</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN: Prior to the release?</p> <p>Mr Chapman: No, post the release, but at the time the nature of the product meant—which as I said was processed foodstuffs designed for human consumption—</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN: In raw form?</p> <p>Mr Chapman: I am sorry, the nature of the product was such that, to be honest, I did not think, ‘I will go out and speak to Australian Pork Limited about that immediately.’ I have since had discussions with them and they understand that because we are talking about dim sims and spring rolls, which are items we seize every day of the week, they do not have an interest in those every-day-of-the-week seizures. I think that because of the way that it was reported in the media they had a concern that in fact we were talking about large amounts of uncooked pig meat which might have come in, whole pig meat for further processing or whatever. That was not the case and they understand that. Similarly, in the discussions I had with the National Farmers Federation, they understood that this was processed product designed for human consumption. It was not a clear and present danger to the cattle and pork industries in Australia.</p>	56-57		

				<p>Senator HEFFERNAN: But it was uncooked. It might have been processed, but it was uncooked.</p> <p>Mr Chapman: No. Some of it was cooked product, some of it was milk product—</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN: Which means some of it was not. You are just saying, as a bureaucrat would, that must mean on the other side of it that some of it was uncooked. Can you just own up that some of it was uncooked?</p> <p>Dr O'Connell: Mr Chapman has just said that.</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN: No, he did not. He said some of it was cooked</p> <p>Dr O'Connell: And then he followed on by saying some of it was milk product and some of it was uncooked—</p> <p>CHAIR: I will just remind senators that at 3.15 we will be going to Wheat Exports Australia. Senator Colbeck and Senator Back may have some questions—</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN: I will put this on notice.</p>			
31	Biosecurity - Food	Xenophon	Export of Cooked Meat	<p>Senator XENOPHON: I will put some on notice. I recently met with an exporter in South Australia who exports a cooked meat product. As a condition of his export license he is required to have an AQIS veterinary officer conduct inspections on his premises, his books and so on. Given that the meat arrives at his premises after slaughter, can AQIS explain why the producer is required to have a veterinary officer conduct the audit, given the extra costs of a veterinary officer?</p> <p>Ms Mellor: Unfortunately, the officers have just left the table. We will just quickly get them back or we can take it on notice.</p>	61		
32	Biosecurity - Plant	Siewert	Export of Grain	<p>Senator SIEWERT: I have one final question. You may not be able to answer it, but the department might be able to. Does anyone keep track of the number of shipments that have had their grain rejected on the basis of quality or have had their routes or destinations changed because of concerns over quality when the wheat has been exported?</p>	64		

				<p>Mr Grant: Is this for export destinations?</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: Yes.</p> <p>Mr Grant: I think Biosecurity would keep those sorts of records, but I would have to take that on notice and check with them. We would certainly be aware if a country rejected a shipment.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: Do you keep lists of that?</p> <p>Mr Grant: Yes, we would, but I am not aware that it occurs very often. As I said, I am happy to take that on notice.</p>			
33	SRM/AFMA	Colbeck	Seismic Testing of Scallops	<p>Senator COLBECK: I will put the scallop stuff to one side for a moment, because I think that in particular is something that is pretty egregious, that the industry is having to pay for that. Sure, they asked to get the work done, but who else was going to do the work to try to find out what happened to those two large paddocks of scallops? They had been watching. They had been monitoring over time. There were three paddocks of scallops that they were going to harvest in that particular year. Two of them had seismic testing over them and one did not. The two that had seismic testing over them died and the one that did not have seismic testing did not. Nobody wants to know about them. There has been no contribution from anybody towards this. Surely at some point in time somebody will make a decision. I am not saying it has to be you, because you have parameters under your legislation. The government could quite easily say, ‘We’re going to assist the industry to deal with this’, so that they do not end up with such a terrible slug on their fees.</p> <p>Dr Findlay: Just to correct the record, there were two issues there. The government did put money in to assist that research to be undertaken. It was not completely collected from the industry.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK: How much did the government put in?</p> <p>Dr Findlay: We might be able to find that for you while we are here; otherwise I am happy to take it on notice.</p>	68		
34	SRM/AFMA	Boswell/Colbeck	Fishery Permits	<p>Senator BOSWELL: The Southern Eastern Scale Fish and Shark Fishery—how many permits have been returned?</p>	69–70		

				<p>Dr Findlay: Normally each year we have a number of permits handed in. We are monitoring the number of surrenders this year. I will ask Dr Rayns to give you the current figures on the surrenders so far this year.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK: While you are doing that, can you just talk about the arrangements that you are putting in place as part of that process, because it does go to this. I know there has been a change in the arrangements where people are being offered the opportunity to not pay their fees and hand their permits in. The previous arrangement was that they had to pay their fee, anyway, prior to being able to hand in the permit. I acknowledge that there is something happening there. Can you give us a descriptor of the arrangements that you are putting in place as part of this process? I think that is also an important part of what is being put in place to deal with this.</p> <p>Dr Findlay: I will get Dr Rayns to talk about the numbers. I might come back to talk about the issue of whether or not we will pursue a debt.</p> <p>Dr Rayns: So far this year we have had nine scale fish hook boat SFRs surrendered to AFMA.</p> <p>Senator BOSWELL: What are the reasons?</p> <p>Senator COLBECK: How does that compare with previous years?</p> <p>Dr Rayns: For that particular fishery last year we had one.</p> <p>Senator BOSWELL: What are the reasons they are giving for handing back the permits?</p> <p>Dr Rayns: I would have to take that on notice. I understand, though, that cost is one consideration that a number of those surrendering have raised, but I could not say that it was that in all cases.</p>			
35	SRM/AFMA	Siewert	Sea Lions	<p>Senator SIEWERT: How many of those deaths occurred in the Australian sea lion management zone?</p> <p>Dr Rayns: Of the 11?</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: Yes.</p> <p>Dr Rayns: At least nine of them. I would have to check on the</p>	74		

				last two, but it is at least nine.			
36	SRM/AFMA	Siewert	WA Fisheries	<p>Senator SIEWERT: I am aware that we are short of time and I have a few more questions that I will put on notice on that particular issue. I wanted to go to North West Slope Trawl Fishery to find out where we are up to. Can you update us with ongoing discussions with the Western Australian government over that particular issue?</p> <p>Dr Rayns: We are still in discussions with WA Fisheries—in fact, we are meeting with them again in April to continue those discussions—about how we resolve this issue. It would be fair to say that there is no clear solution at this stage, but we have not stepped back from wanting to resolve the issue and trying to find a solution. Our next round of discussions with WA is in April and we are hoping to find a way forward there.</p> <p>Senator BOSWELL: What is the problem there?</p> <p>Dr Rayns: An OCS boundary was incorrectly specified a number of years ago that we are trying to correct.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: Last time I asked this you would not tell me, so now I will ask because it is a bit further on. What sort of activity and what amount has there been in that particular area?</p> <p>Dr Rayns: We have had one vessel fish there during October last year. A trawl vessel fished there for a period of weeks. We had an observer on board and I am not sure on an exact amount but it caught tens of tonnes of fish out of that area.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: Can you take on notice the amount?</p> <p>Dr Rayns: I certainly can.</p>	75		
37	Sustainable Resource Management	Edwards	Reporting Requirements of NRM Boards	<p>Senator EDWARDS: I am new, as you well know. Hopefully, I will add to this process, rather than have you sitting there and groaning and saying, ‘Not another newbie!’ What kind of reporting obligations do NRM boards have with regard to the base level funding they are provided with under Caring for Country? I am happy for you to take these on notice. Also, what interim reporting are they required to submit to you under Caring</p>	85–86		

				<p>for our Country for programs that go beyond one year, and what are the annual reporting requirements? Do they have to cite whether they have expended all funding provided to them? Is there a requirement for any surplus funds to come back? Do these NRM boards provide you with project descriptions and give you quantitative and qualitative reports on whether they have met their key performance indicators on what they sold to you to get the funding once the funding has been expended? I do not require an answer now. This is all going on. You can answer it later. As I understand it, there are feedback reports provided to the Commonwealth that outline the money that has been spent and the success of those initiatives or projects initiated by NRM boards using CFOC funding. It is very difficult to find out whether this is publicly available. I see a lot of surplus funds in NRM boards, which earns a huge amount of interest annually. They continue to levy land owners and still come to you and get more money when in actual fact they are building bureaucracies. Are we driving the right culture?</p>			
38	Sustainable Resource Management	Siewert	Biodiversity Fund	<p>Senator SIEWERT: I will ask next door obviously some more questions about the Biodiversity Fund. In terms of the applications that have just closed, can you tell us the usual details, how many projects you have and their value?</p> <p>Mr McNamara: For Action on the Ground, which closed Wednesday last week, we have about 240 applications, although we did receive just before closing a number of requests to extend from northern New South Wales and southern Queensland because of the flood events there. We granted up to 10 extensions. We should have all applications in by Wednesday this week. So, probably just over 240 for Action on the Ground. For Caring for our Country the same thing applies. There were a number of people who rang up from those flood affected areas seeking an extension, and we granted those—again, about up to 10 people. We will be looking at probably 455 to 460 projects for them.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: What is the value of those projects?</p> <p>Mr McNamara: I am sorry, I do not have that information. We can take that on notice, though.</p>	87		

39	Climate Change Division	Siewert	WA Drought Pilot	<p>Senator SIEWERT: I am going to ask for an update on the process in Western Australia. Can you give me an update of the figures that we usually go through and how many people have accessed the various programs now that it has been extended?</p> <p>Mr McDonald: For the Farm Family Support measure, we have had 627 families receive income support up until 31 December 2011, which constitutes 198 new recipients since 1 July 2011.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: I am conscious that I may be asking something that you cannot give me, because I know there are issues around providing information that would identify somebody. Is it possible to tell me which areas they came from in WA? Not towns but maybe localities or something?</p> <p>Mr McDonald: We would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Mr Aldred: We have previously provided the committee with that sort of information by local government area, so we can do that.</p>	91		
40	Climate Change Division	Rhiannon	Livestock Emissions	<p>Ms Gaglia: There are a number of practices that we are looking at in relation to livestock. As the secretary mentioned, we have some projects in relation to the capture of methane in piggeries and other institutions like abattoirs, but when it comes to the livestock emissions themselves most of the research we are undertaking is looking at where you are going to get the most significant reductions. It comes down to what you feed the livestock and the way that they digest that feed more so than the actual practice. The bulk of the research that we are doing now is into how we can reduce the actual methane coming out of each individual animal rather than the number of animals that you have on a paddock.</p> <p>Senator RHIANNON: Are you able to share with the committee a list of those research projects that you are undertaking and where they are funded from?</p> <p>Ms Gaglia: There is a document on our website that lists all of the projects and the results that we have ascertained so far over the entire program.</p> <p>Senator RHIANNON: Can you share that link with us?</p>	93		

				<p>Senator Ludwig: We will provide it. Ms Gaglia: Yes, we can provide that.</p>			
41	Climate Change Division	Williams	Farmers in the Bundarra Area	<p>Senator WILLIAMS: You might need to take this on notice. Could you tell me how many farmers in the Bundarra area actually applied for EC? That is one question. How many farmers in that region who qualified for EC were granted the assistance? So, how many applied and how many were granted? How much in total has been paid out in EC assistance to those Bundarra farmers? Would you be able to take those three questions on notice? Dr O'Connell: We definitely could do that. Mr Aldred: We can probably provide that information quite quickly. Dr O'Connell: We can do that now. Senator WILLIAMS: Do you know how many applied in that region? Mr McDonald: I have not got the number of applied, but I have got the number of granted, if that is helpful. Senator WILLIAMS: How many were granted? Mr McDonald: For the exceptional circumstances relief payment, which is the income support, there were 39 recipients up until 31 December 2011, and there were 19 recipients of the exceptional circumstances interest rate subsidy. The respective expenditure on both of those measures was just over \$1 million for the income support and \$2.67 million for the interest rate subsidy. Senator WILLIAMS: Could you also perhaps take it on notice how many did apply for that region in that area that was granted EC. Mr McDonald: I can take that on notice.</p>	94		
42	Climate Change Division	Bob Brown	Logging	<p>Senator BOB BROWN: Okay, Dr O'Connell, how many coupes and what is the area? Dr O'Connell: I will pass over. Mr Aldred: From recollection it is 43 coupes, Senator, and an</p>	98		

				<p>area in the order of less than 2,000 hectares.</p> <p>Senator BOB BROWN: Would you get the exact figures, the list of coupes and the area of each, and provide them to the committee, please?</p> <p>Mr Aldred: Yes, Senator.</p> <p>Senator BOB BROWN: For the committee, could you also get the scheduling of the start of logging in each of the coupes and any others that may be logged in the 430,000 hectares, and the completion date and the chief recipient of the contents of the forests that are logged from each coupe?</p> <p>Mr Aldred: I will seek the information that I can, Senator. I believe a range of it should be available already as a result of the rescheduling work that was undertaken by the experts.</p> <p>Senator BOB BROWN: So you will be able to get it to the committee this week?</p> <p>Mr Aldred: As I said, I will seek the information that I can. I did not say that I could give you every piece of the information that you just sought. But I will do my best to get the bulk of the information quickly.</p>			
43	Climate Change Division	Bob Brown	Logging	<p>Senator BOB BROWN: We will await it. Has any habitat of any Commonwealth listed rare or endangered species been involved in the 43 coupes that have been logged?</p> <p>Mr Aldred: I cannot answer that, Senator.</p> <p>Senator BOB BROWN: Why can't you?</p> <p>Mr Aldred: I would ask that that be directed to the environment committee.</p> <p>Senator BOB BROWN: No. It is your department's responsibility to ensure that the laws of the country are upheld. I am asking you because you should know this. Has any rare or endangered species habitat been logged in this process since 7 August?</p> <p>Mr Aldred: I cannot answer the question. I will take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator BOB BROWN: Would you? And would you list species in each coupe and define what component of habitat and</p>	98		

				<p>what area of habitat has been logged in that process since 7 August?</p> <p>Senator Ludwig: Just to be clear, we can take on notice what we actually have within the department of agriculture. But just so as we are not misleading you in the sense that you might think we will be able to answer all of that question, some of it, it seems at first blush, can or should be answered by the environment department. We are also not going to act as a go-between and pass the question over to the department of environment, so I would encourage you to take the opportunity to ask the same or a similar question of the department of environment.</p> <p>Senator BOB BROWN: Thanks, Minister. What you can answer for the committee is: can you please enumerate for each coupe the process that you or the department undertook in assessing and making sure with the department of environment that no rare or endangered species habitat was to be logged, knowing, of course, that that is illegal under Commonwealth law?</p> <p>Senator Ludwig: What we will do is provide what we do have in respect of the involvement in the intergovernmental agreement, particularly around the environmental matters that you have raised.</p> <p>Senator BOB BROWN: No. I am asking you, Minister, to get us, this committee, the information about what process you or your department undertook to ensure that no rare or endangered species habitat was to be logged in any of these 43 coupes enumerated by Mr Aldred. That is the question.</p> <p>Senator Ludwig: And, as we indicated, we will take it on notice and see what we can respond to it.</p>			
44	Climate Change Division	Bob Brown	Ta Ann	<p>Senator BOB BROWN: I want to hand over to my colleague so I will end with a couple of questions on the issue of Ta Ann. Has the department or the minister or any other government representatives, as far as you are aware, had talks with Ta Ann at any time? If so, with whom and what were those talks about?</p> <p>Mr Aldred: Senator, the answer is yes. We have previously</p>	99		

				<p>provided that information on a question on notice that you asked at an earlier hearing.</p> <p>Senator BOB BROWN: And not since then? There have been no meetings since then with Ta Ann or anyone?</p> <p>Mr Aldred: Since then? I will undertake to check that.</p> <p>Senator BOB BROWN: You do not know?</p> <p>Mr Aldred: I have not had meetings with Ta Ann since we responded to that question on notice. I will seek the information.</p> <p>Senator BOB BROWN: Ta Ann today announced that it was reducing its forest take in Tasmania, with 40 jobs at stake. Was the government forewarned about that?</p> <p>Mr Aldred: I cannot answer on behalf of the government, Senator.</p> <p>Senator BOB BROWN: Were you or anybody in the department? I am asking the minister now, because you might not know about that. Minister, did Ta Ann signal to the government its announcement today?</p> <p>Senator Ludwig: I will just check so that we do not make any mistake here. I will take it on notice and check whether or not my office was advised. I have obviously been here all day, so I am not sure what may have happened.</p> <p>Senator BOB BROWN: But you did not know about it before it went public?</p> <p>Senator Ludwig: I was not advised prior to today.</p> <p>Senator BOB BROWN: Were you warned that such an announcement might be coming?</p> <p>Senator Ludwig: Again, I will check my records to see whether or not my office has been provided with any information in relation to that, because I would not want to be in a position to mislead the committee.</p>			
45	Climate Change Division	Milne	Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement Industry Development	<p>Mr Aldred: Senator, I was just consulting with my colleague. Could you just paraphrase the question for me, please?</p> <p>Senator MILNE: Yes, I can. The audit report in February 2008 was a scathing assessment of the department's management of the grants program, saying that the data was not being collected</p>	100		

