

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

Questions on Notice

Additional Estimates, 28 February 2017

Agriculture and Water Resources Portfolio

Senate Number	Program. Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Proof Hansard page & hearing date or Written question	Date received
1	ABARES	Senator Sterle	Beef industry	In relation to the challenges facing the beef industry with Australia maintaining export competitiveness <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are the main challenges facing productivity growth both on and off farm in the red meat sector? 2. Why is it important that Australia continues to target premium markets 3. Maintaining production systems that ensure Australia's clean and green brand to ensure it can compete and distinguish itself from competitors when it cannot compete on price 4. Has the Minister sought a briefing on the challenges facing the beef industry and the processing sector more broadly 5. What is Australia's current head of cattle numbers? 6. Is there a risk that with Australia opening up more export markets that Australia may not be able to produce a consistent supply of cattle to new markets? 	Written	
2	ABARES	Senator Sterle	Economic modelling	Has the department done economic modelling with regards to the potential value of Agricultural exports to China that are currently blocked due to non-tariff trade barriers	Written	
3	Agricultural Policy Division	Senator Leyonhjelm	Corporation Law and Dairy farmers	Senator LEYONHJELM: I am less interested in the history than I am in why there should be a difference	22	

				<p>between Corporations Law and that for dairy farmers. What would prevent dairy farmers from having the same rights as shareholders in a public company?</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan: I think that would be a policy matter for the government, which it would consider if it received representations from the dairy industry. I am not aware of this proposition, which I understand in another context. I was not aware of it having been raised here, but, if it were, obviously the government would consider it.</p> <p>Senator LEYONHJELM: Would it simply be a regulation, to change it from 15 to five?</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan: It would be a legal instrument of some kind. I am not quite sure whether it is a determination, an order or a regulation, but we can give you some advice on that during the day.</p> <p>Senator LEYONHJELM: That would be fine. I will take that on notice; thank you.</p>		
4	Agricultural Policy Division	Senator Sterle	Advice to the Minister re Defence land grab issue	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Did the Minister seek a briefing on the Defence land grabs in Shoalwater Bay Training Area and Townsville Field Training Area? Is so when? 2. Did the department consult with the Defence department with regards to compulsory Defence land grabs in Shoalwater Bay Training Area and Townsville Field Training Area? 3. With regards to the Minister's letter where he claims that "the Turnbull-Joyce Government made a commitment that no one will be forced to sell their land against their will" why would the Minister reassure landholders when prior to the visit on the same day the Minister was claiming that he was talking to the highest levels and no one had told the Minister that there would be compulsory land grabs? 4. Why is there a discrepancy in the Minister's information prior to and post his visit with landholders? 5. Minister Payne has admitted that she knew about 	Written	

				compulsory land grabs prior to the 2016 election, did the Minister receive briefings from Defence about the Singapore deal prior to the 2016 election?		
5	Agricultural Policy Division	Senator Sterle	Farm Cooperatives and Collaboration Pilot Program	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. When did the pilot program officially open? 2. How many farmers have been provided expert advice and information so far? Provide detailed information on where are these farmers based across Australia and what types of businesses do they run? 3. How many famer groups across the nation have been provided expert advice and information so far? Provide detailed information on which farmer groups have been provided expert advice? 4. How has this program been promoted? At what cost? 5. How will the program be evaluated? 6. How has the panel of industry experts been selected, who are the successful applicants? 7. How can farmers submit proposals for new collaborations to the panel of industry experts? 8. How will the \$3.8 million dollars earmarked for new farmer group projects be managed? Including details about the application process, selection process, delivery of funding and assessment of the programs? 	Written	
6	Agricultural Policy Division	Senator Rhiannon	Kangaroo mass mortalities	<p>The vet also stated that "<i>implications are concerning not just for kangaroo meat industry, but the [Australian] meat industry in general.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Is there anything in the Action Plan to prevent the meat of any kangaroos shot in the regions affected by the 2016 December mortality epidemic entering the domestic or exported meat trade? b. Were commercially shot kangaroos from the affected regions prevented from entering the consumption supply chain? Please provide details of precautionary procedures enacted? <p>¹http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-12-01/rural-kangaroo-</p>	Written	

				mystery-deaths/8079490		
7	Australian Fisheries Management Authority	Senator Carol Brown	White Spot	<p>Senator CAROL BROWN: Can I confirm with the AFMA officials that they became aware of the outbreak of white spot disease only through media reporting?</p> <p>Dr Findlay: No. I think it was at about the same time as the media reporting occurred. We would have been advised by the department at about the same time that they made the statements. I would have to check the exact dates, but it was within 36 hours or something like that of it being widely reported in the media.</p>	30	
8	Australian Fisheries Management Authority	Senator Carol Brown	White Spot	<p>Senator CAROL BROWN: You have provided advice, I think you said. When was that and who did it go to?</p> <p>Dr Rayns: I would have to check the exact dates but it was over a period from December until quite recently. As the biosecurity team have been working, we have provided support for them from time to time in terms of information they have requested of us.</p>	31	
9	Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority	Senator Sterle	Staffing numbers	<p>Senator STERLE: I am sorry I interrupted Senator Brown. Could you give us an indication of the numbers currently that you are missing—if that is the way I can put it—in the residues assessment and in the pesticides assessment and to a lesser extent the environmental and health so that we can get an idea? Are we talking one or two or is it significantly more?</p> <p>Ms Arthy: I will need a note handed to me for the pesticides, but for residues there are normally eight people in that team. I think we are currently sitting at four. So we have half strength. We are trying to recruit some people in. I think we have one or two people coming in over the next few months.</p> <p>In the health area, I think we are understaffed by two people, which is two out of about 10—so, again, a fifth of the team. With environment, we should have a team of two or three but we have one person. I will just see if Mr</p>	46	

				<p>Norden, who is the head of the pesticides area, has the number or whether we need to take that one on notice and come back.</p> <p>Mr Norden: We can take that one on notice, other than to say that there are at least three of what we call portfolio directors—senior staff engaged in managing the administration and processing of applications. And then several—</p>		
10	Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority	Senator Carol Brown	Staffing breakdown	<p>Ms Arthy: I can also provide that, if you want it, by level. I have the SES, EL1 and EL2 breakdown, but we are managing this by job groupings. I can provide you with the statistics by job level if you wish.</p> <p>Senator CAROL BROWN: Could you table it? Is it able to be tabled?</p>	46	
11	Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority	Senator Rice	Staffing as of 15 February	<p>Senator RICE: How many as of the February date that you have there?</p> <p>Ms Arthy: As of 15 February, we had a head count of 92 regulatory scientists.</p> <p>Senator RICE: That does not tally at all then with the 53.</p> <p>Ms Arthy: I need to take that on notice, because of how it goes through. I suspect the numbers handed to me are what is in our establishment and not the physical number of people who are there. I will have to get some clarification of that.</p>	47	
12	Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority	Senator Carol Brown	Draft policies	<p>Senator CAROL BROWN: Is it possible to get a list of those?</p> <p>Ms Arthy: We can forward you the draft policies. I note that the draft policies are out for consultation. Consultation shuts today and then we will be going through a period of working with staff to finalise them. We are certainly happy to give you copies of the draft policy.</p>	49	

13	Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority	Senator Carol Brown	Government sign off	<p>Senator CAROL BROWN: With all of these inducements or whatever you call them and the offer to work remotely, is that just something that you do as the CEO or does it have to be ticked off by the department?</p> <p>Ms Arthy: It is my responsibility in terms of the day-to-day management and operation of the agency. The issue around doing the remote working is that it relies on our IT systems being completely rebuilt. It is that element where I need to get the signoff from government to be able to get the money to just redo our IT systems. That element needs to be signed off by government.</p> <p>Senator CAROL BROWN: So, it goes to the department and is it signed off by the minister?</p> <p>Ms Arthy: I believe it is to be signed off between the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister for Finance, but I may have to check with the department about the actual decision. I am pretty sure that is right.</p>	49	
14	Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority	Senator Carol Brown	Policy order	<p>Senator CAROL BROWN: Was any of it taken on board?</p> <p>Ms Arthy: I would have to get some advice about how to answer that, because it was part of a cabinet process. I am not meaning to be obscure.</p> <p>Senator CAROL BROWN: No, I understand.</p> <p>Ms Arthy: It is just that it is part of a lot of work that was happening at that time around the issuing of that policy order. If you want a more direct answer, I may have to take that offline and come back.</p> <p>Senator CAROL BROWN: Yes, I am happy for that to happen. In your response to that draft, did you recommend any changes?</p>	58	
15	Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority	Senator Carol Brown	Seftons	<p>Senator CAROL BROWN: How much are they being paid?</p> <p>Ms Arthy: We will have to take that one on notice. I am sorry, I just do not have that in front of me.</p> <p>Senator CAROL BROWN: Is that out of the \$25.6</p>	59-60	

				<p>million?</p> <p>Ms Arthy: Yes, it is.</p> <p>Senator CAROL BROWN: How long is their contract for?</p> <p>Ms Arthy: I am sorry, I just do not have that level of detail in front of me. I think we have got it for another couple of months just to get us through the initial phase of the relocation. But in terms of the exact date, we can certainly come back to you on notice.</p> <p>Senator CAROL BROWN: You list some of the roles that they would be undertaking. Can we get a list of exactly the roles that Seftons will be performing?</p> <p>Ms Arthy: Certainly. We can provide that to you, yes.</p> <p>Senator CAROL BROWN: And on notice you will give me the cost?</p>		
16	Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority	Senator Rice	Staffing numbers	<p>Senator RICE: Absolutely. In terms of the numbers, as you said, it may be up to 25 per cent that will go, but you are already losing staff. I am completely confused with the numbers, because the numbers that you are saying, 100 regulatory scientists, are very different to the numbers that were given to me on the question on notice.</p> <p>Ms Arthy: Yes. This is where we will have to do some reconciliation between the numbers that I am talking about today and your question on notice, which we are happy to do for you. Things change so much. We bring people in and out all of the time.</p>	62-63	
17	Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority	Senator Rice	Regulatory scientist salary	<p>Senator RICE: As to your incentives that you were talking about before, 15 per cent of the salary, what is the average salary of a regulatory scientist?</p> <p>Ms Arthy: I will have to take that one on notice. I am sorry, I just do not know.</p>	65	
18	Australian Pesticides and Veterinary	Senator Sterle	Seftons proposal	<p>Senator STERLE: Can you table the Seftons proposal?</p> <p>Ms Arthy: Yes. We will have to look at what commercial-in-confidences there are, but we will</p>	68	

