

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
Questions on Notice
Additional Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing, Tuesday 24 November 2015

Agriculture and Water Resources Portfolio

Senate No	Program/ Division or Agency	Senator	Broad topic	Question	Proof Hansard page & hearing date or Written question	Date received
1	Australian Chief Veterinary Office	Heffernan	Chicken industry in China	CHAIR: We are talking about our arrangements with China. This has only recently been disclosed. I do not know how long we have had the problem, but as I understand it is a threat if it gets away to the human race. It is a super superbug. I do not know how super bugs work, but I would like to think, if need be, you take it on notice and come back to us.	6	
2	Australian Chief Veterinary Office	Heffernan	Chicken industry in China	CHAIR: Could you brief us, maybe on notice, on where we are up to with that and what protective measures there are? They say they do not know whether it has got out of China yet. If you could do that, we would be grateful. Ms O'Connell: Will do.	6	
3	Biosecurity Animal Division	Cameron	Status of request from Japan to import fresh beef	Senator CAMERON: I do not know where the minister gets this, but that is an interesting point. Minister Joyce has cited that there is a push from Japan to export wagyu beef into Australia. Are you aware of that? Mr Smalley: I am not sure that that is on our work program at the moment, but countries express desires to export products without them	7	

				<p>necessarily being on the work programs of another country. I am not sure whether Ms Bie is aware of the Japan intent.</p> <p>Ms Bie: I do not have details.</p> <p>Ms Evans: It is certainly the case that Japan has, at times in the past, expressed interest in exporting fresh beef to Australia. I would have to take on notice exactly where that request is up to.</p>		
4	Biosecurity Animal Division	Cameron	Assessment period for wagyu beef	<p>Senator CAMERON: What is the length of an assessment period? How long does it take to assess?</p> <p>Ms Evans: As you could expect, it depends. If it is a complicated product, it might be a couple of years. If it is straightforward and we have done it somewhere else and the risks and so on are similar, perhaps it would be shorter. I do not know if Ms O'Connell would know.</p> <p>Ms O'Connell: A few months, but there are some that do take a couple of years. There are some where, whilst the assessment is done, it does not pass the assessment.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: What about wagyu beef? Is that complicated?</p> <p>Ms O'Connell: I would have to take that on notice.</p>	8	
5	Biosecurity Animal Division	Cameron	IRA of freshwater ornamental fin fish	<p>Senator CAMERON: Can you provide an update on the IRA of freshwater ornamental fin fish from approved countries?</p> <p>Mr Koval: While I look after the biosecurity policy, that is managed through our animal division who are doing the assessment. I will have to take that on notice and get the advice from them.</p>	34	

6	Biosecurity Policy and Implementation	Cameron	Risk ratings of diseases	<p>Senator CAMERON: We have got a thing called an ALOP; is that right? That is Australia's appropriate level of protection.</p> <p>Ms Langford: Yes.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: It talks about reducing risk to a very low level but not to zero. Are there any diseases with a rating of zero risk?</p> <p>Mr Koval: Not to my knowledge but we can have a look and see. We are not the scientists.</p>	31	
7	Compliance Division	Bullock	Claim that address of Liaoning Ruili Food Co Ltd is Commercial in Confidence	<p>Senator BULLOCK: This is my last question. I am often concerned with the frequency that there is recourse to commercial in confidence to fail to answer a question. I did ask a question about the address of Liaoning Ruili Food Co Ltd and the answer was, 'I can't tell you. It's commercial in confidence.' They have a website. They are open for business. They want to do business. This stuff is publicly available. Why on earth would you claim commercial in confidence over material that is readily available? It drives me, at least, up the wall.</p> <p>CHAIR: Thank you. That was a comment.</p> <p>Senator BULLOCK: No, it is a question. Why would they claim commercial in confidence on information like that?</p> <p>Mr Ironside: I am sorry, I cannot remember if I said that in response to a question that you asked earlier. I am not sure. I just cannot recall. I will have to take that on notice and have a look.</p>	24	
8	Compliance Division	Cameron	Breakdown of the \$1 Million	<p>Senator CAMERON: If you can get it will you provide the detailed breakdowns of the \$1 million? That is the whole box and dice with the cost of airlines, when people travelled, what class of travel and all of that.</p>	26-27	