			<p>Program</p> <p>and the objectives to the program had not been set out properly et cetera. DAFF's response was to say, 'Yes, we agree. Performance data is important. We will collect it.' And then the audit report at the end of the program shows that it did not happen. I am asking why didn't DAFF collect the data that it was supposed to collect in order to evaluate this program?</p> <p>Mr Aldred: Senator, I cannot give you the absolute details now. I will take that on notice and give you a comprehensive answer. As you would be aware, a number of the projects under that program had probably concluded by that time, so I will have a look at the information and come back to you. I think we have provided you with in the order of 3½ thousand pages of information under freedom of information on that program. We will try and provide some further information about those things.</p> <p>Senator MILNE: I am sorry. Yes, you have provided me with thousands of pages, which is why I ask the question: why didn't DAFF do as it told the auditor it would do and collect performance data? Why? Who is in charge of overseeing it in DAFF?</p> <p>Dr O'Connell: Mr Aldred said he would give you that information on notice. It goes back to 2008.</p> <p>SenatorMILNE: Who is responsible? Mr Secretary, who is responsible?</p> <p>Mr Aldred: I am responsible for the division that looks after forestry and I will go back and find out what happened at that time, Senator.</p> <p>Senator MILNE: Okay. I will go through specifically what happened. The recent report has made it clear that there was a breach of the Financial Management Act in that money left the agency without being signed off by anyone. Ernst and Young recommended it be investigated. Was it investigated? How is it that you, in charge of the forest program, oversaw a program that allowed money to leave the department without being signed off?</p> <p>Mr Aldred: I did not oversee the program, Senator, but I will—</p> <p>SenatorMILNE: Well, who did?</p>			
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46	Climate Change Division	Milne	Forest Program	<p>Senator MILNE: So people got money to buy new machinery to keep going in the industry; then they got money to exit the industry. When they sold the equipment, who got the money?</p> <p>Mr Aldred: Again, as I think I have indicated in an earlier hearing, our asset grants recovery procedures were put in place. We have been—</p> <p>Senator MILNE: Yes, but I heard you got virtually no money back out of the millions that you have given out. People got money to buy machines to stay in the industry; now they have got money to come out of the industry, and they have kept the machines and will be selling the machines. Are you actively recovering any of the cash, or did you reduce the exit grants by the amount that they get from realising a cash sale or some other sale of their machines?</p> <p>Mr Aldred: I will give you the specifics on notice. I think on at least two occasions we have withheld funds.</p>	103		
47	Climate Change Division	Milne	Forest Programs	<p>Senator MILNE: That is hopeless. This is my final question before I hand over to Senator Colbeck. Exactly how much</p>	103		

				<p>money has been expended in Tasmania since the federal election in 2010 on forest industry assistance?</p> <p>Mr Aldred: I will take it on notice and give you a figure since—</p> <p>SenatorMILNE: Since the election.</p> <p>Senator Ludwig: Since 2007?</p> <p>Senator MILNE: No, since the 2010 election—just since last year. My recollection, Minister, is that there was an assurance that the grant money would not be paid to the same recipients. But I will go back and check that.</p>			
48	Climate Change Division	Colbeck	Meeting of the Independent Verification Group	<p>Senator COLBECK: When was the first meeting of the independent verification group?</p> <p>Mr Aldred: I have not got a specific date with me.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK: Can you give me a rough idea?</p> <p>Mr Aldred: I would not like to be held to it. It could well have been October. I am happy to chase it up over the evening break.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK: I would be very interested to know when your first meeting was. You are saying perhaps October. When was the first meeting of the stakeholder reference group?</p> <p>Mr Aldred: It would have been around the same time, I suspect, but again I will give you the specific dates.</p> <p>Dr O'Connell: Rather than speculate, we will find out for you.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK: That is fine. Who were the decision makers around appointments to those two groups?</p> <p>Mr Aldred: Rather than give you a confused answer, I will confirm. I believe that we may have provided some information on a question on notice about consultation with the stakeholder reference group about the membership of the IVG. I will check that and come back to you.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK: Who made the appointments to the IVG?</p> <p>Mr Aldred: Again, I will confirm the process and who made the appointments.</p>	106		
49	Climate Change Division	Colbeck	Independent Verification	<p>Mr Aldred: Senator, I am trying to be helpful, but obviously taking a couple of things on notice. The specifics of some of</p>	107		

			Group	<p>this could be answered through the environment department in another committee. I am happy to chase it, but a number of these things were undertaken by the task force.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK: I understand that. How are the interests of others that were not part of the signatories group dealt with as part of this process?</p> <p>Mr Aldred: As part of the terms of reference, the independent verification group is supposed to consult with a range of other interested parties.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK: But why wouldn't they be included in the stakeholder reference group? Tourism industry, mining industry—you have acknowledged that there is some work around minerals being done—why wouldn't they be engaged as part of the stakeholder reference group?</p> <p>Mr Aldred: The stakeholder reference group was simply drawn from within the signatories to the statement of principles.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK: But that does not answer my question. It does not say why. Surely they are stakeholders to this process? If you are going to impose restrictions on land use that have implications broader than just forestry, which is, as I understand, what is being proposed by some as part of this process, why aren't the genuine stakeholders who are being affected on the stakeholder reference group?</p> <p>Dr O'Connell: Mr Aldred is just answering a question about who is on it and the relationship with the signatories. I think that is as far as he can answer.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK: Can the minister answer why the other groups are not part of the process?</p> <p>Senator Ludwig: I think, given the state of play in relation to the answers so far, I will take that on notice. I think it is much safer if we take it on notice and give a response.</p>			
50	Climate Change Division	Colbeck	International Forest Carbon Initiative	<p>Senator COLBECK: What was the total allocation to the program, though—not how much was spent, how much was allocated to it to start with? I am trying to get a sense of how much was put in this pot in the first place. My understanding</p>	109		

				<p>was that it was a fair bit of money. I accept that it might be phased over a number of cycles; I understand all that. But I want to know how much was put in the pot in the first place. There was a significant allocation, as I understand it, towards assisting these—</p> <p>Mr Aldred: The International Forest Carbon Initiative is a \$273 million commitment, jointly administered by DCCEE— department of climate change—and AusAID. Our departments had—</p> <p>Senator COLBECK: You get some allocations out of that.</p> <p>Mr Aldred: ministerial managing some allocations of that.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK: That is fine.</p> <p>Mr Aldred: My recollection is the \$2.1 million was probably the full amount.</p> <p>Mr Talbot: I will check this, but my understanding is that phase 1 was not part of the IFCI. It was given to our department and then when IFCI came in, our program was rolled into the IFCI and from phase 2 on it was part of IFCI.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK: I did not quite catch the numbers.</p> <p>Mr Talbot: I will confirm that.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK: If you could confirm that, that is fine.</p>			
51	Climate Change Division	Colbeck	Inter Governmental Agreement on Forestry	<p>Senator COLBECK: So I will ask one question back on the IGA scene, while we still have you here, and put their concerns on the record. That is a question specifically relating to special species timbers. This person is a boat builder and says to me that they are looking at a 90 per cent reduction in timber as a part of this process if they do not maintain that 12½ thousand cubic metres of timber availability under the process and they are expressing their concern that the process is not interested in the industry demand from the boat-building sector. Can you give me any sense of what is happening in that particular area, given that that is a fairly significant part of the Tasmanian economy? I understand what is being said by the Tasmanian minister in relation to this. I have not heard anything specific from this minister, so I will not make a comment there, but this is a fairly critical part of this whole IGA process, the access to</p>	110		

				<p>special species, particularly for people like boat builders and furniture builders.</p> <p>Mr Aldred: Yes, there is acknowledgement in the IGA of industry seeking volumes of specialty timbers. My understanding is that it is being and will be looked at through the independent verification group process. I would say that the initial modelling around wood resources, I understand, as to sustainable yield is on categories 1 and 3 sawlogs, the high-quality sawlogs, and then the peeler arrangements as a couple of the limiting factors. I will take on notice the specifics of the specialty timbers and come back to you.</p>			
52	Climate Change Division	Rhiannon	Regional Forest Agreements	<p>Senator RHIANNON: Considering that proposed changes to the Victorian Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 will make the application of threatened species legislation in Victoria discretionary and considering all RFAs are reliant on state legislation to ensure environmental standards are met—which in fact is the basis of the exemption of RFA logging operations from the EPBC Act—what are the implications for the standing of RFAs in light of those developments?</p> <p>Senator Ludwig: The RFAs have not changed. The states are still required to meet their obligations under the RFA.</p> <p>Senator RHIANNON: But if the legislation passed, would the government review its commitment to the RFAs? Do you have a watching brief on what is going on in Victoria?</p> <p>Mr Aldred: I might be able to help. I cannot confirm whether the letter has specifically gone as yet, or our submission, but the department is or will shortly be seeking advice from the Victorian government that the changes proposed will not impact on commitments under the regional forest agreements.</p> <p>Senator RHIANNON: You are referring to the proposed changes to the Victorian Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988?</p> <p>Mr Aldred: Yes.</p> <p>Senator RHIANNON: Are there talks going on between federal and state? Are you waiting for advice?</p> <p>Mr Aldred: We will certainly be seeking clarification.</p>	111		

				<p>Senator RHIANNON: When do you expect to receive that?</p> <p>Mr Aldred: I cannot speak for the Victorian government.</p> <p>Senator RHIANNON: So you are waiting on them?</p> <p>Mr Aldred: As I indicated, whether we have already put in that submission or whether it is about to be signed off, I cannot tell you. I can take that on notice, but I can tell you that is the approach that we have or will be taking.</p> <p>Senator RHIANNON: Thank you, if you could take it on notice. Thank you, Mr Chair.</p>			
53	Agricultural Productivity Division	Back	Recommendation of the Working Group on Australia and Food Security in a Changing World	<p>Senator BACK: Thanks, Chairman. Can I draw your attention to the Prime Minister's Science, Engineering and Innovation Council under the chairmanship of Professor Peter Langridge, who chaired a working group in 2010 on Australia and Food Security in a Changing World. That had four recommendations. Are you familiar with that report?</p> <p>Mr Grant: Yes, we are.</p> <p>Senator BACK: Could you tell me which if any of those four recommendations have been implemented?</p> <p>Mr Grant: I cannot tell you that, but I can take it on notice. My understanding is that they were quite broad and generic recommendations. Some of those may be dealt with as part of the consideration of the government's National Food Plan, but I cannot specifically tell you who is doing what in relation to each of those four. I can come back to you with some information on notice about that.</p> <p>Senator BACK: I would be appreciative if you could do that. In so doing, for those recommendations that have been enacted could you put a dollar figure against any expenditures that have been allocated to them?</p> <p>Mr Grant: We will do.</p>	111		
54	Agricultural Productivity Division	Back	FarmReady Industry Grants	<p>Senator BACK: Can you tell me how much if any of the \$28 million that has been expended was allocated to administering the program or were the administration costs picked up from within other programs?</p>	112		

				<p>Mr Grant: \$1.52 million has been spent on administering the program and that was through an external administrator, through a new enterprise.</p> <p>Senator BACK: Two others, if you could give them on notice: the number or percentage of that 25,415 who were Indigenous; and a breakdown of the allocation on a state and territory by state and territory basis, please.</p> <p>Mr Grant: I will take that on notice. I am not sure that I can give you the Indigenous split, but I will check if that is available.</p>			
55	Agricultural Productivity Division	Siewert	WA Fishing Industry Council's Annual Report	<p>CHAIR: Thank you, Senator Back. Sorry, Senator Macdonald. Senator Siewert asked a question earlier that was referred to here later, but she has to go at 9.30, so can we just go to Senator Siewert and then to you?</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: Do I need to repeat what I read out before or did you get it before?</p> <p>Mr Grant: Just remind me.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: It is the question relating to the Western Australian Fishing Industry Council's annual report, where they said they had a grant to do some market research.</p> <p>Mr Grant: Yes.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: What funding program did that come from?</p> <p>Mr Grant: We gave a grant to the Western Australian Fishing Industry Council under the Promoting Australian Produce program. We gave them a grant of \$100,000 and it was largely about them developing an export marketing strategy. I might ask Mr Souness to give some information. We might have to take it on notice, but we are having difficulty. We are having difficulty relating the money that we gave them to the description they have put in their annual report.</p>	113		
56	ABARES	Ian Macdonald	Floods	<p>Senator IAN MACDONALD: I am particularly interested in land up in the Gulf of Carpentaria, or not land in the Gulf of Carpentaria, but what is called the gulf lands up there. A number of properties up that way were inundated by floods, then Cyclone Yasi had a particular impact, and there were real</p>	115		

				<p>issues with impacts on native vegetation management. So I was just very interested to see whether that was included in the survey and, if it is, in the course of collation if you could just have a look at those lands. Again, I am not sure what exactly you did look at, but it is a long way away. It is, of course, cattle land, but some of the land that is most affected by native vegetation management plans. So you are, I think you said, in the throes of completing that and reporting to this section. Is that right?</p> <p>Mr Morris: Correct, to the SRM Division. The project was originally due to be completed last year, but for some of the reasons you mentioned—the floods last year—there was some delay in it actually going to the survey respondents. We obviously did not want to be calling people when they were in the middle of cleaning up and so forth, so that did cause a few months delay in finalising the report. On the basis of the information I have, I would suspect that we have included some of those producers, but in terms of the actual detail, I would have to get back to you on what areas—</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD: Could you do that and just assure me that it was not only freehold land but any sort of land over which someone had a tenure?</p>			
57	Agricultural Productivity Division	Ian Macdonald	Supermarket Pricing	<p>Senator IAN MACDONALD: Thanks for all that. My colleagues have questions, too. They seem now to be tied up in the Woolworths versus Coles: ‘We sell everything for less’, and it has really gone quite the other way. Is anyone doing any work on the industry at all?</p> <p>Mr Morris: Perhaps my colleague can talk from a policy side. From an ABARES side of things we are tracking prices. We produce a weekly report which we call our ‘climate weekly’, which has mainly got information on the latest rainfall and temperatures and so forth. But it also includes information on commodity prices and that includes prices of fruit and vegetables so we will be following what is happening with prices through that.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD: All right.</p>	115		

				<p>Senator Ludwig: The people that could answer some of that are not at the table here, so it would be helpful if we could take some of it on notice. My recollection is that we did provide a range of assistance, particularly to a range of agricultural industries, including the banana industry, post Cyclone Yasi. I will not go through them, but I will put that on notice. Then, post that, there is also a range of work around what you called the Coles-Woolworths issue about productivity, about markets. Then there is also, in another portfolio which Senator Arbib looks after, competition policy input. Because the relevant officers are not here, I will see if I can collect that in one part and then provide it to you.</p>			
58	Agricultural Productivity Division	Colbeck	Regional Food Producers Program	<p>Senator COLBECK: And the rationale that I was given for not spending the money was that we would not have time to get a project done within the 12 months that was left. That was at May last year. Now you are telling me there is \$2.3 million left. I am asking what happened to the \$700,000. None of those figures that you have just given me, which I am pretty sure we already had because we had already discussed the reallocations—I mean, this was a \$35 million program when it was first announced in 2007. You are going to spend about \$13.8 million, from my calculations, out of that program. But put all that aside. The last figure that you gave me was that there was \$3 million left. In May 2011 that is what you told me. Now there is \$2.3 million left. What happened to the 700 grand?</p> <p>Mr Grant: I will have to take that on notice. There has not been an additional round of funding and there have not been any new funding projects approved. I just do not know the details. It is possible that could have been our commitments to already-approved projects in 2011-12, but I will have to check that.</p>	117		
59	Agricultural Productivity Division	Colbeck	Australia's Processing Factories	<p>Senator COLBECK: No. I surrender. In the December-January edition of <i>Potatoes Australia</i>—and I think that article was repeated in another publication as well, so you did pretty well out of the one interview—you talked about the need to keep</p>	118		

