

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

The committee met on Thursday, 29 May 2014 from 9 am to 7.22 pm.

The committee called department and agencies of the Agriculture portfolio, including the Grains Research and Development Corporation, Horticulture Australia, Cotton Research and Development Corporation, Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation, Grape and Wine Research and Development Corporation, Wine Australia, Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA), Interim Inspector General of Biosecurity, Sustainable Resource Management Division, Forest and Wood Products Australia Limited, Australian Fisheries Management Authority, and Fisheries Research and Development Corporation.

Among other issues, the following issues were discussed:

- the potential decentralisation of divisions and agencies within the Agriculture Portfolio
- the delivery of the Drought Assistance Package
- the regulation of agricultural and veterinary chemicals
- levies on mushroom growers
- the merging of Wine Australia with the Grape and Wine Research and Development Corporation
- the competitiveness of Australian wine in overseas markets, particularly China
- the work of the APVMA in relation to Australian honeybees
- future funding for community landcare grants
- the resignation of the members of the Landcare Council
- conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna.