

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2015

Agriculture and Water Resources

Question: 1

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

Topic: Regulatory impact statement on performance standards for sheep and goats

Proof Hansard page: 70

Senator HEFFERNAN asked:

CHAIR: Can I plead with you: if there are discussions going on, is there some way I could be included? I declare an interest. I have scattered properties and I am very acquainted with this. I am pleased to hear you say that the present system in New South Wales works well. If we go to electronic tags, it will be not only expensive but also a nightmare.

Mr Glyde: What we could possibly do—you might recall at the time that ABARES did a regulatory impact statement and looked at the costs and benefits of different ways in which you might achieve the performance standards for sheep and goats. We can certainly provide you with that. As far as I am aware, there is certainly no consultation going on at the moment in relation to the efficacy of either scheme, but it will be coming back on to the AGMIN agenda in due course.

Answer:

The Decision Regulation Impact Statement 'Implementation of improvements to the National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) for sheep and goats' is attached. Additional information, including the Consultation Regulation Impact Statement and submissions received from producers, industry bodies and state governments is available at <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/abares/National-Livestock-Identification-System>.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2015

Agriculture and Water Resources

Question: 2

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

Topic: Ongoing role – two white papers

Proof Hansard page: 89-90

Senator SIEWART asked:

Senator SIEWERT: I just want to check if you have an ongoing role now or had a role but have an ongoing role—and we have two white papers—in the Developing Northern Australia white paper?

Mr Quinlivan: We provided a document on the white papers earlier on. If you have a look at the end of it you will see those elements of the northern Australia white paper where this department has an ongoing activity.

Senator SIEWERT: There is nothing that ABARES is likely to be doing, then?

Mr Quinlivan: That is right. Nothing in the long-game nature. That does not mean that they will not be asked to do further work on northern Australia issues of course.

Senator SIEWERT: What is the likelihood of that happening?

Mr Quinlivan: It will just be an ad hoc thing as the need arises. Obviously there will be a continuing policy agenda and series of programs in northern Australia.

Senator SIEWERT: Did you have a role in the development of the paper?

Ms Schneider: We would have provided some comments from time to time on issues. We perhaps provided some data. We have provided a list in response to a requirement from last estimates on the input we provided to the Agricultural Competitiveness white paper, but we have not done that for the one on northern Australia. There probably were some things that came to us for comment or provision of data.

Senator SIEWERT: Are you able to take that on notice as to what input you had into the northern Australia white paper?

Ms Schneider: I think it was significantly less than into the Agriculture Competitiveness white paper, but we can do that.

Question: 2 (continued)

Answer:

Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES) does not have a specific ongoing role in contributing to the implementation of the Developing Northern Australia White Paper. However, there may be calls for ABARES on an ad hoc basis to provide data and analysis on northern Australia issues as the need arises.

ABARES provided information to the Northern Australia White Paper task force over the time it was developing the paper. A list of the information/data briefs provided and the dates they were provided is given below:

Date	Brief topic
23/09/2013	Northern Australia irrigation opportunity
23/09/2013	Map of northern Australia irrigation areas
4/10/2013	Australian agricultural conditions - snapshot
24/10/2013	Northern Australian live cattle export region - farm financial performance and debt
6/11/2013	Agriculture in northern Australia
23/01/2014	Forests and forestry in northern Australia
28/01/2014	Map of land use in northern Australia
31/01/2014	Fisheries and aquaculture in northern Australia
22/08/2014	Gross value of production data for major agricultural commodities in northern Australia: 2005-06 and 2010-11 agricultural census years.
3/09/2014	Agricultural employment in northern Australia by SLA - 2005-06 and 2010-11 census years.
9/09/2014	Northern Australia stocktake
21/05/2015	Top 10 northern Australia agricultural commodities by gross value of production, 2010-11