

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

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2013

**Agriculture**

**Question:** 238

**Division/Agency:** Food Division

**Topic:** Kangaroo meat diseases

**Proof Hansard page:** 50

**Senator RHIANNON asked:**

**Senator RHIANNON:** Could you take on notice and supply us with the tests that Russia and China require—for what diseases and what the actual tests are?

**Mr Read:** We do not yet have a certificate agreed with China so I cannot respond to that question, but we can do it for Russia.

**Answer:**

Russia does not require the department to conduct specific testing for kangaroo diseases. Russia tests kangaroo product on arrival to assess compliance with their residue and microbial standards.

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

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2013

**Agriculture**

**Question:** 239

**Division/Agency:** Food Division

**Topic:** Kangaroo meat – extend the trade with China

**Proof Hansard page:** 50

**Senator RHIANNON asked:**

**Senator RHIANNON:** What is the current status of negotiations and lobbying to extend the trade with China, please?

**Mr Read:** We are currently meeting with technical officials in China to progress some remaining points prior to hopefully commencing the trade into China.

**Senator RHIANNON:** What is the time line on your hopes to commence the trade?

**Mr Read:** It is very difficult to foreshadow a time line with China but—

**Senator RHIANNON:** What are you working towards? What is the—

**Mr Read:** I would hope months. That would be my sense, but that is about as specific as I can be.

**Senator RHIANNON:** What amount of public funding has gone into supporting this process?

**Mr Read:** I will have to take that on notice.

**Answer:**

Total public funding spent on negotiations with and representations to China for kangaroo access for the past twelve months has been approximately \$20 000.

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

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2013

**Agriculture**

**Question:** 240

**Division/Agency:** Food Division

**Topic:** Kangaroo Industry Association of Australia – Involvement in consultation

**Proof Hansard page:** 50

**Senator RHIANNON asked:**

**Senator RHIANNON:** As well as being consulted, are they part of the delegations to China to negotiate this?

**Mr Read:** The Chinese meetings are government to government but they are thoroughly involved in the preparation for those meetings and post-meeting assessments.

**Senator RHIANNON:** I did just ask about the delegations, which can be taken as wider than just who goes to the meetings. Have representatives of that body accompanied delegations to China for these negotiations?

**Mr Read:** They have not accompanied me but I will take it on notice and check whether they have been with other trade delegations.

**Answer:**

A representative of the Kangaroo Industry Association of Australia accompanied the then Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, the Hon. Tony Burke MP, during his visit to China in April 2009.

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

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2013

**Agriculture**

**Question:** 241

**Division/Agency:** Food Division

**Topic:** Kangaroo industry association of Australia involvement in negotiations

**Proof Hansard page:** 50-51

**Senator RHIANNON asked:**

**Senator RHIANNON:** Could you take on notice whether the government has paid for any of the KIAA involvement in these overseas delegations?

**Mr Read:** Yes.

**Answer:**

The Kangaroo Industry Association of Australia (KIAA) accompanied the then Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, the Hon. Tony Burke MP, during his visit to China in April 2009. The department did not fund KIAA's involvement in this visit.

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

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**Agriculture**

**Question:** 242

**Division/Agency:** Food Division

**Topic:** Zoonotic disease in kangaroos

**Proof Hansard page:** 51

**Senator RHIANNON asked:**

**Senator RHIANNON:** Has Russia or any other country raised concerns about zoonotic diseases that are known to be rife in kangaroo populations?

**Mr Read:** No.

**Senator RHIANNON:** So are there any concerns raised about toxoplasmosis generally?

**Mr Read:** Not to my recollection.

**Senator RHIANNON:** Do you need to take that on notice so you can check?

**Mr Read:** Sure.

**Answer:**

The Department of Agriculture has not received questions from any trading partners concerning toxoplasmosis in kangaroos, or generally.

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

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Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2013

**Agriculture**

**Question:** 243

**Division/Agency:** Food Division

**Topic:** Kangaroo industry association of Australia – negotiations

**Proof Hansard page:** 51

**Senator RHIANNON asked:**

**Senator RHIANNON:** What is the involvement of the Kangaroo Industry Association of Australia with these negotiations?

**Mr Read:** As before, they are consulted as part of those negotiations. They are kept informed of the status of access into those markets.

