

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
Questions on Notice
Budget Estimates, Monday 25 May 2015 and Tuesday 26 May 2015
Agriculture Portfolio

Senate No	Program/ Division or Agency	Senator	Broad topic	Question	Proof Hansard page & hearing date or Written question	Date received
1	ABARES	CAMERON	Australian forest and wood products: statistics March and June quarters 2014	<p>Senator CAMERON: I am asking you. Did anyone in your department advise the minister that there were 10,000 jobs?</p> <p>Mr Glyde: In producing this report, our usual practice is to provide to the minister, in this case the parliamentary secretary, that we are putting this out, that it has these facts and figures in it.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: Did anyone draw the minister's attention that this was subject to sampling variability too high for most practice purposes?</p> <p>Mr Glyde: I would have to check what actual briefing was provided.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: If you could do that and provide details of that because it is rich when the department produces a report that the minister then relies on and goes out and claims 10,000 jobs and you tell me here, 'Don't ask us about the viability of the figures that are in here or the certainty of the figures; go and talk to someone else.' You are responsible for advising the minister—aren't you?</p> <p>Mr Glyde: Absolutely, and we have been doing that on a consistent and regular basis—and I do not know how often we do this—quarterly or annually for many years, bringing together the information about the wood and wood products industry into a common form. So the accuracy of this information is the same</p>	50 26-05-15	

				at each of those quarterly points.		
2	ABARES	CAMERON	Australian forest and wood products: statistics March and June quarters 2014	<p>Senator CAMERON: What do you say then in relation to the asterisk that was in the report and the commentary in the report that says, "This is subject to sampling variability too high for most practice purposes"? Are you saying it is not a practical statement?</p> <p>Senator Colbeck: No.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: You are claiming 10,000 jobs, even though the report says you cannot do this.</p> <p>Senator Colbeck: My statement reflects what was in the report, quite clearly.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: Did you read the report before you made the statement?</p> <p>Senator Colbeck: Not all the report, but I read the advice that was given to me by the department.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: So there was advice given to you. Did that advice include that this was subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes?</p> <p>Senator Colbeck: I would have to take that on notice.</p>	51 26-05-15	
3	ABARES	CAMERON	Australian forest and wood products: statistics March and June quarters 2014	<p>Senator CAMERON: Was the department aware of these qualifications when the minister made these speeches? Was the department involved in drafting these speeches for the minister?</p> <p>Mr Glyde: I would have to take that on notice. I think the department is aware, because it was published in the ABARES report. So we were aware in that sense, if that is what you are getting at. But in terms of whether or not we assisted the parliamentary secretary with the speech, I would have to go back. We tend to provide dot points, facts and information to the minister's staff to assist them</p>	55 26-05-15	

in putting together talking points. As you would probably be aware, public servants are not terribly good at writing speeches, but we do provide the facts and the figures that go into the speeches for our minister and our parliamentary secretary.

Senator Colbeck: Senator, I can give you some assistance there. The department provided my office with some information around my media release. They would have done some speech notes for me for the speech. But my department is getting to know the use to which I put my speech notes. I usually jot some notes on the back of the speech and then make my own speech. So I very rarely, if ever, read a speech. I speak from my understanding and knowledge of the information. I will refer to facts as part of the speech but I do not normally read a prepared speech.

Senator CAMERON: Senator Colbeck, when you made these assertions about these jobs and these claims about the jobs, were you aware of the qualification to that figure?

Senator Colbeck: Well, that goes to the question I took on notice before lunch. I still have not clarified that information, so I will have to refer back to that point.

Senator CAMERON: But you would not remember if somebody said, 'Hey, this figure is now'—

Senator Colbeck: Senator Cameron, before lunch, I said that I could not recall whether it was in the advice. I said I would take it on notice. The department has done the same thing. My circumstance is no different now to what it was then.

Senator CAMERON: Mr Glyde, can you provide all the correspondence and documentation, including file notes, in relation to this figure and the speeches and the press release?

Senator Colbeck: Well, there will not be a speech because there is no provided speech. I make my own

				speeches. There would not be a speech. Mr Glyde: I am happy to do that.		
4	ABARES	CAMERON	ABS figures	Mr Glyde: I want to suggest, to try to help Senator Cameron, that we might come back on notice and describe the confidence that the ABS has in the total figure, which is the one you are concerned about—the 10,000. We can then break it down, as Dr Stobutzki said, into confidence about some of the subsectors in that. Senator CAMERON: That would give me a lot of confidence.	57 26-05-2015	
5	ABARES	BACK	Sustainability of fishing grounds and fish stocks	Senator BACK: Which is the fishery that went from being overfished to no longer? We went from four to three. Which fishery was that? Dr Stobutzki: I will just check. Senator BACK: Perhaps you can take that on notice. Dr Stobutzki: If you would not mind. I do not have that level of the changes with me. Senator BACK: I do not think the minister knows, does he? Senator Colbeck: No, I do not. Dr Stobutzki: I think it was a stock in the southern and eastern scale fishing shark fishery, but I would rather check.	57-58 26-05-15	
6	ABARES	CAMERON	December quarterly report	Senator CAMERON: I am ready to go. I want to finish on this last issue before I move on to another area. I have been advised that the December quarterly report on employment growth generally shows a 100,000 increase in employment. Given the figures that are being quoted for your sector—figures quoted by the minister—that means that four Australian associated areas have accounted for 10 per cent of the total growth in employment in the	59 26-05-2015	

				<p>nation when you make up only 0.6 per cent of the economy. That means the industry grew 16.6 times faster than the growth that is reported generally across the country. You do not need to answer it now; I am happy for you to take it on notice given that you do not know where the jobs are and nobody knows where they are.</p> <p>Senator Colbeck: I will make one point just to clarify. The figures that I was looking at were not over a quarter. They were annual figures, not quarterly figures. That is the first thing that comes to mind. But we can take the rest of that information on notice. So you are talking about a quarterly number. I think just after that number came out, or it might have been after the next quarter's figures came out, the ABS did make a statement about the numbers.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: What has been done is 10,000 have been compressed. Not all the 10,000 jobs go into the quarter.</p> <p>Senator Colbeck: No. The figure that I quoted was across a year, not across a quarter. So that is the first thing.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: I will move on. We need to know where these jobs are. If you can give us any practical examples, not analytical examples of ABS statistics, and if you can point to a significant increase in jobs around the country—it is not a huge area—you should let us know.</p>		
7	ABARES	CAMERON	Meeting with ministerial staff – white paper	<p>Senator CAMERON: I will move to the white paper issue. Has ABARES provided any advice to the minister for input into the white paper consideration by government?</p> <p>Ms Schneider: We have provided some information to the white paper taskforce. We have provided some comments on drafts of the white paper.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: When you say information and comments—</p>	66-67 26-05-15	

Ms Schneider: We have provided data on some issues. As part of the normal process in the department, we have provided some comments on some of the draft chapters that have been prepared.

Senator CAMERON: So you have seen the draft chapters?

Ms Schneider: Some, yes.

Senator CAMERON: Have you met with the minister on any of the issues?

Ms Schneider: No, we have not.

Senator CAMERON: Have you met with his staff?

Ms Schneider: The minister's staff? No.

Senator CAMERON: So did you provide this data, assumptions, information and comments off your own bat?

Ms Schneider: I would have to refer to those who might have provided some information, but, no. I think it is in response to requests.

Mr Glyde: Can we take that on notice? My recollection is that at the time of the production of possibly the green paper and even possibly the issues paper, there may well have been a call for ABARES to have provided some draft text to the taskforce that is operating out of the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet. So we are probably best to check back on what ABARES actually provided of its own volition or at the invitation of the taskforce. But Ms Schneider is talking, I think, about the most recent part of the process. As we discussed yesterday, the taskforce in PM&C is working on the white paper and has been sharing drafts of various chapters and approaches with the departments that are involved in the preparation of the white paper. We have been going through that process. In that role, ABARES is a pretty valuable source of fact checking and making sure that the taskforce has got the right end of the stick.

Senator CAMERON: I am not asking what advice

				<p>you have given. When did you give advice to the minister from ABARES? When did you provide that?</p> <p>Ms Schneider: I would have to take on notice when we provided comments, for example, to the white paper taskforce, not the minister.</p>		
8	ABARES	CAMERON	White paper	<p>Senator CAMERON: Can you provide details of the information that you have provided to the secretary or to the taskforce on this issue and dates when the information was provided? Can you also provide dates of any requests you have had for information on the white paper process?</p> <p>Mr Glyde: That could be quite a long task, but we will take it on notice. It has been quite a period over the last 18 months in the lead-up to the production of the white paper through the issues paper and the green paper. But let us have a think about it.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: That is fine.</p>	67 26-05-15	
9	ABARES	CAMERON	Advice from ABARES – climate change	<p>Senator CAMERON: Has the minister sought any advice from ABARES in relation to the major risks for agricultural production from climate change?</p> <p>Mr Glyde: Again, two parts of the department might be involved here. The agricultural adaptation and forestry division has responsibility for some of these matters. Certainly in the context of the white paper and possible elements within the white paper related to managing risk and managing farm risk there would undoubtedly have been some provision of information in that regard. I want to clarify that other parts of the department would have this responsibility as well.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: I am asking a narrower question.</p> <p>Mr Glyde: About ABARES, yes.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: Has ABARES had any requests either from the minister through the</p>	67-68 26-05-15	

				<p>department or from the minister's office directly about the major risks of climate change for the agricultural industry?</p> <p>Ms Schneider: I think the answer is no, but I would like to be able to get back to you on that.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: That includes the department. So the department has not asked any questions of ABARES that could then be relayed back to the minister, have they?</p> <p>Ms Schneider: Again, I would have to take that on notice.</p>		
10	ABARES	CAMERON	Climate change	<p>Senator CAMERON: Before Senator Heffernan really comes after me, can you on notice provide details of how you isolate the climate signal in terms of what you describe as the productivity issues you are dealing with? Can you indicate how important it is to deal with this issue of climate change? Can you also on notice advise what has happened to the climate change department within ABARES? You had a climate change department, did you?</p> <p>Ms Schneider: We had a section.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: A climate change section. How many people were employed in that?</p> <p>Ms Schneider: I would have to take that on notice.</p>	70 26-05-15	
11	Agricultural Adaptation and Forestry Division	CAMERON	Farm Household Allowance	<p>Senator CAMERON: A small change? So it is a small change when a target is established, you don't make the target and you say that we have actually done over the target. That is a small change in your lexicon, is it?</p> <p>Mr Glyde: I am saying that you would have to be well versed in the number of people applying for farm household allowance and what have you, to be able to pick that change up. So it requires people who know what they are doing to be able to identify that. If, for example, I were monitoring question time, I might not have noticed that. I am not close</p>	7 25-5-15	

				<p>enough to the detail to be able to understand the significance of what, on the face of it, looks like a relatively small change in numbers.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: Who first picked it up in the department?</p> <p>Mr Glyde: I am not sure if I have that information in my head, but the people who would be most able to talk to you about this are appearing tomorrow. They would be able to give you the detail of that.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: I am not going to wait until tomorrow. This is an important issue from the opposition's point of view.</p> <p>Mr Glyde: Sure.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: Can you provide details of who and at what level this was picked up, when it was picked up and who was advised of the issue?</p> <p>Mr Glyde: I am happy to do that.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: For this issue of what you describe as a minor number—and we see it as more than that—what process was undertaken to resolve that with the minister or the minister's office and was the minister advised? Do you know any of those answers now without taking it on notice?</p> <p>Mr Glyde: I think I would make a mistake if I had a guess at it. I am happy to take it on notice. That is probably the safest.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: When were you aware that there were significant changes made to the <i>Hansard</i>?</p> <p>Mr Glyde: When was I aware?</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: When did the department become aware?</p> <p>Mr Glyde: Again, I would have to take it on notice. But I think it was the following day.</p>		
12	Agricultural Adaptation and Forestry Division	EDWARDS	Farm household allowance	<p>Senator EDWARDS: I am just trying to get to an understanding of it. We work in this space. How did this change from 1 July 2014 vary from what was in place from the farm household allowance proper?</p>	15 25-05-2015	

				<p>Ms Kennedy: Between the interim?</p> <p>Senator EDWARDS: Yes.</p> <p>Ms Kennedy: There are a couple of key differences, and I can certainly take on notice a more detailed answer. The key thing was the legislation. The previous scheme was only an executive one. One of the key differences is that under farm household allowance as it stands now, each member of a couple is treated separately. Whereas, under the previous incarnation and payments before that, there were payments to couples together. There are a number of others changes.</p>		
13	Agricultural Adaptation and Forestry Division	CAMERON	AgForce survey	<p>Senator CAMERON: ... I understand that there was an AgForce survey. It was reported on the ABC and it says, as I understand it, that two thirds have not applied for farm household allowance on the concessional loans. Of those that applied, one third were unsuccessful, 64 per cent received farm household allowance and half received drought concessional loans. Is that an accurate reflection on how the program is operating?</p> <p>Mr Padovan: One of the challenges we have is that references to the programs get used interchangeably. So, certainly, I am aware that AgForce had some concerns in relation to the concessional loans and the eligibility criteria around that. The comment you just made in relation to farm household allowance is certainly not correct. We have a relatively modest rejection rate for farm household allowance. It is a roughly 20 per cent or less rejection rate—and we can provide the figures separately.</p>	16 25-05-2015	
14	Agricultural Adaptation and Forestry Division	CAMERON	AgForce survey	<p>Senator CAMERON: Have AgForce provided their survey to anyone in the department?</p> <p>Ms Kennedy: Certainly I have not received it. If I might suggest: our division can re-cover issues around farm household allowance. I think it is on</p>	18 25-5-15	

				<p>tomorrow afternoon. Would it be possible for me to go away today and speak to AgForce and get a copy of the survey so I am in a better position to answer your questions by tomorrow afternoon?</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: Yes, obviously that is a positive suggestion. I do not have a problem with that. Do you have a Ms Julie Goodchap and a Ms Kate Brinkley in the department?</p> <p>Mr Padovan: We do.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: What is Ms Goodchap's position?</p> <p>Ms Willock: Julie Goodchap is currently the director of the area that administers the concessional loans arrangement, mainly the existing loans, so the Farm Finance Concessional Loan Scheme and the Drought Concessional Loan Scheme.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: And Ms Brinkley?</p> <p>Ms Willock: Ms Brinkley is the director of the farm business resilience area, which deals with taxation issues and farm debt mediation and a number of other related issues.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: Will they be here tomorrow?</p> <p>Ms Willock: No.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: Can you check for me to see whether they received a copy of the survey?</p> <p>Ms Willock: Yes.</p>		
15	Agricultural Adaptation and Forestry Division	EDWARDS	Farm Household Allowance	<p>Senator EDWARDS: I just want to talk about the farm household allowance. I just have a couple of questions, Acting Secretary. They are probably best for Ms Kennedy. How much do people receive under the FHA?</p> <p>Ms Kennedy: It is in the light of the Newstart rates, so it would depend, basically.</p> <p>Senator EDWARDS: How much is that? I have never been on Newstart.</p> <p>Ms Kennedy: I could take it on notice and give you the table of all of the rates exactly, but it depends on</p>	19 25-5-15	

				<p>whether you are single or partnered and potentially how much off-farm income you have.</p> <p>Senator EDWARDS: Okay, right.</p> <p>Ms Kennedy: I can provide that in more detail.</p> <p>Mr Glyde: Senator Edwards, we can provide that tomorrow afternoon, when the division comes on.</p> <p>Senator EDWARDS: Yes. I am just interested. And that is—what—to pay for living expenses, groceries?</p> <p>Ms Kennedy: Yes. That is essentially what it is aimed at. It is people in hardship, to make sure that they can cover living expenses. It is not a business assistance allowance; it is for personal expenses.</p>		
16	Agricultural Adaptation and Forestry Division	EDWARDS	Accelerated depreciation announced in budget	<p>Senator EDWARDS: The other issue is in relation to the budget announcements—several initiatives to support water infrastructure, including the \$70 million assistance to primary producers that we spoke about earlier. I was talking with people over the weekend. They are a bit sad that it begins on 1 July 2016 and not on budget night, of course. What are the arrangements for the accelerated depreciation announced in the budget? Can you just give me a very high-level overview?</p> <p>Mr Glyde: I will have a stab. This is probably a question best asked of the Agricultural Adaptation and Forestry Division, but essentially there is accelerated depreciation for water, fodder storage and the like and for fencing. The idea is that, depending on which category you are in, previously it was three or more years and now that expenditure can be written off in the year in which it is incurred.</p> <p>Senator EDWARDS: Instantly?</p> <p>Mr Glyde: Yes.</p> <p>CHAIR: As of 1 July 2016?</p> <p>Mr Glyde: Yes.</p> <p>CHAIR: In the meantime all of the fencing will be repairs?</p> <p>Mr Glyde: They will continue to enjoy the current</p>	45 25-5-15	

				<p>rate of depreciation that they currently enjoy.</p> <p>Senator EDWARDS: What activities or plant are available under fencing as we know it?</p> <p>Mr Glyde: I think we will have to take that one when we get the experts.</p> <p>Senator EDWARDS: There is no problem—there is just a lot of confusion out there and I was just trying to get it on the record. I am pretty keen to get it on the record.</p> <p>Mr Glyde: We can make sure that we have the—it is a matter for the Treasury, but we can certainly outline what it applies to.</p> <p>Senator EDWARDS: We have a bit of time—to 1 July 2016. Can you do the same for the activities of plant and water facilities as well.</p> <p>Mr Glyde: Sure.</p> <p>Senator EDWARDS: And fodder storage.</p> <p>Mr Glyde: We will be prepared for that at 7.30 tonight.</p>		
17	Agricultural Adaptation and Forestry Division	CAMERON	Rural Financial Counselling Service additional funding	<p>Senator CAMERON: Will the \$1.8 million to fund the additional rural financial counsellors be run through DHS?</p> <p>Mr Padovan: No. Rural financial counsellors are run by this department. That is looking at around 10 additional full-time counsellors. It will piggyback off the existing arrangements we have with the Rural Financial Counselling Service.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: So how many of your counsellors do you have now?</p> <p>Mr Padovan: I think it is around 120.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: A modest increase.</p> <p>Mr Padovan: A modest increase, but specifically targeted at drought affected areas.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: Are you aware that they are going to be giving us 20 local council areas?</p> <p>Mr Padovan: I will take that on notice. I do not have the details at hand. The estimate is those</p>	61 25-5-15	

				councils will service anywhere between 500 and 600 additional clients on top of our existing base.		
18	Agricultural Adaptation and Forestry Division	CAMERON	Work that is being done across the RDCs on climate change	<p>Senator CAMERON: So this is a major risk for agricultural production. You are the preeminent research group within government on this issue, but you have one or two people who provide you some advice from other areas within the department. You do not have a climate change section. That is as I understand it.</p> <p>Mr Glyde: I will just clarify. Certainly within the department of agriculture ABARES is our research arm on both economic and scientific matters that relate to policy advising. But the depth of research experience, particularly in relation to climate change and its impact on the farm sector, is with our RDCs because they are the ones that spend. About \$250 million goes annually into the RDCs from the taxpayer matched by industry levies. I think if you were to go through the work and the work plans of all of the RDCs, you would see that quite a bit of work over the years has been, and continues to be, dedicated towards climate change and climate variability and dealing with that and the fact that variability would appear to be increasing over time.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: That is fine.</p> <p>Mr Glyde: I will clarify that the preeminent bit of research in terms of climate change is being done in the RDCs and in CSIRO. We are trying to channel that information into policy advice that would go to ministers and to the government.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: You do not speak for CSIRO so I cannot ask you about that. Can you provide a document which outlines the work that is being done across the RDCs on climate change? What is the work that is being done within ABARES on climate change? What is the work that is being done in the</p>	70 26-05-15	