				<p>Mr Terpstra: By way of the information to be broken down in that format I would suggest that that might also go to some of the investigation related information about where people were and what they were doing, which would not necessarily be in the interests of furthering the investigation without—</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: That may be your view but it is not my view about where people travelled to and when they travelled. I am not asking what they were doing. Nobody asked for that. You have put that in. That is not the question.</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan: We will look at what we can reasonably provide you on this question. We can see what you are after and we will do our best to—</p> <p>Senator BULLOCK: I presume that not all of the \$1 million was spent on covert operations, so perhaps there could be a little column that says 'covert operations' and we could deal with that.</p> <p>Mr Terpstra: What I have said is we would look to provide what information we reasonably can.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: Can I just indicate, Secretary, that if you do put in covert operations I will be asking questions in terms of these covert operations.</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan: Well, there may be that issue. There may also be the level of resources that are required to provide the kind of detail that you have asked as well, which I think is also a pertinent consideration, but we will do our best to provide—</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: If I can remind you, Secretary, that you have got a responsibility to account for public expenditure.</p>		
--	--	--	--	--	--	--

				<p>Senator CAMERON: Yes. Let us see what we get back and I will make the judgment from my point of view as to whether it is reasonable and whether we need to pursue it further.</p> <p>Ms Vivian: Without prolonging this, I just want to check. I have just found question on notice number 84. Were you asking for those total costs to be described in similar terms to what we provided?</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: Yes.</p> <p>Ms Vivian: We can get that for you.....</p> <p>Ms Vivian: I would state that what we have provided to you in question on notice 84 can be done for the full costings.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: I just want to make sure that it is not just for that period. I think Mr Quinlivan has said he will provide details if it is reasonably possible across the whole \$1.066 million.</p>		
9	Corporate Strategy and Governance Division	Rhiannon	Media consultants for training	<p>Senator RHIANNON: Have you paid any external media consultants for training for staff in how to handle estimates?</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan: Not to my knowledge and certainly not while I have been secretary. We will check whether there were any before that, but I would be surprised.</p> <p>Senator RHIANNON: When you say 'to the best of my knowledge', do you mean prior to you coming into the job or to the best of your knowledge since you have been in the job?</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan: No. Since I have been in the job I am very confident that we have not done that.</p> <p>Senator RHIANNON: You have not?</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan: Yes, but there may have been</p>	19	

				some in the past.		
10	Exports Division	Cameron	Specialist officers in phytosanitary area	<p>Senator CAMERON: Do you have specialist officers who are allocated to the phytosanitary area?</p> <p>Ms Evans: The department's role in trade and market access is predominantly about the phytosanitary and sanitary issues—more so than the tariffs, quotas or other things. We are involved in those in a broader policy sense and that is predominantly with Mr Smalley and his division. The technical areas are the exports division for meat and meat products and the plant division for those products, and there are definitely specialists in those roles.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: Could you take on notice to provide details of how many specialist officers you have in this area of phytosanitary across the department?</p> <p>Ms Evans: Yes.</p>	5	
11	Exports Division	Cameron	Specialist officers in phytosanitary area	<p>Senator CAMERON: I do not want you digging into the gunnels of the department, but if you could give us, in broad terms, the priorities that have been undertaken by those officers that are specialists in this area. Could you also advise—and I am asking if you know this now, not on notice—what is the estimated value of the exports that are blocked because of phytosanitary measures?</p> <p>Ms Evans: If I may just add two extra clarifications. You are asking specifically about phytosanitary measures, and that relates specifically to plant products. The other half of</p>	5	

				<p>the phrase, phytosanitary and sanitary, brings in the meat products. I am assuming that you want both.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: Sanitary and phytosanitary.</p> <p>Ms Evans: The other clarification is that the experts I have referred to do not only work on our export products. They also have a role, generally speaking, in looking at the same kinds of issues on the import side of the equation as well. That is just a clarification. I think we should be able to, on notice, do an estimate for you.</p>		
12	Exports Division	Cameron	Small exporters	<p>Senator CAMERON: Sure. Could you provide detail on the \$50 million for small exporters, including grants to help improve market access for small exporters, and could you list the grants issued and the rebates provided? What role is the department playing in promoting Australian products overseas? You can take that on notice. Can you provide detail of where and when the five agricultural councillors will be appointed?</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan: I think we might have answered that question last time.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: Did you?</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan: Yes, but we will provide an answer.</p>	11	
13	Exports Division	Rhiannon	Kangaroo products	<p>Senator RHIANNON: My questions are about kangaroo products. How many export permits, both single use and multiple use, have been issued for the export of kangaroo and wallaby products in the last 12 months?</p> <p>Mr Read: I think the questions that you are asking now are the ones that were on notice.</p>	11	

				<p>Senator RHIANNON: Yes. I wanted to go through them to speed up the process somewhat.</p> <p>Mr Read: With the question that you are asking, an element of the export permit is run by environment. We issue an export permit and certificate based on ex-stock, and to my recollection about 456 of those certificates have been issued in the last 12 months.</p> <p>Senator RHIANNON: So, 456?</p> <p>Mr Read: Yes.</p> <p>Senator RHIANNON: So, that is 456 certificates?</p> <p>Mr Read: It is 456 consignments.</p> <p>Senator RHIANNON: Consignments?</p> <p>Mr Read: Yes. I will check that number for you.</p> <p>Senator RHIANNON: I am interested in how many businesses that covers.</p> <p>Mr Read: I would probably, again, need to take that on notice, but there is no more than three of four kangaroo exporters at the present time.</p>		
14	Exports Division	Cameron	Assisting Small Exporters Package	<p>Senator CAMERON: It just seemed to me to be very convoluted, and I am very concerned that the industry does not have confidence in a million dollars' worth of effort from the department. It is just bizarre. How many applications have been received for funding through the package Assisting Small Exporters?</p> <p>Mr Read: There has been a range of applications received, and 31 announced by the minister. We mentioned earlier about taking those individual applications on notice and so we certainly will provide those to you.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: Has there been any change to the current guidelines?</p> <p>Mr Read: No.</p>	19	

				<p>Senator CAMERON: How will projects be evaluated as successful?</p> <p>Mr Read: As you would have seen in those program guidelines—or we can certainly provide them to you—they are quite detailed in assessment of performance against the objectives for each of those projects. We ensure clear objectives at the start. Again, some good performance criteria against that so that we can actually measure some decent outcomes at the end.</p>		
15	Export Division	Cameron	Passport number on greyhound export declaration	<p>Senator CAMERON: Is there a passport number on the greyhound export declaration?</p> <p>Ms Evans: I would have to take that on notice.</p>	28	
16	Export Division	Cameron	Greyhound passport system	<p>Senator CAMERON: I can tell you there is. If that is the case, would you be able to then determine how many have been exported using the passport system?</p> <p>Ms Evans: Again, I would have to take that on notice. I do not know what mechanisms we have got to search across it, but if it is there and if we can then we will provide it on notice.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: So, could you provide the details of that on notice?</p> <p>Ms Evans: Yes.</p>	28	
17	Exports Division	Cameron	Grants for exporters	<p>Senator CAMERON: This issue of funding just reminds me I have missed one area. If the departmental officers that handle this are not here then obviously you will take them on notice. Who handles the question of grants to assist small exporters?</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan: We did answer a few questions on that an hour ago when the exports group was</p>	40	

				<p>here.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: Yes. I am interested in a specific area.</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan: I think we would have to take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: That is what I said, if I have missed your people then you can take it on notice. I think there is \$237,670 worth of grants. Is that correct?</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan: It does not sound enough.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: For exporters?</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan: Yes. It does not sound enough. I think it is best if you give us your question on notice and we will give you a proper answer.</p>		
18	Exports Division	Cameron	Cherry industry	<p>Senator CAMERON: Yes. When can the cherry industry expect that grant to be approved?</p> <p>Ms Evans: Again, I will have to take that on notice. It will depend on what the terms are of the grant arrangements and whether or not they have met the milestones of the deed.</p>	40	
19	Exports Division	Cameron	Cherry industry	<p>Senator CAMERON: Do you know when the grant for the cherry industry was made?</p> <p>Ms Evans: No. I will have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: Is this the cherry industry season now?</p> <p>Ms Evans: I look forward to it every year, so yes, it is.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: Cherries are underway.</p> <p>CHAIR: It depends on where you are.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: Was there any thought given to trying to get these grants to the cherry industry to help them promote their crop this season?</p> <p>Ms Evans: I will have to check whether there</p>	40	