**Senator RHIANNON:** Again, have they been part of delegations to those countries for these negotiations?

**Mr Read:** I will take that on notice, to be absolutely sure.

**Senator RHIANNON:** Can you take on notice whether they have participated and, if they have, how much that has cost.

**Mr Read:** Yes.

**Answer:**

In the last 12 months, the Kangaroo Industry Association of Australia (KIAA) has not accompanied any Department of Agriculture trade delegations to any countries.

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**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2013

**Agriculture**

**Question:** 244

**Division/Agency:** Food Division

**Topic:** Exportation of chicken product

**Proof Hansard page:** 52

**Senator FARRELL asked:**

**Senator FARRELL:** How much chicken product are we exporting?

**Mr Read:** I do not have that with me but we will take it on notice.

**Answer:**

In 2012-13 Australia exported a total of around 31900 tonnes of poultry meat, poultry meat products and edible poultry offal to overseas destinations.

**Agriculture**

**Question:** 245

**Division/Agency:** Food Division

**Topic:** Chicken exports

**Proof Hansard page:** Written

**Senator STERLE asked:**

1. Has the Avian Influenza outbreak caused any markets to shut out chicken exports?
2. We export very little chicken meat are there any other chicken related products?
3. If so, what are the products and what are markets that are affected.
4. When are these markets likely to reopen and what resources are being applied to get them opened?

**Answer:**

1. Some countries have imposed restrictions on imports of all Australian poultry meat and meat products following the occurrence of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in New South Wales. These countries include South Africa, the United Arab Emirates, Canada and the Republic of Korea.  
  
Several other countries have imposed restrictions on imports of poultry meat and poultry meat products sourced from New South Wales, with exports from other states unaffected. These countries include Hong Kong, Papua New Guinea, Singapore, the United States and the Solomon Islands.
2. Yes. Australian exports eggs and egg products and a range of inedible poultry derived products including rendered poultry and feather meals, poultry fats and oils, pet food and pharmaceutical/technical products.
3. Australia's key export markets for eggs and/or egg products affected by the occurrence of HPAI include Hong Kong, Papua New Guinea, Japan, Solomon Islands and Singapore. Australia's key affected export markets for inedible poultry products include China, Indonesia, Japan, Taiwan and the Republic of Korea.



**Question:** 245 (continued)

4. The department is seeking to restore market access to affected markets as soon as possible and is regularly communicating with importing country authorities to minimise trade impacts. Some countries may lift restrictions once they have received further information and assurances regarding control and management of the situation. Others may not consider lifting restrictions until Australia has regained freedom from highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in accordance with the standards of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), or until they have conducted their own assessments.

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**Agriculture**

**Question:** 246

**Division/Agency:** Food Division

**Topic:** Red tape affect in export certification

**Proof Hansard page:** Written

**Senator STERLE asked:**

Explain the coalition's commitment to improve performance efficiency and reducing unnecessary red tape in export certification

**Answer:**

The department is on track implementing the Government's deregulation agenda. A deregulation unit has been established in the department's Governance Division to coordinate the agriculture portfolio's implementation of the agenda. The unit is overseen by an internal working group that ensures coordination across the portfolio. Governance oversight has been assigned to an existing executive committee, the Legislative and Regulatory Reform Committee.

The department is waiting for formal advice from the government on its regulatory reduction target. In the meantime, several regulatory reform activities are being progressed.

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

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Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2013

**Agriculture**

**Question: 247**

**Division/Agency:** Food Division

**Topic:** Kangaroo export countries

**Proof Hansard page:** Written

**Senator RHIANNON asked:**

1. Please provide an update of the markets to which Australia imports kangaroo skins, and kangaroo meat for both human and pet consumption. Including quantities for each of the kangaroo products supplied to each country?
2. Specifically, which countries import kangaroo meat as unidentified meat protein?
3. What work is being undertaken to expand the trade in each country?
4. What are the barriers to growing the trade in each country that have been identified? What action is being taken to overcome these barriers?

