



Senate Rural & Regional Affairs & Transport Legislation Committee
Supplementary Estimates 2022-23
Tuesday, 14 February 2023
Daily summary

The committee met from 9:00am until 11:00pm.

The committee called:

- Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
- Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority
- Australian Wool Innovations
- Australian Fisheries Management Authority
- Fisheries Research and Development Corporation
- Meat & Livestock Australia

The committee did not get to the following agencies:

- Grains Research and Development Corporation
- Inspector-General of Live Animal Exports
- Inspector-General of Biosecurity
- Australian Meat Processing Corporation

Agrifutures Australia and Horticulture Innovations were released.

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry:

- Global Methane Pledge
- Sustainable farming practices
- Phase out of live sheep exports - Consultations with state governments and timeline
- Kuwait trade agreement - Food security
- Contracted consultants and skills provided
- Senator FOI requests during 2021-22
- WFH arrangements - staff locations
- Office relocation and introduction of collaborative workspaces
- Substitute public holidays - Australia Day staff arrangements
- Referendum response and corporate act
- Agricultural supply chain issues - Consultation with other departments
- National food security strategy consideration
- Inflation across agricultural products
- Fertiliser supplies and increased cost
- Soil Health program
- Independent office for Inspector General of Animal Welfare appointment/advertisement
- Animal welfare strategy
- Domestic regulation of the organics industry - progress update, discussion paper, advisory group, certification process
- UK free trade agreement - Recent delegation to UK
- Geographical Indications and EU negotiations
- Common agricultural policy - subsidies
- VIC Forests - violation of environmental laws and investigations
- Maryvale paper mill

- Regional Forest agreement - ministerial intervention
- Plantation timber - expansion
- Native forestry industry - election commitment
- Forestry industry roundtable/ strategic partnership - Progress update
- Acceleration of the process improvement program.
- Centre of Excellence - establishment at/with the University of Tasmania.
- Abolition of the Forest Industry Advisory Council.
- Workforce issues in agriculture, migration cap, Pacific Australia Labour Mobility, Employment White Paper, migration review
- Market access negotiations
- Trade barriers, trade diversification and restrictions on exports to China
- Certification of organics - certifications for export exist, but no domestic organics standard
- Feedback from consultation on the Regulation Impact Statement re: organics
- October 2022-23 Budget measure - \$302m share of funding into organics
- US and South Korea barriers, Australia-India Free Trade Agreement negotiations
- Calls to members of FIAC and discussions between the Minister and individuals
- Fertiliser input costs
- National Reconstruction Fund
- Drought funding and the future drought funding
- Land productivity and management issues for WA dairy farmers
- Australian Welfare Standards and Outcomes for Poultry
- Egg prices if caged eggs are phased out by 2026-2027 per Regulatory Impact Statement
- Labour shortages in the agricultural sector - Pacific Agriculture Labour Mobility Workplace Shortage (PALM) scheme referenced.
- Progress of PALM MOU with Vietnam
- Disrupted cargo imports due to biosecurity risks
- Brown marmorated stink bug
- Breakdown of livestock tracing funding - Sheep and goats tagging timeframe
- National traceability Hub - timeline
- International biosecurity strategy - implementation committee establishment, proposed meetings
- Detector Dogs - Increased number of dogs and handlers, increased detector capabilities,
- Commonwealth biosecurity strategy action plan release date, outcome progress
- Independent observer reports - publication timeline
- Amendment to Live export rules
- Veterinary shortages in rural practice
- Joint inter-agency taskforce of exotic animal preparedness report
- American Foul Brood - Contamination statistics, State and Territory responsibilities, endemic status
- Japanese encephalitis - Infection status by state, vaccination effectiveness, connection to feral pigs
- Rabies virus risk review in imported dogs and cats - vaccination status, quarantine process, RNATT testing
- Varroa Mite - Eradication zones, vector determination
- Fruit fly resilience package - funding profile and allocations

Australian Pesticides Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA):

- Ministers independent review
- Senior executives' termination
- Interim CEO - Appointment process and length of employment
- Staff locations and flexible working arrangements
- Staff turnover
- Japanese encephalitis – Research permits

Australian Wool Innovations (AWI):

- Meetings with Minister
- Wild dog program
- International advertising campaigns

Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA):

- Southern bluefin tuna fisheries trials – AFMA's involvement
- Fishing incidents
- Voluntary buy back scheme for Trawl sector
- Electronic monitoring of fisheries

Fisheries Research and Development Corporation:

- Invasive marine species – Sea Urchins
- Meetings with Minister
- Collaborations with commercial entities
- Consultations with Blue Economy

Meat & Livestock Australia:

- Sheep herd projections
- Labour shortages

Adjournment at 11:00pm.