				<p>Australia's processing factories viable. Can you tell me what you are doing to achieve that?</p> <p>Senator Ludwig: To begin with there is a Food and Foundries initiative which is \$150 million in total.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK: I cannot hear you.</p> <p>Senator Ludwig: Sorry. If I go through a range of initiatives, there is the National Food Plan, which is also directed to dealing with some of those issues. In addition to that there is the Food and Foundries Carbon Farming Initiative. It is a \$200 million Clean Technology Food and Foundries Investment Program, which will provide \$150 million in grants to the food processing industry to invest in energy efficient equipment and low emissions technologies. In addition to that, Mr Carr has a task force for processors. So there is a whole-of-government response. I do not want to mislead you. I will take that part on notice in respect to the work that he is undertaking. I was going to indicate when the report was likely to be finalised. I think it is midyear, but do not hold me to that. I will confirm that. In addition to that we have a strong biosecurity regime. We are now going through a process</p>			
60	Biosecurity - Plant	Colbeck	Fruit Fly Freedom	<p>Senator COLBECK: I understand that. But, particularly given that Tasmania is fruit fly free, the issues around the protocol were in relation to the treatment or strategies for fruit fly. What efforts were made to actually manage that process? We are talking about changing the protocols around fruit fly. The state is recognised as being fruit fly free. What efforts were made to actually manage that and discuss that with our trading partners, or is it all left in their hands?</p> <p>Dr O'Connell: No, our biosecurity area was engaged and our agricultural counsellor, I think, as well. We could give you details of the representations we made, but there was extensive representation. Paul, I wonder if you could—</p> <p>Mr Ross: Yes, certainly. I guess that is the point. Our biosecurity colleagues were involved in the negotiations around the specifics of the protocol, and certainly we have an ag</p>	124		

				<p>counsellor based in Bangkok who has been heavily involved in liaising with the Thai authorities over this issue. In terms of the negotiations or consultations with our industry, we primarily work through the peak industry bodies and we take their guidance as to the approach we should take in these things.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK: I am not sure that answers my questions in relation to the discussions with the Thais.</p> <p>Ms Evans: Senator, we can take on notice whether there was any opportunity to raise—you are asking was there any way of identifying Tasmania as fruit fly free.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK: It is identified as fruit fly free.</p> <p>Ms Evans: Sorry, to have Thailand acknowledge that somehow differently to the way they have before.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK: Yes.</p> <p>Ms Evans: We can take on notice the status of the way we have exported the fruit there in the past, whether it is on a country basis or whether there is any capacity for regional differentiation. We would have to take that on notice, I am afraid.</p>			
61	Biosecurity - Plant	Colbeck	Trade with Thailand	<p>Senator COLBECK: The reality is that there are a number of markets where that status is recognised as part of that process. Did we make the representations to see if that could be taken into account?</p> <p>Ms Evans: We made a number of representations around the issue and tried to resolve it at the time. Again, I would have to take it on notice to find out whether we specifically raised that as an option.</p> <p>Dr O'Connell: I think what is clear from our perspective is that the Thai authorities made it clear there would be no further consideration of changes to their protocol until they did the audit. It was made very clear to the industry people, as I understand it, that if the audit did not go ahead there would be the suspension. I think we had gone through quite an extensive and rapid process of trying to make this clear. It is very disappointing and now we are going to have to regain it, but I think nobody was under any illusions as to what was going to occur here.</p>	124		

				<p>Senator COLBECK: I respect the fact that Thailand is looking to put protocols in place. We have stringent processes in place ourselves and that is part of the deal, but what I am just trying to get to is what efforts were made in respect of the specifics of that particular case? Can I just move quickly on to—</p> <p>Dr O'Connell: I think we can provide you with a fairly extensive set of exchanges between—</p> <p>Senator COLBECK: I would appreciate that, if you can. Thank you.</p> <p>Dr O'Connell: I am sure we can do that.</p>			
62	Transferred to SEWPAC	Boswell	Marine Bioregional Planning	<p>In a United Nations report published in January this year titled Resilient People, Resilient Planet: A Future Worth Choosing in the section on Fisheries management the Great Barrier Reef was described the great success story in sustainable management?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The report sources the Australian Government as providing the information on the Great Barrier Reef. Is that correct? <p>The report states “sustainably managing the Great Barrier Reef requires balancing human use with the maintenance of the area’s natural and cultural integrity.”</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. If the source of the information was the Australian Government can we assume then that the Gillard Government is proud of what has been achieved in the Great Barrier Marine Park and that the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park is the benchmark for world’s best practice in sustainable fisheries management? 3. The UN report applauds the management of the Great Barrier Reef which permits trawling so why will trawling be excluded in the Coral Sea and the other Bioregions? 4. Did the Minister examine the sustainable fishing management practices in the Great Barrier Reef when drawing up the marine bioregion plans? 5. Given the glowing report of our fisheries management in the United Nations report, is the Minister prepared to go back to the drawing board and use the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park as the model for the marine bioregions of the South- 	Written		

				West, North, North-West, Temperate East and the Coral Sea?			
63	Finance & Business Support	Macdonald	Spend on Electricity	<p>In relation to QoN 9 from October 2011, the 'spend' on electricity was \$2,152,306.</p> <p>From February 2012:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How does this compare with the previous year? (please include actual figures) 2. What is the projection/budget for 2011-12? 3. Are the details broken up by office, or area, or internal sector of the Department? If so please provide figures for 2009-10, 2010-11 along with the projection for 2011-12 	Written		
64	Finance & Business Support	Xenophon	AQIS full cost recovery	Can AQIS confirm what is meant by 'full cost recovery'? Is it recovery of the specific services provided, or of the agency itself?	Written		
65	Quarantine Operations	Xenophon	AQIS	What steps will AQIS be taking in response to the recommendations made by the Rural Affairs and Transport Committee Biosecurity and Quarantine Arrangements interim report?	Written		
66	Finance & Business Support	Xenophon	AQIS	What additional consultation will AQIS be taking in relation to the affect of fees and charges on small businesses?	Written		
67	Biosecurity - Food	Xenophon	AQIS	I recently met with an exporter in South Australia, who exports a cooked meat product. As a condition of his export licence, he is required to have an AQIS veterinary officer conduct inspections of his premises, books etc. Given that the meat arrives on his premises after slaughter, can AQIS explain why the producer is required to have a veterinary officer conduct the audit, given the extra cost of a veterinary officer?	Written		

68	Biosecurity - Food	Xenophon	AQIS	<p>There was a suspected outbreak of avian flu in Victoria at the end of January.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> What steps did AQIS take to inform exporters of the implications of this outbreak? I understand that Japan immediately ceased all imports of Australian chicken meat. When did AQIS become aware of this? When were exporters informed? Can AQIS outline the timeline from when they were notified to when the relevant exporters were notified? 	Written		
69	Quarantine Operations	Xenophon	AQIS	<p>In terms of AQIS authorised officers – where a company’s officials can be trained to perform the same role as AQIS inspectors – is this option available to small businesses? If not, why not?</p>	Written		
70	Finance & Business Support	Xenophon	AQIS	<p>What percentage of the fees AQIS is paid actually reflects the direct costs of the officers conducting the investigation on AQIS’ behalf?</p>	Written		
71	Biosecurity - Plant	Xenophon	Closer Economic Agreement with New Zealand	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> In response to my question on notice from last estimates, the department provided information about the terms of the Closer Economic Agreement with New Zealand. Can the department provide me of any examples where Australia has refused New Zealand products under Article 18 of the CER and New Zealand has accepted this? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> If not, does this show that Article 18 needs to be reviewed? If so, how did the fire blight situation differ? Essentially, what is the point of Article 18 if New Zealand can simply appeal to the WTO? In the same vein, has New Zealand ever refused Australian goods under Article 18? 	Written		

				3. How did Australia react?			
72	SRM/AFMA	Colbeck	Statutory Fishing Rights	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What specific activities does the boat SFR concession levy cover? 2. What percentage of the boat SFR concession levy is used to cover administrative activities and salaries? 3. Provide data for the number of concessions handed back since 2005. Please provide this information by concession type. 4. If concessions are handed back and there are fewer boats, how will AFMA then cover its costs with fewer concession holders? Could this lead to a further increase the boat SFR concession? 	Written		
73	SRM/AFMA	Colbeck	Fisheries	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The data tabled by AFMA at the 13 February 2012 Estimates hearing shows a number of fisheries where the amount to be levied is less than the cost recovered budget for 2011-12. What is the justification for this? 2. Similarly the data tabled by AFMA at the 13 February 2012 Estimates hearing shows a number of fisheries where the amount to be levied is more than the cost recovered budget for 2011-12. What is the justification for this? 	Written		
74	SRM/AFMA	Colbeck	International Benchmark of Management Fees	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is there an international benchmark that AFMA is aware of with regard to management fees as a percentage of the commercial value of the fishery (gross value of production)? 2. If so – what is it and how do AFMA's fees compare? 	Written		
75	SRM/AFMA	Colbeck	Gross Value of Production and Levy Figures	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The data tabled by AFMA at the 13 February 2012 Estimates hearing shows the average gross value of production for the period 2006 – 12 and the average levies 	Written		

				<p>for the same period. Please provide the gross value of production and levy figures for each of the years 2006 to 2012 and the levy as a percentage of the gross value of production for each year.</p> <p>2. The data tabled by AFMA at the 13 February 2012 Estimates hearing also shows that the levy as a percentage of gross value of production for the Heard Island & McDonald Islands Fishery and the Macquarie Island Fishery is 1.8%. If these fisheries were removed from the calculation, what would the levy as percentage of the gross value of production be?</p>			
76	SRM/AFMA	Colbeck	Fishery Expenditure	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What was the total overspend for 2008/09, 2009/10 and 2010/11? 2. What was the overspend by fishery for 2008/09, 2009/10 and 2010/11? 3. What is the anticipated overspend for this financial year by fishery? 	Written		
77	SRM/AFMA	Colbeck	Fishery Boats	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Please provide details of the number of boats per fishery for the years 2008/09, 2009/10 and 2010/11. 2. Please provide details of the average income per boat for each of the fisheries for the years 2008/09, 2009/10 and 2010/11. 	Written		
78	SRM/AFMA	Colbeck	Northern Prawn Fishery	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the rationale for moving the Northern Prawn Fishery from being managed by control of inputs to quotas? 2. We understand for the Northern Prawn Fishery that the per boat levy is approaching \$50K; total revenue through levies is around \$2.35 million from 52 boats. How is this money apportioned? What are the key cost centres and budget figures for the management of this fishery? 	Written		

79	SRM/AFMA	Colbeck	Dolphin Protection	QON 160 from October 2011 requested details industry's response to the closures. We were advised that "the reaction has been mixed". Please provide more specific detail of the range of issues raised.	Written		
80	SRM/AFMA	Colbeck	Fisheries	<p>The latest report on the status of Australia's fish stocks shows 71 of the 96 stocks assessed were 71 were 'not subject to overfishing'. Given this result, how has AFMA responded?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Has there been a re-evaluation of the management strategies needed for fisheries that are doing well? 2. Is there a hierarchy of management strategies based on the risk profile of fisheries or is it a one size fits all approach? 3. Has AFMA ever had a fishery removed from their management because it is no longer at risk or requiring government surveillance? 	Written		
81	SRM/AFMA	Colbeck	Orange Roughy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. With regard to Orange Roughy why is the rebuilding target for the Cascade Plateau stock 60% of the unfished biomass (B60) when the Commonwealth Harvest Strategy states that fish stocks should be managed to the maximum economic yield, a number that is almost always B48? 2. All stocks of orange roughy are managed under quotas and there is only targeting of one stock. The closure of the deepwater is probably the largest single fishery closure in Australia's history and means that stocks like deepwater shark and deepwater oreos now have uncaught quotas because the grounds in which these unrelated species live cannot be reached. Why then were all waters deeper than 700m closed to all forms of fishing? Will AFMA remove some of these closures to allow uncaught quota of other deepwater species to be caught? 3. The CSIRO recently completed an acoustic optical system (AOS) survey of the eastern roughy stock. The report stated that the best estimate for the eastern orange roughy stock 	Written		

				<p>was 48,000 tonnes. However, the current assessment states that the stock is in the order of 14,000 tonnes. A respected New Zealand stock assessment scientist, Dr Patrick Cordue, recently reviewed the Australian stock assessment for eastern orange roughy and concluded, "The existing assessment is not suitable for providing management advice" Why then has the current assessment not been modified?</p>			
82	Sustainable Resource Management	Colbeck	Marine Bioregional Planning	<p>In response to QON 259, May 2011 the Department was asked whether it had provided advice to the Environment Minister on the Marine Bioregional Planning process and the Displaced Effort Policy. In response to QON 162, October 2011 which requested information on why this advice had not been provided the Department stated that it "regularly provides advice regarding both these issues". Please advise which response is correct and why an incorrect response had been made.</p>	Written		
83	SRM/AFMA	Colbeck	AFMA Commission	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. With regard to AFMA Commissioners, is it correct that Commissioners are not permitted to hold or have held a concession in a Commonwealth fishery? 2. If this is true, how is the Commission adequately "skills based"? 3. How many Commission meetings have been held in the current financial year? 4. How many were held in the three previous financial years? 5. For this financial year what is the average length of Commission meetings? 6. What was the average length of Commission meetings for each of the three previous financial years? 7. How many meetings has the Commission had with industry members and other stakeholders this financial year? 8. How many meetings did the Commission had with industry members and other stakeholders in the three previous financial years? 	Written		

84	SRM/AFMA	Colbeck	AFMA Staffing	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are the current FTE staffing levels of AFMA? 2. What was the FTE staffing level in 1996? 	Written		
85	SRM/AFMA	Colbeck	Boats	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many boats currently operate in AFMA controlled waters? 2. How many boats operated in AFMA controlled waters in 1996? 	Written		
86	Transferred to SEWPAC	Colbeck	Shark Fisheries	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In response to QON 124 October 2011, the Minister advised that the effective closure of two Western Australian shark fisheries was due to the WA Department of Fisheries not undertaking the process of assessment under the EPBC Act. Isn't there a matter of conflict between state and federal legislation and hasn't this matter been running for over 4 years? 	Written		
87	SRM/AFMA	Colbeck	Dolphin Protection	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In response to QON 160 October 2011 the Minister advised that "There are no trigger limits for dolphin interactions in the fishery". Does this equate to a zero tolerance? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. How realistic is this and how do other countries deal with this situation? b. How can a fisherman effectively manage his fishing activities with a zero tolerance for interaction with dolphins? 2. QON 160 October 2011 requested details of any analysis that had been undertaken to determine the cause(s) of the increase in interactions. The response received related to the use of independent observers and electronic monitoring systems but did not address the cause of the increased interactions. Please provide details of any analysis undertaken as the cause of the increased interactions. 	Written		
88	Climate Change Division	Colbeck	Forestry IGA	QON 191 October 2011 sought information on how the IVG would make decisions on the advice it was to provide. The	Written		

				Minister's response was that the IVG was not a decision making group – but it must reach some sort of decision on the advice it will offer. Please provide details of how the IVG will reach these decisions - is this by majority, consensus or at the discretion of the Chair?			
89	Climate Change Division	Colbeck	Live Exports Assistance	From the information provided to QON 74 and 135 October 2011 it seems that the Department spent \$4.17 million providing \$11.71 million in assistance packages. Is this correct?	Written		
90	Climate Change Division	Colbeck	Income Recovery Subsidy	Over 60% of the applicants for the Income Recovery Subsidy were rejected. What were the main reasons for rejection?	Written		
91	Climate Change Division	Colbeck	Logging	Money was set aside under the Howard and Rudd Governments to help address illegal logging. What has happened to this money? What projects have been undertaken?	Written		
92	Climate Change Division	Colbeck	World Forestry Congress	1. Responses to questions regarding the 2009 World Forestry Congress have been asked in May and October 2011 through QON. Has there or has there not been a report by the Embassy Official who attended this event? a. If there has not been a report does this mean the official did not observe any outcomes of particular significance? b. If there was a report, please provide a copy.	Written		
93	Climate Change Division	Colbeck	Program Funding	Four programs, worth over \$100 million, recently closed within 10 days of each other and during what for many businesses is the holiday season. Why did the Government adopt this schedule?	Written		