				was anything specifically about this season in that arrangement, but all of those grants are about the long-term role of those industries. Again, I am sorry but I do not know the specifics of that one.		
20	Farm Support Division	Cameron	Climate change specialists in the department	<p>Senator CAMERON: How many of these specialists do you have?</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan: It is a small number. We will have to take on notice the precise number</p>	34	
21	Farm Support Division	Cameron	Papers on climate change	<p>Senator CAMERON: Has this unit, this group of specialists, prepared any papers on climate change?</p> <p>Mr Glyde: As the secretary said, over the course of the time they have been in existence, they would have prepared a lot of papers. Perhaps this is the chair's problem. In terms of providing advice to inform broader policy development across the government they would have prepared lots of papers for both internal and external consumption.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: I am sure you will claim that those papers are government advice, but can you provide the number of papers and the names of the papers that have been done in the last two years?</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan: We will see what we can do. A lot of them would be cabinet related but we will see what we can do.</p>	36	
22	Farm Support Division	Cameron	Classifications of climate change specialists	Senator CAMERON: What are the classifications for these specialists? How are they described? Is there a unit? Is there a name for the unit?	36	

				<p>Mr Glyde: The unit that we are talking about actually belongs in another division that has already appeared. Off the top of my head I do not remember the name of the particular section, with the specialists, the policy advisers, that the secretary was talking about. I am more than happy to provide that on notice, as we have already done in terms of the numbers of people.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: Yes, just so that we know, so in future we can say it is the Climate Change Unit or whatever it is called and we will know how many people are in it. We will know what programs they are involved in.</p>		
23	Finance and Business Support Division	Cameron	Export regulation review	<p>Senator CAMERON: How many officers were engaged in that review</p> <p>Ms Evans: I would have to take that on notice. It involves some individuals from the meat exports area, also some people from our finance and business support division and we have had a taskforce running on it.</p>	13-14	
24	Finance and Business Support Division	Cameron	Cost of taskforce	<p>Senator CAMERON: You had a taskforce?</p> <p>Ms Evans: Not specifically on meat, but we had a taskforce running across all of the cost recovery areas.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: So, the review that you carried out was over 12 months and it included a taskforce. Can you provide details of how much that review cost?</p> <p>Ms Evans: Yes</p>	14	

25	Finance and Business Support Division	Cameron	Cost recovery taskforce	<p>Senator CAMERON: How many people were on the taskforce?</p> <p>Ms Evans: I said earlier that I would take that on notice. It varies depending on the workload at the time.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: But Mr Ryan is here. He was on the taskforce.</p> <p>Ms Evans: No, he was not on the taskforce.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: Who is here that was on the taskforce?</p> <p>Ms Evans: No-one present was on the taskforce per se.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: Do you have a rough idea?</p> <p>Ms Evans: Yes. I think there was around five to 10 people.</p> <p>Mr Ryan: Yes, at any one time.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: I will not hold you to that, Ms Evans, but can you provide the details of that along with the cost of the review?</p> <p>Ms Evans: Yes.</p>	15	
26	Finance and Business Support Division	Cameron	Terms of reference	<p>Senator CAMERON: Can you provide details of the terms of reference?</p> <p>Mr Ryan: Certainly.</p>	16	
27	Finance and Business Support Division	Cameron	Value of contract	<p>Senator CAMERON: What is the value of the contract?</p> <p>Mr Ryan: I would have to take that on notice, but off the top of my head I think it was \$70,000 to \$75,000.</p>	16	
28	Finance and Business Support Division	Cameron	Terms of reference	<p>Senator CAMERON: Can you provide the details of the terms of reference for the meat review, and if the cost of the contract is determined prior to the return of the questions on</p>	17	

