

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2014

Agriculture

Question: 120

Division/Agency: Grains Research and Development Corporation

Topic: Relocation of Grains Research and Development Corporation

Proof Hansard page: 44

Senator LINES asked:

Senator LINES: I am still looking at it. We have got the department now checking the science to give us a couple of papers on disputed science around GM. In the government's pre-election policy for a competitive agriculture sector it was stated:

The Coalition will be highly consultative with stakeholders within the sector. Specifically, we will engage with a broad cross-section of industry participants to explore areas such as strategic priorities and long term planning for research and development investments.

That is in the coalition's election commitments. Has the minister or the department written to the Grains Research and Development Corporation, which I think everyone calls the GRDC, about relocating or has it asked you to submit a relocation document?

Mr Harvey: The department has discussed that issue with us.

Senator LINES: What in fact has it discussed?

Dr Grimes: I think I have taken some of these matters on notice. Earlier today I said that we have been asked to provide advice.

Answer:

The Department of Agriculture and Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) discussed the preparation of a costed proposal to relocate GRDC to a regional area.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2014

Agriculture

Question: 121

Division/Agency: Grains Research and Development Corporation

Topic: Top line discussions on relocation

Proof Hansard page: 46 (29/05/2014)

Senator LINES asked:

Senator LINES: Okay. Thank you. Then I should request GRDC to take that on notice.

Dr Grimes: GRDC can take matters on notice and see what might be provided.

Senator LINES: Can you take on notice to provide us detail around what was in those top line discussions, please?

Mr Harvey: Yes.

Answer:

The Department of Agriculture requested the following information from Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC):

- Description of considerations in relocating GRDC from 40 Blackall St, Barton, to a regional area including;
 - Policy case,
 - Implications,
 - Current property considerations,
 - Staffing considerations,
 - Stakeholder issues likely to arise, and
 - Relocation costing and assumptions

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2014

Agriculture

Question: 122

Division/Agency: Grains Research and Development Corporation

Topic: Executive Leadership

Proof Hansard page: 55 (29/05/2014)

Senator STERLE asked:

Senator STERLE: That was close. What is the figure for the executive leadership?

Mr Harvey: The number that we provided in that answer was \$1,660 for that period. That is from 1 November 2013 through to 28 February 2014.

Senator STERLE: That is it: \$1,660?

Mr Harvey: Correct.

Senator STERLE: What was that for?

Mr Harvey: I would need to go back and check exactly what that was for and take that question on notice.

Senator STERLE: It has come from being on notice, so I do not accept that it has to go away and come back again. This looks very, very sloppy, Mr Harvey. You do not get a double dip at it, because, you see, for someone like me who sits up here for four days, where the mood swings come in and out, I find it very—

ACTING CHAIR: Eight days.

Senator STERLE: Well, I was only going to say four, but it would be eight days.

ACTING CHAIR: Do you want some sugar?

Senator STERLE: No, that will come later. I want you to really take this seriously. You just cannot keep going back. This is costing. This is taxpayers' money. This is a terrible look if you have to take a question on notice on notice again to try and give me an answer. It is very sloppy.

Mr Harvey: Senator, I take your comments seriously.

Senator STERLE: Well, you did not take them seriously last time, because you would have been prepared or there would have been an answer and there would have been some explanatory notes around it, Mr Harvey—very, very poor. How long will it take to get that information? Taxpayers' money!

Question: 122 (continued)

Mr Harvey: We can provide you with an answer to that on notice.

Senator STERLE: How long will that take? You have had months to do this.

Answer:

A g e n c y	Number of employees offered training/ executive coaching and classification	Actual participant of training/ executive coaching and classification at time	Nature of service provided	Name of training course/ executive coaching	Dates of training/ executive coaching	Provider	Service (group based or one-to-one)	Total hours involved for participant	Total cost per participant	Description of fees charged	Where was service provided	If other than the department, costs incurred for use of location	Was study leave granted? If yes how many hours was granted?
G R D C	1	Senior Manager	Company Directors course	Company Directors Course - update	20-21 November 2013	Australian Institute of Company Directors	Group based	15	\$1,660	Complete package	Australian Institute of Company Directors - Level 3, 54 Marcus Clarke Street, Canberra	N/A	N/A

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2014

Agriculture

Question: 123

Division/Agency: Grains Research and Development Corporation

Topic: Official meeting with the minister

Proof Hansard page: 54 (29/05/2014)

Senator STERLE asked:

Mr R Clark: I think we have had one official meeting in Parliament House. I have met with the minister on several occasions coincidentally or—

Senator STERLE: You just bumped into each other?

Mr R Clark: We bumped into each other.

Senator STERLE: That happens. One here in Parliament House?

Mr R Clark: Yes, that is correct: one.

Senator STERLE: When was that?

Mr R Clark: I do not have the date. It would have been in early May, I think.

Senator STERLE: So it was an official meeting—just you and the minister? Anyone else? I will make it easy: why don't you take on notice who was there and when it was?

Answer:

Grains Research and Development Corporation representatives Mr Richard Clark, Chair; Mr John Harvey, Managing Director and Mrs Kylie Dunstan, Communication Manager, met with Minister for Agriculture, The Hon. Barnaby Joyce and Policy Adviser Richard Hyett on 5 March 2014 in his Ministerial Office at Parliament House.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2014

Agriculture

Question: 124

Division/Agency: Grains Research and Development Corporation

Topic: Panel meeting expenses

Proof Hansard page: 58 (29/05/2014)

Senator STERLE asked:

Senator STERLE: Very good. We would ask, Mr Harvey, if you could table that document for the committee. I have one query around panel meeting expenses; if you could be more definitive about that, that would help. I did not get the figure—how much was it?

Mr Harvey: There are two of them.

Senator STERLE: Could you clarify that. They would have dates and who the payments were made to. That is what we have asked for. Could you please table that?

Mr Harvey: Absolutely.

Senator STERLE: So 1 March to 30 June this year—I understand we are not there, but we will be asking exactly the same questions in relation to that period.

Mr Harvey: Sure.

Senator STERLE: Mr Harvey, that did not hurt, did it? Thank you very much.

ACTING CHAIR: Are there any further questions?

Senator GALLACHER: I have been apprised of a CSIRO project involving gluten-free beer and a patent for gluten-free beer. Is developing that part of your collaboration with CSIRO?

Mr Harvey: Correct, yes.

Senator GALLACHER: What sort of investment would your organisation have put into that?

Mr Harvey: I will have to take the question on notice to give you the actual number.

Question: 124 (continued)

Answer:

Panel meeting expenses

Dates	Vendor	Amount \$ (GST Excl)
19 December 2013	Durnbout Pty Ltd trading as: Sitting Ducks	254.55
10 December 2013	Cache – store of food	960.71

Panel meeting expenses from 1 March 2014 – 19 June 2014 (30 June not yet available)
\$4377.08

Dates	Vendor	Amount \$ (GST Excl)
30 April 2014	Brisbane Riverview hotel	2502.45
02 April 2014	Knight Frank	761.36
02 April 2014	Knight Frank	383.41
14 April 2014	Park Royal Melbourne Airport	729.86

Grains Research and Development Corporation's (GRDC) collaboration of current investment into the coeliac friendly cereals is below:

Project Name	Year 11/12	Year 12/13	Year 13/14
CSP000153	\$303 067	\$361 638	\$300 859

Previous investment leading up to this by GRDC is \$1 156 668.