	Medicines Authority			<p>certainly table what we can.</p> <p>Senator STERLE: So, this is a really big maybe. We would not have a clue or do we have some indicative cost around all of those issues that I just mentioned to you, bearing in mind you do not even know how many staff?</p> <p>Ms Arthy: It is incredibly indicative.</p> <p>Senator STERLE: Can you table that for us?</p> <p>Ms Arthy: We can provide it on notice.</p> <p>Senator STERLE: Yes. Is it easier to table it now or is there an issue?</p> <p>Ms Arthy: No. There is stuff on here; I would have to check it back.</p> <p>Senator STERLE: Do you want me to run my eye over it, firstly?</p> <p>Ms Arthy: No, it is okay. We will take it on notice.</p>		
19	Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority	Senator Griff	Staffing	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Following the July 2015 survey which looked at staff willingness to move to Armidale and/or Toowoomba, has the APVMA since conducted an additional survey of staff regarding willingness to move only to Armidale? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. If so, what were the results by category? b. If not, why not? 2. Has market testing been conducted by the APVMA on Armidale's ability to supply a work force? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. If so, what were the results? b. If not, why not? 3. At what stage is the redundancy process? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Please provide the percentage and total number of staff who have indicated they will accept a redundancy b. Please provide a breakdown of how many staff have accepted a redundancy and departed, how many have indicated they will accept a redundancy but are still working at APVMA, and what areas they are in. c. What is the total cost of the redundancy program? 	Written	

				<p>4. Please provide a breakdown of the vacant positions across APVMA by area – existing and expected due to redundancy – and advise which of these you are so far unable to fill.</p> <p>a. What impact will it have on your operations – and the ag-vet sector - if these positions remain empty?</p> <p>5. Given the current understaffing, will APVMA be able to sustain its rate of effort for registration of new agricultural and veterinary chemical products, particularly during and following relocation?</p> <p>6. APVMA has indicated it will employ remote working to overcome difficulties hiring/relocating qualified staff to Armidale. Will there be any compromise to speed or process as a result?</p> <p>a. What impact will there be to APVMA’s operations and its approvals/assessments processes if APVMA is unable to secure the required number of regulatory scientists through remote working arrangements?</p> <p>7. The following ABC article, http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-12-09/apvma-highlights-staff-shortages-barnaby-joyce-move-armidale/8107168 referred to grain growers accessing an emergency permit through APVMA to tackle a mouse plague that was ruining grain crops across NSW. The permit allowed farmers to set up mixing stations and to buy zinc phosphide to treat grain, rather than going through distribution networks. In this case, it appears APVMA’s power to quickly approve the purchase of the chemical was paramount.</p> <p>a. How will the APVMA ensure it can maintain its response times to these types of situations during and following the relocation?</p>		
20	Australian Pesticides and	Senator Sterle	APVMA relocation	1. Has the APVMA had discussions with University of New England about courses that they have identified	Written	

	Veterinary Medicines Authority			<p>as a priority to assist with the relocation of the APVMA?</p> <p>2. How does the relocation of the APVMA impact on the cost recovery arrangements currently in place at the APVMA?</p> <p>3. Will the cost of the IT strategy be a cost to industry?</p> <p>4. Will the cost of the new building be a cost to industry?</p> <p>5. Was the cost of the IT strategy included in the cabinet submission?</p> <p>6. Will industry incur any further costs related to the relocation above the operation as usual costs?</p>		
21	Australian Wool Innovation	Senator Carol Brown	Meeting with the Minister	<p>Senator CAROL BROWN: When was the last time?</p> <p>Mr Merriman: I would have to take that on notice and check for.</p>	6	
22	Australian Wool Innovation	Senator Carol Brown	Meeting with staff	<p>Mr Merriman: Well I was at the office in Armidale a month ago. I met with the minister's staff.</p> <p>Senator CAROL BROWN: Was that ministerial staff?</p> <p>Mr Merriman: I am not sure what you mean by 'ministerial'. It was Barnaby Joyce's staff in Armidale.</p> <p>Senator CAROL BROWN: Because we have electorate staff and ministerial staff.</p> <p>Mr Merriman: Again, I would have to seek some clarity on that.</p>	6	
23	Australian Wool Innovation	Senator Leyonhjelm	WoolPoll	<p>Mr McCullough: There are a number of things that happened with WoolPoll. The panel is put together, which is a regulatory requirement. There is a group of woolgrowers and independent bodies to come together. They prepare a voter information kit and all the documentation around that is published and goes out to all the woolgrowers. There is a certain amount of advertising that happens in that period. We can, on notice, provide you a ledger of precisely all of those costs if you wish. What I will say is that the cost now is about two thirds of what we inherited when we came into the job.</p>	8-9	

				<p>.....</p> <p>Mr McCullough: I think we can demonstrate we have done everything. We are working hard to lower the cost of WoolPoll.</p> <p>Senator LEYONHJELM: I am going to accept your offer of a breakdown of the cost of WoolPoll on notice and will have another talk about it in a future estimates.</p>		
24	Australian Wool Innovation	Senator Williams	Restructure	<p>Senator WILLIAMS: Nine staff left. What was the cost to the business of the restructure?</p> <p>Mr McCullough: I will take that on notice, but I can get you all of those details.</p> <p>Senator WILLIAMS: Do you have a rough idea? I will not hold you to every cent.</p> <p>Mr McCullough: I do have a rough idea.</p> <p>Senator WILLIAMS: What is your rough idea?</p> <p>Mr McCullough: It is about \$1.5 million</p> <p>Senator WILLIAMS: I accept roughly. I am not going to hold you to the exact figure.</p> <p>Mr McCullough: We will get you that on notice.</p>	10	
25	Australian Wool Innovation	Senator Williams	Redundancies	<p>Senator WILLIAMS: Just explain the redundancies with AWI then. What do you get? If we look at the Public Service, the rules for redundancy are four weeks in lieu of notice for people leaving immediately, with two weeks for each year up to the cap. Tell us about your redundancy?</p> <p>Mr McCullough: Our redundancies are along those lines. I can get you all of that on notice. There is another element—</p> <p>Senator WILLIAMS: Am I correct in understanding that in addition to AWIs I think generous redundancy policy, senior staff made redundant as part of the restructure were also paid a generous ex gratia payment up to \$100,000?</p> <p>Mr McCullough: I will get you all of the detail on notice.</p>	10	

26	Australian Wool Innovation	Senator Williams	Termination payments	<p>Senator WILLIAMS: I make the point that that these two people who I mentioned were not working for you for 44 years. One was nine years and one was 11 years respectively.</p> <p>CHAIR: Mr McCullough, do you have access to the breakdown of those payments here?</p> <p>Mr McCullough: Not here. But the breakdown of those figures has been provided to the minister only. We have that breakdown.</p> <p>CHAIR: Do you have it with you?</p> <p>Mr McCullough: No</p> <p>CHAIR: You do not have access to it? You do not have it on a laptop; you do not have a copy in a file?</p> <p>Mr McCullough: I am sorry, Chair. I do not have it. I have a note here that we sent to the minister but the actual figures are not here. I can provide them on notice and am happy to do so.</p> <p>Senator WILLIAMS: Can you take that on notice and provide the committee with that? Mr McCullough, do you know if there are further termination payments to be made this financial year?</p>	12	
27	Australian Wool Innovation	Chair	Payments	<p>CHAIR: No, please let me get to the end. The genuine inability for you to be able to break these figures down at the table is going to leave this writ-large statement of a large sum of money that, on the prime face case made by Senator Williams, is unreasonable. I am going to afford you an opportunity. You are in the building where the minister's office is. As a committee, we would be happy to stand you down. You can make your way to the minister's office and get a copy of the briefing that you have provided to the minister, and that may aid you to be able to break these figures down further and perhaps ease some of the concerns with respect of the quantum of these payments. Would you like to take that opportunity?</p> <p>Mr McCullough: Or we can provide it on notice.</p>	13	

28	Australian Wool Innovation	Senator Williams	Redundancy and ex-gratia payments	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Please provide a numbered list (not names) of the employees made redundant in the recent restructure. Include their annual salary, a breakdown of their entitlements on their termination, the length of employment with AWI, and the ex-gratia payments made to each employee. 2. Of the employees made redundant, how many received an ex-gratia payment 3. On whose recommendation was the ex-gratia payment made. 4. Who decided on the size of ex-gratia payment and what formula was used to determine how much was given to each employee. 5. Please explain the reasoning for allocating ex-gratia payments, and if there was a legal requirement for AWI to do so 6. Will this detailed information be provided in the annual report to members. 	Written	
29	Biosecurity Animal Division	Senator Carol Brown	White Spot	<p>Senator CAROL BROWN: Maybe I can ask the assistant minister: when did you become aware of the white spot outbreak?</p> <p>Senator Ruston: I would have to take on notice the exact date, but I was advised, I think, in early December—in the first few days of December—that an outbreak of white spot disease had been identified in a prawn farm adjacent to the Logan River.</p>	29	
30	Biosecurity Animal Division	Senator Sterle	Compliance for importation of breeding goats	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are the current compliance requirements for the importation of breeding goats <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Is the department doing any work with developing Import Risk Assessment for the importation of breeding goats for milk production? 	Written	
31	Biosecurity	Senator	Meeting with Minister	Senator CAROL BROWN: Was this an issue that arose	111	

	Policy & Implementation	Carol Brown	– White Spot	in your weekly meetings? Mr Quinlivan: I would have to check whether this happened during the last sitting week or not. I am not sure exactly what happened.		
32	Biosecurity Policy & Implementation	Senator Carol Brown	White Spot	Senator CAROL BROWN: The question is actually about when the decision is made to provide briefings to the minister and the assistant minister. Were question time briefs raised in the issue of the imported prawns? Mr Quinlivan: I am not sure whether we have had a standing question time brief on that, but we can take that on notice.	118	
33	Biosecurity Policy & Implementation	Senator Sterle	Calici Virus – National RHDV1 K5 release	1. Information provided by the department with regards to the effectiveness of the current vaccine available to protect pet rabbits states that “the experiment indicates that currently registered vaccine is likely to protect pet rabbits against RHDV1 K5”. a. This information is not reassuring to pet rabbit owners that the vaccine is only likely to protect pet rabbits. i. What work has the department undertaken to ensure that pet rabbit owners are not adversely affected by the release of the RHDV1 K5? ii. Is the department aware that there is currently a shortage of the recommended vaccine and what work has been undertaken by the department to ensure that pet rabbit owners are able to access the vaccine recommended to likely protect pet rabbits?	Written	
34	Biosecurity Policy & Implementation	Senator Sterle	Carp Eradication Program	Provide detailed information about the Carp Eradication Program i. Is the department aware of environmental concerns with regards to the release of the Carp Herpes virus ii. Has the eradication commenced?	Written	

				iii. What will be the cost of the eradication program		
35	Compliance	Senator Carol Brown	White Spot	<p>Senator CAROL BROWN: At what date during the investigation was it decided to advise the minister that action needed to be taken on the importers?</p> <p>Ms Vivian: I will check but the date that the minister would have probably been advised that this work was happening was at the time of the decision we took to suspend trade, that we had found some other concerns.</p> <p>Senator CAROL BROWN: I am sorry; I did not hear that.</p> <p>Ms Vivian: The minister was advised in early January that we were suspending trade for a range of reasons. I would need to check the minute but my surmise would be that as part of the advice to the minister we would have referenced some of the work that we had found in terms of this investigation.</p>	91	
36	Compliance	Senator Carol Brown	White Spot	<p>Ms Vivian: I apologise. In terms of the formal minute saying, 'We are now starting this; this has come together; we are going to devote resources to it', from my memory that was around March 2016.</p> <p>CHAIR: March 2016.</p> <p>Ms Vivian: I will check that.</p>	93	
37	Corporate Strategy and Governance Division	Senator McCarthy	Ministerial meetings in the Armidale ministerial office	<p>Senator McCARTHY: So, if we have a look at Armidale and Tenterfield. How many ministerial meetings have been held in the Armidale ministerial office?</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan: I would have to take that on notice. I have been to Armidale from time to time, as is normal in meeting with ministers in their electorates, and I know members of staff have also been to Armidale. We have also had meetings in Sydney and so on, which is normal practice. As to the number, I can endeavour to give you an estimate of that, but it is not something that we would necessarily keep a record of.</p>	71	

