

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-2011, 20 October 2010

Questions: E10-042

OUTCOME 1: Population Health

Topic: BUFFER ZONES

Written Question on Notice

Senator Xenophon asked:

- a) What reporting processes are in place to ensure that the relevant authorities are notified of any breach?
- b) How confident is the OGTR in these processes?
- c) Is the OGTR aware of any occasions where the processes have failed?

Answer:

- a) It is a statutory condition of all licences that the licence holder inform the Regulator of any additional information about risks to people or the environment that the licence holder becomes aware of, any unintended effects and any contravention of licence conditions. Licence conditions imposed by the Regulator also include a range of other reporting requirements including, for example, notification of details of location, planting and harvest of the GMO. Information may also be supplied by other persons covered by a licence or by any other organisation or individual, or be identified through monitoring activities conducted by the Office of the Gene Technology Regulator (OGTR).
- b) Findings from monitoring, investigation and audit activities conducted by the OGTR, as well as self-reporting by licence holders, indicates a high level of compliance with licence conditions and that current reporting processes are working well.
- c) A small number of minor non-compliances with licence conditions relating to reporting requirements have been identified, either as a result of OGTR monitoring activities or self-reporting by licence holders. None of these minor non-compliances were assessed to pose a risk to people or the environment