				<p>department? Is that possible? Mr Glyde: Yes. It is a big task, but we will give it a go.</p>		
19	Agricultural Adaptation and Forestry Division	RICE	Mechanical fuel load reduction trials	<p>Senator RICE: Yes. I need to be out of here for five minutes. I want to talk about the mechanical fuel load reduction trials that were announced in the budget for Victoria, Tasmania and Western Australia, where \$1½ million has been allocated. Where exactly in each state will these mechanical fuel reduction trials be carried out? Mr McNamara: At this stage, we have not actually determined which states they will be carried out in, although I note there has been interest from WA, Victoria, New South Wales, South Australia and Queensland. So those details are yet to be worked through with the forest authorities in each of those states and with the forest fire management group. Senator RICE: Have there been specific areas that have been proposed in those states? Mr McNamara: There have been some areas mooted. But, as I say, the governance arrangements for that program have not yet been finalised and worked through. Senator RICE: Can you tell me the areas that have been proposed? Mr McNamara: There are areas in each of those states. Senator RICE: Which areas? Mr McNamara: I do not have them on me at the moment. Without actually having finalised the arrangements with the national partnership arrangements, I think it would be wrong of me to speculate about areas that might be included in that.</p>	76 26-05-15	
20	Agricultural Adaptation and Forestry Division	CHAIR	Fodder storage	<p>CHAIR: For the water measures? Mr Padovan: Water and fodder infrastructure and fencing.</p>	78-79 26-05-15	

				<p>Senator BACK: Is there anything other than what we would expect with fodder storage?</p> <p>Mr Padovan: This will be clarified through the legislation. The things we are looking at at the moment are hay and foraging assets, liquid feed systems, seed and fertiliser bins, and sheds used for pastoral operations.</p> <p>Senator BACK: Silage pits?</p> <p>Mr Padovan: And silage pits.</p> <p>CHAIR: Would that include woolsheds?</p> <p>Senator BACK: A woolshed?</p> <p>CHAIR: What did you say? Sheds for?</p> <p>Senator BACK: Fodder storage.</p> <p>CHAIR: What did you just say? Sheds for?</p> <p>Mr Padovan: Sheds for pastoral operations. But we will have to work through the detail of which sheds.</p> <p>CHAIR: Well, a shed for pastoral operations is a woolshed.</p> <p>Mr Padovan: But, as I said, this will be settled in the legislation when it comes through. We are just working through that with Treasury at the moment.</p> <p>CHAIR: You blokes had better come and have a yarn to me. Is it going to include water for stock and domestic purposes and riparian water rights to be run? I declare an interest. A few years ago, out of the Lachlan I ran a pipe 10 miles, or whatever it is, for stock and domestic purposes. Would that be covered?</p> <p>Mr Padovan: We will have to get back to you on that one.</p>		
21	Agricultural Adaptation and Forestry Division	BACK	Emissions Reduction Fund auction	<p>Senator BACK: Or Treasury does. I will move on from that accelerated asset question. I want to ask you about the Emissions Reduction Fund auction. How much funding? How many projects related to agriculture? Could you give us a bit more background in terms of the take-up by the agricultural industry and by farmers, please?</p>	79 26-05-15	

Mr Padovan: I might start at a high level and then hand over to Ms Kennedy, who can go through some of the further detail. In terms of the high level for the first round of the Emissions Reduction Fund, the results were published on 23 April. There were 76 contracts issued that relate to the agriculture sector. Associated with them were 30.1 million tonnes of abatement.

Senator BACK: So 76 related to agriculture. Can you remind us how many there were in total? Do you have that figure?

Mr Padovan: Yes, we do.

Ms Kennedy: There were 107 contracts to deliver 47.3 million tonnes of abatement.

Senator BACK: So 107 contracts, of which 76 were related to agriculture and 30 of the 47. So that is a million tonnes. Good. Distribution geographically? Was it fairly widespread?

Ms Kennedy: This is obviously something that is managed within the environment portfolio and the Clean Energy Regulator. Information is available on their website. Yes, there was a reasonable distribution of these vegetation and agriculture related projects. Essentially, the figure I have in front of me is that approximately 60 per cent of the total abatement was from vegetation and agriculture related projects.

Senator BACK: Sixty per cent vegetation agriculture?

Ms Kennedy: Yes.

Senator BACK: Finally—I will go to the CER website—in terms of the agriculture side, what proportion, if any, was associated with livestock?

Ms Kennedy: I am sorry, but I would have to take that on notice.

22	Agricultural Adaptation and Forestry Division	CAMERON	Forest Industry Advisory Council	<p>Senator CAMERON: Who represents wood panel and board production?</p> <p>Senator Colbeck: Well, the advisory council is not designed as a representative organisation. I think we might have covered this previously at estimates. It is not designed as a representative organisation. It is designed to bring in a number of industry skill sets but not as a representative organisation. That is how it used to be. It used to be made up of effectively executive officers of industry organisations from around the country. We made a deliberate decision to change the way that operated. We have a range of CEOs of businesses from around the country. It was a very deliberate decision to change the way it was set up. I know that it upset some people in the broader wood and wood products sector. My view is that at this point the change in direction has not only reinvigorated the work but also borne fruit. That has been demonstrated through the publication initially of the discussion paper that is out in the public arena at the moment.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: Is wood panel and board production on or not?</p> <p>Mr McNamara: I am just looking through the list. I will have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: Furniture?</p> <p>Senator Colbeck: No.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: Frame and truss?</p> <p>Senator Colbeck: I think we talked about that.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: No?</p> <p>Mr McNamara: No.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: Exporters?</p> <p>Senator Colbeck: Well, there are certainly people sitting around the table who are involved in export.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: So on notice you can give me that detail, if you do not mind.</p>	84 26-05-15	
----	---	---------	----------------------------------	--	----------------	--

23	Agricultural Adaptation and Forestry Division	CAMERON	Consultation – Forest Industry Advisory Council	<p>Senator CAMERON: Can you provide details of where these other groups are being consulted and when they are being spoken to?</p> <p>Senator Colbeck: I can give you notice of events and meetings that I have been to with them on notice.</p>	85 26-05-15	
24	Agricultural Adaptation and Forestry Division	CAMERON	Forest Industry Advisory Council	<p>Senator CAMERON: It does not matter what you believe. It does not matter whether you think you have a broad set of skills. You have indicated here that you have deliberately set out to change the way it operates. It operates in a way which is not consistent with your obligations under the act.</p> <p>Senator Colbeck: Well, I do not agree with you, Senator. I think that I am meeting my obligations under the act. If you want to say otherwise, I suppose we agree to disagree.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: That is the arrogance of this government, but that is fine.</p> <p>Senator Colbeck: You can characterise it any way you like, but I believe that I have a very good relationship across the forest and wood products industry. I believe that I am meeting my obligations both within the portfolio and under the act.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: See, what you believe is not the issue. The issue is that you must comply with the act.</p> <p>Senator Colbeck: It is actually the issue, because that is my obligation.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: No. Your obligation is to comply with the act.</p> <p>Senator Colbeck: That is correct, and I believe that I am.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: Have you had advice along those lines?</p> <p>Senator Colbeck: I would have to take that on notice, but it was something we considered when we restructured the people sitting around the table.</p>	85-86 26-05-15	

				<p>Senator CAMERON: Did the minister seek any advice—</p> <p>Senator Colbeck: I have not finished my answer yet. As I said, it was one of the issues that we considered when we restructured the advisory council. So I think that I may have, but, to be sure, so that I do not mislead the committee, I will take that on notice and go back and check. But my recollection is that we did consider this matter as part of forming the Forest Industry Advisory Council.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: Mr Glyde, are you aware whether the minister sought any advice in relation to this forum complying with the act?</p> <p>Mr Glyde: Senator, I am not personally aware of that. Our usual practice in any of these matters is to ensure that the minister and the parliamentary secretary follow the legislation. So, like Senator Colbeck, I would have to take that on notice to come back to you with the sequence of events that led to the announcement of the ministerial advisory council.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: On notice, could you provide details of any correspondence, emails, times and dates of telephone calls and any other correspondence relating to the establishment of this forum. Can you also provide details of how this complies with the act.</p> <p>Mr Glyde: Sure.</p>		
25	Agricultural Adaptation and Forestry Division	CAMERON	Field trips for the drought concessional loans	<p>Senator CAMERON: Just one last question on this. You did indicate that officers were on field trips for the drought concessional loans.</p> <p>Mr Padovan: That is correct.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: What is the detail of those field trips?</p> <p>Mr Padovan: We will have to take that on notice. They were principally around engaging with the rural community, seeing and talking firsthand to</p>	91 26-05-15	

				<p>mayors and farmers and understanding on the ground the conditions people were facing.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: Can you provide details of who was on the field trips, where they went on the field trips, how long the field trips took, the cost of the field trips and the outcomes from the field trips?</p> <p>CHAIR: How many bottled waters they had.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: You can add that too, if you like.</p>		
26	Agricultural Adaptation and Forestry Division	CAMERON	Drought concessional loans	<p>Senator CAMERON: I want to come back quickly to the funding for the drought concessional loans, the farm finance loan and the drought recovery loan. What is the government's borrowing costs for these loans?</p> <p>Ms Willock: I can tell you the current five-year bond rate. Questions about the government's borrowing rate need to be directed to Treasury.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: So you do not know?</p> <p>Ms Willock: As I said, questions about moneys borrowed by the government are dealt with by the Treasury.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: You are administering the loan. You would understand what the cost of that loan is. You do not have to ask Treasury for that.</p> <p>Ms Willock: When the loan schemes are first set up, like all programs, there are costings done. Those costings use information provided to us by Treasury and the department of finance. I do not have any of that information with me. I can, as I said, provide you with the current bond rates, which are an approximation of the settings considered in setting up those loan schemes.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: You can give me the bond rates. Is that what the cost of this money was—the current bond rate? There could be a difference.</p> <p>Ms Willock: Exactly right. There would be a difference.</p>	94-95 26-05-15	

				<p>Senator CAMERON: I am not asking what the current bond rates are. I think there is a total of \$270 million after \$10 million has been skimmed from the concessional loans. There is \$420 million for farm finance. I am not sure what the drought recovery total value is. What is the total value of drought recovery?</p> <p>Ms Willock: In terms of funding available?</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: Yes.</p> <p>Ms Willock: It is \$100 million.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: So \$100 million. The secretary has given me advice to take it on notice. Is that right?</p> <p>Mr Glyde: No. I was asking a question.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: Sorry.</p> <p>Mr Glyde: My apologies</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: So you probably do not have that figure available. On notice, can you give us the effective bond rate that applies to those three programs?</p>		
27	Agricultural Adaptation and Forestry Division	CAMERON	Existing social and community support	<p>Senator CAMERON: Thanks. I will move now to the \$20 million to extend and expand the existing social and community support. This is for mental health support and counselling from drought affected farming families and communities. What is the baseline figure that has been expended now? Is there a figure on that? Is that at \$20 million? How much has been spent on this?</p> <p>Ms Kennedy: I am not sure I understand your question. This is a continuation of a measure that has been in place for some time.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: That is what I am asking. How much?</p> <p>Ms Kennedy: There was previously \$15.5 million since the February 2014 drought announcement. So all together now that will be \$35.5 million until the end of the next financial year.</p>	95-96 26-05-15	

				<p>Senator CAMERON: Is this just a straight extension of the existing program, or are there new elements to the program?</p> <p>Ms Kennedy: It is an extension in terms of the areas that are covered. So all of the existing LGAs that have been provided with these enhanced services will continue to have those services provided for in this coming financial year. That is 50 LGAs. Originally, there were only areas in New South Wales and Queensland. For the coming financial year, that has been extended to some additional LGAs in Queensland and new LGAs in Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania. So there is 69 in total across Australia.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: Who administers this fund?</p> <p>Ms Kennedy: It is administered by the Department of Social Services and the Department of Human Services. Social services handles the mental health and families and children activity and the Department of Social Services are the coordinators. They do it through their on-the-ground providers. The drought coordinators are a separate element of this measure, and they are staff members, essentially, of the Department of Human Services.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: Can you take on notice if there are any other elements? You are saying that it is just a continuation and there are no new elements except that it goes wider.</p>		
28	Agricultural Adaptation and Forestry Division	CAMERON	Existing social and community support	<p>Senator CAMERON: Can you provide details of any changes to how it will work and compare that to the existing scheme? Maybe you could do a little table as to what is existing and what the changes are. That would be helpful. If you are expanding it from 50, do you know what other areas it will be expanded to?</p> <p>Ms Kennedy: I do. Could I possibly take that on notice? There are 19 additional areas or LGAs that it</p>	96 26-05-15	

				<p>will be extended to.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: Are these drought affected areas?</p> <p>Ms Kennedy: Yes. That is correct.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: If you could provide details of that extended area.</p> <p>Ms Kennedy: Certainly.</p>		
29	Agricultural Adaptation and Forestry Division	CAMERON	Rural financial counsellors	<p>Senator CAMERON: The rural financial counsellors will receive another \$1.8 million. Has the department done any analysis that they could provide to the committee about the effectiveness of the rural financial counsellors?</p> <p>Mr Padovan: The National Rural Advisory Council undertook a report that was delivered last year that looked at the service. The minister has delivered the government response to that review. So there has been quite a comprehensive review of that service. That will certainly inform the next stage of the grant rounds which we are looking to have finalised by December this year.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: Is this to fund additional counsellors? The counsellors that are there are funded out of a different pot of money?</p> <p>Mr Padovan: That is correct.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: And this is additional money. Is this a bit like the previous \$20 million that will be going into additional local council areas?</p> <p>Mr Padovan: That is correct.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: Is it the same 19?</p> <p>Mr Padovan: We can come back to you separately. I do not have the details at hand. We will have to take that one on notice.</p>	96 26-05-15	
30	Agricultural Adaptation and Forestry Division	CAMERON	Depreciation of water facilities	<p>Senator CAMERON: Let us move to the \$70 million for depreciation of water facilities, storage and fencing. Why is this being allocated from July 2016?</p>	97 26-05-15	

				<p>Mr Padovan: That is a decision of government. I am not sure what more I can say.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: Senator Colbeck, can you give us any idea why this would have to wait until July 2016?</p> <p>Senator Colbeck: Only that, as the officers have said, that was a decision of the government through the process of approval of the program.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: Can you give me some idea about what the criteria for this decision was?</p> <p>Senator Colbeck: I would have to take that on notice. I was not part of the conversations.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: Is this the program that the minister is saying should be brought forward?</p> <p>Senator Colbeck: I think it might be. I would have to check.</p>		
31	Agricultural Adaptation and Forestry Division	CAMERON	Fencing	<p>Senator CAMERON: On 13 May, the minister, was reported on 7.30 as having asked the Treasurer to pull this aspect forward in line with the tax breaks being offered for small business. Has there been any progress on that?</p> <p>Mr Padovan: That is probably a question that is best asked of Treasury. Treasury is responsible for this measure. We certainly are consulted and advise on the process, but Treasury own the measure.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: That is fine. Has Treasury consulted with you on this measure?</p> <p>Mr Padovan: We have spoken to Treasury on this matter.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: Did you instigate the discussions or did Treasury instigate the discussions?</p> <p>Mr Padovan: I cannot recall. There are ongoing discussions with Treasury.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: Can you give us the details of any discussions between the department and Treasury— any correspondence, emails or file notes on this issue?</p>	98 26-05-15	

				<p>Mr Glyde: We can try, but the issue is that a lot of these discussions have been in the context of cabinet and advice to government.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: I am not asking for advice. I am not asking you for your advice. I am asking you to give me times and details. If there are file notes that do not go to the issue of cabinet confidentiality, you can at least give me times when the request went from you, on behalf of the minister, to Treasury and when Treasury responded. That is something that can be done. Is that correct?</p> <p>Mr Glyde: Yes.</p>		
32	Agricultural Adaptation and Forestry Division	CAMERON	Forestry delegation to Japan/China	<p>Senator CAMERON: Are there any reports on outcomes?</p> <p>Mr McNamara: There will be some cables coming. They will be the only reports on outcomes. There might be a summary on the website, but it has not been made available as yet.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: So there will be cables?</p> <p>Mr McNamara: Yes.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: Will they be public?</p> <p>Mr McNamara: I do not know as yet. We will have to have a look at those cables.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: I will officially ask for those cables to be tabled. That would be helpful.</p>	99 26-05-15	
33	Agricultural Adaptation and Forestry Division	CAMERON	Costs associated with Japan/China delegation	<p>Senator CAMERON: So who paid for the trip?</p> <p>Mr McNamara: The department paid for me, the parliamentary secretary paid for himself and Dr Volker and industry participants paid for themselves.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: So when you say the parliamentary secretary paid for himself, was that an allocation or was that personal?</p> <p>Mr McNamara: That was out of his own allocation, yes.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: So he did not pay for it himself?</p>	99 26-05-15	

				<p>Mr McNamara: No, sorry. It came out of his office's allocation.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: So it was a cost to government?</p> <p>Mr McNamara: Yes.</p> <p>Senator Colbeck: It was a cost to government, yes.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: So there were two officers. You?</p> <p>Senator Colbeck: My forestry adviser and Mr McNamara from government.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: So three from government. Can you provide details of the costs involved in that trip?</p> <p>Mr McNamara: We can certainly take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: Accommodation, flights, meals and all associated costs with that trip.</p>		
34	Agricultural Adaptation and Forestry Division	CAMERON	Who determined who would be on the delegation from AFPA	<p>Senator CAMERON: Who determined who would be on that delegation from AFPA?</p> <p>Mr McNamara: That was the CEO of AFPA, Mr Ross Hampton. As I understand it, it was really on the basis of those who put in an expression of interest to go.</p> <p>Senator Colbeck: I would not classify it as a determination of who could go. It was who wanted to go.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: I cannot really ask what AFPA did. All I can ask is what you guys did on the administrative side. In terms of the delegation, could you provide details of correspondence, file notes and the like relating to this delegation? I would be interested to understand what the arguments were from AFPA as to why it should happen and why the government decided it would pick up this invitation.</p>	100 26-05-15	

35	Agricultural Adaptation and Forestry Division	CAMERON	Meetings undertaken in Japan/China	<p>Senator Colbeck: We had quite a number of meetings in relation to the forestry sector. I also did some other engagements while I was there both in Japan and China, such as ministerial meetings. I am happy to provide details on notice.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: Could I have details of the meetings?</p> <p>Senator Colbeck: Yes.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: That includes Mr McNamara and whether he went with you. I would like to know the program—</p> <p>Senator Colbeck: Yes, sure.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: that was undertaken when you were in Japan and China, and obviously the costs and the like.</p>	100 26-05-15	
36	Agricultural Adaptation and Forestry Division	RICE	Wood biomass	<p>Senator RICE: You were quoted in a Liberal Party email last week saying that wood biomass is making use of an otherwise wasted product such as timber offcuts and bark and branches that would otherwise be discarded. Do you not think that is rather misleading?</p> <p>Senator Colbeck: I would have to view the Liberal Party publication. I am not familiar with the one you are talking about.</p> <p>Senator RICE: It was an email that someone sent to me.</p> <p>Senator Colbeck: I would like to be able to sight what I am being quoted as saying.</p> <p>Senator WILLIAMS: What else are you going to do?</p> <p>Senator RICE: Given the evidence—</p> <p>Senator Colbeck: It may very well be. Again, I have quite clearly indicated that the economics of this are going to be part of the overall process. I do not know the Liberal Party publication that you are talking about. I would be interested in seeing it before I respond to something that I am quoted as having</p>	101 26-05-15	

