

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2016

Agriculture and Water Resources

Question: 1

Division/Agency: ABARES

Topic: Climate

Proof Hansard page: 58

Senator CAMERON asked:

Ms Schneider: We are doing longer term work. We are doing a piece of work that looks at the links between farm productivity and climate change, and that is looking at the longer term.

Senator CAMERON: Can you provide details of what exactly that is doing. When is it going to report? Do you know when it is reporting?

Mr Gooday: It is a work in progress.

Senator CAMERON: How many people are engaged on it?

Mr Gooday: There are probably three people engaged on it.

Senator CAMERON: Can you tell me what the terms of reference are for this project, when the report will be available and any progress on where it is up to.

Mr Gooday: Yes, that should not be a problem.

Answer:

This research project is titled 'Farm performance and climate: climate adjusted productivity on Australian broadacre farms.' The project aims to improve our understanding of the effect of climate variability and change on the productivity of broadacre farms.

The project has two goals. First, to produce estimates of farm productivity controlling for climate effects (rainfall and temperature variation) for the period 1977-78 to 2014-15. Second, to produce estimates of the effect of climate variation on farm productivity over the period.

To do this, the project will make use of historical data from ABARES farm surveys and spatial climate data from the BOM and CSIRO to develop data-driven models linking farm performance measures (TFP and crop yield) with climate variables (including rainfall, temperature and soil moisture).

Question: 1 (continued)

Preliminary results for broadacre cropping farms have already been presented (including at the ABARES Outlook conference in March 2016). The project will produce two reports; one detailing the results for cropping farms and one focusing on livestock farms. A draft version of the cropping farm report is nearing completion and is expected to be released in November 2016. The livestock report is expected to be released by March 2017. The results will be presented at ABARES Outlook Conference in March 2017, along with presentations from the BOM and CSIRO on related topics.

To date three ABARES staff have been engaged on this project.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

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Question: 2

Division/Agency: ABARES

Topic: Climate Change

Proof Hansard page: 59

Senator CAMERON asked:

Senator CAMERON: On notice, could you provide details of your expenditure on climate change associated research within ABARES from 2007 through to now?

Ms Schneider: We will take that on notice.

Answer:

Expenditure on climate change associated research within ABARES from the 2007-08 to 2015-16 financial years totalled \$21 355 167.30.

The breakdown of this expenditure by financial year is contained in the table.

Financial Year	Expenditure on Climate Change Associated Research (\$)
2007-08	4,549,800.85
2008-09	3,631,750.75
2009-10	4,044,930.24
2010-11	2,407,101.83
2011-12	2,170,545.64
2012-13	2,922,634.88
2013-14	686,239.81
2014-15	443,048.38
2015-16	499,114.92
TOTAL	21,355,167.30