



Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee  
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2025–26  
Tuesday, 2 December 2025  
Daily summary

The committee met from 9.00am until 7.33pm.

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

Corporate matters

- Departure of Mr Adam Fennessy as Secretary;
- Recruitment process and commencement of the new Secretary, Ms Victoria Anderson;
- Budget efficiency measures;
- Revenue/cost recovery arrangements;
- Sustainable Trade Funding Taskforce;
- Fit and Proper Person Test;
- Costs to farmers/producers/exporters;
- Stress related absences in the department;
- Complaints relating to bullying and harassment in the department;
- Diesel fuel rebate; and
- Costs for exporting live animals.

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

- Amendments to the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999;
- The use of methane reduction additives;
- Australian Carbon Credit Unit Scheme;
- Agriculture Land Sector Plan;
- Attendance of departmental officials at COP30;
- Metrics for reporting methane levels;
- Fertiliser production and imports;
- Food Security Taskforce;
- Western rock lobster fisheries;
- Agricultural Commodities Report;
- Australian dietary guidelines;
- Regional Forests Agreement;
- Reductions in native forest logging to meet emissions reduction targets;
- Timber Fibre Strategy;
- Impacts of current and proposed environmental standards on forestry industry;
- Net zero agriculture and land sector plan land usage;
- Consistency with Paris Agreement;
- Carbon sequestration in relation to land allocation and carbon prices;
- Food security strategy;

- Land use change modelling;
- Right to veto carbon credit programs or reforestation programs under the initiative rule 2015;
- Australian Bushland Program;
- Carbon Tariffs;
- Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hubs Review;
- Significant Ecological Events Assistance Product;
- Live Sheep; and
- Live Stock Transition Assistance Projects.

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

- Spread and management plan of shot hole borer in WA;
- Update on The National Fire Ant Eradication Program;
- National Management Group reviews and funding;
- Carpet biocontrol and the National Carpet Plan;
- Progress of the Philippines request for alternative bio security measures (bananas);
- Status on assessment of buffel grass;
- Presence of 85 bird flu on Heard Island; and
- Detection of potato mop top in Victoria.

#### Regional Investment Commission

- Significant Ecological Event Assistance program (Algal Bloom).

#### Fisheries Research and Development Corporation

- Macquarie Harbour oxidation trial.

#### Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority

- Performance of major application assessments; and
- The use of florfenicol antibiotics in the Tasmanian salmon industry.

#### Inspector-General of Biosecurity

- Performance of major application assessments; and
- The use of florfenicol antibiotics in the Tasmanian salmon industry.

The Australian Fisheries Management Authority, Australian Wool Innovation Limited, Meat and Livestock Australia, and Dairy Australia were released without questions.

[This concludes the committee's examination of the 2025-26 Supplementary Budget 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.