94	Climate Change Division	Colbeck	Program Applications	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many applications have been received for each of the programs (Biodiversity fund, Filling the Research Gap, Action on the Ground, Biochar Capacity Building)? 2. Are the programs over subscribed? 	Written		
95	Transferred to SEWPAC	Colbeck	Carbon Farming	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Papers obtained from the NT government estimate there will be a \$327,000 benefit under the Carbon price of taking the cattle off Henbury Station and a \$78 million annual benefit from increased carbon storage from vegetation growth given that no baseline has been recorded for the current level of carbon storage on Henbury Station and given carbon in conservation areas is currently not counted in national greenhouse inventories are these figures realistic? 2. Is the Commonwealth aware of these calculations? If the commonwealth were aware of these figures was it prudent to give the private company \$9 million for the purchase when they were going to make such a windfall. 3. Given the Government in its press release said that Henbury station would lead the way in Carbon farming what calculations or estimations did the government use to justify this assertion in the Press Release? 4. During the last senate estimates Senate Environment and Legislation committee hearing on Monday 17 October the Environment Department (page 150 of the committee Hansard) Mr Cochrane states that whether the station qualifies for the CFI is not their problem and that RM Williams bears the risk. Why then did Minister Burke in his press release say this project would lead the way in Carbon Farming? 	Written		
96	Sustainable Resource Management	Colbeck	Staff Turnover	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The response to QON 129 October 2011 indicated a higher than average staff turnover in the Fisheries branch. What investigation has taken place? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. What are the underlying causes? 	Written		

				b. What are the current figures?			
97	Sustainable Resource Management	Colbeck	Weeds of National Significance	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Can the Minister explain and forward the minutes and paperwork that shows the process and methodology used to determine the new weeds of national significance. 2. It seems from responses to QON October 2011, that Weeds of National Significance Co-ordinators are working on papers for weeds that haven't yet been declared Weeds of National Significance. 3. How is this justified? 4. How do locally important weeds become Weeds of National Significance? 	Written		
98	Sustainable Resource Management	Colbeck	Landcare	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. QON 125 October 2011 asked for specific information regarding the regional body transaction costs. The response received did not answer the question and was not specific: "Regional body transaction costs for core operating and administrative expenses met by the Australian Government through regional base level allocations under the Caring for our Country initiative should not exceed 10 per cent of the total Australian Government funding provided. Non-statutory regional bodies may allocate an additional 5 per cent of these funds towards governance improvement" 2. Please provide the actual figures requested through QON 125, subquestions 5 and 6, October 2011. 	Written		
99	Agricultural Productivity Division	Macdonald	Meat Processing in Northern Australia	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is the Federal Government providing any funding for the Queensland Government's study into the viability of meat processing facilities in North Queensland? 2. How much funding is being provided? 3. Over what period is the funding being provided? 	Written		

100	Agricultural Productivity Division	Macdonald	Meat Processing in Northern Australia	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is the Federal Government investing any funding into studies regarding the future of the northern beef industry? 2. If so, what agencies are undertaking these studies? 3. Will these studies include consultation with stakeholders from across Northern Australia? 4. When are these studies expected to be released? 	Written		
101	ABARES	Colbeck	Plantations	<p>QON 153 October 2011 asked if ABARES had made any projections regarding the ability of Australia to service its domestic requirements for wood and wood products given the likely impact of the Tasmanian Forest IGA. The response provided did not answer the question.</p> <p>Please advise if ABARES has undertaken an analysis of the impact of the Tasmanian Forest IGA with regard to the ability of Australia to service its domestic requirements for wood and wood products.</p>	Written		
102	Agricultural Productivity Division	Colbeck	Global Food Challenge	Has the Government's response to the global food challenge and the potential consequences for Australians changed at all since May 2011 -a point of view that Growcom called a "head in the sand" approach?	Written		
103	Agricultural Productivity Division	Colbeck	Food Security	What consideration has been given to nutritional security and the fact that Australia needs to have a reliable affordable supply of more a range of food sources, not just wheat and beef?	Written		
104	ABARES	Colbeck	Global Food Security Report	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The ABARES report Global food security: facts, issues and implications states "even if agriculture were excluded from the direct imposition of a carbon tax, it would be indirectly affected through both increased prices of inputs such as fuel, fertiliser and chemicals any pass-back of the tax on 	Written		

				<p>outputs such as transport and processing". What analysis has the ABARES undertaken into the impact of the carbon tax on agriculture?</p> <p>2. ABARES also linked carbon trading or tax to increasing energy costs and to food price rises. Does this finding align with the Government's expectations?</p>			
105	ABARES	Colbeck	Agricultural Commodities	<p>1. QON 154 asked for the key factors contributing to the downturn in employment in agriculture, forestry and fishing. The response provided that "no specific reasons were provided by the ABS...". If ABARES is supposed to "provide professionally independent, world-class research, analysis and advice to inform decision makers on current and future policy challenges affecting Australia's primary industries" shouldn't a bit further analysis of data be undertaken?</p> <p>2. Is ABARES now able to provide information about the key factors contributing to the downturn in employment in the agriculture, forestry and fishing sectors?</p> <p>3. QON 154 also asked for the employment changes for each sector, rather than a combined figure (4.8% for the September quarter). The response was "ABARES does not have access to the ABS database for a breakdown of the employment changes to each industry included in the agriculture, forestry and fishing sectors". Is ABARES able to request information for the main sectors, ie agriculture, forestry and fishing from ABS? If so, please provide this information.</p> <p>4. Can the information requested in the previous two questions be provided for the December 2011 quarter? If so, please provide this information.</p> <p>5. If this information can not be provided, does ABARES consider this information would be useful to inform decision makers on current and future policy challenges affecting Australia's primary industries?</p>	Written		

106	ABARES	Colbeck	Working Relationships	Is there a good working relationship between ABARES and ABS?	Written		
107	ABARES	Colbeck	Beef Producers	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In June 2011, ABARES were optimistic of an improved financial position for beef producers for the 2010-11 financial year. QON 156 October 2011 asked if this proved to be the case. ABARES was unable to answer until December 2011. Can ABARES now please advise whether the optimism of June 2011 was justified? Did the improved financial position for beef producers for the 2010-11 financial year eventuate? 2. Was there any flow on impact from the live export ban to southern producers, who were also set for a better year? 	Written		
108	ABARES	Colbeck	Socio-economic Assessment of the South-West Bioregion	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. QON 157 October 2011 asked whether the socio-economic assessment of the south-west bioregion had been completed. The response was that this had not been completed. 2. Provide an update on the socio-economic assessment and an anticipated completion date. 3. If the assessment is complete, what were the key findings? 	Written		
109	TMAD	Colbeck	Boxed Meat Quotas	Has there been any discussions between the Australian and Indonesian Ministers re boxed meat quotas?	Written		
110	Transferred to SEWPAC	Macdonald	Gulf of Carpentaria Commonwealth Marine Reserve	<p>Gulf of Carpentaria Commonwealth Marine Reserve (submissions closed early October 2011)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many submissions were received? 2. Was there a range of input from both stakeholders and community members? 3. Was there submissions made in relation to the affect on the 	Written		

				<p>local economy in Karumba? What has been the general feedback?</p> <p>4. From the feedback is it already clear what operators will be the worst affected?</p> <p>5. From the feedback so far – will this affect the supply of Australian prawns to the domestic market?</p> <p>Some fisherman have expressed concern that excluding certain area could force commercial anglers over the top of one another</p> <p>6. Was this issue raised in the submissions?</p> <p>7. Could this be the case once the zone is implemented?</p> <p>8. What was the feedback and ideas put forward in relation to compensation packages to leave the industry?</p> <p>9. Has a report been finalised / when will it be?</p>			
111	SRM/AFMA	Macdonald	Northern Prawn Management Plan	<p>Draft Northern Prawn Management Plan 2012-02-22 (submissions closed 30 January 2012)</p> <p>1. Did AFMA meet with fishing groups and anglers as part of the consultation process?</p> <p>2. How many submissions were received?</p> <p>3. What was the general feedback?</p> <p>4. Was there any feedback on how this may impact on the supply to the market?</p> <p>5. When will a report be finalised?</p>	Written		
112	SRM/AFMA	Macdonald	Fish Stocks	<p>Can the Department/AFMA give an update on fish stocks:</p> <p>1. Indian ocean tuna</p> <p>2. Sword fish</p> <p>3. Yellow fin tuna</p>	Written		
113	APD/WEA	Heffernan	WEA	<p>1. What evidence is there that abolition of WEA will help maximise the value capture of Australian wheat through the export supply chain?</p> <p>2. What evidence is there that the current performance of the supply chain is functioning efficiently, minimising transaction risk and delivering best possible returns to producers?</p>	Written		

				<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. In the context of the Australian grains export supply chain, do you recognise asymmetry that distorts the market and benefits one sector of the supply chain over another? 4. Explain how reducing transparency in the wheat supply chain can reduce risk associated with transactions, reduce risk margins and increase overall value capture of the supply chain to improve returns to producers? 5. How many export wheat cargoes, bulk and non-bulk, did not comply with contract specifications pre and/or post shipping? 6. How many export wheat cargoes were not tested and certified by the National Residue Survey? 7. How many export wheat cargoes did not meet MRL specifications? 8. What capacity currently exists to effectively monitor compliance of export wheat cargoes? How has the integrity of Australian wheat been managed and assured historically? 9. How does the US provide assurances that export wheat cargoes comply with contract specifications? 10. How might the assurance of contract specification compliance and the integrity of the varietal classification (as a means of describing milling and baking quality) of Australian wheat improve the value capture of Australian wheat? 11. What critical analysis has been done to assess how the supply chain performance could be improved to increase the net value of Australian wheat? 			
114	Agricultural Productivity Division	Colbeck	Regional Food Producers Program	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. With regard to the Regional Food Producers program further details of the money returned by the macadamia nut industry are required. During estimates it was reported that from a \$1.76 million project only \$0.193 was spent and that therefore \$1.574 million was returned. Does the money returned include interest? 2. If the \$1574 returned to the government does not include interest, why did the macadamia nut industry return \$7000 	Written		

				<p>more than the funds remaining for this project?</p> <p>3. What is the government policy on interest earned on monies held by project proponents?</p> <p>4. Has the government considered introducing marketing levies on imported products which effectively benefit from domestic marketing initiatives funded by grower levies? Please provide details of the considerations.</p>			
115	Climate Change Division	Edwards	Live cattle suspension – departmental costs	<p>1. Have all of the assistance initiatives relating to the live cattle ban from the DAFF closed? If so, what is the final cost of the month long live cattle ban? Please now summarise the total cost to the Department (and its agencies) from:</p> <p>a. Live Export Business Assistance Package:</p> <p>i. Business Assistance Payment of \$5000</p> <p>ii. Business Hardship Payment of up to \$20,000</p> <p>b. Income Recovery Subsidy</p> <p>i. Income Recovery Subsidy payments for loss of income, and</p> <p>ii. Priority assistance through Job Services Australia for those who have been retrenched as a result of the trade suspension.</p> <p>c. Access to Rural Financial Counselling Service through Rural Financial Counselling Service South Australia (RFCSSA)</p> <p>d. Subsidised Interest Rate (on loans of up to \$300 000)</p> <p>e. Grants for financial advice and training of \$5500</p> <p>For a-e, data should be supplied on:</p> <p>a. the total number of persons, companies or entities who have been approved for the varying levels of assistance</p> <p>b. the total cost of providing each type of assistance</p> <p>c. the total number of persons that were denied assistance after applying and the reason they were denied assistance</p> <p>2. Was all of the money allocated for assistance expended?</p> <p>a. If not how much is remaining for each of the funding initiatives described in questions 1-5?</p> <p>b. Does the department anticipate this money being used for future unannounced support to the northern cattle</p>	Written		

				industry?			
116	Sustainable Resources Management	Edwards	Australian Feral Camel Management Project	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. After the \$19 million under the Australian Feral Camel Management Project (managed by Nintii One Limited) is expended in 2012-13 what plans does the department have to management the ongoing feral camel problem in central Australia? 2. Does the SRM unit intend to work with Trade and Market Access or AusTrade to find a better commercial outcome for both the DAFF and the export meat industry? 3. Has the department spoken with any interested parties to slaughter feral camels in an Australian abattoir? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. If yes, who were they? 4. Has the department considered providing funding to establish mustering and holding facilities to assist any interested party in slaughtering feral camels as a part of its strategy to deal with the feral camel population and provide Aboriginal employment opportunities to the people APY Lands? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. If not, why not? b. Would the DAFF consider such a proposal if presented? 5. Has the department considered providing funding for a freight subsidy to assist an interested party in slaughtering feral camels as a part of its strategy to deal with the feral camel population? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. If not, why not? b. Would the DAFF consider such a proposal if presented with one? 6. Has the department undertaken a cost-benefit analysis of the current cull program compared with assisting any interested party in establishing a camel abattoir to slaughter feral camels? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. If not, why not? b. If so, what were the conclusions of the analysis? 7. How much has it cost to date under the Australian Feral Camel Management program to destroy each camel on a fully absorbed cost accounting basis? 	Written		

				8. Has the South Australian, Western Australian or Northern Territory Government contributed financially to this project? If so which Government(s) and how much?			
117	Transferred to SEWPAC	Edwards	Caring For Our Country – Natural Resource Management – Groundwater Monitoring	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In 2009-2010 \$56 000 was provided to the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Regional NRM Board to upgrade regional groundwater monitoring at 16 sites across the region in 2010. 2. Were you provided with feedback from the NRM Board that this was successfully completed? Can you provide a copy of the feedback you received from the AMLRNRM Board? 3. Were the upgrades completed on time and on budget? 4. What is the data is being used for and does it meet the KPIs for the initial funding hurdle? 	Written		
118	Sustainable Resource Management	Edwards	Caring For Our Country – Natural Resource Management –	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What reporting obligations do NRM Boards have with regard to the base level funding they are provided with under Caring For Our Country? 2. What reporting obligations do NRM Boards have with regard to any specific project funding they are provided with under Caring For Our Country? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. If there is a standard template or report the Board must complete, if so can this be provided? 3. Does any NRM Board site whether they have completed all <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. projects and their objectives, b. expended baseline funding provided to them? 4. What happens to any funding not spent on any specifically funded projects? 5. The NRM Boards provide Caring For Our Country with a project description – do they report back to the DAFF against quantitative targets to show that they have achieved the outcomes they set out to establish? 6. Are feedback reports provided to the Commonwealth which outline how the money was spent and the success or failure of the initiatives/projects implemented by the NRM Boards using CFOC funding? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. If so, are these publicly available? b. If no why not? c. Can you please provide the most recent feedback reports 	Written		

				<p>for all of the South Australian NRM Boards? If not why?</p> <p>d. Can the most recent Financial Reports (required under MERI) be provided for all South Australian NRM Boards? If not, why?</p> <p>e. Can the most recent MERI Plans be provided for all South Australian NRM Boards? If not, why?</p>			
119	Biosecurity - Plant	Edwards	Changes to Import Conditions for Importing Oak (Quercus), Ash (Fraxinus), Nothofagus and Acacia Timber and Timber Mouldings	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Was there any consultation with industry prior to the changes to Import Condition C19146 – Timber and Timber Mouldings / Oak (Quercus) effective from 4.4.11? 2. When was industry notified of the changes to Import Condition C19146? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Who did the department specifically notify in relation to Import Condition C19146? b. Did the department meet with any industry stakeholders around Import Condition C19146? c. Were there requests from industry to meet with the department? 3. What was the response the department received from industry? 4. Was there ever a report provided from industry? 5. Did industry provide any alternatives to the changes AQIS made to Import Condition C19146? 6. What was the department’s response to industry’s feedback on these alternatives? 7. Was there increased monitoring associated with Import Condition C19146 8. Can you provide a timeline of events from the time AQIS decided that changes were required for Import Condition C19146 up to the time the changes were active and implemented? 9. Has there been feedback or representations from industry since Import Condition C19146 was changed in 2011? 10. What were the representations? 11. Who were they from? 12. What was the DAFF’s response? 	Written		