38	Corporate Strategy and Governance Division	Senator McCarthy	Armidale office	<p>Senator McCARTHY: So, how many ministerial staffers work in the Armidale office?</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan: I would have to refer that to the minister.</p> <p>Senator McCARTHY: Minister?</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan: It is not an issue for the department, of course.</p> <p>Senator Ruston: We would have to ask the minister about that. I have no idea where his staff base locations are.</p> <p>Senator McCARTHY: Can you take that on notice?</p> <p>Senator Ruston: I am happy to take that up with the minister.</p> <p>Senator McCARTHY: Do the staffers travel with the minister to Canberra during sitting weeks?</p> <p>Senator Ruston: I will take that on notice, but it is general practice for ministerial staffers to travel with their minister or be located in Canberra during sitting weeks. I will take that on notice as well.</p> <p>Senator McCARTHY: How often does the minister work in the Armidale office?</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan: These are questions for the minister.</p> <p>Senator Ruston: You can put those questions on notice and I will attempt to—</p> <p>Senator McCARTHY: I will read them out.</p> <p>Senator Ruston: So, you want to know how many staff there are for his Armidale office and whether they travel during sitting weeks to Canberra?</p>	71	
39	Corporate Strategy and Governance Division	Senator McCarthy	Staff members in Tenterfield Office	<p>Senator McCARTHY: How many staff members work in the Tenterfield office?</p> <p>Senator Ruston: You are referring to ministerial?</p> <p>Senator McCARTHY: Yes. How often does the minister work in the Tenterfield office?</p>	71	
40	Corporate Strategy and	Senator McCarthy	Unscheduled absences	<p>Senator McCARTHY: You say you have the highest levels of unscheduled absences.</p>	72	

	Governance Division			<p>Mr Quinlivan: I am not sure that we are actually the highest, but we are very close to it.</p> <p>Senator McCARTHY: Can you provide statistics on that?</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan: Yes, we certainly can. In fact, we have probably got them here.</p> <p>Mr Smalley: We have in front of us our own personal leave statistics, but we do not have comparators with other agencies.</p> <p>Senator McCARTHY: Can you provide that?</p> <p>Mr Smalley: Yes, we certainly can.</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan: They are published and publicly available.</p>		
41	Corporate Strategy and Governance Division	Senator Sterle	Ministerial offices	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many portfolio related meetings have been held in the Armidale Ministerial office? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. With Industry bodies, including representative bodies such as the National Farmers' Federation 2. How many portfolio related meetings have been held in the Sydney Commonwealth Offices? 	Written	
42	Corporate Strategy and Governance Division	Senator Bilyk	Ministerial functions	<p>In relation to any functions or official receptions hosted by Ministers or Assistant Ministers in the portfolio since 1 October 2016, can the following please be provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List of functions; • List of attendees including departmental officials and members of the Minister's family or personal staff; • Function venue; • Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive); • Details of any food served; • Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and • Details of any entertainment provided. 	Written	
43	Corporate	Senator	Vacancies	Please provide a list of all statutory, board and legislated	Written	

	Strategy and Governance Division	Bilyk		office vacancies and other significant appointments vacancies within the portfolio, including length of time vacant and current acting arrangements.		
44	Corporate Strategy and Governance Division	Senator Bilyk	Media and public relations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How much has the Department spent on media monitoring since 1 October 2016 (GST <u>inclusive</u>)? Can a list of all Contract Notice IDs for the Austender website in relation to media monitoring contracts please be provided? 2. How many media or public relations advisers are employed in the Department? At what APS level (eg EL2, APS5) is each staff member employed? Can an organisational chart for the relevant area of the Department please be provided? What was the total cost of employing relevant staff in calendar year 2016 (please provide a global figure)? 	Written	
45	Corporate Strategy and Governance Division	Senator Bilyk	Advertising and information campaigns	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How much has the Department spent on advertising and information campaigns since 1 October 2016 (GST <u>inclusive</u>)? Can a list of all Contract Notice IDs for the Austender website in relation to advertising and information campaign contracts please be provided? 2. How much did the Department spend on Facebook advertising or sponsored Facebook posts in calendar year 2016 (GST <u>inclusive</u>)? 3. How much did the Department spend on Google adwords advertising in calendar year 2016 (GST <u>inclusive</u>)? 	Written	

46	Corporate Strategy and Governance Division	Senator Bilyk	Market research	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How much did the Department spend on market research in calendar year 2016 (GST inclusive)? 2. Can a list of all market research contracts entered into please be provided, together with the Austender Contract Notice number? 3. What was the purpose of this market research? 4. Did it relate to an advertising or information campaign? If so, which campaign? 	Written	
47	Corporate Strategy and Governance Division	Senator Bilyk	Consultancies	<p>Please provide an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive) for spending in calendar year 2016 on external consultants/service providers in the following categories please be provided:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (i) social media; (ii) photography; (iii) graphic design; (iv) web design (v) electronic communications (vi) acting or public speaking training; (vii) ergonomics. 	Written	
48	Corporate Strategy and Governance Division	Senator Bilyk	Redundancies	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many staff were made redundant in calendar year 2016? 2. How many were voluntary redundancies? 3. How many were forced redundancies? 4. What was the total cost of all redundancies (expressed as a single global figure)? 5. Have any staff made redundant in calendar year 2016 subsequently carried out work for the Department as a contractor? If so, please provide an itemised list of relevant contracts and related Austender Contract Notice numbers. 	Written	
49	Corporate Strategy and	Senator Bilyk	Armidale ministerial office	With reference to the Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources' ministerial office in Armidale, since 2 July	Written	

	Governance Division			<p>2016:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many times has the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources visited the Armidale office? 2. How many times have any other departmental staff visited the Armidale office (excluding Departmental Liaison Officers)? 3. How many times has the Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources visited the Armidale office? 4. How many times has the Assistant Minister to the Deputy Prime Minister visited the Armidale office? 		
50	Dairy Australia Limited	Senator Sterle	Tactics of Tight Times	<p>ACTING CHAIR (Senator Sterle): Senator McCarthy, just while you are making some notes, could I ask a question to help all of us here out. With the Tactics of Tight Times, the first one was 2,600 farmers and service providers; how many of those were actually farmers?</p> <p>Mr Halliday: I would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>ACTING CHAIR: Okay. With the further 141 events that you have held from 1 June to 23 February, just recently, you have said that there have been another 1,250; is that a mixture of farmers and service providers?</p> <p>Mr Halliday: Yes, it would be.</p> <p>ACTING CHAIR: Can you tell me how many farmers were in that cohort?</p> <p>Mr Halliday: I would take that on notice.</p>	20	
51	Dairy Australia Limited	Acting Chair	Tactics for Tight Times	<p>Senator McCARTHY: That is for Taking Stock.</p> <p>Mr Halliday: That is just on Taking Stock, not Tactics for Tight Times.</p> <p>ACTING CHAIR: Taking stock, \$900,000. What about the other one?</p> <p>Mr Halliday: No, I would have to come back to you on that one.</p>	20	

52	Dairy Australia Limited	Senator Sterle	Relocation	<p>During Senate Estimates Mr Akers was asked “Has the Minister or his office approached Dairy Australia about relocating out of Melbourne”</p> <p>Mr Akers responded “Not directly, no.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How did the Minister or his office approach Dairy Australia about relocating out of Melbourne? 2. Why did Mr Akers state “Not directly, no”? 3. Provide detail about the Dairy Australia’s hub and spoke model. How was this model developed? 	Written	
53	Export Division	Senator Rhiannon	Proviso of grants	<p>Senator RHIANNON: Could you take that on notice. With the grants that you have read out, what is the proviso on what they are and the basis that they were given?</p> <p>Ms van Meurs: Yes, I will take that on notice.</p>	107	
54	Export Division	Senator Rhiannon	Contamination of kangaroo meat	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is kangaroo meat for human consumption still not tested for Toxoplasma gondii for either the domestic or export markets? 2. Please provide details of any contamination incidents or concerns raised by importing countries since 2015 including the country, date, and details of the contamination. 	Written	
55	Export Division	Senator Rhiannon	Russian ban on contaminated kangaroo meat	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is Russia’s ban on kangaroo meat imports still in place due to Russia’s finding of contaminated kangaroo meat. 2. Please provide updated details on the Australian government’s work and/or funding to open up that market? 3. Please advise what Russia’s response has been to these representations. 	Written	
56	Export Division	Senator Rhiannon	Exporting countries contamination testing	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Russia was the only country that carried out its own contamination testing on imported kangaroo meat. Is it still the case that no other importing country carries out its own contamination tests on imported kangaroo 	Written	

				meat? 2. Is it still the case that the only pathogens tested in exported kangaroo meat is E.coli and Salmonella sp? 3. How many carcasses are tested per load or thousand carcasses, and by whom?		
57	Export Division	Senator Rhiannon	Growing Asian market for kangaroos	Please provide details on the resources and funding provided to open up or grow Asian markets for commercially shot kangaroo products, including: a. The project funded, its aims and outcomes, recipient of the grant, source of the grant.	Written	
58	Export Division	Senator Rhiannon	Kangaroo to China	Please provide an update on where the opening of China to kangaroo products is up to including: a. Any agreements by China to import kangaroo products: which products and the quantity and value of those products b. The identified barriers to opening up or growing exports to China c. Any contamination protocols discussed or agreed to by China in this respect. d. Meetings between the KIAA and Australian government representatives	Written	
59	Export Division	Senator Rhiannon	Importing Kangaroo products	1. Please provide in an excel spreadsheet an updated list of all countries currently importing kangaroo products, those that have recently agreed to import kangaroo products, and those currently being lobbied to import kangaroo products 2. For recently agreed kangaroo markets, please provide advice of the agreed quantities or volumes of kangaroo products to be imported into that countries.	Written	
60	Farm Support Division	Senator Sterle	Farm Household Allowance	In relation to Farm Household Allowance the development of the National Drought Policy through the Standing Committee of Primary Industries (SCoPI) Answers to QoNs 540 the Minister states that Labor abolished the Exceptional Circumstances Relief	Written	

Payment – ask the department to provide information as to why via the Intergovernmental agreement on National Drought Program Reform Exceptional Circumstances were abolished?

1. Has the department provided a briefing to the Minister with regards to the work formerly undertaken by SCoPI?
2. What work is currently being done to continue the Intergovernmental agreement on National Drought Program Reform?
3. Is it true that the Interim Household farm assistance was available under Labor?
4. Did the Minister misled the Parliament when referring to the FHA scheme to an answer on 20 October 2014 *stating* that “but it is not the case that you apply for the money and then you have to wait for your application to be approved. You actually get the money straightaway.”
5. Subsequently the Minister’s Hansard was doctored to correct the record to read that “but it is not the case that you apply for the money and then you have to wait for your application to be approved unless it is a new application”. You actually get the money straightaway.”
6. Why has it taken the Minister over two years to acknowledge that the application process has been difficult for farmers? Especially since this issue was the core issue in the Hansardgate in which the Minister refused to acknowledge that there were failings in the application process.
7. The Minister stated that in his answer to QoNs 540 that “I regularly examine the FHA for its effectiveness” what actions does the Minister undertake to regularly examine the FHA for its effectiveness?
8. What role did the department have in assisting the

				<p>Minister to regularly examine the FHA for its effectiveness?</p> <p>9. Describe what is meant by “regularly examine”</p> <p>10. How many farmers are almost at the end of their 3 year FHA payments? Does the department have data as to how many farmers are no longer facing financial hardship and how effective the mutual obligation requirement has been?</p>		
61	Farm Support Division	Senator Sterle	Coalition election commitments	<p>\$5 million – Leadership in Agricultural Industries Fund</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> How will this funding be allocated When will this funding be available What work has the department done with regards to this election commitment? <p>Establishing a Regional Investment Corporation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> What work has the department undertaken to establish a Regional Investment Corporation? What challenges have been identified with the establishment of a Regional Investment Corporation? When will the Regional Investment Corporation be established? Have State counterparts raised concerns with the creation of a Regional Investment Corporation? What will be the cost in establishing a Regional Investment Corporation What legislative barriers exist to creating a Regional Investment Corporation? Will the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources manage the Regional Investment Corporation? 	Written	
62	Finance and Business Support Division	Senator Bilyk	Departmental functions	<p>In relation to expenditure on any departmental functions or official receptions etc since 1 October 2016, can the following please be provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> List of functions; List of attendees; 	Written	

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Function venue; • Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive); • Details of any food served; • Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; and • Details of any entertainment provided. 		
63	Finance and Business Support Division	Senator Bilyk	Plants and gardens	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What was the total cost (GST inclusive) of acquiring and maintaining indoor plants for all departmental premises in calendar year 2016? 2. What was the total cost (GST inclusive) of external gardens and landscaping for all departmental premises in calendar year 2016? 3. What was the total cost (GST inclusive) of acquiring and maintaining indoor plants for ministerial offices in calendar year 2016? Please provide separate figures for each Minister's office in the portfolio, covering ministerial offices both at Parliament House and elsewhere. 	Written	
64	Finance and Business Support Division	Senator Bilyk	Subscriptions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What was the total cost (GST inclusive) of subscriptions to print and online news services, newspapers, magazines, journals and periodicals etc in calendar year 2016 for the Department? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Please provide a complete list of each service to which the Department subscribed. 2. What was the total cost (GST inclusive) of subscriptions to print and online news services, newspapers, magazines, journals and periodicals etc in calendar year 2016 for Ministers in the portfolio? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> b. Please provide a complete list of each service to which ministerial offices subscribed. 	Written	
65	Finance and Business Support Division	Senator Bilyk	Gifts	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What was the total cost (GST inclusive) of all gifts purchased for use by departmental officials in calendar year 2016? 2. Can an itemised list of gifts and costs thereof (GST 	Written	

				<p>inclusive) please be provided?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Who was the recipient of each gift? 4. For what purpose was each gift given? 5. What was the total cost (GST inclusive) of all gifts purchased for use by Ministers in the portfolio in calendar year 2016? 6. Can an itemised list of gifts and costs thereof (GST inclusive) please be provided? 7. Which Minister gave each gift? 8. Who was the recipient of each gift? 9. For what purpose was each gift given? 		
66	Finance and Business Support Division	Senator Bilyk	Water coolers	<p>What was the total cost (GST inclusive) of providing water coolers at departmental premises in calendar year 2016? Please provide a breakdown of costs for acquiring and maintaining/resupplying water coolers.</p> <p>What was the total cost (GST inclusive) of providing water coolers to ministerial offices in calendar year 2016? Please provide a breakdown of costs for acquiring and maintaining/resupplying water coolers.</p>	Written	
67	Finance and Business Support Division	Senator Bilyk	Snacks	<p>What was the total cost (GST inclusive) of supplying fruit and other snacks at departmental premises in calendar year 2016?</p> <p>What was the total cost (GST inclusive) of supplying fruit and other snacks to ministerial offices in calendar year 2016? Please provide a breakdown of the costs for each separate ministerial office, covering both offices at Parliament House and elsewhere.</p>	Written	
68	Finance and Business Support Division	Senator Bilyk	Coffee machines	<p>Can an itemised list of coffee machines at departmental premises please be provided including (i) make and model; (ii) purchase or lease cost; (iii) ongoing maintenance costs; (iv) ongoing cost of supplying coffee and other consumables?</p>	Written	
69	Finance and	Senator	Stationary and paper	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How much did the Department spend on stationary 	Written	

	Business Support Division	Bilyk		and office supplies (excluding paper) in calendar year 2016 (GST inclusive)? 2. How much did the Department spend on paper in calendar year 2016 (GST inclusive)? 3. What brand of paper does the Department use? 4. Is this paper Australian made? 5. If no, why doesn't the Department buy Australian made paper?		
70	Finance and Business Support Division	Senator Bilyk	Executive office upgrades	Have the furniture, fixtures or fittings of the Secretary's office, or the offices of any Deputy Secretaries, been upgraded since 1 October 2016? If so, can an itemised list of costs please be provided (GST inclusive)?	Written	
71	Finance and Business Support Division	Senator Bilyk	Facilities upgrades	Have the facilities of any of the Department's premises been upgraded since 1 October 2016, for example, staff room refurbishments, kitchen refurbishments, bathroom refurbishments, the purchase of any new fridges, coffee machines, or other kitchen equipment? a. If so, can a detailed description of the relevant facilities upgrade please be provided together with an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive)? Can any photographs of the upgraded facilities please be provided?	Written	
72	Finance and Business Support Division	Senator Bilyk	Flights	What was the Department's total expenditure on flights for departmental staff in calendar year 2016?	Written	
73	Finance and Business Support Division	Senator Bilyk	Ground transport	What was the Department's total expenditure on the following categories of ground transport in calendar year 2016 (GST inclusive): (i) Taxi hire; (ii) Limousine hire; (iii) Private hire car; and (iv) Ridesharing services.	Written	
74	Finance and Business Support	Senator Xenophon	Waste	Given that government and opposition politicians have all raised concerns over time and had policies on government waste:	Written	

	Division			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is there a central government authority responsible for the elimination of waste? 2. If so <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Is there a government wide definition on the meaning of 'waste', and if so, what is that definition? b. How does this central government authority monitor and manage waste within the Department? c. Is there a central government mechanism (e.g. phone number, email address, web site) for public servants or contractors to report Departmental waste? d. How much Departmental waste was identified by the central government authority in FY 13/14, FY 14/15 and FY 15/16? 3. If not: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Is there a departmental definition on the meaning of 'waste', and if so, what is that definition? b. What are the Department's arrangements for monitoring and managing waste? c. Is there a central Departmental mechanism (e.g. phone number, email address, web site) for public servants or contractors to report Departmental waste? d. How much waste was identified by the Department in FY 13/14, FY 14/15 and FY 15/16? 4. In either case: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Can Departmental officers or contractors report waste anonymously? b. Are they afforded a protection if they do so? 		
75	Finance and Business Support	Senator Rhiannon	Kangaroo projects since 2015	Please provide an updated list of all kangaroo-related projects since 2015 involving the Department of Agriculture either as a funder, a major contributor or	Written	

	Division			partner or supporter: including the funding recipients, cost of each project, dates, aims of the funded project.		
76	Information Service Division	Senator Bilyk	Mobile devices	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many mobile telephones are currently on issue to departmental to staff? 2. Can an itemised list showing make and model please be provided? 3. How many new mobile phones were purchased by the Department in calendar year 2016? 4. What was the total cost (GST <u>inclusive</u>) of purchasing mobile telephones for departmental staff in calendar year 2016? 5. How many mobile telephones had to be replaced due to damage in calendar year 2016? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. What was the cost of replacement (GST <u>inclusive</u>)? 6. How many mobile telephones were reported lost or stolen in calendar year 2016? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. What was the cost of replacement (GST <u>inclusive</u>)? 7. How many ipads/tablets are currently on issue to departmental staff? 8. Can an itemised list showing make and model please be provided? 9. How many new ipads/tablets were purchased by the Department in calendar year 2016? 10. What was the total cost (GST <u>inclusive</u>) of purchasing ipads/tablets for departmental staff in calendar year 2016? 11. How many ipads/tablets had to be replaced due to damage in calendar year 2016? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. What was the cost of replacement (GST <u>inclusive</u>)? 12. How many ipads/tablets were reported lost or stolen in calendar year 2016? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. What was the cost of replacement (GST <u>inclusive</u>)? 	Written	

77	Information Service Division	Senator Bilyk	iTunes/Android	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Does the Department have an iTunes account? If so, what was the total expenditure on iTunes in calendar year 2016 (GST <u>inclusive</u>)? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. What applications/subscriptions/services purchased through iTunes in calendar year 2016? 2. Does the Department have an Android account? If so, what was the total expenditure on Android in calendar year 2016 (GST <u>inclusive</u>)? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. What applications/subscriptions/services purchased through Android in calendar year 2016? 3. Do any ministerial offices in the portfolio have an iTunes account? If so, what was the total expenditure on iTunes in calendar year 2016 (GST <u>inclusive</u>)? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Please provide separate figures for each Minister. What applications/subscriptions/services purchased through iTunes in calendar year 2016? 4. Do any ministerial offices have an Android account? If so, what was the total expenditure on Android in calendar year 2016 (GST <u>inclusive</u>)? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Please provide separate figures for each Minister. b. What applications/subscriptions/services purchased through Android in calendar year 2016? 	Written	
78	Information Service Division	Senator Bilyk	Websites	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What were the top 20 most utilised (by data sent and received) unique domain names accessed by departmental staff in calendar year 2016? 2. What were the top 20 most accessed (by number of times accessed) unique domain names accessed by departmental staff in calendar year 2016? 	Written	
79	Meat and Livestock Australia	Senator Whish-Wilson	Objective carcass measurement	Regarding the announcement in November 2016 that objective carcass measuring (OCM) equipment would be installed at all 90 Ausmeat registered facilities:	Written	

