

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2015

Agriculture and Water Resources

Question: 107

Division/Agency: Finance and Business Support Division

Topic: Staffing resources

Proof Hansard page: 14

Senator SIEWERT asked:

Senator SIEWERT: That is what I am trying to get to: what people are picking up on top of their existing work or to replace existing work, and what new resources have been contributed. From what I can gather from what you have just said, biosecurity has new resources.

Mr Quinlivan: We may be able to give you an estimate of the additional staffing resources that were part of the policy decisions taken during the white paper. We will just see whether we can organise that answer for you over the next little while.

Senator SIEWERT: Thank you.

Answer:

For those components of the Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper already agreed by government, additional staffing for the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources (DAWR) is as follows:

	2015–16 (ASL)	2016–17 (ASL)	2017–18 (ASL)	2018–19 (ASL)
DAWR	35.2	31.3	29.7	48.0

Staffing resourcing for the final components of the White Paper are in the process of being agreed.

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Agriculture and Water Resources

Question: 108

Division/Agency: Finance and Business Support Division

Topic: Cost to the department in the water division transition

Proof Hansard page: 39

Senator CAMERON asked:

Senator CAMERON: What can I say? I will come back to this. What has been the cost to the department in the transition of Water to the Department of Agriculture?

Ms Evans: I may have to take that question on notice. Obviously we are only partway through the transition. We are tracking those costs so I should be able to give you a sense of it by next estimates or on notice. It is just that we are not finished. I am sorry. I am not meaning to be difficult. The move of the people occurs tomorrow. We are still negotiating through the details of the financial transfer and so on, so we really are only partway through the move and we will be able to tell you at the end.

Answer:

Please see response to Supplementary Budget Estimates Question on Notice 68.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2015

Agriculture and Water Resources

Question: 109

Division/Agency: Finance and Business Support Division

Topic: Cost recovery issues

Proof Hansard page: Written

Senator STERLE asked:

- Provide detail about the status of the redesign of the cost-recovery fees
- How has transparency and consistency in how fees and levies are applied been achieved
- How did the department consult with the more than 240 organisations across the import and export activities on the redesign
- What is the timeframe for further consultations
- When will the changes come into effect
- Why was the departments key performance indicator for improving cost-recovery only partially met
- When will the government finalise its consideration of Import Risk analysis review's recommendations for improvement to parts of the IRA process?
- Provide detail as to who was consulted during the consultation phase of the cost recovery review.

Answer:

The final biosecurity, food, plant and live animal export Cost Recovery Implementation Statements (CRISs) were approved by the Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources, the Hon. Barnaby Joyce MP on 30 September 2015 and the Minister for Finance, Senator the Hon. Mathias Cormann on 30 October 2015. The CRISs were released publically on 30 October 2015 and are available at www.agriculture.gov.au/costrecoveryreview. The redesigned fees and charges will commence on 1 December 2015.

The Department of Agriculture and Water Resources (the department) has applied a cost modelling methodology that is consistent across all cost recovery arrangements. The redesign has simplified the structure to allow transparency in reporting and invoicing. The department's cost model clearly shows the fee and levy structure and their components. The modelling has been explained in each CRIS and quantified by the costs for each element of the fees and levies.

Question: 109 (continued)

Once the new arrangements begin, quarterly reporting of cost recovery performance will continue to be provided to relevant industry consultative committees.

From October 2014 to August 2015, the department consulted on the redesign through established departmental industry consultative committees, industry forums, public forums, the department's website and industry notices. A special cost recovery inbox and hotline number were also made available.

There are no further consultations on the redesign as it is now complete. However, the department is continuing to consult with industry and clients on the implementation of the new arrangements. Regular engagement with industry consultative committees on business-as-usual cost recovery issues will continue, in line with established department practice.

The redesigned cost recovery arrangements come into effect on 1 December 2015.

The key performance indicator was only partially met because the redesign of the cost recovery arrangements had not been finalised by July 2015.

The department released the Examination of the Import Risk Analysis Process Report in July 2015. This report is available at: www.agriculture.gov.au/iraexamination.

The Import Risk Analysis Examination recommendations have directly shaped the development of the draft Biosecurity Import Risk Analysis (BIRA) Regulation and guidelines. Consultation on the BIRA Regulation and guidelines will close on 16 December 2015. These will come into effect as part of the implementation of the *Biosecurity Act 2015* on 16 June 2016.

Members from the following industry consultative committee were consulted with:

- Biologicals Consultation Group
- Import Industry Finance Consultative Committee
- Live Animal Exports Cost Recovery Consultative Committee
- Inedible Meat Consultative Committee
- Post Entry Plant Industry Consultative Committee
- Dairy Export Industry Consultative Committee
- Seafood Exports Consultative Committee
- Red Meat Exports
- Non-red Meat Exports
- Grains and Plant Products Industry consultative Committee
- Horticulture Export Industry Consultative Committee
- Imported Food Consultative Committee
- Horse Industry Consultative Committee
- International Pet And Animal Transport Association Asia And Oceania , Pet Transport Agents and Torrens Island Stakeholder Group

Question: 109 (continued)

Throughout July and August 2015, engagement sessions on proposed changes to cost recovery arrangements were held in Sydney, Melbourne, Perth, Adelaide, Hobart and Brisbane. A horticulture exports specific session was held in Mildura. Stakeholders were also provided with the opportunity to make submissions on the draft CRISs.

A wide range of stakeholders participated in the consultation process, including in the engagement sessions or by making submissions. The stakeholders included: large importers, horticulture growers and pack houses, customs brokers, universities, seed importers and exporters, honey bee importers, transport logistics companies, operators of Quarantine Approved Premises, fruit growers, aquaculture industry participants, grain exporters, companion animal transporters, pastoralists and graziers, pet food industry participants, winemakers, airline industry and live animal exporters.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2015

Agriculture and Water Resources

Question: 110

Division/Agency: Finance and Business Support Division

Topic: Secretary's office upgrades

Proof Hansard page: Written

Senator BILYK asked:

Have the furniture, fixtures or fittings of the Secretary's office been upgraded in 2015? If so, can an itemised list of costs please be provided?

Answer:

The desk in the Secretary's office was replaced by a desk held in storage. The replacement of the desk cost approximately \$70 for removalists.