				<p>said. I refer not necessarily to what you have said today but some of the selective quoting that has occurred at the committee today around various other topics. I would like to see the full context of what I am being quoted as saying.</p> <p>Senator RICE: I will find the document for you. Let us move on.</p> <p>Senator Colbeck: Sure. I am happy to take it on notice.</p>		
37	Agricultural Adaptation and Forestry Division	LEYONHJELM	'Sustaining Natural Resources for Longer Term Productive Primary Industries' Program	<p>What share of the increase of \$1.98 m in the Departmental Appropriation for administration of the Program "Sustaining Natural Resources for Longer Term Productive Primary Industries" (page 41 of the Department of Agriculture's 2015/16 portfolio budget statement) will be allocated for facilitating compliance with the provisions and regulations of the Illegal Logging Prohibition Act and Regulations? How will measures aimed at changing forest practices in foreign markets sustain Australia's forest industries?</p>	Written	
38	Agricultural Adaptation and Forestry Division	LEYONHJELM	Illegal Logging Prohibition Act and Regulations	<p>Given the estimate that the cost of compliance with the Illegal Logging Prohibition Act and Regulations will be more than \$300 million a year, how is this consistent with the Department's declared goal "that it operates under a compliance approach which recognises good performance with reduced regulatory burden" (page 11, "Budget 2015-16, Paper # 1.1, Agriculture")?</p>	Written	
39	Agricultural Adaptation and Forestry Division	LEYONHJELM	Illegal Logging Prohibition Act and Regulations	<p>On how many occasions and on what dates was the Department engaged in consultations with small business organisations about the proposals to reduce the cost to small business of the Regulations to the Illegal Logging Prohibition Act, and on which occasions was the Parliamentary Secretary for Forests involved?</p>	Written	

40	Agricultural Adaptation and Forestry Division	LEYONHJELM	Illegal Logging Prohibition Act and Regulations	On how many occasions and on what dates did the Department consult with environmental groups, unions and large business organisations about their views on the Illegal Logging Prohibition Act and the Regulations, which groups participated in those discussions, and on which occasions was the Parliamentary Secretary for Forests involved?	Written	
41	Agricultural Adaptation and Forestry Division	LEYONHJELM	Illegal logging	What primary sources does the Department use to assess the rate of illegal logging globally and imports to Australia? What process does the Department use to determine if such analyses are objectively based and verifiable?	Written	
42	Agricultural Adaptation and Forestry Division	LEYONHJELM	European Union Timber Regulation	Does the Department of Agriculture consider the EUTR (European Union Timber Regulation) system of regulation of timber imports effective? If so, why? What is the Department's understanding of the review underway in the EU of the EUTR system and its objectives?	Written	
43	Agricultural Adaptation and Forestry Division	LEYONHJELM	European Union Timber Regulation	Can the Department advise how many EU states have fully operational systems which check that all imports of timber products into their countries comply with EUTR guidelines and rules?	Written	
44	Agricultural Adaptation and Forestry Division	LEYONHJELM	FSC system of forest certification	Why has the Department endorsed the FSC system of forest certification to regulate trade in forest products? What is the Department's view regarding the FSC system's inability to comply with global best practice of standards and conformance regarding arms-length separation among standard setting bodies, certification organizations and accreditation agencies, as decreed by the ISO and its related standards and conformance agencies?	Written	
45	Agricultural Adaptation and Forestry Division	LEYONHJELM	Illegal Logging Prohibition Act and Regulations	Why hasn't the assessment by KPMG of the cost of compliance by small business with the provisions of	Written	

	Forestry Division		Regulations	the Illegal Logging Prohibition Act and Regulations been released? Why have the terms of reference for the Regulatory Impact Statement, and details of how the RIS is being undertaken, not been released? What commitments for the release of such documents and details have been made?		
46	Agricultural Adaptation and Forestry Division	LEYONHJELM	Wood Hubs	Why is the Government proposing Wood Hubs when the private sector has already created an internet based log and timber trading markets at zero cost to the taxpayer, with the added efficiency of direct shipping from forest/mill to customer, not via a physical wood hub?	Written	
47	Agricultural Adaptation and Forestry Division	LEYONHJELM	Australian Timber Importers Federation Ltd grant	Can you advise the purpose of the grant of \$27,500 to the Australian Timber Importers Federation Ltd on or about 29/01/2015?	Written	
48	Agricultural Policy Division	CHAIR	Vacancy factor – GRDC	<p>CHAIR: Can I just pause it there? Could you describe to me—or are you not aware—Mr Glyde, of the difference for GRDC, who rent in the city? What percentage of the building they rent is vacant? It holds probably 40 per cent in the same area as APVMA or whoever it is, who is out at Fyshwick. Can you describe the difference in the rent and then I will describe to you the difference in the rent in a regional centre?</p> <p>Mr Glyde: We can try that. Ms Freeman might have some of the estimates for that.</p> <p>Ms Freeman: The current lease costs per square metre for the organisations are as follows: for GRDC, \$473.90—</p> <p>CHAIR: Could I just pause you there.</p> <p>Ms Freeman: Certainly.</p> <p>CHAIR: I recently negotiated a floor in one of the best buildings, with the best harbour view in Sydney, for \$375,000 a square metre, with a full fit-out.</p> <p>Senator EDWARDS: \$375 per square—</p>	27 25-5-15	

				<p>Senator STERLE: Chair, you are a better senator than you are negotiator!</p> <p>CHAIR: Sorry, \$375 a square metre, with a full fit-out. Could you go on and just give the rest?</p> <p>Ms Freeman: Certainly. For RIRDC, \$343 per square metre.</p> <p>CHAIR: Where is that situated?</p> <p>Ms Freeman: In Barton.</p> <p>CHAIR: Where is the first one situated?</p> <p>Ms Freeman: In Barton. FRDC, which I think is in Deakin, \$371 per square metre; APVMA, which is located in Symonston, \$403.70 per square metre.</p> <p>CHAIR: I have to say that they are top-rate Sydney prices.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: Can I now continue?</p> <p>CHAIR: You can, for a few minutes. Just before you do, what is the vacancy factor in those?</p> <p>Ms Freeman: I do not know that we have that information. We might have to take that on notice.</p> <p>CHAIR: It came up the other day—</p> <p>Ms Freeman: Yes. Mr Harvey may be able to answer that question when GRDC are on this afternoon. But I would have to take that on notice.</p>		
49	Agricultural Policy Division	CAMERON	Costs of breaking leases	<p>Senator CAMERON: What are the costs of breaking any leases?</p> <p>Ms Freeman: We can certainly provide that information.</p>	27 25-5-15	
50	Agricultural Policy Division	ACTING CHAIR	Relocation of staff	<p>ACTING CHAIR: Would it be unfair of me to assume—it is always dangerous to assume in Senate estimates—that there are some basic figures about staff that may not want to go? There would be some costs? You do not want to commit to them yet, but there must be some form of costing already that APVMA and the government are looking at—and the department?</p> <p>Ms Freeman: Yes, there are.</p>	34 25-5-15	

				<p>Senator STERLE: Could you tell us what they are so far, bearing in mind that there are other factors that will change it?</p> <p>Ms Freeman: I would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator STERLE: If you could. I understand. If you could come back to us pretty soon that would be appreciated, just while Senator Cameron is on the same line of questioning. Thank you.</p>		
51	Agricultural Policy Division	CAMERON	Meeting with ministerial staff – relocation of RDCs	<p>Senator CAMERON: Are you aware of any meetings that the ministerial staff have had separate from the department with the agencies?</p> <p>Ms Freeman: No, not that I am aware of.</p> <p>Mr Glyde: There may well have been, but—</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: Senator Colbeck, are you aware of any meetings face to face?</p> <p>Senator Colbeck: Not specifically, but I have occasional meetings with representatives out of RDCs. I have not had anything recently specifically in relation to this matter, but I have met members of the FRDC at a number of fisheries events around the country. This has not necessarily been a point of conversation, but I have run into people from FRDC at a number of events over the last month or so.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: And you have never raised this with them?</p> <p>Senator Colbeck: At the last meeting I did not raise it with them and they did not raise it with me. That was an event in Western Australia that we were both at.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: Have you raised it during any events?</p> <p>Senator Colbeck: We have had a couple of conversations but probably not since the last estimates. I think we discussed it then.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: When you say you have had a couple of conversations, were they formal conversations with the agencies?</p>	39-40 25-5-15	

				<p>Senator Colbeck: I can recall a meeting with the FRDC where the issue of relocation was one of the issues we talked about.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: Do you know when that was?</p> <p>Senator Colbeck: It was a while ago and, as I said, I think it was probably before the last estimates.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: How about taking on notice for us what meetings you have had formally with the agencies in terms of these relocations—</p> <p>Senator Colbeck: I am happy to do that.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: and what informal meetings and discussions you have had, and dates and times?</p> <p>Senator Colbeck: I would not have records of the informal meetings, because they are by nature informal. When we run across each other at events we are at, I do not keep records of that.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: Parliamentary Secretary, are you aware of whether Minister Joyce has met the face to face with any of the agencies on a formal basis on this issue?</p> <p>Senator Colbeck: No, I am not. I will have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: Can you also take on notice the details, if the minister has met, of dates and times? Can you also provide details of dates and times of the meetings with ministerial staff on this specific issue?</p> <p>Senator Colbeck: I am happy to take that on notice.</p>		
52	Agricultural Policy Division	CAMERON	APVMA – specialised staff	<p>Senator CAMERON: With the APVMA, are these specialised staff? Can anyone tell me?</p> <p>Senator Colbeck: There would be some specialised staff within the APVMA, yes.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: Some are recruited from overseas?</p> <p>Senator Colbeck: Possibly.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: Does anyone know the answer to that?</p>	40 25-5-15	

				Ms Mellor: We can take that on notice.		
53	Agricultural Policy Division	CAMERON	Relocation by July	<p>Senator CAMERON: What if an agency says they are not willing to relocate?</p> <p>Senator Colbeck: I am presuming that they will communicate that with the minister and that will form part of the consideration of government when we get to final decision making. It is a fairly speculative question, I think, at this point in time.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: I think it is important. I accept that it is hypothetical, but you are asking the agencies to make a decision by the end of July. I do not know what the rhyme or reason for that is yet. You have not really—</p> <p>Senator Colbeck: I did say—it is to put a time frame around the decision-making process. I said that just a moment ago.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: But for what reason? Why would it need to be by July?</p> <p>Senator Colbeck: That is the time frame that the government has selected.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: The government or the minister? Is that a cabinet decision—July?</p> <p>Senator Colbeck: At this point in time I would suggest it is probably the minister, but I am not certain about that.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: Can you clarify then whether there is a cabinet decision that there has to be a reallocation by July—</p> <p>Senator Colbeck: I will take that on notice.</p>	40 25-5-15	
54	Agricultural Policy Division	CAMERON	Agricultural White Paper	<p>Senator CAMERON: So a white paper was produced and went to cabinet?</p> <p>Mr Glyde: It is a more complicated process than that. An outline of the white paper has been agreed by cabinet and various initiatives have been</p>	48 25-5-15	

				<p>proposed in relation to that and they are going through the process of being approved by cabinet. Part of that approval process is that various different drafts of documents that will go together to make up the white paper.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: When was the outline approved?</p> <p>Mr Glyde: I do not have that detail but it was sometime earlier in the year.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: What is 'earlier in the year'? You get five months to pick from.</p> <p>Mr Glyde: Early in the year, so I am thinking more around February, but could I take that on notice—</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: Yes. Roughly February but you will clarify that?</p> <p>Mr Glyde: Yes. What I am trying to get across is that it is an iterative process of development of the document, and indeed it has been going on since the start, with an issues paper and a green paper. The end result is the publication of the white paper, which will have within it the initiatives and the expenditure that the government proposes to have over the course of the coming years. That will not be known until the government launches it.</p>		
55	Agricultural Policy Division	SIEWERT	MYEFO	<p>Senator SIEWERT: Now that we have established that there will be offsets, potentially, from this agency of the department and other departments, is it something that would be done through MYEFO? Would you do it through a process such as that?</p> <p>Mr Glyde: If a decision is taken to spend additional money and that changes the estimates, the next available time would be at MYEFO.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: So we might not see it until MYEFO?</p> <p>Senator Colbeck: I do not think that is a reasonable assumption.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: Sorry?</p>	52 25-5-15	

				<p>Senator Colbeck: I would not agree with that. I do not think you will have to wait until MYEFO to see the white paper.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: But if it contains new initiatives, new funding initiatives?</p> <p>Senator Colbeck: It will go through the appropriate government processes to approve those new initiatives. I think you understand what they are and that is the process that it will go through</p> <p>Mr Glyde: Like any new initiative that is taken outside the formal budget process, then they are announced, they are talked about. Should there be some additional funding, that will be announced and then our estimates will be updated in MYEFO to reflect it or indeed other departments' estimates might be updated to reflect it.</p> <p>Senator Colbeck: The reporting of that process would appear in MYEFO.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: Thank you.</p> <p>CHAIR: Just by way of furthering my curiosity, who is on the task force? Could you give us the details?</p> <p>Mr Glyde: I can provide those. I do not know if we have got them to hand. You are talking about the names of the officials who are on—</p> <p>CHAIR: I would be interested to see whether dirt under the fingernails comes into it.</p> <p>Mr Glyde: Sure. We are happy to provide you with those names.</p>		
56	Agricultural Policy Division	CHAIR	Task force – list of names	<p>CHAIR: Are there people on it from people who can cut the nuts out of a bull to the scientist who knows what BSE will do to you?</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: There has to be a technical term for that.</p> <p>Mr Glyde: I would not like to comment on the—</p> <p>Senator Colbeck: I think that was the technical term, Senator!</p>	52-53 25-5-15	

				<p>Mr Glyde: extracurricular activities that the officers are involved in.</p> <p>CHAIR: What I am saying is that you have got practical people, as well as academics?</p> <p>Mr Glyde: The people that are on the task force, I think, to a large extent are public servants.</p> <p>CHAIR: Yes, I'll bet!</p> <p>Mr Glyde: As in all of these matters, they would be taking advice from experts on various matters, whether it be BSE or castration of animals.</p> <p>CHAIR: It depends on whether the expert is a drip under pressure or someone that is out in the paddock.</p> <p>Mr Glyde: All I can say is that these are very experienced and highly regarded public servants who know a lot about agriculture.</p> <p>CHAIR: To end it quietly, could you just give us the names in a list and the people that they get their information from.</p> <p>Mr Glyde: We will do that.</p>		
57	Agricultural Policy Division	WILLIAMS	Shearers retiring	<p>Senator WILLIAMS: Do you foresee a shortage of shearers in the future, especially if the sheep numbers grow and the wool market continues to kick and grain prices stay pretty dormant at \$250 a tonne or whatever?</p> <p>Ms Freeman: Employment for shearers has remained relatively steady in the past five years. It fell slightly in the long term, over a 10-year period. So, looking forward, employment for shearers to November 2018 is expected to remain relatively steady. Over the five years to that time, the number of job openings for shearers is expected to be low—equal to or less than 5,000. So that is basically advice from—</p> <p>Senator WILLIAMS: Is that a year?</p> <p>Ms Freeman: Over the period of five years to November 2018. That is according to—</p> <p>Senator WILLIAMS: So you are saying that there</p>	71 26-05-15	

				<p>is only room for another 5,000 shearers? Ms Freeman: No. That is what it is expected to be for the employment for them. Senator WILLIAMS: To take up to 5,000 shearers. Ms Freeman: The source of that is the department of employment. Senator WILLIAMS: How many will retire in five years? Ms Freeman: I do not have the answer to that. I would have to go back. This is from the job outlook data from the department of employment.</p>		
58	Agricultural Policy Division	CHAIR	Herd rebuild	<p>CHAIR: I want to test the integrity. Ms Freeman: Please do. CHAIR: What is the herd rebuild in that equation? Ms Freeman: I would have to take that on notice. We just— CHAIR: What is the build of Dorpers and sheep? Ms Freeman: I understand.</p>	71-72 26-05-15	
59	Agricultural Policy Division	RHIANNON	Greyhound racing cruelty	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Would you agree that the animal cruelty in the greyhound industry, revealed in ABC's Four Corners (in Feb), demonstrates a clear failure of the industry's self-regulation? 2. What is the federal response to the systemic cruelty in the greyhound industry across states? 3. Have there been any discussions about coordinating a response to this issue at a federal level, or by the federal Dept Agriculture, given the clear need to properly and independently regulate the greyhound industry across borders? If yes, may I have the details and agreed outcomes of those discussions? 	Written	
60	Agricultural Policy Division	Gallagher	RDC relocation	<p>Minister for Agriculture Barnaby Joyce MP has called for the relocation of several Canberra-based agencies to various locations.</p>	Written (Transferred from Department of Finance)	

				<p>These include:</p> <p>Grains Research and Development Corporation to Wagga Wagga Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority to Armidale or Toowoomba Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation to Albury-Wodonga Fisheries Research and Development Corporation to Hobart.</p> <p>Has a business case been completed for these proposed relocations?</p> <p>What assessment process has been put in place to inform decision making in relation to any proposed relocation of agencies or public servants from their current location in Canberra?</p> <p>Have costings been prepared?</p> <p>If not, why not?</p> <p>What modelling has been done in relation to the cost of:</p> <p>Staff redundancies?</p> <p>Relocations?</p> <p>Increased travel budget to and from Canberra?</p> <p>Office accommodation, including current leasing arrangements and new accommodation in the new location?</p> <p>What are the current rules for the Commonwealth obtaining 'value for money' in relation to this move?</p>		
--	--	--	--	---	--	--

				What consultation has taken place with the key stakeholder organisations affected by the proposed move?		
61	Animal Health Australia	RHIANNON	Avian Influenza	<p>Senator RHIANNON: Where did those ones occur—the ones that you know of?</p> <p>Ms Plowman: As I recall there was one out in Young in New South Wales, but I cannot quite recall where the other one was.</p> <p>Mr Thompson: Young was the most recent one.</p> <p>Senator RHIANNON: And when was that, please?</p> <p>Mr Thompson: I think it was last year.</p> <p>Ms Plowman: Young was I think the year before.</p> <p>Senator RHIANNON: The year before—so in 2013?</p> <p>Ms Plowman: Yes, over 2013.</p> <p>Senator RHIANNON: How many birds did it impact on?</p> <p>Ms Plowman: We would have to come back to you with those numbers. That would be as part of the cost-sharing agreement that all of those details would be made available.</p>	30 26-05-15	
62	Australian Chief Veterinary Office	RHIANNON	Avian Influenza	<p>Senator RHIANNON: With regard to Animal Health Australia's newly launched <i>National Farm Biosecurity Technical Manual for Egg Production</i>, in the document in section 23 on free-range production operations, page 26, it states: 'Some AI—avian influenza—of the H5 ... subtypes ... have in the past caused EAD outbreaks in the Australian egg industry'. I was just interested in whether you can supply details of the number of recorded cases of AI in the Australian egg industry.</p> <p>Mr Glyde: Not off the top of my head. I do not know whether Ms Plowman can help out here or whether we should take that one on notice.</p> <p>CHAIR: This is on avian influenza.</p>	30 26-05-15	

				<p>Ms Plowman: There have been some outbreaks around avian influenza. In my time in the company I know of two—and there might have been some additional ones—where the emergency disease response agreement was undertaken, but we would have to get back to you with the precise amounts.</p> <p>Senator RHIANNON: I was after how many outbreaks that you have heard. You have said that you understand there have been two, but I gather that could be—</p> <p>Ms Plowman: I do not think there have been more than maybe one or two more, but I would have to go back and check. I just know of two in my time in Animal Health Australia.</p>		
63	Australian Chief Veterinary Office	RHIANNON	Avian Influenza	<p>Senator RHIANNON: I need to know how many outbreaks have occurred, where they occurred, when, the number of birds involved and how you handled it. Also, can I have details and copies of the research and evidence that informs the statement that there have been avian influenza outbreaks in the Australian egg industry. What I am after here is what you are basing the evidence on that AI has occurred in the Australian egg industry. I understand that at times it is controversial, so I am interested in understanding and seeing research that you have to make that judgment.</p> <p>Ms Plowman: That judgment is actually made by the Consultative Committee on Emergency Animal Diseases, which comprises all of the state chief veterinary officers and the Australian chief veterinary officer. It is technical expertise and it is based on diagnosis from particular certified laboratories. Before a disease response can be initiated, it has to come from a recommendation of CCEAD.</p> <p>Senator RHIANNON: Is that publicly available—what the tests are and what the tests show?</p>	30-31 26-05-15	

				<p>Ms Plowman: Certainly they would be a matter of record, I imagine. There would be a matter of record about what type they actually diagnosed in order for there to be a response. Behind that would be all of the diagnostic requirements et cetera in order to lead to that conclusion.</p> <p>Senator RHIANNON: Is that publicly available?</p> <p>Ms Plowman: I am not sure about whether it is publicly available, but there has certainly never been anything that is hidden, when such a disease response has been going on, from the public. It actually talks about what type of H5, where it is and who is involved.</p> <p>Senator RHIANNON: Is there anybody here now who can advise if this information is publicly available?</p> <p>Mr Thompson: I think we would have to take that on notice. We might be able to get an answer later this afternoon or this evening. We would have to go to our people in biosecurity animal. The chief vet or someone would have that information.</p>		
64	Australian Chief Veterinary Office	RHIANNON	Free Range Egg and Poultry Australia	<p>Senator RHIANNON: Coming to the specifics around the eggs: I understand that there was a representative from Free Range Egg & Poultry Australia on this body. But considering that their standards failed to include a maximum outdoor stocking density for free-range layer hens—and you would obviously be well aware of the different tendencies with regard to rearing free-range hens—why was it not more representative?</p> <p>Ms Plowman: I think we are at cross-purposes here. We have just described to you the process that is set out in the emergency animal disease response group regarding a consultative committee at a very technical end. I think you are referring perhaps to a biosecurity animal health and welfare committee that maybe comprises all of those poultry industries. I</p>	32 26-05-15	

				<p>think I heard you say there was a representative from the Australian free range—</p> <p>Senator RHIANNON: Free Range Egg & Poultry Australia. However, that is the body that is actually limited in its definition of 'free range'.</p> <p>Ms Plowman: From my memory, I do not believe that such a body was involved in the consultative committee that we have been referring to. I just want to make sure that I understand. That is my view at this stage, but if you could provide me with the sources of information I could come back to you around how they might be appointed. I think we will need to go back to the relevant industry members in the poultry industry and ask them what this committee is and how is it comprised.</p>		
65	Australian Fisheries Management Authority	SINGH	Legislative tools to control fishing activities in Australia's oceans	<p>Senator SINGH: What legislative tools does the government have to control fishing activities in Australia's oceans, as has been requested numerous times by the minister for the environment, by Tasmanian environment groups and by the Tasmanian recreational fishing industry?</p> <p>Dr Rayns: The Fisheries Management Act, which is the primary legislation that AFMA works under, has a number of tools available to it to manage this. I will mention most of those—I will perhaps not remember them all, because there are quite a few. We have a suite of measures called 'directions', which enable us to control fishing activity in terms of closed areas, open areas and open seasons et cetera. We have temporary orders, which are most often used for short-term events. They are for emergencies and similar issues as well. We use catch controls—we have a quota based management system where we limit the catches of fish from particular fisheries and for particular fish species. We also have what are known as statutory fishing rights conditions. They are conditions that we can</p>	32-33 26-05-15	

				<p>place on the fishing concessions held by various operators in the fishery. They can cover a whole range of matters, including the types of gear that can be used, the requirement to have a Vessel Management Plan and the like.</p> <p>Senator SINGH: You said that was not an exhaustive list, but—</p> <p>Dr Rayns: No, there is also another group of controls called 'determinations'. We usually use those to set the TACs—the total allowable catches—for the main species in our commercial fisheries.</p> <p>Senator SINGH: Could you take notice the full range of your legislative tools that you have just so that we do get the full breadth of what they are—obviously, other than those that you have just outlined to the committee.</p>		
66	Australian Fisheries Management Authority	SINGH	Geelong Star	<p>Senator SINGH: Let us just backtrack a little. What were the extra measures that were put in place for the first voyage?</p> <p>Dr Rayns: I may have to take some of this on notice because the Vessel Management Plan is actually quite long document; it is about 50 pages all up.</p> <p>...</p>	34 26-05-2015	
67	Australian Fisheries Management Authority	CAMERON	What tiers apply to small pelagic fishery	<p>Senator CAMERON: Could you, on notice, give the committee details of how this is operating, the tiering and the zoning, just so we can get an idea of what is happening there.</p> <p>Dr Rayns: Certainly. We will try and come up with a good graphic for you too, to assist.</p>	43 26-05-15	
68	Australian Fisheries Management Authority	CAMERON	Expenditure on the small pelagic fisheries research and scientific assessments and reports	<p>Senator CAMERON: Thanks for that. What has been the total expenditure on the small pelagic fisheries research and scientific assessments and reports over the last five years?</p> <p>Dr Rayns: I would have to take that on notice. We have done a number of surveys and assessments over</p>	43-44 26-05-15	

				<p>that period of time. I note that we do an annual assessment, by the way, of small pelagic fish stocks. That costs about \$70,000 to \$80,000 a year—that is where the resource assessment group gets all of the science and information together. But there have been a lot of research projects over that five-year period, so I would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: Could you break that down on a year-by-year basis over the five years and could you also give me a breakdown of what the industry has contributed against the Commonwealth. Do states put anything in?</p> <p>Dr Rayns: Yes, from time to time they do.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: Could you do it by industry, by state, by Commonwealth—</p> <p>Dr Rayns: By jurisdiction?</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: Yes, by various jurisdictions. That would be handy, thank you.</p>		
69	Australian Fisheries Management Authority	EDWARDS	Reduction in red tape	<p>Senator EDWARDS: I will be very quick. I am going to put this one on notice for you, because I do want to move on. What has AFMA done to reduce red tape since we came to power—can you provide specific details—and what impact do you think this has had on fishing businesses? That is on notice for you, okay?</p> <p>Dr Rayns: The list is long, Senator, so thank you for putting it on notice.</p>	47 26-05-15	
70	Australian Fisheries Management Authority	EDWARDS	Illegal fishing	<p>Mr Venslovas: Just for clarification, Senator: is your question in relation to illegal fishing by foreign nationals or by Australian licenced operators? The answers are different.</p> <p>Senator EDWARDS: Illegal fishing is illegal fishing, and we will probably talk a little bit about that in my later questions, with Western Australia and things like that. My sensitivity obviously relates to the tuna industry and illegal fishing and who says</p>	47 26-05-2015	

				who catches what. You can talk about the domestic illegal fishing if you want, and take that on notice too.		
71	Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority	CAMERON	Classifications and qualifications of staff	<p>Ms Arthy: To give you an idea, we have about 70 specialist regulatory scientists. These are the people who do the evaluation of the applications that come in. They are also the chemists, the people who specialise in residues, the people who do the reviews. They are over various classifications from EL2 down to APS5. We also have up to 12 specialist compliance people. We have seven legal specialists. The rest are made up of our big-case management unit, which manages all the admin around the 3½ thousand applications we hold. Then there are the normal corporate functions we have as well as the manufacturing-licensing scheme. I do not have those numbers at hand, but I can provide them to you on notice, if you wish.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: That would be helpful, thank you. Everyone is important but, in terms of specialist skills, would the regulatory scientists and chemists have the key skills?</p>	122 25-05-15	
72	Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority	BULLOCK	Generic products	In coming to the view that s 162 (1) of the Agvet Code requires you to reject applications for a generic product that relied on the CCI of a reference product what consideration, if any, was given to the decision in <i>Smithkline Beecham (Australia) Pty Limited v Minister of Family Services and Alphapharm Pty Limited [1993] FCA 523</i> ?	Written	
73	Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority	BULLOCK	Generic products	How many generic products have been registered since 1 January 2015?	Written	

74	Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority	LEYONHJELM	Labelling for worker health and safety	On what dates has the APVMA been engaged in consultation with Safe Work Australia regarding the adequacy of APVMA labelling for worker health and safety? In these consultations, has APVMA expressed concerns or opposition to the requirement for additional labelling by 2017 for worker health and safety? If so, what is the nature of these concerns/opposition?	Written	
75	Biosecurity – Animal Division	BACK	Animal Health Laboratory Standards	<p>Senator BACK: Thank you. For the benefit of the committee, there is still in existence, I think—soon to be discontinued—the Subcommittee on Animal Health Laboratory Standards. That obviously oversees, from the viewpoint of international integrity, our postborder surveillance or our laboratory standards that will ensure our postborder surveillance is at a level that is accepted internationally. The concern that I have is: what is replacing it and how can we assure ourselves and the international community that we can guarantee the ongoing standards of our animal health laboratories around Australia?</p> <p>Mr Glyde: I think I will have to take on notice the question of what actually is replacing it. As you are probably aware, the government has a smaller government initiative, which is to try to reduce the number of bodies and authorities et cetera that have grown up over the years. I think the intent was to make sure that the committee would be—that its functions might not necessarily need to have the full trappings of a committee. I take the point that the activities it was undertaking were really quite important, so I will have to take on notice the question of what we are doing in terms of replacing it and how we are going to move towards a more efficient way of maintaining that communication and understanding amongst state and territory officers as well as the federal officials.</p>	30 26-05-15	

76	Biosecurity – Animal Division	BACK	Animal Health Laboratory Standards	<p>Senator BACK: Would you also take this on notice for me: what has been the cost to the department in supporting the Subcommittee on Animal Health Laboratory Standards to date? I understand that the Commonwealth contribution has always been low. It has been other members of the subcommittee, including state and other authorities, that have actually met the cost. So, with the Animal Health Committee taking over this responsibility, what if anything will be, are or have been the savings? Because if indeed the Commonwealth's financial contribution servicing the subcommittee to date has been minimal and if the Animal Health Committee is now taking over this responsibility, my concern is that, if anything, the actual cost will go up rather than down. Again, I just had this concern that the laboratory standards and the guarantee of ongoing high standards may in some way be compromised. That really is the area in which I have real concern.</p> <p>Mr Glyde: As you know, Senator, the intention is that the Animal Health Committee will try to make sure that these groups of experts, which do tend to be state and territory officials and advisers, will come together to make sure that we do maintain that preparedness function. But I think the best thing is to come back to you with an answer in relation to the costs and what have you in relation to the previous arrangements and what we envisage going forward as well.</p> <p>Senator BACK: Sure. So it is those two issues—it is cost, as you say, but it is also the guaranteed ongoing integrity and quality of those standards. Thank you.</p>	30 26-05-15	
77	Biosecurity – Animal Division	CAMERON	Statement by minister	<p>Senator CAMERON: The minister said on 6 November that there is an imminent deal to export up to a million head of live cattle to China annually and that that would be a significant boost for Australian farmers. That is what the minister said. So</p>	62-63 26-05-15	

				<p>ABARES has not provided any advice on the practicalities or reality of that.</p> <p>The minister has not sought any advice from ABARES on that. Mr Glyde, has the minister sought any advice from the department on this issue?</p> <p>Mr Glyde: I would have to check the record, but not that I am aware.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: Have you provided any advice to the minister following that statement?</p> <p>Mr Glyde: I would have to check the record on that. I am not sure what advice might have been provided in the lead-up to that statement. My recollection is that the trigger of that statement was, as I said before, a successful discussion and negotiation that we had with our Chinese counterparts, who are dealing with the animal health protocol, as I mentioned earlier. The only other thing I would add is that the minister, and indeed the department, rely on advice not only from ABARES but also the players in the industry. We tend to provide estimates based on what we understand to be the economic and climatic conditions and the like. For a particular market in a particular place, it is often the industry and the various companies involved that have the more detailed information. So there may well have been other information provided to the minister that might not necessarily have come from his department, including ABARES.</p>		
78	Biosecurity – Animal Division	CAMERON	Trade of one million head of cattle to China	<p>Senator CAMERON: Has the minister sought any advice from ABARES about a trade of one million head of cattle to China?</p> <p>Mr Glyde: Not that I am aware.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: Has the minister sought any advice from the—</p> <p>Senator Colbeck: I want to clarify a point. You have just said that the minister indicated there would be a market for a million head of cattle. Is that</p>	62-63 26-05-15	

				<p>correct?</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: An imminent deal.</p> <p>Senator Colbeck: Well, you said a market for a million head, which is why I have asked you to clarify your point.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: No. An imminent deal, as I quoted. I may have been talking about a market for a million. If that is all there is, that is the market.</p> <p>Senator Colbeck: That is correct. That is very different to what might go there. That is the point I want to make.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: The minister said on 6 November that there is an imminent deal to export up to a million head of live cattle to China annually and that that would be a significant boost for Australian farmers. That is what the minister said. So ABARES has not provided any advice on the practicalities or reality of that.</p> <p>The minister has not sought any advice from ABARES on that. Mr Glyde, has the minister sought any advice from the department on this issue?</p> <p>Mr Glyde: I would have to check the record, but not that I am aware.</p>		
79	Biosecurity – Animal Division	RHIANNON	Import of Marmosets	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Has there been, since April 2012, there has been a shipment of 37 common marmosets from France to Australia for research purposes? 2. May I have the following details: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The date or dates on which the animals arrived in Australia? b. The airline that transported them? c. The reason they were imported? d. Details explaining why importation was allowed, considering Australia has a colony in which marmosets are bred specifically for research? 	Written	

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> e. The name of the ethics committee which approved the research? f. The nature of the research they will be subjected to? g. The name of the company or institution which imported them? 		
80	Biosecurity – Plant Division	BACK	Fruit fly funding	<p>Dr Troy: A series of workshops is being planned that is starting in June and July around the country in the major fruit fly host areas. It will go through the research development and extension plan and work through with different communities their research priorities under that plan. Therefore, it is looking at what the issues are for that area and what needs to be made a priority or what will be a lesser priority.</p> <p>Senator BACK: On notice, can you tell us what sort of funding there is available and from which sources that funding is coming from?</p> <p>Dr Troy: I can take that on notice, thank you, Senator.</p>	93 25-05-15	
81	Biosecurity – Plant Division	LAZARUS	Fruit fly	<p>Dr Troy: They are managing the incursion in New Zealand. So they are under eradication now.</p> <p>Senator LAZARUS: Do they use the same pesticides as we do?</p> <p>Ms van Meurs: I will take most of that on notice. They do baiting programs like we do. If we have an exotic incursion, we try to use baiting programs as well. So we are baiting to try to attract the fruit fly and using the least spray as we can. So they will use a similar system.</p>	94 25-05-15	
82	Compliance Division	SIEWERT	Commercial airlines	<p>Senator SIEWERT: I understand what you are saying. We have been through in this committee over the years going through your commercial airlines and going through the bulk transport a lot. I am asking specifically about these circumstances, where</p>	76 25-05-2015	

				<p>people are chartering in what amounts to a private transport. Have you detected other people trying to bring items in mistakenly or on purpose?</p> <p>Ms Mellor: Can you give some examples?</p> <p>Ms Hinder: I would have to go back through the interception records to have a look.</p>		
83	Compliance Division	STERLE	Testing of bottles	<p>Mr Terpstra: Senator, the testing that was conducted on some of the bottles was conducted quite soon after the bottles were seized. There were other bottles which were not capable of being tested immediately. The course of action that the department pursued was to work with the company involved to try to establish traceability and provenance of the product apparently in those bottles. That process was quite long and drawn out for a variety of reasons. The department at the same time worked with an analytical service provider to try to establish if there was a testing regime which may be capable of providing some assurance around the provenance of those serum products. At the time, a range of tests were required to be able to provide a view about the origins of that product. There was not a range of tests that in their entirety was capable of being able to come to a conclusion about where particular product originated from. We worked with a particular laboratory that in fact was in the process of trying to develop such a range of tests. By about April that year—I can pull out some exact dates for you, if you need them—</p> <p>Senator STERLE: April of 2014?</p> <p>Mr Terpstra: Correct. I will just double-check that. Those tests were actually finalised and the department was through this testing authority able to get some assurance about the origins of that particular product. But, as Ms Vivian pointed out, the origin of the problem was that the bottles had not been labelled and there was no evidence available as</p>	85-86 25-05-15	

				to where all of the product had originated from at the time it was observed in the facility.		
84	Compliance Division	STERLE	Serana investigation costs	<p>Senator STERLE: But those costs are borne by the department, being the taxpayer?</p> <p>Ms Vivian: Yes. Predominantly those costs did relate to some of the core proceedings. They include airfare costs, car hire costs and some accommodation.</p> <p>Senator STERLE: Do you have in front of you, Ms Vivian, the figures for the other entities?</p> <p>Ms Vivian: No, Senator.</p> <p>Senator STERLE: Sorry, I thought you were looking.</p> <p>Ms Vivian: Sorry, Senator. No, I do not have them.</p> <p>Senator STERLE: Wasn't that silence lovely after all the carry-on today?</p> <p>Ms Vivian: I was just double-checking.</p> <p>Senator STERLE: No worries. Could you take that on notice for us please, Ms Vivian. Have any prosecutions been made as a result of the investigation into Serana?</p>	86 25-05-15	
85	Compliance Division	BULLOCK	Hepatitis A and Ready to Eat Berries	What are the names and locations of the factories from which Patties Foods obtained the products that were subject to a recall notice following the recent outbreak of Hepatitis A?	Written	
86	Compliance Division	BULLOCK	Hepatitis A and Ready to Eat Berries	Were these factories the subject of any quality control or certification process? Explain the nature of any such process. Which company or companies carried out the quality control or certification process?	Written	
87	Compliance Division	BULLOCK	Hepatitis A and Ready to Eat Berries	What are the names and locations of the farms from which berries used in these products were sourced?	Written	