				<p>a. Who will own the OCM equipment?</p> <p>b. Who will be responsible for operating and maintaining the OCM equipment?</p> <p>c. How will the operation and maintenance of the OCM equipment be funded?</p> <p>d. Will MLA ensure the maintenance of OCM is adequate?</p> <p>e. How will MLA ensure the maintenance of OCM is adequate?</p> <p>f. Who will own the intellectual property gained from OCM?</p> <p>g. Will operators of OCM be obliged to provide MLA with data collected?</p>		
80	Murray-Darling Basin Authority	Senator Kakoschke-Moore	National Cultural Flows Research Project	<p>Senator KAKOSCHKE-MOORE: In the interests of time, you may need to take this on notice. Some other concerns have been raised. I understand you fund the National Cultural Flows Research Project. You did not seek an interim report from them prior to making the recommendations in this review?</p> <p>Mr Glyde: I might have to check up on that.</p> <p>Senator KAKOSCHKE-MOORE: Yes, if you can take that on notice.</p> <p>Mr Glyde: There were certainly some delays in being able to get there and we were particularly conscious to make sure we picked up their views even if they had taken some time to evolve.</p> <p>Senator KAKOSCHKE-MOORE: Thank you. If you could take details of that consultation process on notice, I would appreciate that.</p> <p>Mr Glyde: I am happy to do that.</p> <p>Senator KAKOSCHKE-MOORE: Thank you.</p>	123	
81	Murray-Darling Basin Authority	Senator Roberts	Removing water	<p>Senator ROBERTS: Thank you very much for coming this evening. We travel a lot around Queensland listening, and last week I was shocked at the impact on communities, which is devastating on top of energy costs,</p>	127	

			<p>tax regulations and loss of property rights. I understand you have a very difficult job. Mr Glyde just acknowledged that one year dramatically improved the understanding of the basin. So it is a difficult job, and please be patient with my inexperience on this, but the Murray-Darling Basin Plan puts an extra 2,750 gigs of water back into the rivers to flow down to Lake Alexandrina. This water came at a great cost to our rural communities and our country's ability to grow mostly exportable food and fibre. It also comes on top of other water recovery schemes from the past. My question is simple: what is the total value of the cost of removing that water? I would like the total cost to include the value of the water, the value of the produce now not being grown by that water, the multiplier effect of that loss of income to the country for our country's businesses—for example, dollars per year lost to our economy multiplied by some multiplier, which will give us so many dollars per year—plus the value of production lost when floods caused by a Murray-Darling Basin Plan extra release occurs, as it did in October 2016. That is quite a bit of detail I am after; would you like me to put it on notice?</p> <p>Mr Glyde: Certainly we would be happy to answer that in more detail, because there are quite a lot of issues in how you measure and estimate that. The only point I would make would be why the plan is in place in the first place, and that is because, prior to the plan, we were at a level of diversion of about 42 per cent of the total average volume of the river in any one year, and at that level it is not likely we will have a sustainable river not just in the environment sense but in terms of agricultural production. The whole basis of the plan is to put everything onto a sustainable footing. It is not to return the river to a pristine state. It is not to maximise agricultural production. It is not to maximise benefits to Aboriginal communities. It is to try and find that right balance—that triple-bottom-line balance. The estimate that is being</p>		
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				made by us with the assistance of many others is that 2,750 is the best level to be able to achieve that sustainable future for the basin.		
82	Murray-Darling Basin Authority	Senator Roberts	Floods caused by Murray-Darling Basin Plan	<p>Senator Ruston: Can I seek a clarification from Senator Roberts?</p> <p>CHAIR: Yes.</p> <p>Senator Ruston: In your original question to the MDBA, did I mishear or did you make the connection of the Murray-Darling Basin Plan being the cause of the floods in 2016?</p> <p>Senator ROBERTS: No, that was a misinterpretation. I just said the extra release that occurs.</p> <p>Senator Ruston: Thank you.</p> <p>Senator ROBERTS: Actually, the question did say 'when floods caused by a Murray-Darling Basin Plan extra release occurs', so you are right that I did say that.</p> <p>Senator Ruston: I was just going to say I do not think that is actually the case.</p> <p>Mr Glyde: Yes. We will come back to you on that one, but we would disagree with that.</p>	127-128	
83	Murray-Darling Basin Authority	Senator McKenzie	Dam Storage in the Basin	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Given the predicted impacts of climate change will lead to increased frequency of extreme events-floods and drought, isn't it logical for the MDBA to increase dam storage across the Basin in order to mitigate flooding and aid in the impacts of drought? 2. Why hasn't the MDBA included the investigation of increased storage capacity under the Basin Plan? 	Written	
84	Murray-Darling Basin Authority	Senator McKenzie	Releasing water	Will you clearly state who the legal liability lies with for operational decisions of releasing water that will flood private property?	Written	
85	Murray-Darling Basin Authority	Senator McKenzie	Complementary measures	At the MinCo meeting September 2016 the Authority noted that complementary measures are "good actions to take but not substitutes for flow related outcomes. They	Written	

				<p>also recognised it was not feasible to develop a volumetric SDL offset assessment method in a short timeframe, if at all.”... They reiterated “there is no feasible way of developing a volumetric offset assessment method for non-flow related measures as part of the NBR timeline.”</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are the reasons why complimentary measures can't be measured in relation to water savings? 2. Why are complimentary measures not considered an alternative to further water recovery, such as has occurred in the Snowy River? 3. If the reason is purely to do with timelines according to the Basin Plan, do you agree that this is a very 'blinker' view that places even greater impacts on the people of the MDB? 		
86	Murray-Darling Basin Authority	Senator McKenzie	River constraints	<p>The MDBA has gone to great lengths to present our river and irrigation community with a strategy of what could be described as 'blunt tools' to manage river constraints, for example, by building higher bridges, higher roads and proposing the purchase of landholder easements to manage over bank flow events.</p> <p>What efforts has it taken to invest in and provide river operators with smart river management technologies to optimise our basin river systems, and daily flows, to confidently manage these large regulated releases from our dams?</p> <p>What management systems are proposed to minimise flood risk impacts with these 'regulated releases' at times when there are concurrent 'unregulated flow events' in our river valleys?</p>	Written	
87	Murray-Darling Basin Authority	Senator McKenzie	Carp population	<p>As there are many people across the Basin who are extremely concerned with the increasing frequency of blackwater events, manipulated overbank flood flows and carp population explosion would the MDBA specifically demonstrate how these negative third party impacts have</p>	Written	

				<p>been measured, assessed and quantified. Also what assessments and indicators have been used, studies completed and ecological indicators measured to underpin any SDL offset modelling assumptions?</p>		
88	Murray-Darling Basin Authority	Senator McKenzie	Water flows	<p>The Sept/Oct 2016 floods provided clear evidence that flows far in excess of “minor overbank flows” in the upstream river systems are required to produce the proposed volumes of 60,000-80,000ML/day at the S.A. border.</p> <p>It also showed that a flow of 95,000ML/day at the S.A. border does little to scour the Murray Mouth of sand, as the dredge was operating at the Murray Mouth approximately 10 days after the flows reached the mouth. Will the MDBA be revising their modelling and assumptions with regards flows required upstream to deliver a proposed 60,000-80,000ML/day at the border and also the volume of flow needed to scour the Murray Mouth?</p>	Written	
89	Murray-Darling Basin Authority	Senator McKenzie	Select Committee on the Murray-Darling Basin Plan	<p>By what ‘rules of thumb’ did the basin state Ministers and the Murray Darling Basin Authority use to dis-agree with the Senate Committee when it recommended the removal of Bird Island?</p> <p>By what reasoning, besides South Australia’s continual call for more freshwater, did the Authority recommend that Bird Island remain, causing taxpayers money to be spent on continual dredging, while allowing Australia’s precious basin water resources to be continually wasted to the ocean. Indeed, while it should be used back upstream to enhance the Nations Food Security?</p>	Written	
90	Murray-Darling Basin Authority	Senator McKenzie	Select Committee on the Murray-Darling Basin Plan	<p>With one further item: Under item 14: <i>The negative effects of seawater introduction identified in the Long-Term Plan include acidity mobilisation, release of contaminants, hyper</i></p>	Written	

				<p><i>salinity, eutrophication and impacts on freshwater ecology functions.</i></p> <p>My question here, relates to the Lower Lakes and their, often estuarine conditions known in pre-barrage times, as proven by science, as generally found in all estuaries around the world. Why are these lakes not estuarine today?</p> <p>For what good reason should the Lower Lakes remain only fresh? Within your answer, I'm seeking serious detail and evidence of supporting science that was used to qualify its current existence as fresh. Particularly given that RAMSAR is not concerned about the type wetland or even that of an estuary if it were so, so long as it's a healthy working system, according to its representatives.</p>		
91	Murray-Darling Basin Authority	Senator McKenzie	Overbank environmental flooding	Why does the Murray Darling Basin Authority continue to pursue overbank environmental flooding above 2750GL into South Australia when its already patently clear from its own trials that higher flows are undeliverable; causing extensive damage to highly fertile, food growing farmland properties.	Written	
92	Murray-Darling Basin Authority	Senator McKenzie	Overbank flooding	How many individual basin food-growing properties have been physically inspected for statistical evidence by the MDBA following recent overbank flooding?	Written	
93	Murray-Darling Basin Authority	Senator McKenzie	Overbank flooding	How many properties bordering basin riverbanks have been thoroughly inspected by MDBA representatives or by others on its behalf since the authority's introduction of its overbank constraints proposal and the flooding that occurred?	Written	
94	Murray-Darling Basin Authority	Senator McKenzie	Freshwater reserves	By what measure if any, does the authority seriously check and recommend well documented conceptual proposals by others that could vastly improve our	Written	

				freshwater reserves for food production across the basin, to improve farming livelihoods and Australia's food security, while addressing recognised environmental requirements?		
95	Murray-Darling Basin Authority	Senator McKenzie	Freshwater	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What volume of freshwater is currently diverted from the Coorong via the South East Drainage Scheme in South Australia? 2. Is the MDBA planning to recover that water, and is this occurring under the MDB Plan? 	Written	
96	Murray-Darling Basin Authority	Senator Roberts	Lake Alexandrina	<p>When we traveling around Qld listening, I was shocked at the impacts on communities which the MDBP is devastating. This is on top of existing costs, regulations and loss of property rights. You have a difficult job.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Please be patient with my inexperience on this issue. I understand the Murray Darling Basin plan puts an extra 2750 gigs of water back into the rivers to flow down to Lake Alexandrina. This water came at a great cost to our rural communities and our country's ability to grow mostly exportable food and fibre. It also comes on top of other water recovery schemes from the past. 2. What is the total value of the cost of removing that water? I would like the total cost to include <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Value of the water b) The value of the produce now not being grown by that water c) The multiplier effect of that loss of income to the country for our country's businesses. (e.g. approx. \$ /yr lost to our economy X multiplier =approx. total \$ /yr) d) The value of production lost when floods caused by a MDBP extra release occurs (as in Oct 2016) <i>(I define caused as being when an environmental flow is still in the system and has not finished flowing past, when a rainfall event occurs which</i> 	Written	