				<p>13. If there were issues raised by industry have they been resolved? If so, how?</p> <p>14. Please explain why Import Condition C19146 requires treatment at 74 degrees Celsius for 60 minutes while Import Condition C5305 allows treatment at 60 degrees Celsius for 30 minutes under an approved import permit.</p> <p>15. Import Conditions C19146 and C5305 are not consistent with each other. Has Biosecurity/AQIS considered amending these import conditions in order to rectify this inconsistency?</p> <p>16. If not, why not? Would Biosecurity be open to consulting industry on this issue?</p> <p>17. Do you intend to revisit or review these changes at any time?</p> <p>18. What is AQIS/Bio-security's policy/procedure for industry consultation/notification when it changes an Import Condition?</p>			
120	TMAD	Edwards	Impact of AQIS – Biosecurity name change	<p>1. Has the DAFF consulted with countries importing Australian goods as to whether the change in name from AQIS to Biosecurity Australia will impact on their import regulations (which currently contain the AQIS name)?</p> <p>2. Has the DAFF had to renegotiate import protocols with an importing country due to the change in name from AQIS to Biosecurity?</p> <p>3. If yes, which countries? What were the changes to the protocols?</p>	Written		
121	APD	Edwards	What The World Wants From Australian Wheat	<p>What The World Wants From Australian Wheat Report</p> <p>1. Could the department please outline how the money was awarded for this project</p> <p>a. Was there a tender process?</p> <p>b. If so, please describe the tender process.</p> <p>2. The department co-funded this report. How much did the department contribute to the funding of the report? How much did Grain Growers contribute to the funding of the report?</p> <p>3. What were the 'deliverables' for this report?</p> <p>4. How did the department measure the success of this project?</p>	Written		

				<p>5. Has the department received any complaints about this project?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> If so what were they? Who were they from? Is there any further consultation planned? <p>6. What does the department see as being the primary benefit to the grain industry from this report?</p>			
122	APD/GRDC	Edwards	Grain Growers Limited Review of ABS/ABARES Data Collection	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> How much was the DAFF grant to GGL for the review of the ABS/ABARES data collection? Did GGL contribute any funding for this review? If so, how much? Was there a tender process for this project? If so, can you outline the tender process (including who tendered, the selection criteria and ultimately why GGL were selected)? If there was not a tender process, what were the reasons for the DAFF selecting GGL to undertake this review? GRDC is co-contributing money to this project – how much have they contributed? Was there a requirement for GGL to consult with grain growers in their review? How widely did they consult with grain growers? What has been the deliverables of this review? Was the department presented with a report from GGL on this issue? Has it been released? If not, why? What have been GGL’s main recommendations? Has the DAFF received any complaints or comments of this review? If so: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> What were the complaints? Who were they from? What was the DAFF’s response? 	Written		
123	APD/GRDC	Edwards	\$1.35m Project Broadening The Range of Fungicides Available to Cereal And Pulse	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> How many tenders have been received for this project? Who has tendered? Has the project been awarded? Will one organisation receive the entirety of the funding available or will it be split amongst a number of organisations? When do tenders close? 	Written		

			Growers	5. What does GRDC want to achieve from this project? What are the deliverables?			
124	APD/GRDC	Edwards	GRDC – Data Collection – Government’s Response to the Productivity Commission	<p>With reference to the Government’s response to Recommendation 7.1 from the Productivity Commission</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How does the GRDC respond to this recommendation? 2. Would/could/should the Government act as a facilitator to initiate a new industry data collection mechanism? 3. Is the GRDC aware of any proposals by industry to collect data? 4. What has been the industry’s response to the independent study funded by the DAFF that the Government refer to in their response to Recommendation 7.1? 	Written		
125	APD/APVMA	Edwards	Agricultural Chemicals – Spray Drift	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agricultural spray drift has been a big issue in the South Australian wine regions amongst grape growers. I understand that regulation of chemical use is primarily the domain of the states but is the APVMA doing anything about this issue? 2. Are there any talks around harmonising regulation between the states? 3. Has the APVMA had any discussions with any of the States or Territories about agricultural spray drift, within CoAG or in any other forum? 	Written		
126	APD/APVMA	Sean Edwards	Spray Drift	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is the APVMA aware of the recent collapse of SP Exports (tomato grower) in Queensland? 2. Is the APVMA aware that SP Exports was negatively impacted by two incidences of chemical spray drift? 3. Queensland does not have requirements for chemical users to have licences, permits or keep records of when chemicals have been sprayed (unless they are a commercial operator). Does this not highlight the need for national regulations relating to the application of agricultural chemical use? 	Written		
127	APD/Wine Australia	Edwards	New Audit Process	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the new audit process that a wine must undergo in order to receive export approval? 2. What wine will be required to undergo additional 	Written		

				<p>assessment? If so, who incurs the cost?</p> <p>3. “Effective immediately, exporters do not need to submit each wine and wine label for approval, unless requested to do so.” – What would prompt Wine Australia to request an export to submit a wine for approval?</p> <p>4. How will the new system put an increased emphasis on ensuring winemakers understand the workings of the international regulatory environment?</p> <p>5. What is the timetable to roll out this new process?</p> <p>6. What is the cost of implementing the new audit scheme and process?</p> <p>7. Wine Australia have stated “auditing process will be expanded” – will there be additional staff required for this? How many? At what cost? Will there be any additional cost to exporters from this new process?</p>			
128	ABARES	Heffernan	Australian Farming Land Ownership	<p>1. Do you think that the recent ABARES report on foreign ownership is sufficient?</p> <p>2. What other information would be useful in understanding the impact of foreign ownership and competition would add be useful for understanding the issues.</p> <p>3. Was the ABS survey last year as useful as 1983-84 survey?</p> <p>4. Would it add value to know the value of production under foreign control or the nationality of foreign landholders?</p> <p>5. How many farms would cost \$244 million and trigger the threshold for examination by FIRB?</p>	Written		
129	Biosecurity - Animal	Heffernan	Live Animal Exports	<p>1. What was the total take up of financial assistance offered to pastoralist and pastoral service industry during and after the live cattle suspension</p> <p>2. Was the support offered effective? How do you assess effectiveness?</p> <p>3. What ongoing assistance is being offered or is required?</p> <p>4. What aid and assistance is being offered in Indonesia to Australian invested feed lotting and slaughter businesses?</p> <p>5. What further aid or compensation is being considered by DAFF for the losses incurred by the Northern Australia</p>	Written		

				<p>pastoral industry?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. How has DAFF quantified the losses to industry participants and service providers caused by the live cattle export suspension ? 7. How is DAFF monitoring the impact of the live cattle suspension and the deleterious effect on the Australia Indonesia relationship? 8. Which ministers attended the recent Indonesian food security summit in Jakarta? Please provide details of names of Ministers & departmental staff who also attended , cost of trip, expenses, etc 9. Who from DAFF executive advised the minister correctly and in accordance with policy recommending the suspension of live cattle to Indonesia? 10. What is DAFF's current position on continuing live export trade to Indonesia? 11. How is DAFF assisting with the proposed private development of a abattoir south of Darwin, if what assistance is being offered? 12. What financial and infrastructure assistance and support is DAFF providing for the abattoir development in Northern Aust? 13. Who in DAFF is monitoring the Northern Australia cattle industry? 			
130	Agricultural Productivity Division	Heffernan	GM Wheat	<p>The Grain Growers report 'What The World Wants From Australian Wheat' found that "Genetically modified (GM) wheat ... is still widely regarded as not acceptable," in all our wheat export and domestic markets "for the foreseeable future." In view of this will the Department outline and provide the following information:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What economic studies the government will undertake on the impacts of the planned release of commercial GM wheat on export trade and local sales of wheat and other grain products? 2. What is the effect that the release of GM wheat would have on Australian farmers and the Australian economy? Please 	Written		

				<p>provide DAFF's policy.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. When will such economic studies be published and presented to the parliament, farmers and Australian citizens for open public discussion and debate? 4. In light of likely long-term market resistance to commercial GM wheat here and abroad, when will DAFF commission a review of publicly funded GM wheat research and development? 5. In particular, when will DAFF commission a study of the costs and benefits of public R&D resources spent on GM wheat over the past 10 years, taking into account the poor prospects world-wide of marketing GM wheat? 6. Will the government sign and ratify the Cartagena Biosafety Protocol to the United Nations convention on Biological Diversity (already ratified by some 160 countries), before any commercial licensing of GM wheat? If yes, when? Please provide details. 			
131	Biosecurity - Animal	Heffernan	Porcine Gelatine	<p>Calcium Bolus Extra (CBE), a livestock supplement is imported and produced from Netherlands. AQIS released a permit condition declaration stating that only pig skin gelatine would be accepted.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why was it deemed that pig skin gelatine was acceptable and bone or trotters were not? Who made this decision, when was this decision made? what was the rationale behind it and what information was relied on to make the decision? 2. How many tonnes of uncooked pig meat are imported annually into Australia from overseas countries? Please provide details for past 3 financial years. 3. What is the difference in possible animal/human contamination risk between uncooked pig meat and refined porcine gelatine? 4. If porcine gelatine is commonly used overseas and is accepted under international food standards why did AQIS decide that it was unacceptable in Australia? 	Written		

132	Biosecurity - Policy	Heffernan	Myrtle Rust	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Are you aware that major koala Habitat has been affected by Myrtle rust? Has anyone investigated the impact on our Koala populations? 2. The state governments are reporting <i>Rhodomomyrtus psidioides</i>, <i>Rhodamnia maideniana</i>, <i>Rhodamnia angustifolia</i>, and <i>Gossia gonociada</i> are all rare and endangered species being devastated by Myrtle Rust. Is the Commonwealth aware of this and what has been the department's response? 3. Has any of the \$1.5 million allocated for Myrtle rust management been spent? Provide details on what this money has been spent on. 4. Have there been any strategies developed to monitor the spread of the disease? 5. Has there been any coordinated public information and education strategy? 6. Has there been any coordination of knowledge and expertise of Myrtle rust? 7. Has there been any code of practice for the sale, transport and handling of diseased plants? 8. Has there been any research done on how long the rust can survive on clothing or methods to minimise spread? 9. Has there been any research done on the effectiveness of the chemical controls available to manage the disease? 10. What resources are being applied to monitoring the disease? 11. What can you tell us about the outbreak in Victoria? 12. Are you aware that scientists have discussed replanting native forest species? 13. When the NMG first met to discuss the recent outbreak were members given access to the BRS internal report on Guava rust? 14. Has the Minister visited a Myrtle rust site to experience first hand the impacts of the disease? If so When? 15. Has the head of Biosecurity Australia visited a Myrtle rust site to experience first hand the impacts of the disease? If so When? 	Written		
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133	Biosecurity - Plant	Heffernan	Dimethoate	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Has the banning of certain dimethoate uses had an impact on our exports? 2. Will the banning of dimethoate impact on Australia's ability to export to the Heinz factory that has been moved from Girgarre Victoria to New Zealand. 	Written		
134	Biosecurity - Plant	Heffernan	New Zealand Apples	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide an update on the number and size of apple consignments that have been approved or imported to Australia? 2. Provide an update on the number of apple consignments that have been rejected for importation to Australia, the size of the rejected consignments and the reason for rejection. 3. What remedial action has been done since initial rejections? 4. A staff member was quoted in New Zealand as saying that consignments are rejected all the time for different import items. Is this the case? 5. What are the 10 import permits that have triggered the most rejections in the last 12 months? 6. What were the reasons for the rejections and what remedial action was taken after the rejections? 	Written		
135	Biosecurity - Plant	Heffernan	AAO Certificates	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. When were the changes made from the old AA certificate to the new AAO? 2. How was this changes publicised? 3. Is there an information pack available as to how to conduct the change from the old system to the new? 4. What advice does AQIS give to companies to help transition into the new system? 5. Is it advisable for companies to wait until the new system is in place rather than doing the full AA in the old system? 6. Are companies able to operate under the old AA system ad finitum? 7. Can the Process Management System be changed from 01/11/2011? If not, what is the ramifications of this and was this made clear to companies? 8. Why can't the PMS be changed under the new system? 	Written		

136	APD/APVMA	Heffernan	Diuron	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is the no-use period currently prescribed in the diuron suspension permit likely to appear on the new label conditions? 2. What scientific data supported the no-use period of 5 December 2011 to 31 March 2012 that appears on the diuron suspension permit? 3. What information and data would APVMA require to ensure a no-use period does not appear on the new label conditions for diuron? 4. The one week period of notice given to sugarcane growers and end-users of diuron provided little time for them to schedule the application of diuron as part of their weed management strategy that meets the appropriate crop cycle and weather conditions. What wasn't more notice provided? 5. Spot spraying which targets specific grass problem spots on farm, is an effective weed management tool used in integrated weed management systems in the sugarcane industry. Why aren't growers able to use this effective tool under the suspension permit and is this likely to continue on the new label conditions? 6. CANEGROWERS in their submission on diuron to the APVMA have demonstrated that diuron at a rate of 1.8kg active per hectare per year is industry best practice. This rate is half the label rate and is used by more than 80% of the industry. Is the rate of 1.8kg likely to remain on the new label conditions? 	Written		
137	Finance & Business Support	Colbeck	Efficiency Dividend	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide a copy of the plan to achieve the efficiency dividend. 2. Are the co-ordinated procurement arrangements finalised? 3. If so, please provide details. 	Written		
138	Finance & Business Support	Colbeck	Efficiency Dividend	<p>QON 138 October 2011 asked for specific details of the impact, in practical terms, of the efficiency dividend for each of the departmental divisions, including Corporate Finance Division, Biosecurity Services Group, Agricultural Productivity, ABARES, APVMA, AFMA and Sustainable Resource Management. We received a response for AFMA</p>	Written		

				and APVMA but no-one else. Please provide requested information of the other divisions.			
139	Finance & Business Support	Colbeck	Contractors	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide a breakdown by departmental division of how the \$29 million spent on contractors in 2010 – 11 was made up. 2. With regard to the "specific skills" the department needed to bring in - what skills were lacking from the department? 3. Are these skills still lacking from the department? 	Written		
140	Finance & Business Support	Colbeck	Expiring Programs	QON 138 October 2011 asked for details of all expiring programs. We were provided with a list of expired programs. Please provide the information requested in October ie all EXPIRING programs.	Written		
141	Government Division	Colbeck	Women on Government Boards	QON 144 October 2011 asked about the strategies that were in place to increase the number of women on Government appointed Boards and Councils. This was not answered. Provide details of the strategies in place to increase the number of women on Government appointed Boards and Councils.	Written		
142	Government Division	Colbeck	Release of additional Estimates Briefings	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. QON 145 October 2011 asked how requests for creation of redacted versions of materials are assessed. This question was not answered, other than to say the specific request that had been made was "considered an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources". Please answer the question, that is, how are requests for the creation of redacted versions of materials assessed? 2. How is the decision that something is "considered an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources" reached? 3. Is it just the number of hours it takes to do the work? 4. What other criteria applied to the consideration of such requests? 5. How can the Government claim 200 hours to create a redacted version of the material provided to the Minister for Additional Estimates an "unreasonable diversion of 	Written		

				resources for the department" when it has spent 708.25 hours to creating a redacted version of the Incoming Government Brief?			
143	Information Services	Colbeck	Mobile Phones, Blackberries and iPads	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many mobile phones does the Department currently have? 2. How many Blackberries (or similar devices) and ipads does the Department currently have? 	Written		
144	Finance & Business Support	Colbeck	Procurement Program	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In response to QON 137 October 2011, the Government advised that the Department of Finance and Deregulation (Finance) were overseeing the coordinated procurement program and that "the department has not conducted any analysis of the impact of coordinated procurement on individual divisions". If impacts cannot be analysed by individual divisions, how is the Government going to demonstrate achievement of the efficiency dividend by division? 2. Is there an intention to undertake an analysis of the impact of coordinated procurement at divisional or departmental level? 	Written		
145	Finance & Business Support	Colbeck	Underspend in 2011-12	<p>In response to QON 176 May 2011 the department identified \$3.5 million underspend in 2010-11 "primarily the result of the implementation of the Export Certification Reform Package". In response to QON 142 October 2011 the department advised that this underspend would be expended in 2011-12.</p> <p>What was the reason for the original underspend and what was/will the money spent on in 2011-12?</p>			
146	Government Division	Colbeck	Social Media	The answer to QON 2 October 2011 indicated that the Social Media Policy would be completed "this calendar year". This has been on the agenda since Additional Estimates February			

