

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

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2015

**Agriculture and Water Resources**

**Question: 31**

**Division/Agency:** Biosecurity Animal Division

**Topic:** Exercise Odysseus

**Proof Hansard page:** Written

**Senator STERLE asked:**

Provide detail of Exercise Odysseus

- What was the cost
- Provide a list of the more than 40 discussions exercises and field based activities
- Outcomes of the exercise

Provide detail of the Marine pest review

- Cost associated with the review
- List of stakeholders who were engaged in the review
- Outcomes of the review

Does animal health have a deregulation agenda? If so, provide a copy of the agenda's outcome.

**Answer:**

In 2013 the then Standing Council on Primary Industries (SCoPI) agreed that 'contributions to the exercise program will be in kind, using existing resources (physical and financial) and that each jurisdiction will fund its own participation in the exercise'.

Due to the in-kind nature of contributions states/territories and industry organisations have not calculated or provided estimates of the financial costs associated with planning conducting and evaluating Exercise Odysseus activities.

**Question: 31 (continued)**

The Department of Agriculture and Water Resources had a team of 5.0 Full Time Equivalents (FTEs) dedicated to managing Exercise Odysseus. In addition to this, the department allocated approximately \$400 000 (plus GST) over two financial years for planning, conduct and evaluation of Exercise Odysseus activities that it was directly responsible for.

Participating agencies and industry organisations provided an estimate of the staff contributions relevant to their program of activities. The responses indicated that across Australia:

- more than 1 800 government and industry personnel participated in Exercise Odysseus activities. Many of these participated in more than one activity, with some being present at six or more one and two day exercises. In total this would represent approximately 3 000 staff days
- in addition to the staff mentioned above, approximately 180 government and industry staff contributed approximately 2 000 staff days to planning, conducting and evaluation of Exercise Odysseus related activities. It should be noted that this work was completed as part of and complemented other duties, so time spent specifically on Exercise Odysseus was not recorded.

In total, 48 discussion exercises and field based-based activities were conducted as part of Exercise Odysseus throughout 2014 and early 2015. These activities were conducted by the Australian Government (including the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources), each state and territory government and livestock industries. The number of exercises conducted and whether it was conducted at an organisational, local, regional, jurisdictional or national level is provided below.

Jurisdiction	Exercise level			
	Organisational	Regional	Jurisdictional	National
National (Gov & Industry)				5
Industry				3*
Australian Government	5		1	
Queensland	2	1	3	
New South Wales		2	2	
Australian Capital Territory			1	
Victoria		4	1	
Tasmania			4	
South Australia			2	
Western Australia	1	4	1	
Northern Territory		4	2	

\* Of the three national level industry exercises, one was conducted by the dairy industry, while the other two were conducted by the National Farmers' Federation Biosecurity Task Force.

**Question: 31 (continued)**

A report summarising the outcomes from the suite of Exercise Odysseus activities is currently being finalised.

The cost associated with the review is \$554 126.

The stakeholder organisations that made a formal submission to the review or attended a consultation workshop are:

Aquaculture Council of Western Australia  
Aquarium Industries Pty Ltd  
Aquatic Biosecurity  
Aquanal Pty Ltd  
Asterias International Pty Ltd  
Australian Fisheries Management Authority  
Australian Government Defence Science and Technology Organisation  
Australian Government Department of Defence  
Australian Government Department of Environment  
Australian Government Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development  
Australian Marine Conservation Society  
Australian Marine Sciences Association  
Australian Maritime Safety Authority  
Australian Museum  
Australian Petroleum Production & Exploration Association  
Australian Prawn Farmers Association  
Australian Shipbuilding & Repair Group  
Australian Testing Centre for Marine Pests  
Biofouling Solutions  
Biosecurity Council of Western Australia  
Biosecurity Queensland  
Burnett Mary Regional Group for Natural Resource Management  
Chevron Australia Pty Ltd  
CSIRO  
Darwin Port Corporation  
Deakin University  
Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources – Kangaroo Island  
Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport, and Resources (Vic)  
Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (QLD)  
Department of Fisheries (WA)  
Department of Primary Industries and Regions South Australia  
Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (Tas)  
Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries (NT)  
Department of Transport and Main Roads (QLD)  
Environment Protection Authority Vic  
ES Link Services Pty Ltd  
Fremantle Ports  
GHD  
Gladstone Ports Corporation

**Question: 31 (continued)**

GRD Franmarine  
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority  
INPEX Operations Pty Ltd  
Intermarine Consulting Pty Ltd  
Invasive Species Council  
Kim Grey Marine  
Marine Parks and Reserves Authority Western Australia  
Maritime Industry Australia Limited  
National Aquaculture Council  
National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority  
Northern Territory Seafood Council  
NRM South  
NSW Farmers Oyster Committee  
NSW Ports  
NSW Department of Industry  
NT Museum and Art Galleries  
OceanWatch Australia  
Parks Victoria  
Port Authority of NSW  
Port of Brisbane  
Ports Australia  
Ports WA Environmental Working Group  
QLD Parks and Wildlife Service  
Queensland Ports Association  
SA Oyster Research Council  
Sea Swift  
Seafood Industry Victoria  
Shipping Australia Limited  
SMART Marine Services Pvt. Ltd.  
Tasmanian Salmonoid Growers Association  
Tasmanian Seafood Industry Council  
Tassal  
University of Sydney  
URS Australia  
University of Western Australia Oceans Institute  
Victoria Museum  
Western Australian Marine Science Institution

The report '*Review of National Marine Pest Biosecurity: Report*' is with the government for consideration.

Animal Health Australia is a not for profit member based company. We do not have a deregulation agenda.