

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates May 2013
Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: 100

Division/Agency: Biosecurity Policy Division
Topic: Plant and Animal Health – Reduced Funding
Proof Hansard page: 42 (27/05/2013)

Senator NASH asked:

Senator NASH: Can you take on notice for me—and if you can try and get it back to me before we move into any election period or anything like that it would be very much appreciated—a breakdown of exactly where you think those efficiencies are going to be and what types of things you expect? I understand the broadbrush thing you are saying, but could you give me a bit more detail. If those efficiencies were there, why wouldn't they have already been done?

Answer:

Efficiencies in funding for animal and plant programs will be achieved with minimal impact on the delivery of the program's core activities. Funding of \$194.3 million over four years will remain available under the program to support the delivery of the program's objectives.

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Topic: Australia's risk estimation matrix
Proof Hansard page: 104, 107-108 (27/05/2013)

ACTING CHAIR asked:

Dr Findlay: No, they do not use a transparent approach to combining likelihood and consequence. There is an ACERA report that outlines the basis for each of the US, New Zealand, Canadian and EU approaches. It might be useful information for the committee if I provide that to you.

...

Mr Metcalfe: ACERA has existed for seven years. They are acknowledged to be experts in this area, and essentially this letter is a very short summary of their work. I absolutely accept it at face value. I am sure Professor Burgman would not sign it and, indeed, Associate Professor Nicholson would not sign it unless they thought it was right. I am happy for them to be made available to the committee.

Senator NASH: I do not have any argument with that at all. Just because something has existed for a period of time does not make it best practice. In this place we have worked on that!

ACTING CHAIR: Could you table the report that has been referred to in respect to the US, Canada and New Zealand?

Dr V Findlay: It is publicly available, but I am more than happy to send you the link.

ACTING CHAIR: Thank you.

Dr Findlay: It is publicly available, but I am more than happy to send you the link.

Answer:

Below is the link to the final report by the Australian Centre of Excellence for Risk Analysis (ACERA) titled "Comparing Biosecurity Risk Assessment Systems".

http://www.acera.unimelb.edu.au/materials/endorsed/0709_final-report.pdf