				2011. Has the Social Media Policy now been completed? Provide a copy.			
147	People & Service Delivery	Colbeck	BSG Redundancies	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide details of all personnel that have taken redundancies from the Biosecurity Services Group in the last two financial years. 2. What, if any, conditions applied to the redundancies? 	Written		
148	Biosecurity Food	Colbeck	AQIS Authorised Officers	Provide a list of all current AQIS Authorised Officers and the scope of their authorisation.	Written		
149	TMAD	Colbeck	Overseas Travel by Minister	<p>For all overseas travel undertaken by Minister Ludwig since Supplementary Estimates, provide details of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. the countries visited, b. topics of conversation / negotiation and c. outcomes for Australian primary producers / agrifood businesses. 	Written		
150	People & Service Delivery	Colbeck	Staffing	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many permanent staff recruited this FYTD? 2. What classification are these staff? 3. How many temporary positions exist or have been created this FYTD? 4. This FYTD, how many employees have been employed on contract and what is the average length of their employment period? 	Written		
151	People & Service Delivery	Colbeck	Staffing	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many permanent staff recruited for the year 2010-11? 2. What classification are these staff? 3. How many temporary positions exist or have been created for the year 2010-11? 4. For the year 2010-11, how many employees have been employed on contract and what is the average length of their employment period? 	Written		

152	Finance & Business Support	Colbeck	Staffing	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Are there any plans for staff reduction? If so, please advise details ie. reduction target, how this will be achieved, services/programs to be cut etc. 2. If there are plans for staff reductions, please give the reason why these are happening. 	Written		
153	Finance & Business Support	Colbeck	Efficiency Dividend	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How has the efficiency dividend been implemented? 2. Please list where and what spending has been reduced to meet the efficiency dividend. 	Written		
154	Government Division	Colbeck	Government Advertising	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What was the total cost of all advertising for 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11? 2. What advertising – Campaign and Non-Campaign – did the Department/Agency undertake in 2011-12? Provide details of each advertising, including the program the advertising was for, the total spend and the business that provided the advertising services. 3. Did the Department of Finance and Deregulation provide any advice about the advertising? Provide details of each advertising item. 4. Did the Advertising comply with the Guidelines on Information and Advertising Campaigns by Australian Government Departments and Agencies (March 2010)? Provide the details for each advertising item. 5. Provide details for any other communications program, including details of the program, the total spend and the business that provided the communication services. 6. What advertising – Campaign and Non-Campaign – and other communications programs is the Department/Agency undertaking, or are planning to undertake? 	Written		
155	Finance &	Colbeck	Hospitality and	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the Department/Agency's hospitality spend for the 	Written		

	Business Support		Entertainment	<p>year 2010-11? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events.</p> <p>2. For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total hospitality spend for the year 2010-11. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event.</p> <p>3. What is the Department's entertainment spend for the year 2010-11? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events.</p> <p>4. For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, please detail total entertainment spend for the year 2010-11. Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event.</p> <p>5. What hospitality spend is the Department/Agency's planning on spending? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events.</p> <p>6. For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, what hospitality spend is currently being planned for? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event.</p> <p>7. What entertainment spend is the Department/Agency's planning on spending? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events.</p> <p>8. For each Minister and Parliamentary Secretary office, what entertainment spend is currently being planned for? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event.</p>			
156	Government Division	Colbeck	Board Appointments	<p>1. What is the gender ratio on each board and across the portfolio?</p> <p>2. Detail any board appointments for the year 2010-11.</p> <p>3. Please detail any board appointments for the FYTD.</p>	Written		
157	Finance & Business Support	Colbeck	Grants	Has the Department complied with interim requirements relating to the publication of discretionary grants?	Written		
158	Government Division	Colbeck	Freedom of Information	<p>1. Has the Department/agency received any advice on how to respond to FOI requests?</p> <p>2. What was the total cost to the department to process FOI</p>	Written		

				<p>requests for 2009-10 and 2010-11?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. What is the total cost to the department to process FOI requests FYTD? 4. How many FOI requests did the Department receive for the financial year 2009-10 and 2010-11? For each financial year, how many requests were denied and how many were granted? Did the department fail to meet the processing times outlined in the FOI Act for any requests? If so, how many? Do any of these requests remain outstanding? 5. How many conclusive certificates have been issued in relation to FOI requests for the year 2010-11? 6. How many FOI requests has the Department received for this FYTD? How many requests have been denied and how many have been granted? Has the department failed to meet the processing times outlined in the FOI Act for any requests? If so, how many? Do any of these requests remain outstanding? 7. How many conclusive certificates have been issued in relation to FOI requests for this FYTD? 			
159	Government Division	Colbeck	Community Cabinets	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What was the cost of Ministers travel and expenses for the Community Cabinet meetings held for the year 2010-11? 2. How many Ministerial Staff travelled with the Minister for the Community Cabinet meetings for the year 2010-11? What was the total cost of this travel? 3. How many Departmental officers travelled with the Minister for the Community Cabinet meetings for the year 2010-11? What was the total cost of this travel? 4. What was the total cost to the Department and the Ministers office for the Community Cabinet meetings for the year 2010-11? 5. What was the cost of Ministers travel and expenses for the Community Cabinet meetings held this FYTD? 6. How many Ministerial Staff travelled with the Minister for the Community Cabinet meetings held this FYTD? What was the total cost of this travel? 7. How many Departmental officers travelled with the Minister 	Written		

				<p>for the Community Cabinet meetings held this FYTD? What was the total cost of this travel?</p> <p>8. What was the total cost to the Department and the Ministers office for the Community Cabinet meetings held this FYTD?</p>			
160	Government Division	Colbeck	Reviews	<p>For the year 2010-11:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many Reviews were being undertaken by all departments and agencies in each portfolio? 2. When will each of these reviews be concluded? 3. What reviews have been concluded? 4. Which of these reviews has been provided to Government? 5. When will the Government be responding to the respective reviews that have been completed? 6. What is the estimated cost of each of these Reviews? <p>For this financial year to date:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What reviews are planned? 2. When will each of these reviews be concluded? 3. What reviews have been concluded this FYTD? 4. Which of these reviews has been provided to Government? 5. When will the Government be responding to the respective reviews that have been completed? 6. What is the estimated cost of each of these Reviews? 	Written		
161	Finance & Business Support	Colbeck	Consultancies	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many consultancies were undertaken in 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10? 2. How many consultancies were undertaken in 2010-11? Identify the name of the consultant, the subject matter of the consultancy, the duration and cost of the arrangement, and the method of procurement (ie. open tender, direct source, etc). Also include total value for all consultancies. 3. Were there any changes to any of the portfolio's tenders in 2010-11? Detail any changes 4. How many consultancies have been undertaken or are underway this FYTD? Identify the name of the consultant, the subject matter of the consultancy, the duration and cost of the arrangement, and the method of procurement (ie. open 	Written		

				<p>tender, direct source, etc). Also include total value for all consultancies.</p> <p>5. Does each department and agency stand by its current tenders on the Austenders website? Have any changes or corrections been made for any tenders advertised on to Government Tenders website (www.tenders.gov.au) for tenders advertised this financial year? Explain. Are up to date with reporting requirements?</p> <p>6. How many consultancies are planned for this calendar year? Have these been published in your Annual Procurement Plan (APP) on the AusTender website and if not why not? In each case please identify the subject matter, duration, cost and method of procurement as above, and the name of the consultant if known.</p>			
162	Government Division	Colbeck	Media Monitoring	<p>1. What was the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to the Minister's office for 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10?</p> <p>2. What was the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to the Minister's office for the year 2010-11?</p> <p>a) Which agency or agencies provided these services?</p> <p>b) What is the estimated budget to provide this same services for the year 2011-12?</p> <p>c) What has been spent providing these services FYTD?</p> <p>3. What was the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to the Department and its agencies for the year 2010-11?</p> <p>4. Which agency or agencies provided these services?</p> <p>5. What is the estimated budget to provide this same services for the year 2011-12?</p> <p>6. What has been spent providing these services FYTD?</p>	Written		

163	Government Division	Colbeck	Social Media	Has there been any changes to department and agency social media or protocols about staff access and useage of Youtube; online social media, such as Facebook, MySpace and Twitter; and access to online discussions forums and blogs since May 2011? Please explain.	Written		
164	Finance & Business Support	Colbeck	Contractors	<p>Since May 2011:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Has the department/agency ever employed Hawker Britton in any capacity or is it considering employing Hawker Britton? If yes, provide details. 2. Has the department/agency ever employed Shannon's Way in any capacity or is it considering employing Shannon's Way? If yes, provide details. 3. Has the department/agency ever employed John Utting & UMR Research Group in any capacity or is it considering employing John Utting & UMR Research Group? If yes, provide details. 4. Has the department/agency ever employed McCann-Erickson in any capacity or is it considering employing McCann-Erickson? If yes, provide details. 5. Has the department/agency ever employed Cutting Edge in any capacity or is it considering employing Cutting Edge? If yes, provide details. 6. Has the department/agency ever employed Ikon Communications in any capacity or is it considering employing Ikon Communications? If yes, provide details. 7. Has the department/agency ever employed CMAX Communications in any capacity or is it considering employing CMAX Communications? If yes, provide details. 8. Has the department/agency ever employed Boston Consulting Group in any capacity or is it considering employing Boston Consulting Group? If yes, provide details. 9. Has the department/agency ever employed McKinsey & Company in any capacity or is it considering employing McKinsey & Company? If yes, provide details. 	Written		

165	Finance & Business Support	Colbeck	Grants	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Could the Department provide a list of all discretionary grants, including ad hoc and one-off grants for the year 2010-11? Please provide details of the recipients, the intended use of the grants and what locations have benefited from the grants. 2. Could the Department provide a list of all discretionary grants, including ad hoc and one-off grants FYTD? Please provide details of the recipients, the intended use of the grants and what locations have benefited from the grants. 3. Has the Department complied with interim requirements relating to the publication of discretionary grants? 	Written		
166	Government Division	Colbeck	Commissioned Reports	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many reports were commissioned by the government in your portfolio in 2007-08, 2008-09, and 2009-10? 2. How many Reports have been commissioned by the Government in your portfolio for the year 2010-11? Please provide details of each report including date commissioned, date report handed to Government, date of public release, Terms of Reference and Committee members. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) How much did each report cost? How many departmental staff were involved in each report and at what level? b) What is the current status of each report? When is the Government intending to respond to these reports? 3. How many Reports have been commissioned by the Government in your portfolio FYTD? Please provide details of each report including date commissioned, date report handed to Government, date of public release, Terms of Reference and Committee members. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) How much did each report cost/or is estimated to cost? How many departmental staff were involved in each report and at what level? b) What is the current status of each report? When is the Government intending to respond to these reports? 	Written		

167	Finance & Business Support	Colbeck	Government Payments of Accounts	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. For the year 2010-11, did the department/agency paid its accounts to contractors/consultants etc in accordance with Government policy in terms of time for payment (i.e.within 30 days)? If not, why not, and what has been the timeframe for payment of accounts? Please provide a breakdown, average statistics etc as appropriate to give insight into how this issue is being approached.) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) For accounts not paid within 30 days, was interest being paid on overdue amounts and if so how much has been paid by the portfolio/department agency for the current financial year and the previous financial year? b) Where interest is being paid, what rate of interest is being paid and how is this rate determined? 2. For the FYTD, has the department/agency paid its accounts to contractors/consultants etc in accordance with Government policy in terms of time for payment (i.e.within 30 days)? If not, why not, and what has been the timeframe for payment of accounts? Please provide a breakdown, average statistics etc as appropriate to give insight into how this issue is being approached.) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) For accounts not paid within 30 days, is interest being paid on overdue amounts and if so how much has been paid by the portfolio/department agency for the current financial year and the previous financial year? b) Where interest is being paid, what rate of interest is being paid and how is this rate determined? 	Written		
168	Government Division	Colbeck	Government Stationary Requirements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How much was spent by each department and agency on the government (Ministers/Parliamentary Secretaries) stationery requirements in your portfolio (i.e. paper, envelopes, with compliments slips) in 2010-11? 2. What is the estimated cost for 2011-12? 	Written		
169	Finance & Business Support	Colbeck	Media Subscriptions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Does your department or agencies within your portfolio subscribe to pay TV (for example Foxtel)? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) If yes, please provide the reason why, the cost and what 	Written		

				<p>channels.</p> <p>b) What was the cost for 2010-11?</p> <p>c) What is the estimated cost for 2011-12?</p> <p>2. Does your department or agencies within your portfolio subscribe to newspapers?</p> <p>a) If yes, please provide the reason why, the cost and what newspapers.</p> <p>b) What was the cost for 2010-11?</p> <p>c) What is the estimated cost for 2011-12?</p> <p>3. Does your department or agencies within your portfolio subscribe to magazines?</p> <p>a) If yes, please provide the reason why, the cost and what magazines.</p> <p>b) What was the cost for 2010-11?</p> <p>c) What is the estimated cost for 2011-12?</p>			
170	Government Division	Colbeck	Travel Costs	<p>1. For the year 2010-11, please detail all travel (itemised separately,) undertaken by your portfolio Minister and Parliamentary Secretaries. Include details of what the travel was for, what cost was spent on travel (including travel type – i.e. business airfare), accommodation, security, food, beverages (alcohol listed separately), gifts, entertainment, and all other expenses.</p> <p>2. For the year 2010-11, please provide the same information (itemised separately) for any Minister and Parliamentary staff that accompanied the Minister and Parliamentary Secretary on their travel and include a similar breakdown of the costs incurred by or on behalf of those staff.</p> <p>3. For the year 2010-11, please provide the same information (itemised separately) for Departmental officers that accompanied the Minister and Parliamentary Secretary on their travel and include a similar breakdown of the costs incurred by or on behalf of those staff.</p> <p>4. For the year 2010-11, please detail all travel (itemised separately) undertaken by employees of each department and agency within each portfolio. Include details of what the travel was for, what cost was spent on travel (including</p>	Written		

				<p>travel type – i.e. business airfare), accommodation, security, food, beverages (alcohol listed separately), gifts, entertainment, and all other expenses.</p> <p>5. For the FYTD, please detail all travel (itemised separately) undertaken by your portfolio Minister and Parliamentary Secretaries. Include details of what the travel was for, what cost was spent on travel (including travel type – i.e. business airfare), accommodation, security, food, beverages (alcohol listed separately), gifts, entertainment, and all other expenses.</p> <p>6. For the FYTD, please provide the same information (itemised separately) for any Minister and Parliamentary staff that accompanied the Minister and Parliamentary Secretary on their travel and include a similar breakdown of the costs incurred by or on behalf of those staff.</p> <p>7. For the FYTD, please provide the same information (itemised separately) for Departmental officers that accompanied the Minister and Parliamentary Secretary on their travel and include a similar breakdown of the costs incurred by or on behalf of those staff.</p> <p>8. For the year FYTD, please detail all travel (itemised separately) undertaken by employees of each department and agency within each portfolio. Include details of what the travel was for, what cost was spent on travel (including travel type – i.e. business airfare), accommodation, security, food, beverages (alcohol listed separately), gifts, entertainment, and all other expenses.</p>			
171	Finance & Business Support	Colbeck	Legal Costs	<p>1. What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services for the year 2010-11 within the department and agency? Please provide a list of each service and costs.</p> <p>2. What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services for the year 2010-11 from the Australian Government Solicitor? Please provide a list of each service and costs.</p> <p>3. What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services for the year 2010-11 from private firms?</p>	Written		

				<p>Please provide a list of each service and costs.</p> <p>4. What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services for the year 2010-11 from other sources? Please provide a list of each service and costs.</p> <p>5. What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services FYTD within the department and agency? Please provide a list of each service and costs.</p> <p>6. What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services FYTD from the Australian Government Solicitor? Please provide a list of each service and costs.</p> <p>7. What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services FYTD from private firms? Please provide a list of each service and costs.</p> <p>8. What sum did each portfolio department and agency spend on legal services FYTD from other sources? Please provide a list of each service and costs.</p>			
172	People &Service Delivery	Colbeck	Education Expenses	<p>1. For the year 2010-11, detail all education expenses (i.e. in house courses and tertiary studies) for each portfolio department and agency. Include what type of course, the total cost, cost per participant, how many participants and the amount of study leave granted to each participant.</p> <p>2. For the FYTD, detail all education expenses (i.e. in house courses and tertiary studies) for each portfolio department and agency. Include what type of course, the total cost, cost per participant, how many participants and the amount of study leave granted to each participant.</p>	Written		
173	People &Service Delivery	Colbeck	Executive Coaching and Leadership Training	<p>In relation to the purchase of executive coaching and/or other leadership training services purchased by each portfolio department and agency, please provide the following information for the year 2010-11:</p> <p>1. Total spending on these services</p> <p>2. The number of employees offered these services and their employment classification</p> <p>3. The number of employees who have utilised these services,</p>	Written		

