

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

**Question: 75**

**Division/Agency:** Agricultural Productivity Division/Meat and Livestock Australia

**Topic:** Spyglass Program

**Proof Hansard page:** 50 - 51 (27/05/2013)

**Senator MACDONALD asked:**

**Senator IAN MACDONALD:** Is MLA or the department aware of a collaboration between James Cook University and the Queensland department called the Spyglass program? Is either of you familiar with that at all?

Mr Hansen: The Spyglass research facility is a collaboration between those two, yes.

Senator IAN MACDONALD: Is the Commonwealth putting any specific resources into that collaboration? It is a supply chain development approach, as I understand it.

**Mr Hansen:** I would have to take on notice; we might be providing something through our R&D portfolio. We have no core funding into that facility. It is only projects that we fund. If there are projects that are going to be conducted through the facility they would be the only dollars that we have going through Spyglass. I am happy to take that on notice and come back to you with a list of anything that we are doing there.

**Answer:**

Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA) is aware of discussions between James Cook University and the Queensland Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry on the development of the Spyglass program. At this stage MLA is not contributing any funding towards this program.

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**Question:** 76

**Division/Agency:** Agricultural Productivity Division/Meat and Livestock Australia

**Topic:** GM-Free Food For Cattle

**Proof Hansard page:** 53 (27/05/2013)

**Senator WHISH-WILSON asked:**

**Senator WHISH-WILSON:** Mr Hansen, you were talking about certain attributes that were attractive to buyers in markets such as China. You also mentioned the use of genetics on animals, plants and turf. Can you just quickly outline what markets there are for us in GM-free food for cattle, for example?

**Mr Hansen:** I would have to take that one on notice.

**Senator WHISH-WILSON:** Are you aware of any markets that are GM-free in cattle for Australian beef or for Tasmanian beef?

**Mr Hansen:** Not that I am aware of, purely because the industry has no GM product as such. I would have to take it on notice.

**Answer:**

There is no evidence of import restrictions on meat, egg and dairy products derived from animals fed genetically modified (GM) feed in any of Australia's major export markets. These markets do not require mandatory labelling of products from animals fed GM stockfeed.

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**Question: 77**

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**Senator WHISH-WILSON asked:**

**Senator WHISH-WILSON:** Are you aware of any markets that are GM-free in cattle for Australian beef or for Tasmanian beef?

**Answer:**

There is no requirement for genetically modified free cattle in any of Australia's major export markets.