

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

The committee met on Monday, 25 May 2015 from 9 am until 10.44 pm.

The committee called the Department and agencies of the Agriculture portfolio, including the Interim Inspector General of Biosecurity, the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC), the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC), the Rural Industries and Research Development Corporation (RIRDC) and the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA).

Among other issues, the following matters were discussed:

- the potential relocation from Canberra of various R&D corporations, including the GRDC, FRDC, RIRDC and APVMA,
- the progress of the Agricultural White Paper,
- the review currently being undertaken of Departmental FOI handling practices,
- the management of entry processes for passengers entering Australia on private aircraft,
- follow-up actions relating to the recent outbreak of the hepatitis A virus linked to frozen berries imported from China, and
- action taken by the Department in relation to the recent concerns with the live export cattle trade to Vietnam.