				<p><i>results in flooding. Obviously there was an environmental flow still in the system when the flood occurred in Sept – Oct 2016 , so the flood was at least in part due to the MDBP release of water, so that loss of production from that flood has to be factored in as a cost to the MDBP)</i></p> <p>e) Loss of land values (e.g. over the areas not irrigated anymore)</p> <p>f) Loss of house values in towns like Dirranbandi.</p>		
97	Murray-Darling Basin Authority	Senator Roberts	Benefits of the Murray-Darling Basin Plan	Separately, please provide the list of benefits (and their approx. value) that the MDBP is providing. E.g. higher land values x area, new businesses or enterprises (tourism), extra land rehabilitated x increased value of the land, etc	Written	
98	Murray-Darling Basin Authority	Senator Roberts	Basin health	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Using average river health figures how have the rivers improved? The Basin Plan adopts ‘end of system flows principle as a surrogate for total Basin Health but is this scientifically valid? If so, Why? Has the MDBA factored a range of other factors influence environmental issues? If so, what? 	Written	
99	Murray-Darling Basin Authority	Senator Roberts	Water flows	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> If there is an improvement in the system, was it due to the Basin plan or would it have happened anyway with high flows in 2010/11 and again in 2016/17? Who does the monitoring of basin health and is it compared to average long term health or just poorer health as in a drought/low inflow year? 	Written	
100	Murray-Darling Basin Authority	Senator Roberts	Water flows	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Has the Murray Darling Basin Authority just become aware of an area of watershed that historically had its excess surface water flow through the Coorong that was not included in the plan up to now? Will that have any impact on the MDBP calculations and recommendations of water flows required to keep 	Written	

				the system healthy, if so what amount?		
101	Murray-Darling Basin Authority	Senator Roberts	Salt used in the Murray River	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. As I understand it the MDBP appears to justify its existence on reversing salt degradation of the Murray River – e.g. salt buildup. (e.g. its goal is to have more water taking salt out of the system & out to sea.) Is that correct? 2. Originally a figure of 2 million tonnes of salt was quoted as needing to be flushed out of the system every year & that figure is also used by the SA Premier. Does the MDBA still support the figure of 2 million tonnes of salt / yr? If not, why not? 3. What is the evidence and who are the researchers who specify the figure of salt needing to be removed from the system each year? 4. In the MDBP there is a reference in documents to the need to export 2000 million tonnes of Salt (into the ocean or into diversion projects) where is the evidence for that need? 	Written	
102	Murray-Darling Basin Authority	Senator Roberts	Salt load	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Salt is always used as a reason to send more water down the river but couldn't it be said that the many salt interception schemes along the Murray river have actually reduced the salt load in the river, (down from a high of 800 EC`s to 250 EC`s today) thus reducing the need for much or all the flows? 2. What is the formula for calculating the salt load that goes out to sea? (X GL water flow x EC count x ? =xxxx tonnes salt?) 	Written	
103	Murray-Darling Basin Authority	Senator Roberts	Total dissoluable salt	Where does all the million tonnes of salt come from in the system considering the Total Dissoluable Salt (TDS) reading at Morgan is 250 ECs while the reading at the barrages near the Murray mouth is 1000 – 1500 EC`s? e.g. How much from above Morgan? How much from the lower lakes (Alexandrina and Albert)	Written	

104	Murray-Darling Basin Authority	Senator Roberts	Murray River	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. As I understand it the MDBA has control of Murray River operations including how water is released from the Hume and Dartmouth Dams. Is that correct? 2. In Southern NSW/Northern Victoria, September 2016 was one of the wettest springs on record according to official weather forecasts, and many local people on the Murray River system were concerned about potential flooding risks – is that correct? 3. In September 2016 the Murray River at Tocumwal (NSW) reached a little above minor flood level (minor flooding is 77,000 ML/per day), then about 3 weeks later In October 2016, there was a much larger catastrophic flood below east and west of Deniliquin NSW (eg approx 200,000 ML/day).....this has cost many millions of dollars, eg where farmers lost their crops and stock pasture and any subsequent income for up to 15 months or so. I presume your decisions take into account the guidelines associated with the Hume Dam Operating Protocol ‘Objectives & Outcomes for River operations in the River Murray System’ but does the MDBA make the ultimate (final) decision on how dam releases occur and how flows in the Murray River are managed in both normal seasonal conditions and then also in times of flood risk? 4. So are decisions around managing flood risks, the ultimate responsibility of the MDBA? if not, then which body has that ultimate responsibility? 5. Given the scale of damage that occurred in October, and that flooding risks could occur again in 2017 eg the Southern Dams have high storage levels now (Hume (NSW) Dartmouth (vic), Eildon (vic), would you seek to amend the Hume Dam Operating Protocols or do you feel you have sufficient decision power to enable you to manage future flood risks (ie 	Written	
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				<p>to try to avoid catastrophic flooding)? If not what do you intend to do?</p> <p>6. If farmers in a certain area of the MDB regularly become flooded and the cause is at least partially through decisions made by the MDBA in releasing large volumes of water to comply with the MDBP such that the river has little extra capacity for a rainfall event to not result in flooding, what should these farmers do?</p>		
105	Murray-Darling Basin Authority	Senator Roberts	Southern Basin	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. As I understand it, the Southern basin will get a report card this year on the benefits and or losses to the environment and the socio economic status to the region – is that correct? 2. If any adverse effects are found, would that result in a re-evaluation of the MDBP? 3. Did the MDBA factor impacts to irrigators who did not take up efficiency programs, impacts to ‘non irrigators’ (eg riparian landholders) in the development of the Basin Plan ? 	Written	
106	Murray-Darling Basin Authority	Senator Roberts	Murray-Darling Basin Plan	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. As I understand it, a previously unknown clause has been found in the MDBP that means an extra 450 gegalitres of Up water has to flow to SA if part of the \$1.7 billion MDBP is used for on farm efficiency. - Is that correct? 2. Riparian landholders on the Murray River system below Hume Dam have been warning about third party impacts from proposed Basin Plan flow targets to SA. These warnings related to environmental flow targets within the 2750GL and the 450GL. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Why hasn’t the MDBA advised Governments that the 450GL is unachievable? b. Why hasn’t MDBA advised that effort needs to be focussed on to what can be achieved within the 2750GL? c. Since farmers and the public were led to believe 	Written	

				<p>the 450 gigalitres of Up water would not be added to the flow to SA because of the socioeconomic costs and the constraints with water not being able to fit down the system (without a damaging flood resulting), how is this not sharp practice or chicanery towards farmers and residents in the MDB?</p> <p>d. The public and Governments also understood that an additional 450GL could only occur if it was socially & economically neutral. I understand that if one farmer takes up an on farm efficiency program that is deemed to be neutral? – is that correct?</p> <p>e. What about higher flooding risks, negative tourism impacts, less access to roads, deteriorating town amenities? Will those impacts be taken into account? Will those impacts would be deemed as neutral?</p>		
107	Murray-Darling Basin Authority	Senator Roberts	Murray Mouth	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the cost of automating the barrages in SA near the Murray Mouth? 2. Is there an inequity in the MDBP making upstream states (NSW, Vic, & Qld) be held accountable for a salinity target when SA barrages can't stop sea water (and therefore salt) coming in southerly weather events/storms? 3. Has the MDBA factored in reverse sea flows when setting a Salinity Target in Lake Alexandrina? (1000 EC 95% years + 1500EC 100% years) i.e. Reverse sea flows occur during southerly swells when barrage gates are open & sea water re-enters into the lake – because often the sea is stronger than lake releases. 	Written	
108	Murray-Darling Basin Authority	Senator Roberts	Murray-Darling	As I understand it the Murray-Darling carries an average of 32,500 GL per year, having gone as low as 7,000 GL and as high as 118,000 GL.	Written	

				<p>Before the basin plan, an average of 13,623 GL was extracted from the river system annually – way less than it usually actually carries on average years. The basin plan sets a target of 10,873 GL, known as the Sustainable Diversion Limit or SDL.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Why has there not been a move by the MDBA to look at a flexible diversion system so that in wetter years 13,623 GL can be extracted and In the years where full allocations are not able to be filled, then a percentage of that extraction can be equitably allocated? Would that not be a better system than having a permanently set diversion limit of 10,873 GL (which will decimate many communities if it is an every year reduction) while they watch excess water flow past them in wetter years - when they could be easily increasing their productivity and income? 		
109	Murray-Darling Basin Authority	Senator Roberts	Coorong, lower Lakes & Murray Mouth	<p>The Basin Plan sets very specific ‘end of system’ flow targets from the Murray River for the Coorong and Murray Mouth and Lower Lakes in South Australia, is that correct?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> e.g .Lower/Lakes & Murray Mouth 2000 GL over the barrages (2 year average) and 650GL as a minimum flow annual & the Coorong has specific salinity targets to be met under the Basin Plan by these ‘end of system’ flows The Longer Term average flows to the barrages in South Australia under current arrangements are 5100 GL/year – is that correct? The minimum entitlement flow annually for SA under the River Murray Agreement is 1850GL – is that correct? The Basin Plan increases the minimum entitlement flows to SA by setting new ‘end of system targets’ 2000 GL/ on a 3 year rolling average--- is this 	Written	

				correct? f. So the Basin Plan lifts the long term average flow to SA to at least 3850GL & SA is likely to receive much more than this in above average years? – is that correct?		
110	Murray-Darling Basin Authority	Senator Roberts	Coorong, lower Lakes & Murray Mouth	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. As I understand it the MBDP appears to justify its Plan on a number of factors, some have very specific targets (eg ‘end of system flows’ for the CLLMM & salinity) 2. Did the Murray Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) when setting flow targets for the Coorong and Murray Mouth, consider historical flow patterns from the water shed of South East of South Australia? 3. I understand most of these natural flows were diverted away from the Coorong by the South East Drainage Scheme and Upper South East Drainage and Flood Mitigation Scheme and fresh water now goes out to sea! Did the MDBA undertake any cost benefit analysis to compare costs of removal of productive water from Northern Victoria and Southern NSW as compared to restoring a larger volume of the historical flows to the Coorong from the SE of SA? 4. Is it true then when the Federal Government funded the Upper South East Drainage & Flood Mitigation Scheme, a condition of funding was that no more than approx 40GL (over a 10 yr average) could be put into the Coorong? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Is that rule still in place? 5. Are there any plans to reconnected the main South East Drainage scheme to the Coorong rather than the sea? If so which drains (e.g. Drain M at Beachport etc) 	Written	
111	Murray-Darling Basin Authority	Senator Roberts	Coorong	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Coorong was noted as Hyper Saline when listed under Ramsar in 1985 – is that correct? 2. That rule & some existing and proposed new structures ensure not too much freshwater enters the 	Written	