				<p>their employment classification and how much study leave each employee was granted</p> <p>4. The names of all service providers engaged</p> <p>For each service purchased form a provider listed under (4), please provide:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) The name and nature of the service purchased b) Whether the service is one-on-one or group based c) The number of employees who received the service and their employment classification d) The total number of hours involved for all employees e) The total amount spent on the service f) A description of the fees charged (i.e. per hour, complete package) <p>Where a service was provided at any location other than the department or agency's own premises, please provide:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. The location used ii. The number of employees who took part on each occasion iii. The total number of hours involved for all employees who took part iv. Any costs the department or agency's incurred to use the location 			
174	People & Service Delivery	Colbeck	Executive Coaching and Leadership Training	<p>In relation to the purchase of executive coaching and/or other leadership training services purchased by each portfolio department and agency, please provide the following information FYTD:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Total spending on these services 2. The number of employees offered these services and their employment classification 3. The number of employees who have utilised these services, their employment classification and how much study leave each employee was granted 4. The names of all service providers engaged <p>For each service purchased form a provider listed under (4), please provide:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) The name and nature of the service purchased 	Written		

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b) Whether the service is one-on-one or group based c) The number of employees who received the service and their employment classification d) The total number of hours involved for all employees e) The total amount spent on the service f) A description of the fees charged (i.e. per hour, complete package) <p>Where a service was provided at any location other than the department or agency's own premises, please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The location used ii. The number of employees who took part on each occasion iii. The total number of hours involved for all employees who took part iv. Any costs the department or agency's incurred to use the location 			
175	Finance & Business Support	Colbeck	Paid parental leave for staff	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Please list how many staff in each portfolio department and agency are eligible to receive payments under the Government's Paid Parental Leave scheme? 2. For the year 2010-11 list which portfolio department and agencies are providing its employees with payments under the Government's Paid Parental Leave scheme? Please list how many staff are in receipt of these payments. 3. For the FYTD list which portfolio department and agencies are providing its employees with payments under the Government's Paid Parental Leave scheme? Please list how many staff are in receipt of these payments. 	Written		
176	Government Division	Colbeck	Training for the Minister and Parliamentary Secretary	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How much is spent on training for Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries in your portfolio? Itemise each training, cost and for which Minister and/or Parliamentary Secretary the training was for. 2. What is the total training costs for all Government and Parliamentary Secretaries provided by the Department of Finance and Deregulation? List each training, the cost and 	Written		

				each participant.			
177	Finance & Business Support	Colbeck	Corporate Cars	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How cars are owned by each department and agency in your portfolio? 2. Where is the car/s located? 3. What is the car/s used for? 4. What is the cost of each car for 2010-11? 5. How far did each car travel in 2010-11? 	Written		
178	Finance & Business Support	Colbeck	Taxi Costs	How much did each department/agency spend on taxis in 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11? Provide a breakdown of each business group in each department/agency.	Written		
179	Finance & Business Support	Colbeck	Credit Cards	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many staff in each department and agency have a corporate credit card? What is their classification? 2. What action is taken if the corporate credit card is misused? 3. How is corporate credit card use monitored? 4. What happens if misuse of a corporate credit card is discovered? 5. Have any instances of corporate credit card misuse have been discovered? List staff classification and what the misuse was, and the action taken. 6. What action is taken to prevent corporate credit card misuse? 	Written		
180	Climate Change Division	Colbeck	Carbon Price Legislation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How was your department/agency consulted in the development of the carbon price package? 2. Is the carbon price package consistent with all of the policies in your department/agency? 	Written		
181	Government Division	Colbeck	Communications	How many communications people are there in each of your departments and agencies. List their classification, position description, services they provide to Ministers and/or Parliamentary Secretaries and any guidelines they must	Written		

				adhere to.			
182	Biosecurity - Plant	Colbeck	Dimethoate	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Has the banning of certain uses of dimethoate had an impact on exports from Australia? 2. Will the banning of dimethoate impact on Australia's ability to export processing tomatoes to New Zealand? 	Written		
183	APD/APVMA	Colbeck	Better Regulation Reforms	With regard to the Better Regulation reforms, given the current policy is to recover 60% of the assessment costs through a levy on sales, what efforts have been taken to engage the end users in the review – ie farmers?	Written		
184	APD/APVMA	Colbeck	Quarter 2 2011/12 Data Provided	The efficiency data provided by the APVMA for Quarter 2 2011/12 shows some classes of application are only being processed on time 37% of the time. Why is this and where are the blockages in the process?	Written		
185	APD/APVMA	Colbeck	Registration System	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Has the Department assessed in real dollar terms the costs and benefits to the registration system from implementation of the proposed reforms? What are they? 2. The process appears to be significantly behind schedule now, when is the Government planning to introduce the final version of the bill into parliament and surely the proposed operation date of the new system of July 1 this year is no longer realistic? 3. As part of the proposed reform has there been consideration of whether the APVMA are undertaking unnecessary assessment work or whether the APVMA is assessing and requiring registration of products that is just not necessary, for example does the APVMA actually need to be assessing pool and spa chemical products? 4. In light of the proposed significant increase in costs of the registration system under the Government's proposal as it stands, how will the potential impacts on crucial existing 	Written		

				<p>products used by Australia's farmers be mitigated?</p> <p>5. What consideration has been given to the potential negative impact on the introduction of new products?</p> <p>6. Has the Department of Finance been involved in this process, particularly the proposed cost recovery model and associated industry fees and levies?</p> <p>7. If so have they provided any advice about whether this model is in line with other government agencies cost recovery systems or relevant policies on cost recovery models?</p> <p>8. Has DAFF or the APVMA used any consultants as part of this process in terms of assessing costs or efficiencies or other related work.</p> <p>9. If so what work has been done and by which consultants or firms, what was the cost of that work and have the reports of those consultants been made public?</p>			
186	APD/APVMA	Colbeck	APVMA and Similar Overseas Regulators	<p>1. What assessments or analysis has the APVMA done to compare itself and its efficiency against similar regulators overseas, for example comparing the total number of applications that APVMA assesses and processes each year relative to its total annual budget compared to the similar regulator in the US and their total budget against applications processed?</p> <p>2. Is it correct that APVMA uses Dept of Environment and Dept of Health to provide relevant analysis of products as part of the registration assessment process? Is that done via a service level agreement mechanism?</p> <p>3. Are the service agreements between APVMA and DSEWPAC/DOHA available publicly? If not, why not?</p>	Written		
187	APD/APVMA	Colbeck	Continuation Application Scheme	<p>1. The reforms include a proposal for a continuation application scheme, exactly what is that seeking to achieve and what will be the outcome of the continuation application scheme?</p> <p>2. Under the continuation scheme, chemicals will be continued for between 7 and 15 years. What is the difference?</p>	Written		

				3. How will products be prioritised for continuation under the proposed scheme?			
188	APD/APVMA	Colbeck	Risk Framework	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Schedule 1 talks about making decisions by using risk based frameworks. Are these risk frameworks available? 2. When will the accompanying risk frameworks for the proposed new registration system be released? Will there be opportunities for consultation on those frameworks? 3. Schedule 1 of the exposure bill proposes making trade and efficacy requirements for applications optional in some circumstances, what is the specific basis that will be used for determining whether this data will, and will not, be required? 	Written		
189	Biosecurity - Plant	Colbeck	NZ Apples	Provide an update on apple trade date from New Zealand from when importation commenced to the current date – including import tonnages and the number of rejections.	Written		
190	Biosecurity - Plant	Colbeck	Apple Imports from China	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. APAL were promised information about apple imports from China “when the last consignment comes in”. Please provide this information. 2. If he "last consignment" has not yet been received, advise when this is expected and when the data will be available. 	Written		
191	Biosecurity - Food	Colbeck	Export Reform	When will the Government undertake an independent study that examines whether there are legitimate costs to government as promised by former Agriculture Minister Tony Burke, agreed to in the House of Reps on 13 October 2011 and requested in QON 187 October 2011?	Written		
192	Biosecurity - Food	Colbeck	Exporter Fund on New Markets	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How is the government funding the opening of new markets Minister Ludwig talked about in the Potatoes Australia article December / January 2011? 2. Is this through the funds collected from exporters? 	Written		

193	TMAD	Colbeck	Open New Markets	What are the qualifications and experience of the government negotiators that are sent in to “open new markets”? What is their success rate?	Written		
194	Biosecurity - Food	Colbeck	Meat Industry Export Reforms	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. QON 188 October 2011 asked about the consultation process for the meat export reforms. The response was that all of the small export operators were consulted regarding the reform process. Given the backlash from export businesses, do you consider the consultation to have been effective? 2. The response to QON 188 October 2011 indicated that "all registered export meat businesses" were notified by email of the final fee structure. Does "all registered export meat businesses" include storage, casings, further processors? 3. If not, how and when were these businesses notified of the changes? How and when were they consulted? 	Written		
195	Biosecurity - Plant	Colbeck	Horticultural MTF	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Given the Horticultural MTF had not met for 6 months, what was the urgency of calling a meeting just before Christmas? 2. How many MTF members attended the December 2011 meeting? 3. What decisions were reached at that meeting? 4. Has a new fee model for horticulture been signed off? 	Written		
196	Biosecurity - Plant	Colbeck	Kiwi Canker	1. QON 179 October 2011 asked how the department could be confident that simply asking people if they had been on farms in the last 30 days was considered sufficient check to protect Australia from Kiwi canker. The answer was insufficient. Explain how the department can be confident that the current quarantine checks taking place on entry to Australia are sufficient, given the often very cursory questioning of incoming passengers who have declared that they have been on a farm or rural area outside Australia in	Written		

				<p>the previous 30 days?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. What is the point of asking this question? What actions flow from it? For example, how should inspectors react if someone has been on a kiwi fruit or even apple orchard in NZ in the last 30 days? 3. A staff member was quoted in New Zealand as saying that consignments are rejected all the time for different import items. Is this the case? 			
197	Quarantine Operations	Colbeck	Import Permit Rejections	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are the 10 import permits that have triggered the most rejections in the last 12 months? 2. What were the reasons for the rejections and what remedial action was taken after the rejections? 	Written		
198	Biosecurity - Policy	Colbeck	Myrtle Rust	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is the Government any better briefed on the financial and environmental impacts of Myrtle rust and on the potential impact to forestry than it was in October 2011? Provide details of any additional information on impacts. 2. Provide a copy of the map which shows the distribution of Myrtaceae species in Australia 3. Provide a copy of the map of expected distribution of the disease? 4. Are you aware that major koala Habitat has been affected by Myrtle rust? Has anyone investigated the impact on our Koala populations? 5. The state governments are reporting a number of rare and endangered species are being devastated by Myrtle Rust. (Rhodomyrtus psidioides, Rhodamnia maideniana, Rhodamnia angustifolia, and Gossia gonociada) by Myrtle Rust. Is the Commonwealth aware of this and what has been the department's response? 6. Has any of the \$1.5 million allocated for Myrtle rust management been spent? 7. Have any strategies developed on monitoring the spread of the disease? 8. Has there been any coordinated public information and education strategy? 	Written		

				9. Has there been any coordination of knowledge and expertise of Myrtle rust?			
199	Biosecurity - Animal	Rhiannon	Pithing in Phillipines	<p>In MLA's submission to the Farmer Review it was revealed that in the Philippines – pithing – whereby animals have a rod stabbed into their brain (through the skull or eye socket) whilst fully conscious prior to slaughter – is common.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In recognition of the fact that pithing is not only contrary to World Organisation for animal health (OIE) guidelines but is extremely cruel, what action have government officials taken to ensure no Australian animals in the Philippines are subjected to this practice? 2. Have export permits been granted for the Philippines since this came to light last August? 3. Does DAFF intend to grant export permits to the Philippines in the future? 4. Given government officials have provided evidence during estimate hearings consistently stating that importing countries must meet OIE guidelines – why have exports to the Philippines continued in full knowledge that the killing practices are completely contrary to OIE? 	Written		
200	Biosecurity - Animal	Rhiannon	Location of Indonesia abattoirs	<p>I understand 31 facilities have been approved under the new Exporter Supply Chain Assurance System (ESCAS) to process Australian cattle in Indonesia.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Can you provide me with the names and locations of each facility? If not, why not, given all industry representative bodies and departmental officers have access to this information? 2. Can you confirm whether any of the facilities visited by Four Corners, Animals Australia or the industry/veterinary delegation that visited Indonesia in May 2010 are currently approved to process Australian cattle? If so, please list them. 	Written		

201	Biosecurity - Animal	Rhiannon	Mark 1 Restraint Boxes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Can you provide an update on the rollout of the modified Mark 1 restraint box? 2. How many Mark 1 boxes have been modified so far and what locations are these in? 3. Is the Mark 1 restraint box still being used in its original form? If so in what locations? 4. How many of these boxes incorporate stunning? 	Written		
202	Biosecurity - Animal	Rhiannon	New Supply Chain	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Will the new ESCAS ensure the individual identification of sheep? 2. Given the tracking of individual animals throughout the entire supply chain is the key element of the new ESCAS, hasn't the system then failed before it's even begun? 3. How can the welfare of individual animals be assured throughout the supply chain if there is no system in place to allow individual sheep to be tracked? 4. In his review of the live export trade – Bill Farmer noted that the industry advised that sheep counts in particular are often inaccurate and contribute to errors in calculating mortality rates. How then can this supposed system of reconciliation be relied upon to provide accurate traceability of sheep throughout the supply chain? 	Written		
203	Biosecurity - Animal	Rhiannon	Lack Of Public Info About New Supply Chain System	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Given the government has stated that public accountability and transparency is integral to the new regulatory framework, how can the lack of detail made public in the Exporter Supply Chain Assurance System (ESCAS) audit reports on the DAFF website be justified? 2. Why is there such little information on the government's website? 3. Do you have plans to add further information to the website? If so what will be added? 4. How often will the website be updated? 5. How can parliamentarians, animal welfare groups and the public have any assurance that exporters are meeting their obligations under the new system if little more than the date 	Written		

				<p>of the audit and the company doing the auditing is made available publicly?</p> <p>6. What happens if Exporter Supply Chain Assurance System (ESCAS) is breached?</p> <p>7. Under the new export control orders, what ramifications are there for exporters who breach the new ESCAS?</p>			
204	Biosecurity - Animal	Rhiannon	The Farmer Review	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In relation to the Farmer review recommendations, when is the overdue and delayed review by LESAG (Live Export Standards Advisory Group) of ASEL (Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock) intended to begin? 2. The Farmer Review recommended that the current inspection regime at the port of Fremantle be reviewed to ensure thorough individual animals being inspected portside for fitness. When will this review begin and how long is it intended to take? 3. In light of evidence to the Farmer Review of on board veterinarians being pressured by exporters, the Review recommended daily reports be submitted simultaneously to the exporter and AQIS. Is this occurring? 4. Given simultaneous reporting was already supposed to be in place prior to the Farmer Review – when will this begin? 	Written		
205	Biosecurity - Animal	Rhiannon	First Hand Experience Of Abattoirs	Has any departmental officer or government official been inside any Indonesian abattoirs? Please provide details of the date, nature of visits and who was involved.	Written		
206	Agricultural Productivity Division	Rhiannon	Labelling	<p>The Australia and New Zealand Food Regulation Ministerial Council released their review of the Blewett Labelling Review late last year. Where consumer values issues relating to food production method labelling was concerned, the Council considered in the main that self-regulation was the best way forward.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Are there any plans for further NATIONAL steps to be taken on food labelling reform? 	Written		

				2. For example, would you consider legislating to achieve labelling that meets consumer expectations?			
207	Agricultural Productivity Division	Rhiannon	Factory farming and the environment	<p>1. The DAFF Budget makes appropriation for almost \$75,000 in payments to the industry marketing body under the Australian Meat and Livestock Industry Act 1997 (Cth). This compares to \$24,000 in payments to the industry research body under the same Act. With climate change and feeding our planet two very important issues, wouldn't it be of greater benefit to the Australian public for DAFF to appropriate a greater amount to industry research into such issues, rather than investing so much into marketing environmentally damaging products? If not, why not?</p> <p>2. Is DAFF considering appropriating more funds to research in these issues? If not why not?</p>	Written		
208	Sustainable Resource Management	Rhiannon	Key Performance Indicators	<p>1. The DAFF Budget provides for Key Performance Indicators for Sustainable Management - Natural Resources, which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Increase the number of land managers, primary producers and fishers who have improved their knowledge and skills in natural resource management and adoption of sustainable management practices; b. Increase the number of primary producers who have adopted activities that contribute to the conservation and protection of biodiversity; c. Increase the number of hectares of land that are under cropping, horticulture and grazing with improved practices. <p>2. Do these KPIs include free range or organic systems as means of 'Sustainable Management'?</p> <p>3. If not, has DAFF made any attempts to increase, or at least to encourage, the use of free range or organic systems?</p>	Written		

