

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

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2015

**Agriculture**

**Question:** 127

**Division/Agency:** Horticultural Innovation Australia Limited

**Topic:** Fruit Fly

**Proof Hansard page:** 7 (26.5.2015)

**Senator RUSTON asked:**

**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 the strategy into HIAL?

**Mr Lloyd:** Sorry, are you talking about the horticultural fruit fly strategic group?

**Senator RUSTON:** Yes.

**Mr Lloyd:** That will be in our organisation, funded through the fruit fly project. So the funding is not an issue from September onwards.

**Senator RUSTON:** Do we have any progress in terms of the transitioning of it across from Plant Health Australia?

**Mr Lloyd:** I would have to take that one on notice.

**Answer:**

The National Fruit Fly Strategy is overseen by the National Fruit Fly Strategy Advisory Committee. The Minister for Agriculture has written to the Chair of the Committee to seek views of the Committee on options for future arrangements that will ensure effective management of Fruit Fly. This process is currently underway. Horticulture Innovation Australia Ltd (HIA) is a member of this Committee and will provide input. It is an imperative that HIA's investments in research and development & extension are aligned with the National Fruit Fly RDE Strategy priorities and outcomes. The investments funds will reside in the HIA Fruit Fly fund and will include expected contributions by external parties exceeding \$30 million over five years.