				<p>Coorong and lower salinity levels that would affect local species – is that correct?</p> <p>3. Given the high social and economic impacts on irrigation communities and riparian landholders in the Southern Basin Murray River regions, does the MDBA still consider that its decisions to predominantly rely on Murray River flows to fix the Coorong is appropriate?</p>		
112	Office of the General Counsel	Senator Carol Brown	White Spot	<p>CHAIR: So as an interpose here I want to ask you—and my colleagues can make a contribution—every single piece of paper from the years of our Lord 2016 and 2017 that relates to this that is in the possession of the department I am formally asking you, on behalf of this committee, to supply to us; in particular, these briefings and any other communications, emails between each other, file notes or something on the back of a beer coaster. Back to you, Senator Brown.</p>	96	
113	Office of the General Counsel	Senator Carol Brown	White Spot	<p>CHAIR: I am going to keep going. Are these inspections recorded physically on a page, on a clipboard or are they electronically, 'I took these samples. I gave them these ID numbers. I sent them off to a lab and these are the results'?</p> <p>Mr Terpstra: Yes.</p> <p>CHAIR: Do you have them?</p> <p>Mr Terpstra: Yes.</p> <p>CHAIR: We need those documents, too, as part of our bulk request. Do not bury us; I promise you. We need them in a form that we are able to look at, and sensibly look at, to look at the synopsis and get a really quick feel on what these were. Back to you. Mr Chapman, if you like.</p>	101	
114	Office of the General Counsel	Senator Carol Brown	White Spot	<p>CHAIR: I will direct this to you, Mr Quinlivan, but you can share it with your staff as is necessary. I will just remind you that we fixed the date of 18 April for the</p>	118	

				<p>return of questions on notice. I am going to repeat this for effect: we want every single piece of paper; we want every audiotape; and we want every report in its raw data form, in its printed form and in its technical form. We want everything there is to do with this from start to finish for the period post 1 June 2016. If possible, we would like it—</p> <p>Senator CAROL BROWN: I thought it started in March 2016.</p> <p>CHAIR: Sorry, you are so right. We will go from 1 March 2016. We want to try and get it in a form that the secretariat can deal with. Otherwise—</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan: We understand.</p> <p>CHAIR: We do not want a wheelbarrow!</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan: We understand what you are asking for.</p> <p>CHAIR: If you think there is voluminous material that will be of no benefit to us we will work with you, we will peruse it and we will decide. I will bring it back to the committee or Senator Sterle might look at and decide. So that is by 18 April.</p>		
115	Office of the General Counsel	Senator Bilyk	Legal costs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What was the Department's total spend on external legal services (including services provided by the Australian Government Solicitor) (GST inclusive) for calendar year 2016? 2. Can an itemised list of costs of each legal matter (GST inclusive) please be provided? 3. Can a list of relevant Contract Notices published on Austender please be provided? 	Written	
116	Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation	Senator Rhiannon	Kangaroo related projects	<p>May I please have an updated list of all kangaroo-related research projects since 2015 involving the RIRDC either as a funder, a major contributor or partner or supporter: including the authors, cost of each project, dates, aims and Objectives Summary.</p>	Written	

117	Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation	Senator Rhiannon	RIRDC funded project or research	Please provide an updated list of all RIRDC funded or supported kangaroo research or projects including: a. The project funded, its aims and outcomes, recipient of the grant, source of the grant.	Written	
118	Sustainable Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Division	Senator Carol Brown	Don Burke	Senator CAROL BROWN: This is not a question for you, Ms Arthy. Did the minister discuss Don Burke endorsing the relocation of the APVMA? Do you know, Minister? Senator Ruston: I am not aware of that. I will have to take that on notice. Senator CAROL BROWN: You do not know if you had any discussions with Mr Burke? What about you, Mr Quinlivan? Mr Quinlivan: I do not know. Senator CAROL BROWN: So, you will take that on notice? Senator Ruston: Yes, but not that I am aware of.	57	
119	Sustainable Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Division	Senator Carol Brown	Notifying or consulting APVMA	Senator CAROL BROWN: So, when was the APVMA notified or consulted, I think you said? Do you know when that happened? Mr Thompson: I would have to take that on notice. It would have been some time in November 2016, but I do not have the exact date with me.	57	
120	Sustainable Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Division	Senator Carol Brown	Relocation briefing material to the Prime Minister's office	Senator CAROL BROWN: Thank you. Has the department provided any briefing materials on the relocation to the Prime Minister's office? Mr Quinlivan: We would probably have to take that on notice. I would be surprised if we have not provided some material to the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet to help them brief the Prime Minister, but I cannot say for sure that was the case. Senator CAROL BROWN: Will you be able to come back to me on notice? Mr Quinlivan: Yes, we will.	069	

121	Sustainable Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Division	Senator Rice	Regional Forest Agreement	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It would appear that the New South Wales and Commonwealth governments have failed to ensure the 10 and 15 year reviews of the NSW Regional Forest Agreements (RFAs). What stage are they at currently? 2. The original RFAs were preceded by scientific evaluation of vegetation, fauna and forest growth stages. Will similar information be collected prior to any decision to enter further RFAs? 3. Scientific researchers have identified forest-age class distribution as a good indicator of biodiversity (because older forests have more hollows), carbon stores (older forests store more carbon) and water stores (older forests supply more water). Ecologically Sustainable Forest Management, a key component of the RFAs should result in no change in the age-class distribution of production forests. In NSW for example, the EPA has advised that they don't have information on age-class distribution. How does the federal government propose to test whether ESFM has been achieved via the RFAs? 	Transferred from DoEE	
122	Sustainable Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Division	Senator Sterle	Forestry policy	<p>The Department's website on Forestry Policy was last updated on 2 November 2015; it lists key forestry policies as Plantations for Australia: the 2020 Vision, National Indigenous Forestry Strategy and Illegal Logging which was passed in November 2012. What has this government done with regards to ensuring Australia has a sustainable forestry industry, particular with regards to wood supply?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. "The Turnbull Coalition is providing \$4 million toward the National Institute for Forest Products Innovation to assist with collaboration in the Forestry R&D sector across Australia. It is expected that this funding will be matched by the Tasmanian and South Australian State Governments (\$2 million each) as 	Written	

				<p>well as by Industry (\$4 million) to create a \$12 million institute.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. What work has been undertaken to establish the National Institute for Forest Products Innovation? 3. When will the Institute commence? 4. Has the State Government provided matching funding? 5. Has Industry provided \$4 million dollars to create a \$12 million dollar Institute? 6. What barriers exist to creating the \$12 million dollar Institute? 7. What is the current direct employment figures for the forestry industry? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Provide breakdown of employment forestry figures, including Tasmania, Victoria, South Australia, Queensland, NSW, WA and Northern Territory based on states 		
123	Sustainable Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Division	Senator Rice	Tasmanian Regional Forest Agreement	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. With regard to the proposed rollover of the Tasmanian Regional Forest agreement: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. how will the government take into account the Tasmanian government's plans to introduce legislation to allow harvesting in 350,000+ha of forest that has previously been unavailable until at least 2020 (forests identified in the Tasmanian Forests Agreement)? b. how will it take into account the Tasmanian government's proposed allowance of special species harvesting in all forest areas from 1 October 2017, subject to a special species management plan (that has not yet been released for public comment)? c. how will it take into account the proposed critically endangered ecological community listing for <i>E.ovata</i> / <i>E.brookeriana</i> forest communities* in Tasmania? 	Written	

				*http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/nominations/comment/eucalyptus-ovata-tasmania		
124	Trade and Market Access Division	Senator Rhiannon	Kangaroo market access to California	<p>Senator RHIANNON: Thank you. It is also on the record that the Australian government briefed officials from the United States trade representative during the AUSFTA joint coordination meeting on 4 May 2016. Can you detail all formal and informal representations made by Australian representatives about kangaroo market access to California since the ban was reinstated at the end of 2015?</p> <p>Ms van Meurs: I would have to take that on notice because that would require quite a detailed answer.</p>	106	
125	Trade and Market Access Division	Senator Rhiannon	Briefing papers	<p>Senator RHIANNON: On notice, can you provide the briefing papers for those discussions—prepared either before or afterwards?</p> <p>Ms van Meurs: It is unlikely there were briefing papers, but I can take that on notice.</p>	107	
126	Trade and Market Access Division	Senator Sterle	Toowoomba and Surat Basin Enterprise	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Did departmental representatives participate in the recent trade mission of farmers and agribusinesses to China which was led by the economic development group Toowoomba and Surat Basin Enterprise (TSBE)? If so, who participated? If not why not? 2. Dr Ben Lyons of the TSBE has stated that many of the promised benefits of the free trade deals were yet to materialize? And stressed the importance of engagement with the Chinese government to work through non-tariff barriers. What work is the department doing to work through non-tariff barriers? 3. Is traceability considered to be a non-tariff barrier when trading with China? 	Written	
127	Trade and Market Access	Senator Sterle	Keith Pitt	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is Keith Pitt working directly with the department with regards to cross-border regulation and quarantine 	Written	

	Division			<p>obstacles?</p> <p>2. Mr Pitt has stated that “we will be working through a priority list” Is the department working with Mr Pitt to develop the priority list?</p> <p>3. Provide detail about what is on the priority list and how the Government is developing the priority list.</p>		
128	Trade and Market Access Division	Senator Sterle	Strategic advice	Has the Minister for Agriculture provided strategic advice as to what he would like to see on the priority list?	Written	
129	Trade and Market Access Division	Senator Sterle	KPMG modelling	KPMG modelling suggest that the value of Agricultural exports to china has grown to \$12 billion but suggest this could be higher, does the department agree with this statement?	Written	
130	Trade and Market Access Division	Senator Sterle	Agriculture councilors	Provide a list of Agriculture councilors based overseas	Written	
131	Water Division	Senator Carol Brown	TasWater request for funding	<p>Senator CAROL BROWN: I wanted to ask some questions about Tasmanian issues. I wanted to know if there had been a funding request from TasWater for Commonwealth funding for water and sewerage infrastructure in Tasmania?</p> <p>Mr McLoughlin: The work that this department has been involved in in Tasmania has been the funding and the assistance with the planning for irrigation schemes. My understanding is that requests for funding for water and sewerage schemes for urban water supply has gone to the department of infrastructure, but I would have to check on that.</p> <p>Senator CAROL BROWN: So I am in the wrong area, is that what you are suggesting?</p> <p>Mr McLoughlin: That is my understanding, yes. We have been constrained to work on irrigation schemes rather than urban and domestic supplies.</p> <p>Senator CAROL BROWN: Are you sure about that?</p> <p>Mr McLoughlin: I can certainly take that on notice,</p>	120-121	