**Answer:**

1. See attached trade data for products exported under the following HS Codes (Source: ABS Trade Statistics):

02089011 - Meat and edible meat offal of kangaroo, fresh, chilled or frozen

02109950 - Meat and edible meat offal of kangaroo, salted, in brine, dried or smoked

05119920 - Kangaroo and wallaby meat, unfit for human consumption

41039020 - Raw hides and skins of kangaroo, fresh, salted, dried, limed, pickled or otherwise

43018040 - Raw, whole furskins of kangaroo, wallaby and possum

2. Australia's export certification requires that exports of edible kangaroo meat are clearly identified.
3. Expanding trade within markets is primarily the responsibility of industry and the Australian Trade Commission. The Department of Agriculture's role is to negotiate technical protocols and import conditions for trade.

**Question:** 247 (continued)

4. Exports of kangaroo meat are continuing successfully to countries where there is existing trade. Markets may occasionally notify changes to import requirements for meat products (including kangaroo meat). Where required, the department negotiates with importing country authorities to ensure any changes to import requirements for kangaroo meat are science-based and least trade-restrictive, in accordance with World Trade Organisation principles.

02089011 - Meat and edible meat offal of kangaroo, fresh, chilled or frozen	Value AU\$					Quantity Kg				
	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Russian Federation	19,708,133	1,251,673			2,112,265	5315296	360560			603504
South Africa	2,708,598	2,405,461	2,063,624	3,424,664	707,058	1090826	1059760	794850	1274937	372351
Germany	2,205,694	2,828,142	3,237,338	4,440,311	3,135,719	525475	613739	734947	874416	680267
Belgium	4,740,162	4,259,373	1,974,929	3,435,427	2,438,337	833070	638187	314726	498778	370734
Papua New Guinea	718,884	689,921	1,016,217	1,540,914	1,854,239	252039	279723	369413	518318	484803
Netherlands	1,074,240	1,121,269	1,365,488	5,111,770	2,876,435	197458	202578	227539	763937	503996
France	1,975,199	1,152,735	678,132	905,790	1,097,109	350209	203736	95342	148730	214961
Hong Kong (SAR of China)	121,629	452,715	153,886	159,430	129,910	55727	170583	62466	90106	49042
New Zealand	127,182	166,708	24,044	142,459	112,521	52219	60058	2210	56476	40050

United States of America	379,092	89,321	352,276	206,743	299,541	32306	5255	39100	40874	51432
Canada	90,577	38,237	325,440	18,540	174,909	11753	5891	63920	13105	45530
Korea, Republic of	85,616	35,971	87,633	71,425	88,134	36350	16154	33142	16645	30155
United Kingdom	218,845	84,038	115,302	246,041	138,655	26620	13430	15370	33577	24703
Viet Nam	111,445		4,125	54,750	50,300	34592		1201	28640	23802
Japan	53,594	153,926	108,768	110,719	60,106	7581	22848	12310	19011	8990
Czech Republic		75,199	66,500	143,700			22275	15915	30353	
Indonesia	574			36,200	67,000	25			16000	25000
Spain		61,135					32331			
Albania		54,000					25103			
Cote d'Ivoire	50,562					19000				
China	54,000					18028				
Reunion	44,615		30,428		14,291	6873		5564		5346
Macau (SAR of China)			11,359					4990		
Singapore	6,680	5,696	4,563	16,586	104,606	305	310	202	2718	1200
New Caledonia	4,402	3,974	7,018		8,654	272	203	447		702
Italy			965	4,115				302	1300	
French Polynesia		4,412	6,809	2,535			356	531	154	
Solomon Islands					2,920					1000
Mauritius	750	6,686				100	515			
Switzerland				2,981					204	
East Timor, Dem Rep of					1,581					120
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>34,480,473</b>	<b>14,940,592</b>	<b>11,634,844</b>	<b>20,075,100</b>	<b>15,474,290</b>	<b>8866124</b>	<b>3733595</b>	<b>2794487</b>	<b>4428279</b>	<b>3537688</b>

