

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

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2015

**Agriculture**

**Question:** 61

**Division/Agency:** Animal Health Australia

**Topic:** Avian Influenza

**Proof Hansard page:** 30 (26.5.2015)

**Senator RHIANNON asked:**

**Senator RHIANNON:** Where did those ones occur—the ones that you know of?

**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.

**Mr Thompson:** Young was the most recent one.

**Senator RHIANNON:** And when was that, please?

**Mr Thompson:** I think it was last year.

**Ms Plowman:** Young was I think the year before.

**Senator RHIANNON:** The year before—so in 2013?

**Ms Plowman:** Yes, over 2013.

**Senator RHIANNON:** How many birds did it impact on?

**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.

**Answer:**

In October 2013, a highly pathogenic avian influenza virus was detected in a free-range and cage-bird layer flock of approximately 435 000 birds near Young in New South Wales. Subsequently, infection with this virus was detected on a second layer property (with approximately 55 000 birds) also near Young in New South Wales, with links to the first infected premises. Birds on both of these properties were humanely destroyed and disposed of in accordance with nationally agreed procedures. The Australian Chief Veterinary Officer declared that Australia returned to its pre-outbreak status on 21 February 2014.

There was also an outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza near Maitland in 2012. As with the Young outbreak, the response was managed by the New South Wales Department of Primary Industries. A total of 51 457 hens either died of influenza or were destroyed and 212 875 eggs were destroyed. The Australian Chief Veterinary Officer declared that Australia returned to its pre-outbreak status on 28 March 2013.