				<p>but—</p> <p>Senator CAROL BROWN: If you are sure, I will put my questions on notice to the department of infrastructure.</p> <p>Mr Parker: I have just been informed that there may have been a mix-up between committees.</p> <p>Senator Ruston: Senator Urquhart apparently asked these questions yesterday in Infrastructure and was advised that they needed to go to Environment last night, so she put them to Environment last night and she was actually handballed over here. Can I put on the record our apologies if this is the wrong place, that you have been given the run-around. We will make sure we get you the answers.</p>		
132	Water Division	Senator Xenophon	Money spent in relation to the additional 450 gicalitres	<p>Senator XENOPHON: I have only a few minutes so I will put a number of questions on notice, including questions on behalf of the member for Mayo, Rebekha Sharkie, on upgrading of any of the barrages, any costing and feasibility studies. I will put them on notice. I also note that the water efficiency labelling scheme people are here. I am afraid I will have to put those questions on notice, although I note that in estimates post-budget and at the end of the year we have a full day set aside in accordance with an agreement reached with the Prime Minister and the government in relation to this. I want to put on notice: how much of the money has been spent in relation to that additional 450 gicalitres? I want to go to one specific issue</p>	123-124	
133	Water Division	Senator McKenzie	Constraints' Strategy	<p>The \$200 million made available to mitigate third party impacts across the entire Basin under the Constraints Strategy is obviously totally inadequate, keeping in mind that the revised cost estimate for the Goulburn River Catchment alone is \$140 million and for the mid-Murray \$230 million.</p> <p>Where would the extra money come from?</p>	Written	

				How did this project pass the Phase 1 guideline criteria of “being feasible within the estimated cost” when the Goulburn River Reach Report estimated mitigation costs alone, have blown out by 350%? (From \$31-47 million initially to \$139.3million in Jan. 2016)		
134	Water Division	Senator McKenzie	Constraints Strategy	<p>The MDBA has stated that an important principle of the Constraints Strategy is that it will not create any new risks to reliability of entitlements.</p> <p>By 2018 another 204GL will be taken out of the Goulburn Murray Irrigation District(GMID) and handed over to the CEWH.</p> <p>Since 1995 the GMID has lost 43% or 680,000ML of High Reliability Water Shares</p> <p>By 2020 Goulburn Murray Water(GMW), which manages 70% of Victoria’s water resources, is Australia’s largest rural water business with approximately 38,000 customers(as at Feb 2016), will be unviable with no economic future due to the fact that there will be such a reduced volume of water in the system that it will be inefficient to deliver entitlements. Please explain how removing another 450GL from irrigation districts that are already in decline will not reduce the viability of the system and put reliability of entitlements at risk?</p> <p>INFORMATION NOTES- The predictions are that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. GMID will have only 700GL HWRS remaining by end of Connections program, reduced from 1600GL in 1996 2. Irrigators will have a significantly more expensive system to maintain and a reduced reliability of water supply 3. GMW have warned the Victorian Govt that all Victoria’s irrigation districts were in decline. <p>Other Facts: 1) 18% of new electronic meters that replaced Dethridge meters at a cost of \$60,000 per unit</p>	Written	

				<p>have never been used over the 7 years of their installation.</p> <p>2) 43% of all GMID meters deliver zero or less than 10ML of water on a yearly basis</p> <p>3) Infrastructure being installed where it is unlikely to be used because little or no water, but still claiming savings.</p>		
135	Water Division	Senator McKenzie	Efficiency Measures Program	<p>GMW in its submission to the Senate Select Committee on the MDB Plan Feb 2016, stated that the Efficiency Measures Program(EMP) funded by the Water for Environment Special Account “will take large volumes of additional water from the GMID, adversely affecting regional productivity”, as 100% of savings from on-farm efficiency projects will be given to the Commonwealth.</p> <p>This will reduce water deliveries, reduce GMW’s variable revenue, lead to tariff increases thereby increasing economic pressure on customers.</p> <p>GMW’s fixed revenue will also be affected due to increased incentive to terminate delivery shares which again will lead to tariff increases to recover the revenue required to operate the distribution system, thereby further affecting irrigators.</p> <p>Can you explain how the recovery of 450GL will NOT create adverse economic and social impacts?</p>	Written	
136	Water Division	Senator McKenzie	Socio-economic impacts	<p>A newspaper article in the <i>Weekly Times</i> on February 15th this year described how the South Australian Government “needs to be less “green-driven” by demanding water from upstream states, and start using the water we get, more efficiently and effectively,” it wrote.</p> <p>We read in the same article that “the latest scrap over the Plan, was sparked late last year when Federal Water Minister Barnaby Joyce said the 450GL – which comes on top of the 2750GL target, may not be possible without causing negative socio-economic impacts.”</p>	Written	

				How many times does the minister have to repeat the impossibilities with targets above 2750GL's, before the authority finally accepts its outcomes simply won't work?		
137	Water Division	Senator McKenzie	Agreement of 2750GL	<p>On the same subject of water quantity, the Mayor of Goolwa earlier this year, in a SA radio breakfast show interview, told the announcers and the audience that a 3200GL delivery would be great, but he said twice in the interview, he'd be satisfied with 2750GL to service the Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth.</p> <p>Meantime, SA Water Minister Ian Hunter made it clear on 17th November last year that he expects the full 3200GL.</p> <p>Surely, the question should therefore be about agreement with the notion that its time for all responsible parties to accept the 2750GL, to enable a closure of the question of the quantity of water to South Australia that will also create an opportunity to remove the damaging constraints ideas from the statute books forever?</p>	Written	
138	Water Division	Senator McKenzie	Constraints' Strategy	<p>The CEWH, Mr David Papps, has stated numerous times at public meetings and in letters to landowners that he will "NOT intentionally inundate private property without the consent of landholders." The decisions with regard to water orders made by the CEWH are totally independent of the MDBA and the Federal Govt. are they not?</p> <p>Landowners are resolute in their refusal to allow the creation of easements on their private property. Both State and Federal Governments have clearly stated in letters to landowners that they "will not intentionally flood private land without prior agreement of landholders, nor compulsorily acquire land or easements."</p> <p>So how has the Constraints Strategy passed the</p>	Written	

				<p>evaluation criteria that states the proposal must be technically feasible, that is it can be accomplished? And why is the 'relaxed constraints' Strategy still being even considered when there is no hope whatsoever of delivering that water?</p>		
139	Water Division	Senator McKenzie	Goulburn River Reach	<p>In January 2016 the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority revealed to communities in the Goulburn River Reach that the proposed environmental flows of 25,000ML/day with a peak of 30,000ML/day at Shepparton under the Constraints Strategy, would affect or inundate 562 properties and 11,552 Hectares. The proposed repeated frequency of environmental floods - an extra 1-3 floods every 10 years with 2-3 recurrent peaks with each flood, added to the stated 6 natural floods per 10 years will cause a massive reduction in productivity on the Goulburn river flats and their tributaries.</p> <p>What is the assessed cost to Victoria and Australia's productivity in dollar terms in that a large percentage of this area is prime agricultural farm land? If this hasn't been undertaken, what is the reasoning behind this lack of feasibility analysis?</p>	Written	
140	Water Division	Senator McKenzie	Mitigation costs	<p>The policy of estimating mitigation costs for affected farmland is to use a method of disaggregation, or to cost impacts on only that portion of land which is the difference between where a natural flood would reach and the extra environmental flow would inundate. As flooding affects the management and productivity of the entire farm, why has the MDBA approved this method of estimating costs?</p>	Written	
141	Water Division	Senator McKenzie	Constraints Strategy	<p>Impacts of the Constraints Strategy on the tributaries in the Upper Goulburn, which provide 50% of the flow to the Goulburn, have not been investigated or estimated, apart from the land immediately (1-2 kms.) upstream of</p>	Written	

				<p>the confluence.</p> <p>If this is a whole of Basin Plan, why has there been no investigation of impacts on the tributary catchments?</p>		
142	Water Division	Senator McKenzie	Assessment Guidelines for Constraint and Supply Proposals	<p>The overarching evaluation criteria (Point 4) of the Phase1 Assessment Guidelines for Constraint and Supply Proposals states :</p> <p>The risks and impacts associated with the proposed measure are manageable and acceptable.</p> <p>These risks and impacts are not acceptable to landowners so to whom is it assumed they are manageable and acceptable? The policy makers??</p>	Written	
143	Water Division	Senator McKenzie	The Basin Plan	<p>Ministers Blair and Neville are obviously very concerned at the modelling and assumptions made under the Basin Plan. So much so that they have established their own expert panel to independently investigate project risks and benefits.</p> <p>Considering also the widespread concern from local landholders at the impacts of the Constraints Strategy and now the lack of faith in MDBA strategy assumptions shown by the Victorian and NSW Govts will you halt the process and review the Constraints Strategy?</p> <p>And if not what are the reasons considering the growing evidence that the Constraints Strategy is neither viable or achievable?</p>	Written	
144	Water Division	Senator McKenzie	Supply measures	<p>Victorian Water Minister, Lisa Neville has stated that “the adjustment mechanism is not delivering the offsets we expected”(letter to MDBA CEO Neil Andrews 6th Feb 2017).</p> <p>On the 22nd April 2016 the MDBA had modelled 15 of the 37 nominated supply measures which had an estimated SDL offset of 370GL.</p> <p>Exactly how many nominated supply measures in Victoria have been modelled and as the Ministerial Council has agreed to keep the community informed</p>	Written	

				<p>what is the current SDL offset? Please explain in detail the reduced volume of offsets compared to expected volumes?</p>		
145	Water Division	Senator McKenzie	The Basin Plan	<p>The Basin Plan is about fulfilling the triple bottom line, that is the social, economic and environmental benefits, which is a legislated requirement, but the initial modelling and assumptions by the MDBA have shown a gross disregard for the financial, social and economic impacts.</p> <p>In 2013-14 landowners in the Goulburn Reach were informed by the MDBA there would be a property-by-property assessment regarding mitigation estimates. Why has this never occurred?</p> <p>Has the MDBA undertaken any analysis that puts a dollar figure on the environmental, social and economic impacts or benefits?</p>	Written	
146	Water Division	Senator Urquhart	Tasmanian Sewerage Infrastructure Upgrades	<p>1. I note Infrastructure Australia’s list of priority projects published January 2017 identifies as a proposed initiative “Tasmanian Sewerage Infrastructure Upgrades”. Has the Minister or Department been contacted by TasWater for Commonwealth funding for water and sewerage infrastructure in Tasmania?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IF YES: What was the nature of that request? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ How much Commonwealth funding was requested for this infrastructure? ○ Has the funding requested been in relation to an investigation/business case? The design of infrastructure? Or actual construction of new infrastructure? ○ How far has this funding request progressed? <p>2. Are you aware of the Minister or Department being contacted by the Tasmanian State Treasurer for Commonwealth funding for water and sewerage infrastructure in Tasmania?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IF NO: Has anyone in the Tasmanian Government 	Written	

				<p>contacted the Minister or Department about the Commonwealth funding water and sewerage infrastructure in Tasmania?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ IF YES: What was the nature of the representation? 		
147	Water Division	Senator Urquhart	Launceston Water and Sewerage	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I note that the city of Launceston has a combined sewerage and stormwater system, without separation of sewerage and stormwater outflows. Has any material been supplied to Federal government as to the likely cost of separation of sewerage and stormwater within the city of Launceston? 2. Is there any material to suggest that the separation of sewerage and stormwater within the city of Launceston will have any effect upon the incidence of discharge of raw sewerage in breach of environmental obligations? 3. Has the Federal government received any submissions as to the likely increase in sewerage volume to the system, and the capacity for the Launceston sewerage system to cope with anticipated increases in volume? 	Written	