

**Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates February 2016

**Agriculture and Water Resources**

**Question: 67**

**Division/Agency:** Biosecurity Animal Division

**Topic:** Foot and Mouth Disease

**Proof Hansard page:** Written

**Senator STERLE asked:**

1. What work is being undertaken to address biosecurity risks posed by changes to Indonesia's importation of material that has a high risk of FMD?
2. Is this of serious concern to the Department of Agriculture?
3. Has the Minister or the Minister's staff requested a briefing on this issue?
4. Has the Department sought to brief the Minister or his staff on this issue, either verbally or in writing?

**Answer:**

1. If Indonesia proceeds with changes to their import policy relating to foot and mouth disease (FMD), the department will review existing import protocols for products from Indonesia. The department will determine whether the biosecurity risk has changed, and if necessary, what risk mitigation measures may be warranted to address any change in biosecurity risk.
2. Anything that increases the potential risk of FMD for Australia is a concern for the department, however, the department is constantly evaluating any changes in the animal health status and policies of trading partners and determines the risk to Australia on a case by case basis. A number of Australia's trading partners have import policies similar to those Indonesia is proposing.
3. Yes, the Minister's Office requested information from the department on this issue, which was provided.
4. No.

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**Question: 68**

**Division/Agency:** Biosecurity Animal Division

**Topic:** Applications for Imports

**Proof Hansard page:** Written

**Senator STERLE asked:**

What information will need to be included in an application for a permit to bring or import conditionally non-prohibited goods?

**Answer:**

The information requirements for a permit application to import goods to Australia will remain the same as current requirements. For all goods that require an import permit, applicants are required to provide details of: the identity of the proposed holder of the permit, the exporter, the goods being imported and other information about the proposed import that will assist the department in assessing biosecurity risk such as the species, ingredients and manufacturing process. In deciding whether to grant a permit, the Director of Biosecurity may also consider whether the applicant is a fit and proper person. Additional information may therefore be requested by the department to make this determination.