88	Compliance Division	BULLOCK	Hepatitis A and Ready to Eat Berries	Were these farms the subject of any quality control or certification process? Explain the nature of any such process. Which company or companies carried out the quality control or certification process?	Written	
89	Compliance Division	BULLOCK	Hepatitis A and Ready to Eat Berries	For any company which carried out a quality control or certification process in relation to a factory or farm from which the berry products linked to the Hepatitis A outbreak: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Is this company currently being used by any importer of food products into Australia to certify or provide quality control at any stage in the production chain for such products? ii. Will importers of ready to eat berries be permitted to use this company in any capacity in assessing compliance along the supply chain with Good Agricultural Practices and Good Hygienic Practices as required by Imported Food Notice 11-15? 	Written	
90	Compliance Division	BULLOCK	Hepatitis A and Ready to Eat Berries	If the requirements now being put in place by Imported Food Notice 11-15 had been put in place following earlier outbreaks of Hepatitis A in Australia, Europe and North America would this have made the most recent outbreak of Hepatitis A in Australia less likely?	Written	
91	Compliance Division	BULLOCK	Hepatitis A and Risk Foods other than Ready To Eat Berries	Has consideration been given to extending the provisions of Imported Food Notice 11-15 to cover other foods known to be risk factors for Hepatitis A transmission such as semidried tomatoes, lettuce, edamame beans and pomegranate seeds? Or is the plan to wait for a further outbreak of Hepatitis A before imposing protective measures?	Written	

92	Compliance Division	RHIANNON	Garry Robinson	<p>1. This question relates to the alleged falsification of documents by Garry Robinson – former export manager of Wellard and current employee of Livestock Shipping Services. It has been over year since the startling revelations that export documents had been doctored to enable Australian sheep rejected by Bahrain to be unloaded in Pakistan – where they were ultimately subjected to a brutal cull by local authorities.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. May I please be updated on where this investigation is up to? b. Will criminal charges will be laid against Garry Robinson? 	Written	
93	Compliance Division	STERLE	Serana (WA) Pty Ltd investigation	<p>In respect of evidence from the Department of Agriculture to the Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee on Monday 25 May 2015, where the Department confirmed that bottles of serum were seized from Serana (WA) Pty Ltd in December 2014, and that testing was completed on some of these bottles soon after they were seized:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What tests were completed on the contents of those bottles; and 2. When did the tests on those bottles: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. commence, and b. conclude. <p>In respect of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. evidence from the Department of Agriculture to the Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee on Monday 25 May 2015, where the Department advised that its investigation into Serana (WA) Pty Ltd is ongoing and that the cost of the investigation was \$239,285 as at 30 April 2015; and b. the Minister for Agriculture’s answer to 	Written	

				<p>question in writing No. 498, in which he said the total cost of its investigation into Serana (WA) Pty Ltd was \$237,435.83 as at 27 November 2014 (House Hansard, 9 February 2015, page 249)</p> <p>Can the Department provide a cost breakdown of activities that it has undertaken in the past six months in the course of this investigation.</p>		
94	Executive	CAMERON	Resignation of Dr Grimes	<p>Senator Colbeck: I just want to clarify. That is in relation to the issues we have just been talking about, so the farm household support and the changes to <i>Hansard</i>?</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: No, it is in relation to the issue of Dr Grimes in terms of Dr Grimes's resignation—or termination; whatever it—</p> <p>Senator Colbeck: That is different. The reason I asked the question is that that is different to the interpretation—to your previous question.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: I am asking for any correspondence in relation to—and it flows, partly, from the farm household issue, because as I understand it Dr Grimes said there were a number of issues, but this was one of them. So I am after any correspondence between Dr Grimes and the minister's office, Dr Grimes and the PMO, and Dr Grimes and any other government department, on this issue. I want to widen it out on this. If there is any correspondence there, I would like to see it. This is an important issue. We have lost two secretaries of this department in short order. Dr Grimes was a very highly respected public servant. He has lost his job, and I reckon it is important for us to continue to understand why a respected public servant like Dr Grimes lost his job.</p> <p>CHAIR: Would that correspondence also include or be eligible to include any correspondence that Dr</p>	19 25-5-15	

				<p>Grimes may have written to the minister and then later have withdrawn?</p> <p>Mr Glyde: I do not know.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: If there was a letter going to the minister, there would be a record of that correspondence. Whether it is withdrawn or not, it would be on the public record and available to the estimates committee.</p> <p>CHAIR: Which is a very interesting—</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: That is my interpretation of how it works. If it is on the public record, it is available. I am not sure if you have a different view, Chair, but that is my view.</p>		
95	Exports Division	BULLOCK	Export Meat Inspection	<p>In relation to the “Panel of providers for the provision of Meat Safety Inspectors to conduct inspection services at export registered abattoirs” which is the subject of AusTender RFT 2015-22058:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How will this panel operate? • Who will be the employer of the meat inspectors? • What industrial instrument will be relied upon for their pay and conditions? • What benefit does the provider get from this arrangement? • What training and qualifications are meats inspectors under the tender expected to hold? • Are these training and qualification expectations the same as those required by meat inspectors directly employed by the government? • What ongoing training and support will meat inspectors under the tender receive to develop and maintain their skills? • Is ongoing training and support a requirement in the tender documents? • How will you assess the suitability of a third 	Written	

				party provider?		
96	Exports Division	BULLOCK	Export Meat Inspection	Have there been concerns or objections expressed by our major trading partners, including the United States and the European Union to the use of third party meat inspectors? Please provide any relevant documentation, including letters or notes of meetings.	Written	
97	Exports Division	BULLOCK	Export Meat Inspection	What information is available about the views of Australian meat exporters about the relative merits of government meat inspectors compared to third party meat inspectors?	Written	
98	Exports Division	BULLOCK	Export Meat Inspection	How many incidents of Australian Export Meat Inspection Service certified meat being rejected at entry have occurred since 2012, broken down by country?	Written	
99	Exports Division	RHIANNON	High Mortality Voyages	<p><i>High Mortality Voyage 25</i></p> <p>1. After over 12 months of constant inquiries to the department, it was recently discovered that High Mortality Voyage 25 (Port Kembla to Madagascar, December 2007) was not accompanied by a stockman, which is a condition of law (the Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock – ASEL). This information was not available in the public domain or in the high mortality investigation report for the voyage.</p> <p>When the Department was questioned why a prosecution had not occurred, it stated that this was because a stockman would not have influenced the outcome of a high mortality voyage.</p>	Written	

ASEL v2.3 is a prescriptive standard, required to be followed, regardless of outcome:

- a. When and by what process has DAFF or the Australian government made a decision that ASEL v2.3 was not a prescriptive standard?
- b. May I please have a clear example of what animal welfare 'outcome' would be sufficiently dire for DAFF to take action against an exporter?
- c. Why was a major infringement [no stockman] omitted from the Investigation Report for this voyage?

High Mortality Voyage 39

2. Documents from **High Mortality Voyage 39**, recently released under FOI, have indicated that the on board veterinarian (AAV) advised AQIS/DAFF Biosecurity that the shipment was a high risk shipment with unsuitable animals. ASEL v 2.3 requires a specific heat stress risk assessment when cattle, sourced from below the 26th Parallel, are being exported from a southern winter to a Middle Eastern summer:

- a. Given that even the AQIS accredited shipboard veterinarian, an employee of the exporter, believed the consignment to be high risk, why did DAFF allow this voyage allowed to proceed?
- b. May I have copies of any relevant DAFF advice that informed the allowing of this voyage to proceed?

3. Regarding **High Mortality Voyage 39**, the AQIS veterinarian as a matter of priority changed the

space allocation between Portland and Fremantle and urgently contacted LSS to request that they reduce the number loaded at Fremantle because of insufficient space for these inappropriate cattle:

- a. Given the high risk was obvious to an experienced live export veterinarian, why was it not obvious to DAFF? May I have a copy of the decision flow chart or risk assessment documents that informed DAFF's decision in this regard.
- b. Does the department agree the Heat Stress Risk Assessment model is inadequate?

Total Livestock Genetics voyage, 20 Feb 2014, Portland to Tianjin (China)

4. On 20 February 2014, Total Livestock Genetics (TLG) exported 2400 cattle by sea from Portland to Tianjin (China) on a 19 day journey. There were 49 mortalities on the voyage, a mortality rate of 2.04 per cent. This exceeds the 1.0 per cent reportable mortality level for cattle on voyages of ten days or greater as prescribed by the Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock (ASEL).

Of the 2400 cattle by sea from Portland to Tianjin (China) of these 2205 were pregnant heifers:

- a. Why are there no records of what stage those pregnancies were at?
- b. How many of the deceased 49 animals were pregnant?
- c. If any, why has the mortality total not been increased to reflect the additional loss of the foetuses?
- d. Why was it considered appropriate from an

				<p>animal welfare standpoint of sending pregnant heifers on a sea journey that lasts around 19 days.</p> <p>5. On Day 1 of the voyage the report states the ship encountered rough weather and high seas. Review of the Master’s report by AMSA confirms that the vessel altered course twice due to moderate rolling and further experienced heavy rolling on 20 February 2014. All mortalities (except for one) were reported as a result of euthanasia due to injuries sustained during rough weather and high seas on the first day of the voyage, ie “mortalities in this consignment were a result of rough weather and high seas resulting in injuries to the cattle”. The report actions also state “the exporter has advised that for any future consignments they will take a proactive approach working with the Captain to avoiding any severe weather conditions by delaying departure or adjusting the route”:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. How is it possible for the ship’s captain and the exporter to not be aware that bad weather was expected day one into an already lengthy and arduous journey?b. Why does the conclusion imply no fault?c. Why is it not standard practice for the exporter to already be in constant communication with the ship’s captain around weather conditions?d. How can DA conclude that these mortalities were outside the exporter’s control? <p>6. Eighteen animals that were treated and responding to treatment were rejected on arrival in Tianjin and</p>		
--	--	--	--	--	--	--

				<p>ethanized at that time:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Why were these eighteen not euthanised earlier rather than left unfit, possibly 19 days further along in their pregnancy (if pregnant) and possibly in discomfort or pain? <p>7. There were five mortalities in the registered premises; one was euthanised due to a spinal injury during transport.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. What would be the likely cause of this type of injury? b. How long did the animal have this injury before euthanasia occurred? <p><i>Inadequate heat stress assessment model</i></p> <p>8. Given that most high mortality voyages still have heat stress as a major or contributing cause, suggesting the heat stress risk assessment model is inadequate.:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. When was the heat stress risk assessment model last reviewed for adequacy? b. When is it due to be next reviewed? 		
100	Exports Division	RHIANNON	Camels & responding to complaints	<p>1. In January and April 2015 Port Adelaide Monitors (in South Australia) reported unfit animals that were about to be shipped from Adelaide to WA and on to their final destination overseas. Port Adelaide Monitors (PAM) provided the Department of Agriculture with photos of these animals boarding the ships, however PAM has not yet received a reply from the Department:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Why has the Department not replied to the concerns of Port Adelaide Monitors? b. Are there any inspections by non-industry paid veterinarians who can treat or euthanise unfit animals? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. If not, what is the Department doing to 	Written	

				<p>implement such inspections or ensure euthanasia is carried out when needed?</p> <p>c. How does the Department otherwise ensure that no unfit animals are exported, given these concerns went unanswered?</p> <p>2. In October 2014 it was reported that workers for Livestock Shipping Services used electric prods on camels. Under the Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock (Version 2.3) from 2011 the use of electric prodders on camels are strictly prohibited:</p> <p>a. Please provide details of actions, and any reports, taken in response to this complaint.</p> <p>b. What has been the penalty imposed on Livestock Shipping Services in response to this complaint?</p> <p>c. How does the Department ensure that the Standards for the Export of Livestock are strictly followed for camels, given what would seem to be accepted practice by LSS?</p> <p>d. Does the Department plan to hire more inspectors in order to conduct more ad-hoc on-site inspections, given what appears to be systemic practise? If not, why not?</p> <p>e. What is the Department doing to address breaches of the ASEL in species other than sheep and cattle, which seem to largely fly under the public radar?</p>		
101	Exports Division	RHIANNON	Responding to community complaints	<p>1. The Port Adelaide Monitors (PAM) community group has contacted the department and RSPCA WA three times this year with concerns that some animals loaded in Port Adelaide - bound for Fremantle then overseas - showed physical symptoms that potentially made them 'unfit to</p>	Written	

				<p>load' under both state legislation and the ASEL (Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock). On each occasion, PAM forwarded to the department images of the animals, requesting the animals be inspected on the ship once it reached Fremantle (2 day trip from SA). An independent vet had verified the group's concerns.</p> <p>For example, images and a highly detailed vet report regarding animals considered 'unfit for export' loaded on to the Awassi Express shipment (Departed SA 29.1.2015, Arrived WA 1.2.2015) were provided to the Department. The department advised the PAM group that those animals were subsequently inspected in WA, but that the inspection identified no animals as unfit for export:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">a. What specific actions were taken regarding the cattle in images provided with serious eye problems, especially the animal appearing blind in one eye?b. May I have a copy of the inspection report regarding those animals inspected in WA please?c. Industry-contracted vets have a conflict of interest in providing transparent advice, is the department currently considering the continuing concerns expressed about this issue?d. What steps does the department take to ensure independent vets such as the RSPCA WA vet are available to inspect live animal exports onboard ships in WA ports? <p>2. I continue to receive concerns about the length of</p>		
--	--	--	--	--	--	--

				<p>time it takes for the department to respond to complaints or reports from community groups monitoring animal welfare in live exports:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. What is the policy and procedure regarding the maximum time allowed in which to respond to community reporting or complaints? Can the public expect their concerns to be acknowledged and addressed expediently? b. Please provide a local departmental contact in Port Adelaide to whom the Port Adelaide Monitors Community Group should forward complaints to ensure expedient action. 		
102	Exports Division	RHIANNON	Microbial testing on kangaroo meat	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is it correct that the EU and the UK, unlike the Russia, rely on the Australian microbial screening regime for kangaroo meat? 2. What is the current protocol for the microbial screening of kangaroo meats for exports? Please provide a copy of the actual protocol and guidelines for: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Salmonella b. E.coli c. Acetic Acid residue 3. Please provide actual numbers of kangaroo carcasses tested for Salmonella and for e.Coli for the each of the export markets (where it differs), for example, one in ten carcasses. 4. Is kangaroo meat for exports treated with Acetic Acid? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Is exported kangaroo meat tested for Acetic Acid? b. Is exported kangaroo meat treated with 	Written	

				<p>Acetic Acid labelled as such?</p> <p>c. May I have details of how often exported kangaroo meat is tested for Acetic Acid; acceptable levels of Acetic Acid in exported kangaroo meat?</p> <p>d. Is it expected that kangaroo meat will not be treated with Acetic Acid on regular basis?</p> <p>e. What is the purpose of using Acetic Acid?</p> <p>f. What specific contaminants and pathogens is Acetic Acid used to treat?</p> <p>5. How does the allowable use of Acetic Acid for exported kangaroo meat differ from allowable use of the same for domestic consumption?</p>		
103	Exports Division	RHIANNON	Grants for kangaroo social license research	<p>1. DAFF Quarantine and Export Services provided an “ad-hoc, one-off” grant of \$220,000 to the Kangaroo Industry Association of Australia, “<i>to fund a residue related component of a Kangaroo Industry Social Licence Project</i>”, (DAFF ID No. GMS-2404) with a commencement date of 1 July 2014 to run for 36 months</p> <p>a. The grant location listed as Launceston Tasmania. I have previously asked questions about conflict of interest about Lenah Consulting’s principal John Kelly receiving some \$800,312 of funding for RIRDC market research projects – benefitting his wallaby export business, Lenah Game Meats. Was this \$220,000 grant provided to John Kelly? If not, who was the recipient of this grant?</p> <p>b. Please provide details about this project including its specific aims, objectives and actions.</p>	Written	

				<ul style="list-style-type: none">i. Is one of the project aims to manipulate messaging to markets and consumers to avoid critical examination of recognised contamination health risks of kangaroo meat?ii. Which diseases and parasites known to be present in kangaroo meat will this project be seeking to influence messaging about, given this is part of a social license project?c. Please provide details of the “<i>Kangaroo Industry Social Licence Project</i>”.d. Social license research is about how to manipulate information to targeted decision-makers to accept your product or actions – it is antithesis to independent and scientifically robust research about the conservation of our native species the kangaroo. Given that the kangaroo industry is a commercial operation, benefitting from the mass slaughter of slow-breeding and slow-growing Australian wildlife, why are substantial Australian taxpayers dollars funding projects that seek to manipulate and remove critical examination of the industry by any decision-makers including consumers, Government or NGOs etc?e. Is the RIRDC/KIAA or any of its funded researchers legally compelled to inform government ministers, researchers, media or the public that comment or research results provided by the RIRDC are in fact part of a marketing or strategic communications strategy? If not, why not?		
--	--	--	--	--	--	--

104	Exports Division	RHIANNON	Contamination of kangaroo meat	<p>1. In February 2015 Estimates I asked for a list of which countries have raised concerns about the contamination of kangaroo meat since 2013, including the specific concerns raised by each country and the response to those concerns (Questions 59 and 63, Exports Division, Additional Estimates Feb 2015):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. With regard to Q59: I was not provided the details requested. Please provide updated details including: Specific countries; specific contaminations including disease, bacteria and parasites; and details about the findings of each investigation. b. With regard to Q63: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Please provide details about which “three different areas of the Department of Agriculture” provided officers to address the current Russian ban on imported kangaroo meat. ii. Please advise specifically what their “actions” were to address the ban, and the outcomes of those actions. iii. Please provide the details of the type and levels of bacterial contamination of kangaroo meat raised by the European Union, including which EU agency, which kangaroo product (ie meat or unidentified protein), and which country was involved in this issue. 	Written	
105	Exports Division	RHIANNON	Code of Practice: Humane Shooting of Kangaroos and Wallabies	<p>1. The current federal Code of Practices for the Humane Shooting of Kangaroos and Wallabies stipulates that kangaroo joeys must be killed by a forceful blow to the head; or stunned and then</p>	Written	

decapitated; and at-foot joeys should be shot.
A recent RIRDC report *Improving the humaneness of commercial kangaroo harvesting* found that: shooters rarely euthanize young-at-foot dependent joeys, leaving them to die in the field for up to 10 days, and that many shooters swing pouch joeys against their ute tray to kill them. However, in the study's experiments testing the effectiveness of bolt guns to kill joeys, not one of the 23 live joeys was killed outright; 13 out of 23 joeys were not rendered completely insensible, and all joeys had to be consequently euthanized by other means (p54).

Given that joeys are not killed immediately or at all via careful blunt head trauma in a controlled situation, is the Department concerned at the clear cruelty and trauma being suffered by joeys in the field?