209	Agricultural Productivity Division	Rhiannon	National Food Plan	<p>DAFF's Budget includes as a program objective 'Support the development of a National Food Plan'.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How will DAFF's input into this plan take into account the disproportionate contribution of animal agriculture to climate change, especially in light of DAFF's program objective 1.1 'Tackling Climate Change'? 2. Will DAFF's input into the National Food Plan highlight the broader imperative to move away from intensive animal production in order to mitigate climate change? 	Written		
210	TMAD	Rhiannon	Revision of international trading standards	<p>There is mention in the DAFF Budget of 'assisting in development of international trading standards'.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Are these standards currently being developed? 2. If so, by whom and what is the current status of these standards? 	Written		
211	Biosecurity - Animal	Rhiannon	Animal welfare and industry competitiveness	<p>A program deliverable of DAFF is regulations that meet the needs of the industry to maintain industry competitiveness. A Key Performance Indicator of this deliverable is 'timely contribution to the development of Australian animal welfare standards and guidelines for production and non-production animals.'</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Are there any plans for enforceable regulations (legislation, codes of practice) to be put in place? 2. Are there any plans for enforceable regulations that meet the needs of the animals and community expectations? <p>DAFF's overall 'departmental objective in 2011-12 and beyond' is, inter alia, to 'improve the productivity...of Australia's agricultural industries...'. Another program objective of DAFF is to 'assist primary producers to develop a more competitive, internationally focused and self-reliant meat and livestock industry'.</p>	Written		

				<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. What will be the impact of the imperative to productivity and competitiveness on animal welfare, given the program objective identified in DAFF's Budget to 'improve animal welfare outcomes'? 4. Is it envisaged that there will be further intensification of the meat and livestock industry to achieve increased productivity and competitiveness? 5. Will assistance be provided to develop more free range / organic systems? 			
212	Agricultural Productivity Division	Rhiannon	Funding of animal industries	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What level of funding has the government indirectly expended on supporting or assisting the Australian pig meat industry? Please provide a breakdown of figures as to the areas/producers/organisations to which the support was directed. 2. What level of funding has the government indirectly expended on supporting or assisting the Australian chicken meat industry? Please provide a breakdown of figures as to the areas/producers/organisations to which the support was directed. 3. What level of funding has the government indirectly expended on supporting or assisting the Australian feed lotting industry? Please provide a breakdown of figures as to the areas/producers/organisations to which the support was directed. 4. How much funding does DAFF allocate / provide for the marketing, promotion, maintenance and development of Australia's kangaroo industry in Australia and overseas? 	Written		
213	Biosecurity - Animal	Rhiannon	DAFF Animal welfare funding	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In relation to the Animal Welfare branch within DAFF – what funding is provided for its operations annually? 2. What funding is earmarked for its operations over the next financial year? 	Written		

214	Biosecurity – Animal	Rhiannon	Outstanding question on AAWAC	<p>Senator Rhiannon asked about the newly formed AAWAC and the skill set of the committee – Did you set out the skills you were looking for when you determined the people you were selecting? Can you provide that to the committee please?</p> <p>The response given by Mr Murnane was “Yes, Senator. I will have to provide that to you on notice”. Has this information been provided yet?</p>	Written		
215	Biosecurity - Animal	Rhiannon	Allowing Sheep To Deal With Heat Stress	<p>1. When is the heat stress software model in relation to stocking density on ship going to be reviewed and put into place, given AQIS high mortality report recommendations have been indicating this has been desperately needed for several years.</p> <p>Senator Rhiannon asked the following in respect of DAFF funding through the Live Trade Animal Welfare Partnership program – I understand that the DAFF budget statements provide that 100 per cent of funds have been allocated to deliver capacity building and technical assistance projects to improve animal welfare in the Middle East and south-east Asian countries through the Live Trade Animal Welfare Partnership Program. Could you provide details on how these funds have been allocated between those countries?</p> <p>The response given by Ms Evans was “All of the information about the projects that I have been allocated is publicly available on the web. I am happy to provide that for you in hard copy this afternoon?”</p> <p>2. Can you provide the links to that information? DAFF's Budget includes as 'Key Performance Indicators': 'Meet with meat and livestock industry representatives to discuss policy issues.'</p> <p>3. Given that 'improved animal welfare outcomes' are identified as an associated program objective, and highlighted in the DAFF Annual Report 2010-11 as a key priority, will DAFF also consult with representatives from animal welfare bodies, such as Voiceless, to discuss policy issues, so as to ensure</p>	Written		

				<p>that its priority to improve animal welfare can be achieved? DAFF's budget includes the program deliverable 'High quality and timely policy advice to the minister on animal welfare issues'.</p> <p>4. Will DAFF appropriately advise the Minister of the overwhelming scientific evidence that intensive farming has a serious negative impact on animal welfare, as well as on environmental sustainability?</p> <p>5. Will DAFF advise the Minister of the progress being made in many comparable international legislatures and jurisdictions including the EU, the UK, New Zealand and some US states to phase out intensive methods of animal production such as sow stalls and battery cages?</p> <p>6. Will DAFF advise the Minister that the decision by APL to phase out sow stalls by 2017 should appropriately be embodied in the Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals - Pigs Third Edition, both to support the industry and help ensure compliance?</p>			
216	Finance & Business Support	Rhiannon	AQIS Budget Item	<p>DAFF's Budget estimates an amount of \$285,203,000 as a 2011-12 expense for the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service Special Account.</p> <p>1. What do these expenses entail?</p> <p>2. How was this figure arrived at?</p>	Written		
217	APD/RIRDC	Rhiannon	Factory Farming and the Environment	<p>The RIRDC Budget includes focus areas such as 'productivity growth', 'climate change and variability' and 'new and emerging industries'.</p> <p>1. Are there any plans to research the effects of factory farming on climate change, with consideration of alternative practices such as free range and organic systems?</p>	Written		
218	APD/RIRDC	Rhiannon	Chickens	<p>A deliverable of RIRDC is to 'develop and implement a detailed plan for future chicken meat nutrition research and development'.</p> <p>1. What exactly will this entail?</p>	Written		

				<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Will research into improved farming practices, with a phase out of battery cages be included in the plan? 3. If not, why not? 			
219	APD/RIRDC	Rhiannon	Kangaroos	How much funding does RIRDC allocate / provide for the marketing, promotion, maintenance and development of Australia's kangaroo industry in Australia and overseas?	Written		
220	Transferred to SEWPAC	Rhiannon	Forestry - Biodiversity Fund	<p>Under the biodiversity fund, it is stated that "Funding will also be available to support conservation and management actions associated with the cessation of logging in publicly owned native forests."</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Can you confirm that this remains the case? 2. Do any state forest agencies or state governments have made applications and inquiries to the biodiversity fund on the basis of accessing funding in order to implement a cessation of logging in publicly owned native forests? 	Written		
221	Climate Change Division	Rhiannon	Forestry – Funding and Grants	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Was any federal funding been provided to Timber Communities Australia in 2009, 2010, 2011? If so please detail. What grants or other payments have been made in 2009, 2020 and 2011 to Forest and Wood Products Australia (FWPA), including for The Wood. Naturally Better.™ Partner Program, WoodSolutions™ or Wood. Naturally Better.™ 2. What was the amount and purpose of each payment? 3. What conditions or guidelines were attached to each payment? 4. What grants or other payments were made in 2009, 2020 and 2011 to Planet Ark including for The Wood. Naturally Better.™ Partner Program, WoodSolutions™ or Wood. Naturally Better.™ 5. What was the amount and purpose of each payment? 6. What conditions or guidelines were attached to each 	Written		

				<p>payment?</p> <p>7. What grants or other payments were made to the National Association of Forest Industries (NAFI) and its successor, the Australia Forest Products Association (AFPA) in 2009, 2010 and 2011. Under what program was each grant made. What were the conditions or guidelines attached to each grant.</p> <p>8. What is the total amount of the diesel Fuel Rebate claimed by the logging industry in each of the past 4 years by RFA region?</p> <p>9. Is GST payable on wood pellets a. for domestic heating, b. for industrial/ commercial purposes c. for animal litter?</p>			
222	Transferred to DCCEE	Rhiannon	Forestry – Biomass	<p>1. What are the current guidelines for each federal Government Renewable Energy program in relation to native forest biomass?</p> <p>2. What is the definition used in each instance?</p>	Written		
223	Climate Change Division	Rhiannon	Forestry – Wood Pellets	<p>1. Has any federal government funding been sought, offered or obtained for a wood pellet plant at the South East Fibre Exports woodchip mill at Eden. If so, can you provide details?</p> <p>2. Has any federal government funding been sought, offered or obtained for wood fired power station to be established at the Eden woodchip mill by the Nippon paper subsidiary, South East Fibre Exports? If so, can you please provide details.</p> <p>3. Are there any export controls over the export of wood pellets made from native forest wood, for whole logs or woodchips destined to be burned for electricity?</p> <p>4. Has DAFF calculated what amounts of compensation would be payable in each RFA area, were those agreements to be cancelled for any reason?</p> <p>5. Has DAFF sought legal advice on whether compensation would be payable in the event that the collapse of the native forest woodchip market made Regional Forest Agreements no longer viable?</p> <p>6. Has the Government calculated the greenhouse gas</p>	Written		

				<p>emissions from native forest logging in Australia, including from soil disturbance. If so, please provide breakdown figures for each State. If not, why not?</p> <p>7. On what basis has the Government decided to continue to exempt Regional Forest Agreement areas from the EPBC Act, in the absence of any evidence from the Hawke review, RFA reviews or independent scientific research that there is no concern about threatened species?</p>			
224	Climate Change Division	Rhiannon	Forestry – Koalas	<p>1. In light of the pending announcement whether or not he will list the koala nationally as a threatened species and in view of the fact threatened species in RFA area areas are not protected by the EPBC Act, will the Minister review measures that might be taken, particularly in SE NSW where virtually all remaining koalas are in State forests and are directly threatened by logging, and where Integrated Forestry Operations Approvals have clearly been inadequate to protect them?</p>	Written		
225	Climate Change Division	Rhiannon	Regional Forest Agreements	<p>At the last ALP national conference, ALP policy was changed to remove support for the Regional Forest Agreements.</p> <p>1. Is there any plan to adopt this ALP position as government policy and if so when?</p> <p>2. If not, why not?</p>	Written		
226	Climate Change Division	Rhiannon	Forestry – forestry services payments and matching payments	<p>Table 1.1 DAFF Additional Budget Statement</p> <p>Forestry Marketing and Research and Development Services Act 2007: Payments and matching payments to an industry services body and Commonwealth administration expenses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> forestry service payments - spent by the company on activities benefiting the Australian forestry industry. matching payments - spent by the company on research and development benefiting the Australian forestry 	Written		

				<p>industry and the Australian community.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many funding contracts are there currently under the Act? 2. How many new funding contracts were issued this year so far? What were they? 3. What proportion of the 2001-12 budget of \$10,186,000 was to be spent for forestry services payments and for matching payments? 4. Of the forestry services payments, what proportion has funded promotional activities and research and development? 5. Do any current funding contracts relate to biomass projects? Please name the body(s) involved. 6. Do any current funding contracts relate to woodchipping projects? Please name the body(s) involved. 7. Can you detail what the increase in budget from last year to this year of \$622K relates to? 			
227	Climate Change Division	Rhiannon	Forestry - Forest and Wood Products Australia (FWPA):	<p>I note that the FWPA funding agreement that started on 3 September 2007 finishes on 30 June 2012.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Has the performance review required before the expiry of the next funding agreement been completed? 2. Where is it up to? 3. When will it be completed? 4. When will it be made publicly available? <p>The DAFF submission to the Productivity Commission review of RDCs 2010 stated there is a process underway to standardise and strengthen the accountability requirements of the funding agreement as renewal of each Industry Owned Corporation's agreement is negotiated (see Section 5.4.a).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. What process has been undertaken for FWPA? 6. How will FWPA standardise and strengthen the accountability requirements of its funding agreement? 	Written		

228	Sustainable Resource Management	Waters	The State of the Environment 2011	<p>The State of the Environment 2011 report card assessments on invasive species found high to very high impacts of invasive species on most aspects of the environment with deteriorating or unclear trends. The impacts of invasive species on biodiversity ('very high'), the trend ('deteriorating') and the management effectiveness ('ineffective') received the worst possible ratings. Please advise:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Whether the Department has undertaken or contributed to an assessment of what reforms in its biosecurity functions will be needed to achieve a more positive report card for invasive species by the 2016 State of the Environment report? b. What measures the Department intends to take beyond existing measures and programs to stop and reverse the threats of invasive species on biodiversity? 	Written		
229	Sustainable Resource Management	Waters	Australia's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2010–2030	<p>Australia's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2010–2030 (ABCS) has 10 targets, one of which (Target 7) is focused on invasive species, and aims to, by 2015, reduce by at least 10% the impacts of invasive species on threatened species and ecological communities in terrestrial, aquatic and marine environments. Further, the foreword to the Strategy indicates that the goal by 2030 is to reduce the impacts of invasive species "so that their impact on biodiversity is negligible".</p> <p>In relation to these goals please advise:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Has the Department undertaken any planning to date about how these two targets will be met within the biosecurity functions managed by the Department? 2. Has the Department advised the Minister on what will be required to achieve these two targets, in terms of both actions and/or resourcing? 3. Has the Department or the Minister initiated or been involved in any joint government biosecurity processes to determine how the 2015 biodiversity target and 2030 goal for 	Written		

				<p>invasive species will be met? What are the results of this activity?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Has the Department undertaken or contributed to a baseline assessment against which the 2015 target will be assessed? 5. Will any such assessment be publicly released? If so, when? 6. If no such assessment has been or is planned to be undertaken, has not been done, how will it be done? 7. Has the Department undertaken or contributed to any other assessment undertaken in the last 5 years of the actions and resources needed to address biosecurity threats to biodiversity? If so please advise on the scope / purpose of these assessments. 8. Has the Minister sought advice from his Biosecurity Advisory Council about any matter relating to the biodiversity 2015 target? On what issues has advice has been sought? 9. On what environmental matters more broadly has the Minister sought advice from his Biosecurity Advisory Council? 			
230	Biosecurity - Policy	Waters	National Environmental Biosecurity Response Agreement	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Please explain the rationale behind the decision-making process of the NEBRA. Why has it been decided that decisions by the National Management Group to implement a national biosecurity incident response are to be by consensus? 2. Does this mean that any one of eight governments represented, or affected industries involved in the National Management Group can veto a response? 3. Does this apply even when particular state or territory governments won't be required to fund the response because they are not likely to be affected by the respective pest or disease? 4. How does this decision-making process affect our national capacity to respond effectively to new environmental incursions? 5. Why is there no role under the NEBRA for the environmental NGO and community sector? 	Written		

			<ol style="list-style-type: none">6. Why do 'affected industries' qualify either as voting members or non-voting members, and yet environmental and community sectors are not able to participate?7. Why are the ENGO and community sector not recognised as affected parties, when they regularly are the land managers and participants in control programs who have to manage these threats if they are not eradicated, and who have a clearly recognised stake in the effective management of environmental threats?8. How is the exclusion of environmental and community sectors from the NEBRA justified given the recognition in the Beale review report and other processes of the importance of community participation in biosecurity and the clear interest these sectors have in the environmental pests and diseases about which the NEBRA is concerned?9. Given the clear public interest in effective implementation of the NEBRA, what steps will be taken to ensure the transparency and public accountability of decision-making?10. Will the government make a commitment to publish all risk assessments, technical feasibility analyses, cost-benefit analyses, and national biosecurity incident response plans that are the basis of decision-making in a timely fashion? Please advise the Government's position in relation to each document/ assessment type listed. If timely publication is not intended please advise why not.11. Despite the pivotal place of the precautionary principle in environmental decision-making, there is no mention of the principle in the NEBRA and the decision-making process seems antithetical to that principle.12. Given the recognition by the Government of the importance of the precautionary principle in environmental decision-making, please advise how it will be implemented in decision-making about biosecurity incursions.13. How is the NEBRA framework, particularly the requirement for consensus which creates the potential for any one party, including an industry body, to veto a response, consistent taking a precautionary approach?			
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231	Biosecurity - Plant	Boswell	Import of Bananas	Has there been any application for the importation of Bananas?	Written		
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