

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates February 2016

Agriculture and Water Resources

Question: 125

Division/Agency: Exports Division

Topic: Key Asian markets

Proof Hansard page: 115

Senator RHIANNON asked:

Senator RHIANNON: You mentioned events in three countries: China, Japan and Korea—how much have you allocated for that overall?

Mrs McDonald: We have not worked out the details of exactly what those events will be at this stage. We have some approximate budget figures, but until we have actually looked at contracts and looked at arrangements there then it is difficult to say exactly how much they will cost. There are trade fairs, for example, that we are looking at targeting, but until they get a little bit closer and we work out how much it is going to cost to participate then it is hard to say exactly what that will cost. The budget figure that we have come up with is about \$811,000 at this stage.

Senator RHIANNON: Thank you for providing those details. Could you please take it on notice to provide details of any other activities and also how much each one will cost, even if it is approximate at this stage?

Mrs McDonald: Yes.

Answer:

Budget details for the \$811 000 project under the Package Assisting Small Exporters to assist with market access for kangaroo meat into Asian markets is attached.

Question: 125 (Continued)

Budget	Total (\$AUD) Cost GST exc.
Promotional Activities in Australia	\$146,000
<p>Proposed activities in Australia such as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The development of commercial DVD including translations into languages for key markets eg. China \$100,000 2. The development and implementation of a communications strategy; \$20,000 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – material posted on social media; – department and industry websites updated; – question and answer document and fact sheets translated into language for key markets 3. Familiarisation visit by Chinese government department representatives to Australia; \$20,000 4. Recipe cards – printed and translated \$3,000 5. Dinner for Chinese Ambassador and other officials from the Chinese Embassy. \$3,000 	
Promotional Activities Overseas	\$350,000
<p>Proposed activities in China such as;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Contracting of services for AustCham in Beijing: \$ 30,000 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – to establish a local presence; – assist with Chinese events. 2. Proposed events in China; \$212,000 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – meeting with Chinese animal welfare groups; – meeting with media; – tasting event (costs include venue hire, translators, food, gifts and contracting chefs. 3. Visits to Beijing by departmental officials to progress certification and market access negotiations on a government-to-government level; \$50,000 4. Engaging an expert to assist with animal welfare in China. \$10,000 5. Industry participation in trade shows in Shanghai to showcase the versatility of kangaroo meat to retailers, distributors and members of the hospitality sector; \$20,000 <p>Proposed activities in Japan/Korea</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Participation in trade shows to showcase the versatility of kangaroo meat; and \$25,000 7. Develop printed materials. \$3,000 	

Question: 125 (Continued)

Other Activities	\$315,000
Industry Project Manager to assist with the project and the delivery of the Kangaroo export strategic plan for 18 months.	\$45,000
Departmental Kangaroo Market Access Manager	\$270,000
TOTAL COST	\$811,000

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Question: 126

Division/Agency: Exports

Topic: How much of the funding is being allocated for the department and how much is for KIAA.

Proof Hansard page: 116

Senator RHIANNON asked:

Senator RHIANNON: Going back to the start of the question, I was trying to understand how much of this allocation of a bit over \$800 000 is for the department and how much is for KIAA.

Mrs McDonald: I will take that on notice as well.

Answer:

At this stage, the department has, or will have, executed two funding agreements with the Kangaroo Industry Association of Australia (KIAA) associated with the kangaroo market access project. The agreements includes payment on delivery of milestones to a maximum of \$175 000 when all milestones have been completed.

The department has been allocated \$270 000 for a kangaroo market access manager for three years. The department will work with KIAA to undertake the remaining activities to the value of \$366 000 (refer to QoN 125 for a budget breakdown).

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Agriculture and Water Resources

Question: 127

Division/Agency: Exports Division

Topic: Names of five meat exporters involved in kangaroo export trade

Proof Hansard page: 117

Senator RHIANNON asked:

Senator RHIANNON: Is it still the case that there are only four meat exporters involved in the kangaroo export trade?

Mrs McDonald: Right now there are five operating export registered game meat establishments that produce meat for human consumption for export.

Senator RHIANNON: Could you provide the five names? I only have four.

Answer:

The five establishments export registered to produce kangaroo meat for human consumption, and currently operating, are:

- Southern Game Meat
- Game Meat Processing
- North Queensland Game Meats
- Two establishments owned by Macro Investments.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

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Agriculture and Water Resources

Question: 128

Division/Agency: Exports Division

Topic: Acetic and Lactic Acid on kangaroo meat

Proof Hansard page: Written

Senator RHIANNON asked:

1. Following up previous advice that the United Kingdom permits acetic acid to be used on certain meat preparations:
 - a. Please advise the details on what “certain meat preparations” means with regard to kangaroo meat for either pet or human consumption.
 - b. What are the levels permitted by the UK?
2. Following up previous advice in answer to questions about the use of lactic acid to treat contamination of kangaroo meat, the department advised that lactic acid is used to treat contamination by micro-organisms.
 - a. Specifically which micro-organisms are targeted by the use of lactic acid to treat contamination?