- a. Is the Department advising importing governments of these research results, if not why not?
- b. Is the Department still advising importing government that the shooting of kangaroos and killing of their joeys is humane, given the results of this research clearly demonstrates otherwise?
- c. Is commercial shooting still continuing, despite Australian governments having access to this report's findings? Why, given the clear evidence of cruelty being visited on joeys.
- d. May I have details on what is happening to amend the current Code of Practice across Australian states, including discussions,

				actions and timelines.		
106	Exports Division	XENOPHAN	Live exports	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In relation to the media reports from last week regarding the treatment of Australian exported animals in Vietnam, when did the department become aware of animal cruelty issues in this area? 2. Did the department receive complaints from groups such as Animals Australia or exporters, or did it become aware of issues through its own investigations? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - when were these reports received? 3. Is an investigation currently underway? If so, when did this commence? 4. When were exporters made aware of the concerns about Vietnam, and what action have they taken since? 5. What options are open to the department and exporters to improve supply chain accountability? 	Written	
107	Exports Division	RHIANNON	Vietnam	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Referring to comments made to The West Australian by South East Asian Livestock Services (SEALS) – one of the 6 export companies sending cattle to Vietnam – that “it was generally accepted that all exporters were having ‘problems’ in Vietnam, but that those problems should be ‘kept between exporters’”. <i>See https://au.news.yahoo.com/thewest/countryman/a/27521603/wellard-rival-s-spy-claim/</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Given it is a requirement of ESCAS for all breaches to be reported to the Department, has the Department spoken to SEALS about these comments? 	Written	

				<p>b. Is the Department investigating the very serious allegations admitted in this article – that exporters are breaching regulations and not reporting them?</p> <p>2. Referring to another comment from an export company relating to Vietnam, published in the Fairfax papers: <i>“Everybody’s operating outside the system but pointing the finger at each other. There’s a lot of anecdotal evidence of leakage in the system and everyone’s doing it.”</i> see http://www.theland.com.au/news/agriculture/cattle/beef/no-live-ex-ban-on-cards-says-joyce/2732666.aspx</p> <p>a. How does the Department justify providing new export permits to Vietnam when the exporters themselves are admitting supply chains aren’t secure?</p> <p>b. Given the industry is saying the rapid growth in exports to Vietnam has exacerbated this problem, why is there not scope within this regulatory system to slow the flow of animals until problems can be rectified?</p>		
108	Exports Division	RHIANNON	ESCAS breaches in Jordan	<p>This relates to three ESCAS complaints from Jordan – the Department has finalised their investigations and recorded non-compliances against Livestock Shipping Services.</p> <p>1. In relation to ESCAS complaints investigated by the Department from Jordan in June 2013, October 2013 and January 2014 – whereby thousands of Australian sheep were continually being sold and slaughtered outside approved supply chains - can</p>	Written	

				<p>you advise as to whether the exporter liable, Livestock Shipping Services, will be prosecuted?</p> <p>2. What does it say about the effectiveness of ESCAS that while a potential prosecution against LSS is being determined, a further three ESCAS complaints also implicating LSS have been lodged, including one relating to further horrific slaughter of Australian sheep in Jordan during last year's Festival of Sacrifice?</p> <p>a. Isn't the intent of ESCAS to identify and address problems so abuses against Australian animals are not repeated? In Jordan Australian sheep – in the thousands – were subjected to brutal treatment two years in a row during the Festival of Sacrifice. And I note repeated abuses against Australian cattle also occurred two years in a row in Gaza. Can you understand why it's difficult to have confidence that these regulations will protect animals?</p> <p>b. Can you guarantee that during this year's Festival of Sacrifice Australians won't once again see the brutal treatment of Australian sheep and cattle?</p>		
109	Exports Division	RHIANNON	Vets on ships	<p>1. How many veterinarians are accredited by the Department to go on live export ships?</p> <p>2. How many live export voyages were there in 2014?</p> <p>a. Of those voyages how many were required to have a vet on board?</p> <p>b. How many of those accredited veterinarians went on <u>more</u> than:</p>	Written	

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. 10 voyages during 2014? d. 20 voyages during 2014? <p>3. Of those AQIS Accredited Veterinarians (AAVs), how many are not registered with their respective state veterinary boards?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Why is it not a requirement for AAVs to be registered with their state veterinary boards? <p>4. The legislation (Export Control (Animals) Order 2005) requires that vets on board live export ships should monitor and report on animal welfare. The Australian Veterinary Association's position is that 'veterinarians accompanying shipments must be independent and not be employed by either the exporting company or the shipping company...':</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. With this in mind: Why are onboard veterinarians employed by exporters, rather than being independent? 		
110	Finance and Business Support Division	CAMERON	Financial Management reporting	<p>Senator CAMERON: There is a change in presentation on page 23. Can you briefly indicate the basis of moving from the old programs to strategic objectives?</p> <p>Mr Glyde: I cede the floor to Ms Evans to take us through the complexities of the changes in government legislation in financial management reporting.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: I wish I had never asked.</p> <p>Senator Colbeck: You asked for it, Senator.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: Take it on notice. I give in.</p>	68 25-05-2015	
111	Finance and Business Support Division	BULLOCK	Levies collected on the behalf of the Cotton Research Development Corporation	<p>Ms Evans: What I was going to comment on is that what you see there is actually the amount of levies that we are collecting on behalf of the Cotton Research Development Corporation and then paying out to them. So what that reflects is the nature of the industry in that year. So if it is a good cotton</p>	71 25-05-2015	

				<p>growing year, there will be higher levies. If it is not—</p> <p>Senator BULLOCK: I suggested that answer. Is that the full answer: it is just a dud year for cotton?</p> <p>Ms Evans: That is what is reflected in those figures on page 34.</p> <p>Senator BULLOCK: It must be a really, really bad year if they are down by half.</p> <p>Mr Glyde: That is our understanding. Why don't we take it on notice and give you a formal answer just to make sure that we are not overreaching in terms of our understanding?</p>		
112	Finance and Business Support Division	RHIANNON	All grants for kangaroo projects	<p>Please provide details of projects regarding kangaroos the department and all its agencies has funded or provided grants to over the past five years, with details of the project aims, recipients and project partners/researchers, and other details as listed in this DAFF uploaded document: http://bit.ly/1Ih3u6T</p>	Written	
113	Forest and Wood Products Australia Limited	BULLOCK	Levy revenue	<p>Senator BULLOCK: Importers. Okay. Good. Looking at the saw logs, I have a number of headings here, so I am going to—</p> <p>Mr Sinclair: Sure.</p> <p>Senator BULLOCK: I will rattle through them and we will come back one by one and you can have a bash at them.</p> <p>Mr Sinclair: I am certainly happy to provide detail, because we actually track this on a regular basis. I am happy to answer to any general questions. I will not get their exact decimal point.</p> <p>Senator BULLOCK: I have eight headings: softwood saw logs excluding cypress, cypress saw logs, hardwood logs, plywood veneer, wood panel, low-grade softwood, softwood round wood logs, and export woodchip hardwood.</p> <p>Mr Sinclair: Given that detail, perhaps I can take it</p>	18 26-05-15	

				on notice. It is certainly in our strategic plan, and I can provide that.		
114	Governance Branch	CAMERON	AgForce	<p>Senator CAMERON: Do you have a media monitoring group within the department?</p> <p>Mr Padovan: We do.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: Would you have expected them to pick up an issue like the AgForce group indicating concerns about the payments?</p> <p>Mr Padovan: They have picked up several AgForce articles. I would have to look at the specific article that you are referencing. But certainly the media monitoring is quite comprehensive.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: If it is comprehensive, have you any idea why you would not have been advised about this survey?</p> <p>Mr Padovan: I would have to go back.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: Is there anyone from media monitoring here?</p> <p>Mr Glyde: We will have to take that on notice. We do not have anyone from our media area here with us at the moment.</p>	16-17 25-05-2015	
115	Governance Branch	EDWARDS	Costing of agencies not appearing	<p>Senator EDWARDS: Acting Secretary, I thank you for the answer to question on notice 78, which was to do with the costs of bringing witnesses to estimates and not appearing due to time overruns, which goes to what the chair was talking about when he opened this morning. I have a question on notice for you. At the conclusion of this estimates, should there be any agencies that have been called and do not attend, can you answer the same questions for me as a question on notice as to the cost to each individual agency for accommodation, food and travel expenses and the cost of the lost productivity if that does actually come to bear. I hope it does not.</p>	45 25-5-15	

116	Governance Branch	CAMERON	FOI review	<p>Senator CAMERON: Why Ernst & Young? How does Ernst & Young know these things better than some of your deputy secretaries or assistant secretaries who may have dealt with these things in other departments over the years?</p> <p>Mr Glyde: They may have, and we have access to that information, of course, in terms of looking at what the consultant suggests. But what we were after, as quickly as we could, was a group that was experienced in this matter. Ernst & Young is on a panel that Customs runs. In its business consultancy services, it has demonstrated experience and understanding of FOI matters as a result of the principals and the people that are involved there. So we felt that it was best placed to provide this information to us.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: Who made this decision?</p> <p>Mr Glyde: I did. Just to give a better background, after the February estimates hearing, Secretary Grimes asked for a review to be done, and that was in train when Dr Grimes departed, so we kept going with that. I still felt it was important for us to examine what we could do better. Could we do better? Was there anything that we needed to learn from the particular incident? I wanted it to be systems wide. So it was my decision. That was initially triggered by Dr Grimes, but I was the one that agreed to engagement of Ernst & Young.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: Was that a 10-week period? It is 8 April to 30 June.</p> <p>Mr Glyde: Yes. I think I can probably take on notice what our expectation was when we signed the document, but we are certainly expecting a final report by 12 June, I think.</p>	54 25-5-15	
117	Governance Branch	CAMERON	FOI review	<p>Senator CAMERON: It is not quite three months, is it? The contract period is 8 April to 30 June. For \$80,000, how many people are going to be engaged</p>	55 25-5-15	

				<p>in this from Ernst & Young? Mr Padovan: There are a number of staff from Ernst & Young that are employed, starting at a partner level. A number of principals are also engaged on this task. Senator CAMERON: What does that mean? What is the number of partners and principals? Mr Padovan: Three to five as I understand, depending on where we are in the process. Senator CAMERON: As you understand. Do you have the figures for who is going to be here and when? Mr Padovan: We can certainly provide that. CHAIR: Would that be \$1,000 an hour? Senator CAMERON: Crazy—\$1,000 an hour. Mr Padovan: I cannot speculate on that. It is a capped-price contract for a certain output.</p>		
118	Governance Branch	CAMERON	FOI review	<p>Senator CAMERON: What I cannot understand is that the experts in freedom of information reside in the Public Service—they are the ones that do it all the time—and we have made a decision to pay \$1,000 an hour to Ernst & Young to bring someone in to do a review on what I think, given my knowledge of the issue, is easily fixed. Talk about waste of public money—\$1,000 an hour. Mr Padovan: The figure of \$1,000 an hour is not a valid running figure. Senator CAMERON: That would be what it is. Mr Glyde: We can provide to you on notice the number of people that are involved in the contract and the average hourly rates that they are employed at. The point is that I think you would possibly have been coming from the other direction if we had just examined ourselves—if we had been the people that gave the tick to our process or otherwise. We are also mindful that we are looking at a system which is operated by a number of officers in our department,</p>	55 25-5-15	

				<p>and they are quite expert in FOI matters, as Dr Grimes said at the time. They are experienced officers. So we want to make sure that, when we do this, we have good authority.</p> <p>We have conceded that we are a department that does not actually handle that many FOIs. There are departments around that have had much more experience. The people that are the experts in FOI matters are the people that we are reviewing, if you like. Rather than pay someone else, who is possibly inexperienced in that, the most efficient and effective way that I saw was to go and ask someone who is used to doing these sorts of things for other departments, who has a breadth of knowledge of FOI practices across the Commonwealth and understanding of the legislation, and who can more quickly go out, as Mr Padovan has said, and speak to the relevant departments that we would like to compare ourselves to and that are seen outside their own department as having best practice. We are not necessarily in a position to judge that in terms of the individuals here. So the independence element is a pretty important aspect to me in terms of being able to get this right—and it is important that we do get this right. It is important, when mistakes are made, that we continue to strive for best practice. I know it is a lot of money, but I think it is a worthwhile investment given the sensitivity and the importance of getting FOI request handling right.</p>		
119	Governance Branch	CAMERON	FOI review	<p>Senator CAMERON: I just cannot understand, for the life of me, why there was no-one in the Public Service Commission or somewhere who could say, 'This is where you got it wrong; this is what to do.' They could sit down with you for a day and then you fix it. You are spending \$80,000 to fix what I thought was a fairly dumb approach. This could be easily fixed.</p>	55-56 25-5-15	

Mr Glyde: I reject the assertion that it was a dumb decision. The officers involved made a decision with all the right intent. We have to look at the system-wide issues.

Senator CAMERON: I will retract. I do not want to cast aspersions on any of the officers.

Mr Glyde: Thank you.

Senator CAMERON: They were in a difficult position.

Mr Glyde: Yes, and that is the point I wanted to make: understanding the systems that we have in place, are those systems actually conspiring against officers of goodwill with deep knowledge of FOI? Are they conspiring against them delivering the right result? If I went to the APSC or the Information Commissioner, I would also have to, in essence, pay for their time to do it. I have to pay for one or more of my staff members to be part of this. I can understand where you are coming from, but what we are trying to say is that this is still the most cost-effective way of getting an independent look at our systems.

Senator CAMERON: Can you provide details, then, of who is doing it, the rates that they are being paid, what the business plan is to deal with it and—I am not asking this on notice, but the others can go on notice—whether the minister's office is covered by this review.

CHAIR: Thank you. You can do that.

Senator CAMERON: I am just asking. He can say either yes or no.

Mr Glyde: The review is looking at our processes, and one part of that process is the referral of FOI requests to the minister. So, to that extent, it is looking at the minister and also the fact that the minister also gets FOI requests that are handled by the minister's office. We provide some legal advice in that regard. That is within the scope, if that is what

				<p>you mean. Was that the intent of your question?</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: I am just wondering what will happen. Will Ernst & Young go into the minister's office, sit down with the people responsible for FOI in the minister's office and say: 'How did this happen? This is how we think it should be fixed.' Is that the process?</p> <p>Mr Glyde: As the minister's office is a client, if you like, of that service, it is appropriate for Ernst & Young to go and ask, without us being in the room, 'What is the quality of the service you have experienced from the department over the course of your time in government?' So that would certainly be one of the consultations that the consultancy would have undertaken.</p>		
120	Governance Branch	BACK	Risks associated with online purchases	<p>Senator BACK: You mentioned risks associated with online purchases. Very briefly, for the committee, did you identify any specific risks that this committee should be aware of and action that needs to be taken?</p> <p>Dr Bond: Well, there was some publicity earlier regarding the importation of seeds. That is an area that I am considering revisiting. So that is one particular issue. I do not have the report in front of me. I made a number of recommendations. I can take that question on notice, if you would like me to.</p>	96 25-05-15	
121	Governance Branch	BACK	Imported bait for the rock lobster industry	<p>Senator BACK: My final question relates to imported bait for the rock lobster industry. Obviously I have a particular interest in Western Australia. Is there any cause for concern, from a biosecurity point of view, about bait imported from overseas that is used in the commercial rock lobster industry that you are aware of?</p> <p>Dr Bond: Not that I am aware of, Senator. I would have to take that question on notice. I was in Adelaide recently and talking to them about,</p>	96 25-05-15	

				amongst other things, the imports of bait for the tuna industry. I am happy to come back to you with a response to that.		
122	GRDC	GALLACHER	CSIRO investment	<p>Senator GALLACHER: In relation to the CSIRO, what is the scope and the size of the interaction? I think you partner with the CSIRO on research projects?</p> <p>Mr Harvey: To give you an indication, CSIRO is one of our major research partners. To give you a rough idea, between somewhere about 10 to 20 per cent of our total investment would be through CSIRO.</p> <p>Senator GALLACHER: So we are talking about \$35 million or something else?</p> <p>Mr Harvey: It would probably be a bit less than that. It would probably be about \$20 million to \$25 million. If you want me to give accurate numbers, I will need to take that on notice.</p>	98 25-05-15	
123	GRDC	CHAIR	Office space	<p>Mr Harvey: Again, this is an issue that I think you flagged at the inquiry may come up. I have some comments that I would like to make about the accommodation. Firstly, when we moved into our previous accommodation, which was in 1998, we had a total of 30 staff. We were spending \$80 million. We currently have a staff of 79. We are spending \$165 million this year. It will be \$190 million on R&D. We have also become much more involved in the actual delivery of that research directly to growers. When I first started in GRDC, which was about 16 or 17 years ago, when we invested in research, we expected, and the departments generally did, provide the extension for free. We would invest in research and the extension was done by the state departments. These days, there is only 85 extension people across the whole of Australia servicing the grains industry. Increasingly,</p>	100 25-05-15	

				<p>we are actually doing that delivery of research results ourselves. Increasingly, we have been doing that centrally out of Canberra because of the web based technologies. So we got to the point where we had three people in rooms that were designed for one person. We ended up in a situation where the only meeting room in the whole premises could occupy eight people. We were spending obviously a lot of time and money outsourcing office space.</p> <p>CHAIR: How many square metres was that?</p> <p>Mr Harvey: Look, Senator, I can dig that up for you. It was around 1,600 square metres, but do not hold me to that. I would need to check it and take it on notice.</p> <p>CHAIR: So 1,600 square metres?</p> <p>Mr Harvey: Yes.</p> <p>CHAIR: That is nearly half an acre.</p> <p>Mr Harvey: That is 1,600 square metres, roughly.</p> <p>CHAIR: Nearly half an acre.</p>		
124	GRDC	CHAIR	Sublease caveat	<p>CHAIR: So is your lease subject to a sublease caveat?</p> <p>Mr Harvey: Look, that might be a question that I am best to pass to my colleague, Ms Howitt.</p> <p>Ms Howitt: I would have to take that on notice. I am not sure about the clauses for sublease.</p>	101 25-05-15	
125	GRDC	CAMERON	Wages	<p>CHAIR: What is the average wage?</p> <p>Ms Howitt: I do not think I have that on me at the moment. I will take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: Can you do me a breakdown on that, on notice, as to what these figures are?</p> <p>Ms Howitt: I can give you an estimate for each of them. As you would understand, these are estimates.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: That would be handy, to know what is happening.</p> <p>Ms Howitt: Sure.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: If you could break down</p>	104 25-05-15	

				those increases, in those various areas—why you have budgeted-in the increase, which is three, six, nine, 12—but 14 or 15 per cent—		
126	GRDC	CAMERON	Specialised and non-specialised staff	<p>Mr Harvey: As I said before the meal break, we are quite a specialised technical and professional staff in GRDC. That is reflected in the classification system we have and how it works. Clearly, we have a large number of people with PhDs, people who have a good technical understanding of the various areas we are investing in—for example, molecular biology, genetics, farming systems, soils or crop protection. We have a certain group in our organisation that is highly skilled, from a technical point of view. Likewise, we have increasingly commercial skills and legal skills. That is also reflected in the classification system we have. In terms of the detail, we can certainly provide you with that on notice.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: So these are all tertiary educated.</p> <p>Mr Harvey: Largely.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: Can you give me a rough estimate of how many non-specialised people you would have in the department? If you cannot, you can take it on notice.</p> <p>Mr Harvey: It is probably safer to take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: Just give me a generality on that.</p> <p>Mr Harvey: Sure.</p>	104 25-05-15	
127	Horticulture Innovation Australia Limited	RUSTON	Fruit fly	<p>Senator RUSTON: Finally to my favourite topic: fruit fly. You are obviously on the task force that has been put together for the development of the National Fruit Fly Strategy, and we have discussed this on many occasions. Where are we at in terms of progress after September when the money runs out? Have we had any further progress in terms of transitioning the ongoing delivery and execution of</p>	7 26-05-15	

