



Senate Rural & Regional Affairs & Transport Legislation Committee  
Additional Estimates 2023-24  
Tuesday, 13 February 2024  
Daily Summary

The committee met from 9:01am until 10.56pm.

The committee called the following departments and agencies:

- Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
- Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority
- Australian Fisheries Management Authority
- Fisheries Research and Development Corporation
- Animal Health Australia
- The Australian Live Export Corporation (LiveCorp)
- Plant Health Australia

The committee released the following agencies:

- Wine Australia
- Australian Wool Innovation
- Inspector-General for Animal Welfare and Live Animal Exports
- Meat and Livestock Australia
- Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (AgriFutures Australia)

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry:

Corporate Matters

- Executive structure changes and substantive positions;
- Secretary and Deputy Secretary travel;
- Meetings with farmers regarding renewable energy projects;
- Ministerial travel;
- Capability review and transformation action plan;
- Departmental budget and expenditure;
- Paper procurement;
- Weather forecast accuracy for farmers; and
- Urea plant closure.

Outcome 1:

- Brett cattle class action;
- Supermarket pricing and supplier payments;
- Cost of wine production;
- Regional forestry agreements in Victoria;
- Future Drought Fund and drought preparedness;

- Methane pledge and emissions reduction on agriculture sector;
- Hemp reclassification and use for animals;
- Seaweed and consultation with FRDC;
- COP28 UAE;
- Plantation forests;
- Acceleration of wood processing program;
- Tasmanian native forestry;
- National Forest Policy Statement;
- Macquarie Harbor;
- Salmon farming industry; and
- PALM seasonal workers.

#### Outcome 2:

- MV Bahijah livestock vessel WA;
- Live export regulations;
- Red Sea shipping contingency plans;
- 100-day review update;
- Pegasus Economics review into live sheep exporting industry;
- Investigations into so-called 'cash for cruelty' incidents;
- Environmental Biosecurity Project Fund;
- Selection process for firms conducting research for the department;
- Trade and market access negotiations;
- Biosecurity Protection Levy;
- Detector dogs; and
- International screening processes.

#### Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority

- Executive and board positions;
- Clayton Utz and Matthews Review;
- Workplace culture;
- Hemp nutritional classifications and ingredient determinations;
- Ant eradication on Norfolk Island;
- Executive location and staff recruitment;
- Australia Day celebrations; and
- PFAS testing for pesticides.

#### Australian Fisheries Management Authority

- Fishing fleet restructuring;
- Climate and ecosystem improvements;
- Bottom trawl fisheries;
- School shark targeted fishing and overfishing; and
- Orange Roughy fisheries.

#### Fisheries Research and Development Corporation

- Gill Nets;

- Oxygenation projects; and
- Macquarie Harbor roadmap of actions.

#### Animal Health Australia

- Producer levy revenue; and
- Biosecurity Protection Levy.

#### Australian Livestock Export Corporation Limited (LiveCorp)

- MV Bahijah livestock vessel;
- Animal welfare misinformation;
- Brett cattle class action; and
- Levy revenue.

#### Plant Health Australia

- Member feedback on Biosecurity Protection Levy;
- Biosecurity Protection Levies impact on the deeds; and
- Membership subscription funds.

Adjournment: 10:56pm