				notice can you provide the costings of this further contract? If the review finds that the fees are inconsistent or are not justifiable—I think would be the word—will exporters be compensated for the period between December and June?		
29	Sustainable Agriculture and Fisheries Division	Cameron	Management of our natural resources	Senator CAMERON: Can you provide, on notice, the specific measures and projects that the department is working on to address the management of our natural resources? Can you give us an overview of what projects have been done?	37	
30	Sustainable Agriculture and Fisheries Division	Cameron	Funding been removed from projects	Senator CAMERON: Has funding been removed from any of these projects? Ms Lauder: Not to my knowledge but I will confirm that. My understanding is we have regular milestones that they have to meet before we make the payment, so we normally make that judgment before we make the payment rather than removing funding from them.	37	
31	Sustainable Agriculture and Fisheries Division	Cameron	Project not met their milestones	Senator CAMERON: How many of the projects have not met their milestones? Ms Lauder: I would have to take that on notice but my understanding is they are generally on track. I will take that on notice and confirm exactly. Senator CAMERON: Can you also provide me with details of the milestones that have not been met in these projects? Ms Lauder: Yes. Senator CAMERON: Could you also then provide details of what remedial action has been taken by the department to assist to meet these	37	

				<p>milestones?</p> <p>Ms Lauder: Yes.</p>		
32	Sustainable Agriculture and Fisheries Division	Cameron	Analysis on priorities being met	<p>Senator CAMERON: Will you be doing an analysis of whether these priorities have been met?</p> <p>Ms Lauder: Yes, we will be doing an analysis. I cannot tell you, off the top of my head, after how many years that is planned to be done by.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: Will you take that on notice?</p> <p>Ms Lauder: Yes, I am happy to.</p>	38	
33	Sustainable Agriculture and Fisheries Division	Cameron	Any problems with this research program	<p>Senator CAMERON: Have there been any problems with this research program?</p> <p>Ms Lauder: It is a strategy that is identifying research that we are encouraging the range of research bodies across Australia to consider and to take on. We do not have a specific funding program to deliver it but we will do an audit after a number of years to look at progress and whether or not there need to be updates or changes.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: Are the priorities available?</p> <p>Ms Lauder: Yes, they are available. They are on the department's website at the moment.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: Can you flick us the appropriate URL or wherever we go to on that?</p> <p>Ms Lauder: Yes.</p>	38	
34	Sustainable Agriculture and Fisheries Division	Cameron	Soils for Life	<p>Senator CAMERON: What is the expenditure for Soils for Life?</p> <p>Ms Lauder: I do not think that I have that with me. This department provided some funding to</p>	38	

				Soils for Life a number of years ago, possibly three years ago, so I will have to take on notice how much we provided. We provided funding for a pilot of 20 case studies that Soils for Life were doing and they were completed and published.		
35	Sustainable Agriculture and Fisheries Division	Cameron	Soils for Life	<p>Senator CAMERON: Have there been any updates since that published material?</p> <p>Ms Lauder: Major General Jeffery is linked to Soils for Life. I think they work for him so he has been pushing that. My understanding is Soils for Life is in a bit of a hiatus at the moment but Major General Jeffery is the national soil advocate so he is still working to promote soil health and the importance of it.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: When was he appointed?</p> <p>Ms Lauder: I do not have that information with me so I will come back to you, but it is two to three years ago that he was appointed.</p>	38	
36	Trade and Market Access Division	Cameron	Non-tariff barriers	<p>Senator CAMERON: They are not insignificant. Why are you not able to tell us the areas where you still have challenges?</p> <p>Mr Smalley: We certainly can seek to compile a list of issues that are outstanding and that we are working on, but those are issues that do change from day to day as markets change their regulatory behaviour.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: They may change, but you would be able to draw a line of where you are and what you understand the problems are?</p> <p>Mr Smalley: Certainly and we can do that for you on notice.</p>	4	

37	Trade and Market Access Division	Cameron	Barriers still in place	<p>Senator CAMERON: I would be surprised if there are issues in terms of resources to do this, because I would have thought that would be your meat and potatoes, if you like, for the market access group, to know what challenges are there. Could you provide us details of what barriers are still in place? Could you start with those countries that we have signed so-called free trade agreements with? If you want the technical term, I suppose it is bilateral preferential trade agreements.</p> <p>Mr Smalley: Yes.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: If you could start with them and provide the details. Then can you give me a quick outline of the non-tariff barriers that still apply in China?</p>	4	
38	Trade and Market Access Division	Cameron	Non-tariff barriers in Vietnam, China, South Korea and Japan	<p>Senator CAMERON: So, the minister has not received a briefing on that. That is the minister's statement. On the non-tariff barriers in Vietnam, China, South Korea and Japan, could you provide an update as part of that overall question I have given on those areas and could you also provide details as to whether any of our competitors have been given more favourable access than Australia has in these countries? Are there any side deals? Are there any arrangements with other countries that give them more favourable access through the sanitary and phytosanitary measures?</p>	7	
39	Trade and Market Access Division	Cameron	China market access	<p>Senator CAMERON: Can you provide details of what discussions have taken place with China in relation to this issue?</p> <p>Ms Evans: I would not be able to do that today. I am not sure whether Mr Smalley can. We could</p>	9-10	