				<p>the strategy into HIAL?</p> <p>Mr Lloyd: Sorry, are you talking about the horticultural fruit fly strategic group?</p> <p>Senator RUSTON: Yes.</p> <p>Mr Lloyd: That will be in our organisation, funded through the fruit fly project. So the funding is not an issue from September onwards.</p> <p>Senator RUSTON: Do we have any progress in terms of the transitioning of it across from Plant Health Australia?</p> <p>Mr Lloyd: I would have to take that one on notice.</p>		
128	Landcare Australia Limited	CHAIR	Green Army	<p>CHAIR: Where are they based?</p> <p>Ms Jakszewicz: They are national and international. They have locations all around Australia.</p> <p>CHAIR: Could you take on notice to give us the details of their—</p> <p>Ms Jakszewicz: They have offices in all the capital—</p> <p>CHAIR: I would be interested in their background—where they pay their tax et cetera. Are they based in Bermuda, or—</p> <p>Senator EDWARDS: They are not a dance troupe.</p> <p>Ms Jakszewicz: They are listed on the Australian Stock Exchange.</p> <p>CHAIR: I would be very interested to see their corporate background.</p>	22 26-05-15	
129	Landcare Australia Limited	SIEWERT	Green Army contract	<p>Senator SIEWERT: What size contract have you got under the Green Army program?</p> <p>Ms Jakszewicz: It is not a specific dollar amount, because each round that comes out, we have to bid—</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: You are bidding for each.</p> <p>Ms Jakszewicz: Yes—we receive work depending on the range of volume we have said is the minimum and maximum amount we can take on in each period. We are operating in each state and territory except for the Northern Territory. At the moment, in terms</p>	22-23 26-05-15	

				<p>of scale, we would be the second-biggest service provider of those which have contracts.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: So what is the range of provision—</p> <p>Ms Jakszewicz: Work volume?</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: or work volume you have taken on?</p> <p>Ms Jakszewicz: It varies by year. It is a range and I cannot recall the numbers off the top of my head. Rather than just make them up, could I take it on notice and give them to you?</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: That would be great.</p>		
130	Landcare Australia Limited	SIEWERT	Projects in states	<p>Senator SIEWERT: Could you take on notice the size of the rounds and the projects you already have—in which states and with which groups?</p> <p>Ms Jakszewicz: I know we have six in WA, and they are about to put people on the ground during June. I will give them to you.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: I am particularly interested in my home state, but I am interested in projects around Australia.</p> <p>Ms Jakszewicz: Sure.</p>	23 26-05-15	
131	Landcare Australia Limited	CHAIR	Manpower	<p>CHAIR: Could I go back to your relationship with Manpower. Just describe to me what your relationship with Manpower is.</p> <p>Ms Jakszewicz: Basically, Manpower is the major partner in our arrangement.</p> <p>CHAIR: Yes, but what is the arrangement?</p> <p>Ms Jakszewicz: The arrangement is that they do the recruitment processes that—</p> <p>CHAIR: Of who?</p> <p>Ms Jakszewicz: ManpowerGroup—of the participants in the Green Army and the team leaders.</p> <p>CHAIR: Could you supply the contract arrangements you have with Manpower?</p> <p>Ms Jakszewicz: Yes.</p>	23 26-05-15	

132	Landcare Australia Limited	CHAIR	Contract with Manpower	<p>CHAIR: But it is an interesting relationship because they are based in Milwaukee; they are all over the place, and we get them to supply—it is interesting that you have to get Manpower. I will be very interested to see the contract.</p> <p>Ms Jakszewicz: They do all your Defence Force recruitment in Australia.</p> <p>CHAIR: I do not care what they do. It seems to me that, if you have to get an international company to get people to go along and do the Green Army stuff, there is something that does not ring the bell about these being all well-meaning volunteers.</p> <p>Senator Colbeck: They are Australian people.</p> <p>Mr Thompson: I think LAL may be able to provide details of their contracts because they have authority over those, but they do not have authority over—if there is a separate contract between Manpower and the environment department, they would be questions better pursued with the environment department.</p> <p>CHAIR: I am sure it is all quarantined.</p> <p>Ms Jakszewicz: Yes. I can share what we do with Manpower, but I have to obviously run that past Manpower, I would think.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: But you do not have a formal relationship with Manpower; is that right?</p> <p>Ms Jakszewicz: No. We have a contractual arrangement with Manpower, yes.</p> <p>CHAIR: Well, you can supply the contract you have.</p> <p>Ms Jakszewicz: I would prefer to speak to Manpower before I issue a contract.</p> <p>CHAIR: The more you say things like that, the more I wonder: what the bloody hell is this all about?</p> <p>Ms Jakszewicz: It is just a standard commercial contract.</p> <p>CHAIR: But it is purer than the driven snow. All these volunteers go out to the edge of Junee and put</p>	24 26-05-15	
-----	----------------------------	-------	------------------------	---	----------------	--

				<p>in trees—you know, the Green Army movement— Ms Jakszewicz: They are not actually— CHAIR: but, hello, we have a company from Milwaukee out to actually provide the labour to do it. Ms Jakszewicz: They are actually not volunteers. These people are paid participants, but yes. Senator SIEWERT: Can I just follow up. Senator Colbeck: We will just take that on notice.</p>		
133	Landcare Australia Limited	CHAIR	Information to Manpower	<p>CHAIR: Just pausing there: are you contracted to supply Manpower with information? Ms Jakszewicz: We are contracted to provide Manpower with technical expertise. CHAIR: They are not supplying something to you— Ms Jakszewicz: No. CHAIR: you are supplying something to them. Ms Jakszewicz: And ManpowerGroup is one of the approved service providers. CHAIR: They pay you to do that? Ms Jakszewicz: Yes. CHAIR: Could you supply those details of what you pay them? Ms Jakszewicz: Yes. CHAIR: Through you, Mr Thompson, we will put Environment on notice for us to be told the details of the contract that they have to pay Manpower to use the expertise which Landcare are paid for to do whatever it is in the Green Army. From my experience from various manpower providers, or labour hire providers, it is generally a very generous arrangement, so I would be very interested to see the contracts. Mr Thompson: I am not familiar with the contract at all since we do not administer that program, but we will certainly make sure that the Department of the Environment are aware of it.</p>	24-25 26-05-15	

134	Landcare Australia Limited	SIEWERT	Lantana project	<p>Senator SIEWERT: You just spoke about the lantana project. How many projects have reached completion?</p> <p>Ms Jakszewicz: In our case, it would be a handful at this stage that have actually finished. There are a lot underway, halfway through and three-quarters of the way through.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: Yes, I appreciate that. Are you able to provide us with examples of the sorts of audit results from those projects?</p> <p>Ms Jakszewicz: I can provide what we do. Anything that you want from what the government does is obviously the Department of the Environment.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: I know I have to ask them. They are on tonight. That is on tonight, so I will obviously chase that there. Could you take that on notice?</p> <p>Ms Jakszewicz: Yes.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: Thank you.</p>	25 26-05-15	
135	Landcare Australia Limited	CHAIR	How much the government provides to Landcare	<p>CHAIR: I suppose it would be in your annuals how much the government provides to Landcare?</p> <p>Ms Jakszewicz: In terms of the Department of Agriculture contract?</p> <p>CHAIR: The taxpayer generally.</p> <p>Mr Thompson: The total contribution that the government makes to Landcare and Landcare related projects is summarised in our annual report, but it is also in our portfolio budget statement.</p> <p>CHAIR: Can you take that on notice and provide it as an answer to a question on notice to this committee, thanks.</p> <p>Mr Thompson: Yes</p>	25-26 26-05-15	
136	Landcare Australia Limited	CHAIR	How much do Manpower pay you	<p>CHAIR: Just to complete it: how much do Manpower pay you?</p> <p>Ms Jakszewicz: They pay us about \$4,000 a project.</p> <p>CHAIR: Take that on notice anyhow, and we will</p>	26 26-05-15	

				get the precise fee. Thank you very much for that. Ms Jakszewicz: Thank you.		
137	Landcare Australia Limited	HEFFERNAN	Landcare groups	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many Landcare groups did LAL fund last year (out of 6.000)? 2. How much money did LAL contribute to these groups? 	Written	
138	Landcare Australia Limited	HEFFERNAN	“new” money Landcare Australia Limited raised	How much “new” money did LAL raise last year from the corporate sector? (less than \$2M)	Written	
139	Landcare Australia Limited	HEFFERNAN	Landcare Australia Limited staff	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many staff does LAL employ? (+/- 20, last year now 23, most of the money raised would have gone just to maintain LAL) 2. How much did they donate? Out of total donations/sponsorship funds received last year? 	Written	
140	Landcare Australia Limited	HEFFERNAN	Landcare Australia Limited Advisory Committee	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many members of the community Landcare Movement are on the LAL Advisory Committee? 2. How many meetings of the LAL Advisory Committee were held last year? Are members able to call meetings themselves or is it subject to budget approval by LAL? What is the budget for the Advisory Committee? 3. Are there any unfilled vacancies on the LAL advisory committee, how long have these positions been vacant, why have they not been filled, has there been and interest expressed by the community landcare movement in filling them? 	Written	
141	Landcare Australia Limited	HEFFERNAN	Green Army and 20M Trees	When applying to be a service provider to government to implement Green Army and 20M Trees, how did LAL say it would be able to implement the program? Did they suggest or intimate that community Landcare was in any way the implementation group of LAL?	Written	

142	Landcare Australia Limited	HEFFERNAN	Landcare Australia Limited consultation with community Landcare	Did LAL consult with the community Landcare movement before deciding to become a government service provider, if so how and when?	Written	
143	Landcare Australia Limited	HEFFERNAN	Caring hands logo	Does LAL think that it is morally entitled to use the Caring hands (Landcare logo) to seek commercial advantage over its competitors in this new commercial venture?	Written	
144	Landcare Australia Limited	HEFFERNAN	Landcare Australia Limited's commercial activity	Does LAL think that its entry into this commercial activity in any way affects its status as a Not for Profit (NFP) and its deductible gift status (DGS)?	Written	
145	Landcare Australia Limited	HEFFERNAN	Landcare Australia Limited's commercial venture	How does LAL explain choosing and partnering with in this commercial venture.	Written	
146	Landcare Australia Limited	HEFFERNAN	Use of the caring hands symbol	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Does LAL think that the use of the caring hands in this way should have been somehow approved and consulted with the community landcare movement about, if not why not, if so did it and if so when and how? 2. Does LAL think that the use of the caring hands in this commercial venture is a risk to the reputation and value of the caring hands established by the good work of countless community landcarers over many years? 	Written	
147	Meat and Livestock Australia	CANAVAN	Levy payers	<p>Senator CANAVAN: How long is it going to take to establish who all the levy payers are and have a system in place where the industry can decide what to do with it?</p> <p>Mr Norton: It is a priority. Once we establish the best way to collect it, which I am, at a high-level, thinking we have clearer direction around, it is then the design and implementation of the software. Anyone who has had any dealings with the design</p>	10 26-05-15	

				and implementation of software can understand that if I say 12 months, they always run a longer period of time. It is an absolute priority of MLA to make sure that these projects are funded, that peak industry councils are engaged in the process and are aware of what we are trying to achieve. So there are no real timelines on doing it except that it has to be done and done without any delay. I can come back to you and take on notice giving you a more formal timeframe and project plan, if required.		
148	Meat and Livestock Australia	CANAVAN	True Aussie	<p>Senator CANAVAN: I apologise, but I missed part of the True Aussie beef questions. I have one or two on that topic, but if they have been asked just let me know and I can read the <i>Hansard</i>. What level of support do you have at the moment from the processors and those who are actually selling beef overseas? Have they indicated that they are going to use this proposed marketing?</p> <p>Mr Norton: Yes. It has been taken up well in the processing sector, and the logo does appear on branded products from the processing sector as well is the generic logo to indicate—</p> <p>Senator CANAVAN: With their own brand.</p> <p>Mr Norton: With their own brand.</p> <p>Senator CANAVAN: So is that being used right now?</p> <p>Mr Norton: It is being used right now.</p> <p>Senator CANAVAN: It is in Korea; it is in Japan?</p> <p>Mr Norton: It is in South Korea. We have very good logos and very good branding, and it is a transition to the new logo and the new brand.</p> <p>Senator CANAVAN: Is JBS using it?</p> <p>Mr Norton: Yes.</p> <p>Senator CANAVAN: Is Teys using it?</p> <p>Mr Norton: As I understand it, yes.</p> <p>Senator CANAVAN: Nippon?</p> <p>Mr Norton: I could not answer that.</p>	11 26-05-15	

				<p>Senator CANAVAN: Maybe you can take that on notice.</p> <p>Mr Norton: I can take it all on notice as to what processing companies are actually using True Aussie.</p>		
149	Meat and Livestock Australia	STERLE	True Aussie logo	<p>Senator STERLE: So that we are very clear—and I applaud MLA getting off its backside in this part of your marketing role—levy payers money was used to develop this True Aussie logo. How much money did it cost?</p> <p>Mr Norton: At a high level, the whole project around True Aussie was about \$700,000. Then there is trade mark registrations, which are continuing. But I will get you the exact numbers. But on a high level, it is around \$1 million.</p>	11 26-05-2015	
150	Meat and Livestock Australia	STERLE	True Aussie	<p>Senator STERLE: Just so that I have it very clear, that is people like Senator Heffernan, who are paying their levy and others. But MLA will own it. So the money that is made—and I understand the advantages for marketing Aussie meat and all that stuff—and the money that comes back, MLA will own that. I understand the growers will benefit from greater access to market with quality product. But what happens if you have a blue with the growers?</p> <p>Mr Norton: It is all to be determined as to whether or not True Aussie will become a separate entity. Once it becomes a separate entity and the IP and the trademark passes from MLA, that would then allow the peak industry councils that have paid for and developed True Aussie in conjunction with MLA, to take any income or manage the brand. It is part of the negotiation as to what happens. MLA is just leading the process so it is handled in a manner so our peak industry councils feel comfortable that they are getting their say around what is happening with it.</p> <p>Senator STERLE: Take it on notice. Maybe the</p>	11-12 26-05-15	

				<p>committee could see the structure of how this was all put together, who is involved and where the trail goes with the True Aussie brand.</p> <p>Mr Norton: Which I can do.</p>		
151	Meat and Livestock Australia	WILLIAMS	Lamb promotion	<p>Senator WILLIAMS: On your promotion of lamb, it is great to have the voice of cricket, the late Richie Benaud part of it. It was a big success, no doubt.</p> <p>Mr Norton: Pleasingly, the whole Australia Day ad campaign is in the final six for Australia's ad of the year. The great part about that is that the beef ads are in that final six as well. It is the first time one organisation has had two ads in the final six. But even more pleasing, the beef one has been nominated for a global ad of the year as well.</p> <p>Senator WILLIAMS: Did the lamb promotion cost much?</p> <p>Mr Norton: The whole Australian lamb campaign cost approximately \$2.4 million.</p> <p>Senator WILLIAMS: No doubt the sale of lamb escalated?</p> <p>Mr Norton: I can circulate and take on notice the exact breakdown of the numbers, but the numbers are increased sales on Australia Day, which was a Monday, by 36 per cent. That is through the cash registers. The only other benchmark for lamb with Australia Day falling on a Monday have been around 8 to 10 per cent. So it was highly successful. It was our second best campaign, but I would say that it was the best campaign that we have run on Australia Day, given that Australia Day fell on Monday.</p>	12 26-05-15	
152	Office of the General Counsel	CAMERON	FOI request	<p>Mr Glyde: Chair, can I just perhaps provide a bit of supplementary information in relation to a question that I answered for Senator Cameron. I said that, as far as I was aware, all of the information that had been provided has been provided through questions on notice and freedom-of-information requests, but I</p>	18-19 25-5-15	

				<p>have been reminded that we have a current freedom-of-information request on hand that we have not yet finalised, so I just did not want to give that impression. There may well be some other documents that are revealed by that in the process of document searching. I just want to clarify that point. I think I created the impression that we have done all the FOIing and the answering of questions on notice, but that is not the case. We do have an FOI request in this field on hand at present.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: An FOI request is one thing. Senate estimates is another.</p> <p>Mr Glyde: Yes. We have answered all of our Senate estimates questions.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: I am asking you. If there is an FOI request in that, it sits and goes through a process, but I am asking, and I am not prepared to concede that, if there is an FOI question in, it answers questions—</p> <p>Mr Glyde: Yes, and I am saying that as far as I am aware—</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: that I am asking. Can you then have a look between now and when this issue comes back on with the appropriate department?</p> <p>Mr Glyde: Sure.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: Just to avoid any uncertainty: I would be asking you on notice, formally, whether there is other correspondence, including correspondence that is the subject of an FOI. And, if it is subject to FOI, I would ask that it be tabled here, if you have it, during the course of this estimates period.</p> <p>Mr Glyde: Sure.</p>		
153	RIRDC	EDWARDS	Staff salaries	<p>Senator EDWARDS: I just had a look at your organisational chart. You have 18.7 staff including a CEO, a communications director, a research manager, an IT manager, a finance manager, an</p>	120 25-05-15	

				<p>administration officer, a general manager corporate and an executive office manager. Are these skills available in Albury?</p> <p>Mr Burns: I have always been of the view that nobody is irreplaceable, so I would imagine that, even if the skills were not available, if you were paying the right price you would attract them.</p> <p>Senator EDWARDS: Albury is a big place though.</p> <p>Mr Burns: Sure.</p> <p>Senator EDWARDS: You can take this on notice. I would be interested to know the salaries of each of the ones I have just mentioned.</p> <p>Mr Burns: I will take it on notice.</p>		
154	RIRDC	RHIANNON	RIRDC reports	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I've previously been provided with a collated list of all RIRDC projects and reports about kangaroos, including the following details for each project: project ID and name, research organisation and researchers, Objective Summary, and funding/cost for each project and finish date(see RIRDC QoN 174, Budget Estimates May 2014): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Please provide links or copies of each of the reports listed in the May 2014 list provided. b. Please advise which projects have not yet been publically released, and why not – including whose decision this is – understanding that the KIAA has final say on the public release of any report . c. May I have an updated list with the mentioned details, as well as the stage of each project, and whether the resulting report has been publically released – and if not, why not. 2. I have previously been advised that RIRDC kangaroo projects are not marketing or strategic 	Written	

				<p>communications strategy research, when according to the list of RIRDC kangaroo research projects – every one of its documents is market research and communications strategy to identify market barriers and threats, and how to overcome those threats.</p> <p>a. The project “Characterising the Australian public and communicating about kangaroo management” (http://devweb.rirdc.gov.au/research-project-details/custr10_KAN/PRJ-008967) aims to “<i>provide practical information on how to design specific communications</i> (e.g. policies, informational or persuasive messages) <i>relating to the management of kangaroos</i>”, that is, it aims to provide market research to shape messaging to each targeted group mindset. The example given is that the kangaroo industry provides targeted messaging and, I emphasise, “<i>a government environmental/conservation agency could present information on a specific culling program in order to gain more public acceptance</i>”.</p> <p>I also note this project is also listed as an RD&E priority in “Reinforcing the licence to operate” (RIRDC report <i>Animal Industries – New, Developing and Maturing. Five Year RD&E Plan 2013-2018</i>. pg 22)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">i. Please provide a copy of this report.ii. Is there a requirement RIRDC marketing and advertising messages are identified by		
--	--	--	--	---	--	--

