

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

The committee met on Tuesday, 28 May 2013 from 9.00 am to 10.40 pm.

The committee called:

- the department and agencies of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry portfolio, including the Australian Pesticide and Veterinary Medicines Authority, the Australian Fisheries Management Authority, Australian Wool Innovation Limited, Climate Change, the Australian Egg Corporation and the Grains Research and Development Corporation.

Among other issues, the following matters were discussed:

- citrus and the use of carbendazim in imported juice concentrates
- the Fisheries Management Review, including the identified research gaps and the cost of the review
- fish stocks in the Coral Sea
- the reallocation of Landcare funding
- budget expenditure, including revenue sources in relation to Australian Wool Innovation Ltd and the Grains Research and Development Corporation
- the baiting of wild dogs in relation to sheep management
- the shearing of sheep at the Canberra Show
- the culling of wild camels
- the funding arrangements for the Tasmanian Forests Agreement and the department's interaction with the Tasmanian Government and the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities
- the Regional Forests Agreements
- the funding of rural financial counsellors, including the number of counsellors in the Gulf region of Australia
- the response from states in relation to the concessional loan scheme announced as a part of the farm finance package
- the carbon farming initiative and budget appropriations
- illegal logging regulations
- the stocking levels of free range eggs
- the National Food Plan, including budget expenditure, and the overall strategy and consultation process
- the reopening of the kangaroo meat trade with Russia
- emergency funding for SPC Ardmona
- memoranda of understanding with international trading partners in relation to the live animal export trade
- the free trade agreements with China and South Korea, specifically in relation to the beef market.