				<p>take it on notice.</p> <p>Mr Smalley: We can certainly take that on notice, but we do have regular conversations with China about various market access requests. Particularly on horticulture, there were some discussions in China within recent months.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: That is what I am asking about, if you could provide details of those discussions, particularly on these horticultural products out of China. The free trade agreement did not deal with that, because it is seen as a scientific matter?</p>		
40	Trade and Market Access Division	Cameron	Export Market Development Grants Scheme	<p>Senator CAMERON: I will put the rest of my questions on notice and let the chair move to where he needs to move to. The white paper states that the government is investing \$188.5 million to set up five industry growth centres including a food growth centre to lift industry competitiveness and for the food agribusiness sector to capture high value export opportunities. Where and when will the five industry growth centres be established and are these centres being co-funded with industry? Do you have it on notice? Could you provide details of the \$50 million boost to the Export Market Development Grants Scheme and how this has been a benefit to the agriculture, fisheries and forestry sector? Could you provide details of the \$200 million boost for the Export Finance and Insurance Corporation to better support small and medium exporters and how this funding will be of benefit to the agriculture, fisheries and forestry sectors?</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan: We will endeavour to answer each of those as they relate to this portfolio.</p>	11	

41	Trade and Market Access Division	Cameron	Agricultural councillors	<p>Senator CAMERON: Can you provide detail of where and when the five agricultural councillors will be appointed?</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan: I think we might have answered that question last time.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: Did you?</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan: Yes, but we will provide an answer.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: Again, if you have answered this one, that is fine. How were the countries chosen and what were the criteria? Will these commissioners have travel budgets? Are there sufficient applicants within the department of agriculture or will the applicants be sought outside of the department?</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan: We have made those appointments.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: You have made them?</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan: Yes.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: From inside or outside of the department?</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan: Inside.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: Good. Will the applicants be given proper language training or do they have language skills?</p> <p>Ms Evans: We do not provide language training, but they are supported in country with locally engaged staff who have language skills and that has been an effective model to date.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: Can you provide details on notice of the skills and the qualifications of the agricultural councillors? Thank you.</p>	11	
----	----------------------------------	---------	--------------------------	---	----	--

42	Trade and Market Access Division	Cameron	Free trade agreements	<p>Senator CAMERON: Have any of the new free trade agreements triggered the importation of fresh meat of bovine genetic material?</p> <p>Ms O'Connell: I would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Mr Quinlivan: Have any agreements triggered trade?</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: Triggered trade in bovine genetic material or fresh meat?</p> <p>Ms O'Connell: I would have to take that on notice. I think that is the export area again.</p> <p>Ms Evans: It is about free trade agreements so I am afraid I would have to say that we will take it on notice as well. All we could answer is whether or not any of the free trade agreements had a tariff or a quota change that was relevant for those products and then, if there was a commercial reason, that would have affected the trade at that point but none of the free trade agreements have affected the scientific approach we take for setting the standards for import.</p>	31	
43	Trade and Market Access Division	Cameron	Volume or imports coming into the country	<p>Senator CAMERON: I understand that. So, given the econometric modelling and all of the arguments or the promises of increased trade, have you done any work within the department to manage your capacity to handle increased volume?</p> <p>Ms Evans: We are confident that we can handle any increased volume of imports coming into the country.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: Any volume?</p> <p>Ms Evans: Any likely volume.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: And what is that likely volume?</p> <p>Ms Evans: I would have to take that on notice. I</p>	32	

				think, generally speaking, on the kinds of products you have been talking about, the projected amounts are generally small, but I will take it on notice.		
--	--	--	--	---	--	--