				<p>the receiver of the messages as such? If not, why not?</p> <p>iii. Are relevant government agencies and conservation agencies advised that they are effectively delivering targeted market messaging contracted by the industry with the specific aim of “gaining more public acceptance”? If not, why not?</p> <p>iv. Are overseas governments advised that the RIRDC/KIAA based information they are being presented by government Ministers and agencies in fact marketed messaging?</p> <p>b. The project (DAFF ID No: GMS-2085) was completed in June 2014. Please provide a copy of the report and any articles from the project, noting that there are no confidentiality provisions for the report as noted in a Department spreadsheet at this link: http://bit.ly/1h3u6T</p> <p>c. Note, please refer this question to the appropriate agency or program if needed: I note the project’s original budgeted cost was \$60,000. According to a DAFF 2014-15 spreadsheet PBS Program “Sustainable Management – Natural Resources” provided an ad-hoc grant of \$82,500 to the RIRDC for this project. (http://bit.ly/1h3u6T)</p> <p>i. Is this \$82,500 additional to the original RIRDC funding of \$60,000?</p> <p>ii. Please provide details of the specific reasons, purpose and outcomes expected from this additional “ad-hoc” funding.</p>		
--	--	--	--	--	--	--

155	Service Delivery Division	LUDWIG	Non-Australian Citizens Employed by the Department/Agency	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the Department/Agency's policy with regard to hiring non-Australian citizens? 2. Does the agency have a Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) policy? If yes, please provide a summary. 3. How does the Department/Agency determine whether a person is a non-Australian citizen? 4. How many staff who were not Australian Citizens have been hired by the Department/Agency since the Federal Election in September, 2013? Please break the numbers down by: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Levels at which they are employed b. Immigration Status (Visa) c. Cultural Background d. Linguistic Background e. How many were hired to satisfy CALD targets? 	Written	
156	Service Delivery Division	LUDWIG	Departmental Dispute Resolution	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How are disputes between departmental and/or agency staff mediated? 2. Are any outside firms contracted to assist with this process? If yes: please list them, please include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The structure of payments made to each firm (e.g. retainers, fees for each consultation etc). b. Amount paid to each firm since the last budget. c. When the contract with the firm commenced. d. When the contract with the firm will expire. e. Why the firm was selected to provide the service. f. Please provide a list of disputes referred to the firm, including a brief description of the dispute. 3. How are code of conduct violations by departmental and/or agency staff mediated? 	Written	

				<p>4. Are any outside firms contracted to assist with this process? If yes: please list them, please include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The structure of payments made to each firm (e.g. retainers, fees for each consultation etc). b. Amount paid to each firm since the last budget. c. When the contract with the firm commenced. d. When the contract with the firm will expire. e. Why the firm was selected to provide the service. f. Please provide a list of alleged violations referred to the firm, including a brief description of the alleged violations. 		
157	Sustainability & Biosecurity Policy Division	CAMERON	Independent reports by the expert panel into the small pelagic fishery declared commercial fishing activity	<p>Senator CAMERON: Could you on notice give us details of what the management system is between AFMA and the department on dealing with this report? How are you going to manage to analyse the report and deal with the outcomes, and what is the time frame you are looking at? Can you also do that in terms of the other two agencies—the three agencies? How are you going to engage with the other two agencies? What is the time frame? And how are your inputs going to be done: is a committee being established; are only Mr Thompson and Dr Rayns looking at it; and how is it going to work? Take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator Colbeck: Certainly. And as I indicated before, some of the recommendations have already been taken into consideration in the management of the fishery already. So that process has already commenced, because that is the function and role that AFMA has as part of the process. So it is not as if it is just sitting there. Recommendations out of the report have already had some impact on the management of the fishery.</p>	45 26-05-15	

158	Sustainability & Biosecurity Policy Division	CAMERON	Budget – recreational fishing	<p>Senator CAMERON: Are these funding agreements publicly available?</p> <p>Senator Colbeck: I am not sure that they are at this stage, and we have not actually announced them until just now.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: We have got a scoop!</p> <p>Senator Colbeck: They have been signed relatively recently. Yes, you have got a scoop. You ought to mark that one down. You do not get many at estimates.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: It was signing a contract!</p> <p>CHAIR: Are you going to finish on a high, Senator Cameron?</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: Just on that, can you provide the contracts when they are available?</p> <p>Mr Thompson: Yes. As Senator Colbeck said, I think the last one was only signed last week.</p>	46 26-05-15	
159	Sustainability & Biosecurity Policy Division	LAZARUS	Yellow crazy ant funding	<p>Senator LAZARUS: I understand that currently the Commonwealth supports the program with \$1.9 million per annum, but it seems the funding has not been established or is not available in 2016. Can you update me on that?</p> <p>Mr Thompson: I would have to take that on notice. As I said, that program in the past was part of the Caring for Our Country program that we were involved in. Yes, there was \$1.9 million provided to the Wet Tropics Management Authority for crazy ant eradication in the wet tropics area, but that targeted grant ceased in 2013-14. If you want to pursue that in more detail, it would be appropriate to ask the environment department.</p>	88 25-05-15	
160	Sustainability & Biosecurity Policy Division	CAMERON	Weed and pest animal management	<p>Senator CAMERON: Mr Thompson, you have been helpful on this. On notice, could you provide the details of the administration of these loans in each state? What are we proposing in terms of ensuring that there is no chance of manipulation?</p>	94 26-05-15	

				<p>Mr Thompson: It is a grant to the state and the grant is out to the individuals. If we are to do this in a reasonable time, I do not think we could provide you with what the future ones might be because they are still being negotiated. But perhaps we could provide you with the arrangements that are in place now for the pest and feral animal program because that would give an example of the sort of thing we would be doing.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: That would be helpful. So you are trying to get this in place before the end of this financial year?</p> <p>Mr Thompson: As Mr Glyde said, we would be trying to get it in place as quickly as possible. We are unlikely to do it by 1 July, but we are doing it quickly.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: And I do understand the difficulties of dealing with the states on this. I do understand that. But if there are criteria that the states will use to access the grants for these programs, could you take that on notice and provide that to the committee?</p> <p>Mr Thompson: Yes. The agreement we have with the states is a public document and the criteria the states use is normally public as well.</p>		
161	Sustainability & Biosecurity Policy Division	RICE	Tasmanian forestry grants	<p>Senator RICE: I want to ask some questions about the Auditor-General's reports on the Tasmanian forestry grants program, the Senate inquiry that was conducted under that and the efforts being taken to investigate the claims of fraud and noncompliance under it. I am interested in knowing how much the department has spent investigating, auditing or reviewing the compliance of the Tasmanian forestry exit grants.</p> <p>Mr Thompson: We would have to take that on notice. We do not have the details of what it has cost to date with us.</p>	101 26-05-15	

162	Sustainability & Biosecurity Policy Division	RICE	Tasmanian forestry grants	<p>Senator RICE: How many staff are involved in the process?</p> <p>Ms Standen: Again, I would have to take that on notice. I do not know the exact numbers, but I will say that a number of different areas of the department are involved, including the grants administration program, the policy area of the department as well as the fraud and security team.</p> <p>Senator RICE: So we are talking about quite a few staff involved?</p> <p>Ms Standen: I could not speculate as to exactly how many. I would have to take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator RICE: If you could, that be would good.</p>	101-102 26-05-15	
163	Sustainability & Biosecurity Policy Division	RICE	Forestry exit grant programs	<p>Senator RICE: With these current claims of fraud and the one fraud and two noncompliance, have you conducted any interviews or forensic accounting?</p> <p>Ms Standen: In relation to the one fraud allegation that is still outstanding, it is an investigation that is ongoing and I am not able to comment further on it.</p> <p>Senator RICE: Have you contracted any private investigators to be investigating it in the same way Centrelink does for cases of fraud?</p> <p>Ms Standen: I can take that on notice, but my understanding is no.</p> <p>Senator RICE: Have any of your officers visited Tasmania to investigate or conduct interviews?</p> <p>Ms Standen: We have contracted AusIndustry, through the department of industry, to undertake compliance activities on our behalf.</p> <p>Senator RICE: Could you give me any more details as to what compliance activities they are undertaking?</p> <p>Ms Standen: In terms of the actual details, I will take that on notice.</p>	102 26-05-15	

164	Sustainability & Biosecurity Policy Division	RICE	Forestry exit grant programs	<p>Senator RICE: Are there any more noncompliance notices that have been issued other than these two that we have been made aware of?</p> <p>Ms Standen: At this point in time, my understanding is no. But the compliance activities are constant and ongoing. So from time to time grantees could possibly find themselves noncompliant, in which case we will then work with them to ensure that they remain compliant.</p> <p>Senator RICE: What is the penalty for noncompliance?</p> <p>Ms Standen: There is no penalty.</p> <p>Senator RICE: So even though they have received a very substantial amount of taxpayers' money, and they are not complying with the conditions of that grant, there is no penalty?</p> <p>Ms Standen: Noncompliance does not mean that they are not entitled to the grant.</p> <p>Senator RICE: You said that there were less serious issues of noncompliance but then there are more serious issues of noncompliance.</p> <p>Ms Standen: That is right. But I cannot elaborate further on what action we would take in terms of those more serious noncompliant actions.</p> <p>Senator RICE: So there is still no penalty?</p> <p>Mr Thompson: If some of the noncompliance is as trivial as we failed to get a notification of their change of address on time and that is resolved, that would not cause any disturbance under their deeds. I have not looked carefully at the deeds. Normally, with contracts, as you move through the extent of noncompliance, breach notices can be issued. Depending on the magnitude and significance of that, there may well be some penalties. We would have to take on notice what they are. Fraud becomes a deliberate deception. If someone has just failed to do something because something has happened, it may be a breach which results in some other sort of</p>	103-104 26-05-15	
-----	--	------	------------------------------	---	---------------------	--

				<p>condition under the deed. But we could come back on what the terms of the deed are in general, not in the specific cases because we are trying to not breach their privacy. In particular, they are allegations rather than necessarily proven cases.</p> <p>Senator RICE: If you could take the terms of the deed on notice, that would be good.</p>		
165	Sustainability & Biosecurity Policy Division	RICE	Ongoing grant schemes	<p>Senator RICE: Are you looking at any increased investment into the future—you have ongoing grant schemes—or are you satisfied with the level of monitoring that you are currently doing?</p> <p>Ms Standen: Well, we are currently undertaking a review of our compliance and monitoring activities. It is a desktop review. It will be completed around July this year. We may well, as a result of that review, consider increasing on-the-ground compliance activities.</p> <p>Senator RICE: What level of on-the-ground compliance activities do you do at the moment?</p> <p>Ms Standen: As I said, we have contracted AusIndustry to undertake those activities. I can provide you with details of that on notice.</p> <p>Senator RICE: How much time do they spend?</p> <p>Ms Standen: I do not have that information in front of me. I will have to provide that on notice.</p>	104 26-05-15	
166	Sustainability & Biosecurity Policy Division	BULLOCK	FRDC funding	<p>Senator BULLOCK: The membership of international fisheries organisations has been moved over onto the RDC tab, and I thought I would have been able to pick up in the sums \$965,000 out of \$27 million.</p> <p>Mr Thompson: It is a recurrent expenditure, but the way it appears in the budget it would not appear in the FRDC component because it is effectively a reduction in the appropriation that is paid to the FRDC. So the amount of money the FRDC would receive will go down by that amount.</p>	114-115 25-05-15	

				<p>Senator BULLOCK: Right. So it is being taken out of your budget rather than you paying for it? I sort of misunderstood the mechanics. Is that right?</p> <p>Mr Thompson: Yes, the mechanics are that the department will pay the money and the FRDC will get less money. So it is within the departmental budget material.</p> <p>Senator BULLOCK: I understand that. I was looking for it and could not find it.</p> <p>Senator Colbeck: Senator, we might be able to find it. It is buried in a number somewhere else. If we take on notice where we can find it we can advise the committee.</p>		
167	Sustainability & Biosecurity Policy Division	LEYONHJELM	APVMA labelling	On what dates has the Department been engaged in consultation with Safe Work Australia regarding the adequacy of APVMA labelling for worker health and safety? In these consultations, has the Department expressed concerns or opposition to the requirement for additional labelling by 2017 for worker health and safety? If so, what is the nature of these concerns/opposition?	Written	
168	Sustainability & Biosecurity Policy Division	LEYONHJELM	Australian Recreational Fishing Foundation Ltd grant	Can you advise the purpose of the grant of \$550,000 to the Australian Recreational Fishing Foundation Ltd on or about 15/03/2015?	Written	
169	Trade Market & Access Division	EDWARDS	Exporting hay into China	<p>Senator EDWARDS: Regarding the China free trade agreement – and I am talking about export hay now – we export oaten hay to China, yet we have yet to break through on wheaten or barley hay. What is the impediment?</p> <p>Mr Koval: I am not aware of the impediments to hay into China, for wheaten hay. I am happy to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator EDWARDS: Oaten hay has no problems. There has been an application in since 2010 on wheaten and barley hay.</p>	138 25-05-15	

				<p>Mr Koval: I am not aware of the reasons why since 2010 we have not made progress on those, but I am happy to take that on notice for you and get back to you promptly.</p> <p>Senator EDWARDS: The reason is that there is a perception, which is not real – it is a myth – that they are of lesser quality than oaten hay. The reality is that the hay market is actually burgeoning and providing farmers with a great deal of confidence in growing more hay. It is actually a good crop insurance because of the fact that if you get frosted with your wheat or barley crop, you can make the decision to cut it and still get a very good price in this market. I am just interested to know very urgently, as the hay season approaches, whether we can break down that wall, as Ronald Reagan said.</p> <p>Mr Koval: Certainly, I will have a look at that for you.</p>		
170	Trade Market & Access Division	BACK	Korea-Australia Free Trade Agreement	<p>Senator BACK: Thank you. I will not go to the others, but I do want to get your advice in terms of the Korea-Australia Free Trade Agreement, which entered into force in mid-December. Are you able to tell us yet any evidence of benefits to agricultural exports to Korea? If you cannot give us the actual figures or the industries or whatever, I would like you to take it on notice, but even just in general terms are we seeing an uplift in exports?</p> <p>Mr Koval: Certainly. It has been a relatively short time since the Korean FTA came into force, but we have seen some improvements in trading conditions with Korea already. For example, we have seen increases in table grapes. We can provide you a table with a list of all these things on notice, but table grapes, for example, have increased into Korea. So there has been a positive upswing already in our market access.</p> <p>Senator BACK: And Japan?</p>	138 25-05-15	

				<p>Mr Koval: Similarly in Japan. Again, it is a relatively short period of time since we have had the two tariff cuts with Japan. Wine, for example, has gone up. Table grape exports into Japan have gone up, and we can provide you the hard numbers about those upswings on notice if you like. It has been a positive upswing.</p>		
171	Trade Market & Access Division	BACK	Western rock lobster sales to Japan	<p>Senator BACK: Have western rock lobster sales to Japan increased, or is it still the Chinese market that is taking them?</p> <p>Mr Koval: I am not aware of western rock lobster specifically in terms of increases to Japan, but I will have a look at that for you and see if we can get some data on it.</p>	138 25-05-15	
172	Trade Market & Access Division	SIEWERT	IP and agriculture interest	<p>Senator SIEWERT: You do not get to see any of the other text, other than when it is virtually finalised, when it is going to cabinet?</p> <p>CHAIR: I know the answer.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: Yes, well, let them tell me. I do not want to hear from you; I want to hear from them.</p> <p>Mr Murnane: Yes. That is correct. We are not involved in negotiations on matters that are outside our portfolio interest.</p> <p>CHAIR: It is what you call quarantine.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: In terms of things that do affect agriculture, such as veterinary drugs and chemicals, do you get any involvement there?</p> <p>Mr Koval: In terms of IP, you mean?</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: Yes, in terms of IP or any restriction. For example, under the PBS there are concerns around generic drugs postponing that. In terms of anything from an agricultural perspective that may affect agriculture, do you get to comment on those issues?</p> <p>Mr Koval: Yes, we do. If the IP relates to</p>	140-141 25-05-2015	

				<p>agriculture—veterinary drugs and those types of products, for example—we do talk to them and we do get to see the negotiating positions.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: And actually see the text?</p> <p>Mr Murnane: I might have to get back to you on the specific detail of that.</p>		
173	Trade Market & Access Division	CHAIR	TPP protection against the pirating of drugs	<p>CHAIR: How do we get to protect ourselves under the TPP against the pirating of the drugs?</p> <p>Mr Murnane: I will take that on notice—that level of detail. That is not something we are involved with on a day-to-day basis.</p> <p>CHAIR: This is my problem—and I cop a bit of shiver-my-timbers from my own mob on this—the quarantining of the various sections of it. They say, 'Come to the office and read the text', but even the people who have the text say the text does not guide you—because it is quarantined.</p> <p>Mr Glyde: Can you help us, Chair? What do you mean by 'pirating'?</p> <p>CHAIR: If someone has the IP for a pill and someone pirates—</p> <p>Mr Glyde: Copies?</p> <p>CHAIR: I am sure you know that in some places that is just the way you do business. What protection do we offer and what do we need to insure ourselves in making that protection available to our providers?</p> <p>Mr Glyde: That clarifies the matter for us, so we can now take it on notice. I will just make the general comment that, as you would appreciate, the DFAT officers who have been involved have an extremely detailed and good understanding of our interests. Whether it is with the TPP or any of the other free trade agreements, there has been quite a history of interaction and interchange between the two departments. So they have a good understanding of our interests and we have a good understanding of what they are doing. I would characterise this as</p>	141 25-05-15	

				<p>working pretty well. There is a whole bunch of stuff that does not necessarily impact on our department or our portfolio interests, but I think the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade has demonstrated over many years an ability to understand agriculture—because that is often the sticking point with a lot of these negotiations.</p>		
	<p>Transferred to Department of Human Services</p>	<p>BULLOCK</p>	<p>Farm Household Allowance</p>	<p>At the Budget Estimates hearing on 25 May 2015 Senator Bullock asked about what was being done to improve the processing of applications for Farm Household Allowances pursuant to an answer he received to QON 18 to the Department of Human Services, Additional Estimates, 26 Feb 2015, that “As at 13 March 2015, there were 349 Farm Household Allowance claims on hand”, of which 158 (45.27%) had been submitted for 43 days or more. The Department of Human Services, further stated in answer to Senator Bullock’s request for “a breakdown by the number of days (in 14 day periods) from when the claim was submitted to when the first payment was made” for all claims processed to date that “The department does not normally collect the information requested for a breakdown in the number of days (14 day periods) from when a claim is submitted to when the first payment is made. The collation of data required to answer the remainder of this question would require an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.”</p> <p>In evidence given in answers to these questions at the Budget Estimates hearing on 25 May 2015, Mr Padovan, Acting Deputy Secretary, Department of Agriculture stated “the time taken to process the average claim is well within that figure. It is much smaller than that figure”, that is much smaller than six weeks. He further stated that “There is a services agreement with human services ... It does specify</p>	<p>Written</p>	

				<p>the average processing time, which I cannot recall off the top of my head, but it is certainly well under the figure that you have quoted.”</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">i. What is the average processing time specified in the service agreement with the department of Human Services for processing Farm Household Allowance applications?ii. Has the Department of Human Services met that average processing time at all stages since the Farm Household Allowance commenced on 1 July 2014?iii. How many Farm Household Allowance claims are currently on hand?iv. For these claims please provide a breakdown by the number of days (in 14 day periods) since the claim was submittedv. How many Farm Household Allowance claims have been processed?vi. How many of these were successful?vii. For these claims please provide a breakdown by the number of days (in 14 day periods) from when the claim was submitted to when the first payment was made.		
--	--	--	--	---	--	--