Answer:

1.
 - a. The UK adopts European Union (EU) regulations which allow the use of acetic acid on edible fresh minced meat and meat preparations to which other ingredients than additives or salt have been added. Acetic acid is also permitted in pet foods.
 - b. For edible products, EU regulations outline the specific maximum level as *quantum satis*, meaning that no maximum numerical level is specified and substances shall be used in accordance with good manufacturing practice, at a level not higher than is necessary to achieve the intended purpose and provided the consumer is not misled. As such, acetic acid would be used in compliance with the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code for meat for human

Question: 128 (Continued)

consumption. In pet foods a maximum concentration of 2 500 mg acetic acid per kilogram complete feed is allowed under EU regulations.

2.

- a. Lactic acid is used as a non-specific treatment which reduces overall microbiological contamination of meat by organisms such as E.coli.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

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Question: 129

Division/Agency: Exports Division

Topic: Exporters of kangaroo products

Proof Hansard page: Written

Senator RHIANNON asked:

1. I was advised during recent estimates hearings that there are five current export licenses for kangaroo meat. Can you confirm these current export licenses are also active?
2. How many export licenses currently exist for each of the exported kangaroo products, including skins and meat and meat products for non-human consumption?
 - a. Of these current licenses, how many are active or “live”?

Answer:

1. Refer to response to Question on Notice 127 from Additional Estimates February 2016.
2. Kangaroo skins and kangaroo meat processed into pet foods are both classified by Australian export legislation as ‘non-prescribed goods’. The Department of Agriculture and Water Resources is not involved in the export of non-prescribed goods, including listing or registration of establishments, unless specifically required by the government of the importing country.
 - a. There are no establishments specifically listed or registered for the export of kangaroo skins. There are 20 establishments listed or registered to export processed pet foods, which may contain kangaroo meat products from time to time.

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Agriculture and Water Resources

Question: 130

Division/Agency: Exports Division

Topic: Greyhounds

Proof Hansard page: Written

Senator STERLE asked:

1. Has the department undertaken an investigation into the 7.30 report program on cruelty to greyhounds exported to Macau?
2. Has the department provided verbal or written advice to the Minister or his staff about the greyhound passport system?
3. Form GED-200314 – which includes a field to provide information about the Greyhound Passport – is this form currently on the Departmental website?
4. Who created this form?
5. The Greyhound Australasian Industry claims that it did not create this form?
6. Can the department verify who created the Greyhound Export Declaration form?
7. Has the department met with any welfare groups regarding the 7.30 report on 9 December 2015?
8. Why won't the department engage with the Greyhound industry to provide better welfare outcomes for dogs exported for racing purposes?

Answer:

1. No.
2. Yes.
3. The form was removed from the department's website in September 2015.
4. The department created the form in 2006 to collect some information about the reasons greyhounds were exported. It was voluntary and had no bearing on the assessment of application to export greyhounds.

Question: 130 (continued)

5. See answer to Question 4.
6. See answer to Question 4.
7. No.
8. The department has engaged with the greyhound industry about the export process for greyhounds. As with all companion animals, once exported dogs reach their destination, they come under the jurisdiction of the importing country.

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Question: 131

Division/Agency: Exports

Topic: Funding to grow kangaroo meat exports

Proof Hansard page: Written

Senator RHIANNON asked: Last year, in 2015, government provided over \$1.162 million dollars from the “Assisting Small Exporters” program to grow kangaroo meat export markets. Of this, \$776,000 has been provided to the Central Victorian Exporters and the NSW Farmers Association to grow meat export markets: Are either of these relating to the export of meat from shot kangaroos?

- a. If yes: re Central Victorian Exporters Network (\$275,000).
 - i. Please provide more details.
 - ii. The KIAA managed convinced the Victorian Government to allow the commercial industry to operate in a part of that state - does this mean the kangaroos shot in Victoria are now going to be exported as part of the meat market?
- b. If yes: re NSW Farmers Association (\$501,000): What is meant by “alternative supply chain” that this project aims to develop and assess? Details?

Answer:

No. The NSW Farmers’ Association and Central Victorian Exporters Network projects which have been funded under the Package Assisting Small Exporters programme are not related to the exports of kangaroo meat.