

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-2011, 20 October 2010

Questions: E10-043

OUTCOME 1: Population Health

Topic: BUFFER ZONES

Written Question on Notice

Senator Xenophon asked:

- a) What monitoring does the OGTR undertake to ensure that buffer zones are not being breached?
- b) When were these processes last reviewed?
- c) When are these processes due for review?

Answer:

- a) The OGTR has an ongoing and active program of routine monitoring for compliance with licence conditions, including spot checks. OGTR monitoring of field trials focuses on compliance with licence conditions designed to restrict the potential for dissemination and persistence of the GMO in the environment.
- b) The OGTR's Monitoring and Compliance Framework was formally reviewed in 2007.
- c) OGTR monitoring activities are subject to ongoing review. The strategy for conducting field trial monitoring draws on operational experience and risk profiling in relation to compliance. Monitoring activities are reviewed each quarter, with specific monitoring activities determined on a case-by-case basis, based on the GMO dealings currently being undertaken, associated licence conditions and accumulated experience.