02109950 - Meat and edible meat offal of kangaroo, salted, in brine, dried or smoked	Value AU\$				Quantity Kg			
	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Papua New Guinea		425,751	528,423	287,676		169968	187375	95850
Japan	124,360	78,195	59,107	18,483	6247	2738	1435	460
Singapore		3,706	2,883			200	152	
Hong Kong (SAR of China)	3,770				198			
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>128,130</b>	<b>507,652</b>	<b>590,413</b>	<b>306,159</b>	<b>6445</b>	<b>172906</b>	<b>188962</b>	<b>96310</b>

05119920 - Kangaroo and wallaby meat, unfit for human consumption	Value AU\$				Quantity Kg			
	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Indonesia	210,848	233,033	173,080		179520	148380	97438	
United States of America	104,728		29,995	8,970	128114		3519	1836
Belgium				\$ 166,850				128681
Viet Nam	76,513	117,476	41,520		34000	49555	17300	
Japan	213,002	33,880	26,092	27,492	47617	15400	9572	14000
Germany	12,000		53,849		11605		4785	
Singapore	11,349				3984			
Austria			5,472				423	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>628,440</b>	<b>384,389</b>	<b>330,008</b>	<b>203,312</b>	<b>404840</b>	<b>213335</b>	<b>133037</b>	<b>144517</b>

41039020 - Raw hides and skins of kangaroo, fresh, salted, dried, limed, pickled or otherwise	Value AU\$				Quantity (number)			
	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Italy	8,375,935	5,974,021	4,838,993	3,582,071	571768	504937	425859	273535
Germany	3,166,645	754,643	1,802,751	740,298	193550	59746	139766	207385
Turkey	2,309,095	264,864	639,795	1,595,677	137221	31954	77000	117000
Hong Kong (SAR of China)	212,087	495,552	112,797		26640	103872	27000	
China	359,748	302,893		310,489	39500	37000		24800
Japan	272,968	227,060	98,225	24,757	10800	66000	5500	1200
Bangladesh			55,370	170,529			20000	60000
Pakistan	377,485		65,851		36400		21000	
Spain	222,283	204,014	437,649		13700	12000	20000	
Slovak Republic		297,000				16230		
India	12,762	33,741		31,344	600	4709		2612
United States of America	76,545	2,546	2,172	788	3901	6	8	1
Thailand			4,892				500	
New Zealand			1,450				295	
Indonesia				2,483				210
Viet Nam		6,979				158		
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>15,385,553</b>	<b>8,563,313</b>	<b>8,059,945</b>	<b>6,458,436</b>	<b>1034080</b>	<b>836612</b>	<b>736928</b>	<b>686743</b>

43018040 - Raw, whole furskins of kangaroo, wallaby and possum	Value AU\$		Quantity (number)	
	2008-09	2011-12	2008-09	2011-12
New Zealand		24,160		400
China	7,800		4	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>7,800</b>	<b>24,160</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>400</b>



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

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2013

**Agriculture**

**Question:** 248

**Division/Agency:** Food Division

**Topic:** Kangaroo industry support

**Proof Hansard page:** Written

**Senator RHIANNON asked:**

1. What tax concessions or other government support does the kangaroo industry receive at federal level, including representation of the industry's interests by government officials or MPs to overseas Trade or Foreign Affairs delegates?
2. Has the government funded any kangaroo industry representatives to join overseas delegations to open up or maintain export markets in the last 5 years? May I have details please?

**Answer:**

1. Tax concessions are primarily the responsibility of the Treasury. The department provides financial support to assist with the cost of government veterinary services at export registered kangaroo meat establishments. This support ceases on 31 December 2013.

The department undertakes market access activities, including representations overseas, to support agricultural export industries, such as the kangaroo industry. Overseas representations by the department usually cover a range of commodities and market access issues, and may include kangaroo meat access if relevant to the country being engaged.

