



Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee  
Additional Estimates 2025–26  
Tuesday, 10 February 2026  
Daily summary

The committee met from 9.00am until 10.59pm.

The committee called the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry portfolio, discussing the following topics:

**Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry**

Corporate matters

- Engagement with industry bodies;
- Staffing levels;
- Efficiency dividends;
- Simplified Targeting and Enhanced Processing System;
- Bullying and harassment incidents;
- Departmental advertising costs;
- The use of artificial intelligence at the department;
- Flexible working arrangements;
- Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook item Securing the Future of Agricultural trade;
- Cost recovery implementation statements; and
- Grains Research and Development Corporation levy.

Outcome 1 – More sustainable, productive, internationally competitive and profitable Australian agricultural, food and fibre industries through policies and initiatives that promote better resource management practices, innovation, self-reliance and improved access to international markets

- Tariffs on beef exports;
- Western Australia demersal fishing ban;
- Timber imports and illegal logging;
- Resilience of Australian export markets;
- Agricultural exports and trade;
- Australian Carbon Credit Unit Scheme;
- Deer velvet market;
- Algal blooms in South Australia;
- Inspector-General of Animal Welfare and Live Animal Exports;
- Australian Animal Welfare Strategy;
- Changes to the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*;
- Sheep Industry Transition Assistance Package;
- National Drought Agreement;
- Assistance to drought-affected farmers;
- Support for wine grape growers;
- Australian Government response to the Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee's inquiry into the Australian winegrape purchases code of conduct;
- Plant based proteins naming regulations;

- Gillnet fishing in the Gulf of Carpentaria ;
- Sequestration on Agricultural Land: Impacts and Policy Trade-offs;
- 30 per cent of oceans protected by 2030 - no take zones;
- Concerns from the Australian Dairy Council on the EU Free Trade Agreement;

Outcome 2 – Safeguard Australia's animal and plant health status to maintain overseas markets and protect the economy and environment from the impact of exotic pests and diseases, through risk assessment, inspection and certification, and the implementation of emergency response arrangements for Australian agricultural, food and fibre industries

- Biosecurity concerns in the banana and prawn industries;
- Biosecurity Scientific Advisory Group;
- Rabbit biocontrol measures;
- National Biosecurity Forum;
- Lumpy skin disease outbreak in Indonesia;
- Importation of fresh cut flowers and foliage;
- Imported pomelos from Vietnam;
- Potato mop-top virus in Tasmania;

### **Portfolio agencies**

#### Australian Fisheries Management Authority

- Illegal fishing in Australian waters;
- South East Trawl Fishery structural adjustment package; and
- Commonwealth Fisheries Harvest Strategy Policy.

#### Fisheries Research and Development Corporation

- Macquarie Harbour oxygenation trial;
- RPELA shark deterrent technology; and
- Australian Government response to the Senate Environment and Communications References Committee's inquiry into climate-related marine invasive species.

#### Australian Wool Innovation

- Update on the wool industry.

#### Australia Livestock Export Corporation (LiveCorp)

- Benchmarking cost competitiveness of Australia's live cattle export supply chain.

#### Meat and Livestock Australia

- Reporting of methane emissions;
- The use of Bovaer in Australia; and
- Sources of income.

#### Dairy Australia

- Sale and consumption of raw milk;
- Importation and exportation of dairy products;
- Prosecution of Van Dairy Limited on animal cruelty charges; and

- EU free trade agreement.

Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority

- Aquaculture treatment permit for Florfenicol;
- Timeliness of pest applications; and
- The use of glyphosate.

Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (AgriFutures Australia)

- Recruitment for the position of Chair.

Grains Research and Development Corporation

- The use of glyphosate;
- Regenerative agricultural practices; and
- Financial investments and expenditure.

Regional Investment Corporation

- Marine Recovery Loan and Drought Hardship Loan.

Inspector-General of Biosecurity

- Development of a review program.

This concluded the committee's examination of the 2025-26 Additional Estimates.

Please contact the secretariat on (02) 6277 3511 or [rrat.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:rrat.sen@aph.gov.au) if you have any questions.