

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2013

Agriculture

Question: 180

Division/Agency: Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences

Topic: Data that shows hard ship experienced by farmers

Proof Hansard page: Written

Senator STERLE asked:

Did ABARES provide any data to show that hard ship being experienced by farmers wasn't as acute in Western Australia and South Australia as the rest of the country?

Answer:

No.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2013

Agriculture

Question: 181

Division/Agency: Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences

Topic: Cuts to ABARES

Proof Hansard page: Written

Senator STERLE asked:

1. Where will the ABARES cuts be made?
2. How will these cuts impact on the scientific research currently being done?
3. Will these cuts impact on the work being undertaken to establish a national Foreign Ownership register?

Answer:

1. The Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES) reduced its full time equivalent staff from 197 to 153 between July and October 2013. The reductions were across all areas of the bureau.
2. ABARES will continue to review its skills and capability to ensure delivery against its work program is maintained.
3. No.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2013

Agriculture

Question: 182

Division/Agency: Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences

Topic: Cuts to frontline services and ABARES

Proof Hansard page: Written

Senator STERLE asked:

Can you guarantee the Department will be able to deliver professional and high standards of work with further cuts to frontline services and ABARES?

Answer:

A review of Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences future work plans and structure is currently underway to ensure continued delivery of high quality economic and scientific analysis.

As outlined in response to Question 215, the staffing reductions in Border Compliance Division will be achieved primarily by improving efficiency in service delivery, work practice design and reducing intervention on some low risk pathways, where importers, passengers and mail consignees have demonstrated strong compliance with biosecurity requirements.

At the same time, the Department of Agriculture is reallocating resources to areas of highest risk, which will reduce the likelihood of pest or disease incursions and their impacts on Australian agriculture.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2013

Agriculture

Question: 183

Division/Agency: Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences

Topic: Support to assess recreational catch of southern blue fin tuna

Proof Hansard page: Written

Senator STERLE asked:

What support is AFMA giving to the department or ABARES to assess the recreational catch of southern blue fin tuna, nationally or in Victoria?

Answer:

An Australian Fisheries Management Authority representative is a member of the technical advisory group for the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences-led project 'Development of methods for obtaining national estimates for the recreational catch of southern bluefin tuna'. This project is being implemented in collaboration with fisheries research agencies in Victoria, New South Wales, Tasmania and South Australia.