

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

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2014

**Agriculture**

**Question:** 57

**Division/Agency:** Biosecurity Animal Division

**Topic:** Exotic disease coming into Australia

**Proof Hansard page:** 48-49

**Senator CAMERON asked:**

**Senator CAMERON:** But this is an overarching question: I want you as the secretary to deal with it in terms of process. What analysis has been done in relation to the possibility of exotic disease coming into Australia with increased imports from Korea or China?

**Dr Grimes:** We would maintain overall ongoing assessments about risks. I would be happy to take on notice whether we have undertaken very specific analysis of the sort that you have suggested. I would not expect that we would actually undertake work at that level. We would not be looking at such an aggregate picture; we would want to actually look at where the key risk drivers might be. But it may be that there are officers who can provide information.

**Answer:**

The Department of Agriculture closely monitors and evaluates the risk of exotic diseases entering and becoming established in Australia as a result of imports. Relevant considerations include the commodity type, the disease status of the source country, the species and tissues from which the commodity is derived, how the commodity is treated, the commodity's end use, and the quantities imported. This work applies to products from all countries. Import conditions are determined on the basis of these assessments to ensure that biosecurity risks to Australia remain very low, irrespective of where the products have come from.

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

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2014

**Agriculture**

**Question:** 58

**Division/Agency:** Biosecurity Animal Division

**Topic:** Biosecurity implications with importation of agricultural goods from China

**Proof Hansard page:** 49

**Senator CAMERON asked:**

**Senator CAMERON:** So the agriculture department did not do any analysis of the financial implications? That is not what I was asking, but that is interesting. What I was asking was about the biosecurity.

**Dr Grimes:** My understanding is that your question relates to increases in volumes and what the implications of that are for biosecurity. As I indicated before, I would be surprised if we have done the aggregate level analysis in the way that you have suggested. But, as Mr Chapman indicated, looking at trade flows is actually core business for us. I would be surprised if we have undertaken that sort of analysis. I am happy to take it on notice just to check, but I would be surprised if we have done an analysis at that level.

**Answer:**

See response to Question on Notice 57 from Supplementary Budget Estimates.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2014

**Agriculture**

**Question:** 59

**Division/Agency:** Biosecurity Animal Division

**Topic:** Countries from which we will accept serum

**Proof Hansard page:** 71

**Senator HEFFERNAN asked:**

**Senator HEFFERNAN:** Yes. Would it be possible, on notice, Dr Grimes, for you to give us the list of countries from which we will accept serum?

**Answer:**

Import permits for serum product will only be issued if the serum has been sourced from animals that were domiciled in countries free of all diseases of biosecurity concern. Bovine serum in bulk (up to three litres per individually packaged unit) may only be sourced from animals that domiciled in the following countries:

Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States of America, Vanuatu.

There are currently valid import permits for bovine serum from the following countries:

Australia, Belgium, Canada, Mexico, New Zealand, United Kingdom, United States of America, France, Ireland, Denmark, and Sweden.