2. The kangaroo industry attended the Russia-Australia Agricultural Working Group in Sydney 2011 and a representative also accompanied the then Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Tony Burke to China in 2009. The department did not fund KIAA's involvement in these visits.

**Agriculture**

**Question: 249**

**Division/Agency:** Food Division

**Topic:** Kangaroo meat for human consumption

**Proof Hansard page:** Written

**Senator RHIANNON asked:**

1. I've been previously advised in Senate Estimates that kangaroo meat for human consumption is not tested for food-borne pathogens like *Salmonella* spp or *Toxoplasma gondii*, both of which are zoonotic agents causing serious health risks in humans:
  - a) Are countries importing kangaroo meat informed of these health risks? Particularly with reference to *Toxoplasma gondii* which is rife in kangaroo populations?
  - b) Which countries importing kangaroo meat products request testing for these specific two zoonotic agents?
  - c) Does Russia request such testing for either *T.gondii* or *Salmonella* sp? Has Russia ever raised concerns about these agents or diseases?
  - d) Which importing countries have raised concerns about these zoonotic agents?
2. With regards to each category of kangaroo food products exported, may I have a list of which specific food safety tests each importing country requires?
3. With regards to food safety levels, please list the concerns or outcomes by each country in the last 10 years.
  - a) May I have details of all instances where any country's Maximum Residue Limits have been breached
4. What are the remaining barriers to opening up the trade for kangaroo products into China? What are the concerns raised?

**Answer:**

1. a) The department provides any information requested by importing countries to assist those countries in making assessments about health and other risks associated with our exports. Information regarding *T. gondii* would be provided if requested by an importing country.  
  
b) No importing country authorities require pre-export testing for *T. gondii* or *Salmonella*.  
  
c) Russia does not require pre-export testing for *T. gondii* or *Salmonella*. Russian authorities carry out routine testing for *Salmonella* on arrival to ensure compliance with its import requirements. Russia previously raised general concerns about the safety of kangaroo meat

**Question: 249 (continued)**

which led to the suspension of kangaroo meat exports to that market in 2009. Russia has not raised any concerns with the department about *T. gondii* or *Salmonella* since trade resumed in November 2011.

(d) A review of the department's records for the last two years indicate there has been one port-of-entry detection for *Salmonella* in kangaroo meat exported to the European Union, which occurred in March 2013. No other importing countries have raised concerns about *Salmonella* during the last two years. No importing countries have raised concerns about *T. gondii* in the past two years.

2. The department is unable to answer this question, as it would require an unreasonable diversion of resources to do so.
3. The department is unable to answer this question, as it would require an unreasonable diversion of resources to do so.
4. The department is working with Chinese authorities to finalise a small number of matters including minor amendments to the bilateral kangaroo meat protocol, agreement on health certification, and the specific approval of individual kangaroo meat establishments for export to China.

**Agriculture**

**Question:** 250

**Division/Agency:** Food Division

**Topic:** Chinese accreditation

**Proof Hansard page:** Written

**Senator STERLE asked:**

1. Where is the process of Chinese accreditation of Australian meatworks and cold stores up to?
2. How many facilities have been ticked off and how many are still seeking to get ticked off by the Chinese?
3. Chilled beef exports into China were suspended some time ago. What was the basis for the suspension? What action has been taken to correct the problems that caused the suspension and when will that trade resume – if it has not already?

**Answer:**

1. The approval process for establishments seeking to export meat and meat products to China includes approval by two separate Chinese government agencies. Following an audit carried out in 2010, four integrated slaughter establishments and 22 independent cold stores received approval from the first of these agencies in April 2012. They are currently awaiting final approval from the second Chinese agency, before they may commence exports to China. The department is working closely with Chinese counterparts to finalise this process.
2. Please refer to the response to question 1. All 26 establishment approved by one of two Chinese agencies following the 2010 audit are awaiting approval from the second Chinese agency before they are able to commence exports.
3. Establishments must be specifically approved by Chinese authorities to export chilled meat to China. The department is working with Chinese counterparts to complete the steps required for the approval of establishments. The Australian meat industry has temporarily stopped exports of chilled meat to China while establishments complete the approval process.