

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

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2016

**Agriculture and Water Resources**

**Question:** 219

**Division/Agency:** Trade and Market Access

**Topic:** Free Trade Agreement with Indonesia

**Proof Hansard page:** 117

**Senator STERLE asked:**

**Senator STERLE:** You said that it has just been reactivated. How long has it been going on? How long to stall for or stop for? Coming from WA, they are our closest neighbour, and they are Queensland's and the Northern Territory's closest neighbour—we do have an interest. There are a lot of people to feed over there.

**Ms van Meurs:** I will have to take that on notice.

**Answer:**

Indonesia-Australia Comprehensive Economic Partnership (IA-CEPA) negotiations were launched in 2010. The first round of negotiations was held in Jakarta, Indonesia in March 2013 followed by a second round in Canberra, Australia in July 2013.

In March 2016, the Minister for Trade and Investment, Steven Ciobo, and his Indonesian counterpart, the former Minister for Trade, Thomas Lembong, announced re-activation of IA-CEPA negotiations. This has been followed by a third negotiating round in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, in May 2016 and a fourth round in Sydney, Australia in August 2016. The fifth and most recent negotiations were held in Bandung, Indonesia from 31 October to 4 November 2016.

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

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2016

**Agriculture and Water Resources**

**Question:** 220

**Division/Agency:** Trade and Market Access Division

**Topic:** Indonesia-Australia Partnership on Food Security

**Proof Hansard page:** Written

**Senator STERLE asked:**

Is the Indonesia-Australia Partnership on Food Security the same thing as the Indonesia-Australia Red Meat Partnership?

**Answer:**

Ms Louise van Meurs provided the following answer to the same question asked by Senator Brown (Hansard page 116, paragraph 8).

Senator CAROL BROWN: I want to ask a couple of questions on the Indonesia-Australia Partnership on Food Security. Is the Indonesia-Australia Partnership on Food Security the same thing as the Indonesia-Australia Red Meat Partnership? Are they one and the same?

Ms van Meurs: Yes. The complete/full official name is the Indonesia- Australia Partnership on Food Security in the red Meat and Cattle Sector.

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Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2016

**Agriculture and Water Resources**

**Question:** 221

**Division/Agency:** Trade and Market Access Division

**Topic:** Indonesia-Australia Partnership on Food Security

**Proof Hansard page:** Written

**Senator STERLE asked:**

Provide an update Indonesia-Australia Partnership on Food security.

**Answer:**

Ms Louise van Meurs provided the following answer to the same question asked by Senator Brown (Hansard page 116, paragraph 10).

Senator CAROL BROWN: Can you then provide an update on the Indonesia-Australia Partnership on Food Security?

Ms van Meurs: A little bit of background as well?

Senator CAROL BROWN: Yes.

Ms van Meurs: The partnership was formed in 2013. That was with the Labor government of the day. Then, after the election in 2013, it was recommitted or reconfirmed by the new Coalition government. The program really is around underpinning Indonesia's food security by improving the long-term sustainability and productivity of the Indonesian cattle sector; strengthening Indonesia's and Australia's bilateral business, investment and trade ties; supporting closer engagement in the red meat and cattle industries, both in Australia and with other government agencies in Indonesia; and supporting bilateral exchange of expertise, capacity building and technical assistance relating to the red meat and cattle sector.

Senator CAROL BROWN: Does that mean we send department officers over to Indonesia?

Ms van Meurs: There is a number of programs under the partnership. For example, there is a skills development program where a lot of up-and-coming Indonesian farmers come to — for example, there is a program up in the north of Australia where we work with them to develop their skills around cattle, cattle logistics, and looking after cattle in stockyards and on the farm. So there is a reasonably big program we undertake as part of that partnership, to develop skills, particularly around Indonesian capabilities.

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**Agriculture and Water Resources**

**Question:** 222

**Division/Agency:** Trade and Market Access Division

**Topic:** Indonesia-Australia Partnership on Food Security

**Proof Hansard page:** Written

**Senator STERLE asked:**

Is the Minister planning visiting Indonesia in the near the future.

**Answer:**

Ms Louise van Meurs provided the following answer to the same question asked by Senator Brown (Hansard page 116, paragraph 15).

Senator CAROL BROWN: Is the minister planning any visits to Indonesia?

Ms van Meurs: We are always talking to the Deputy Prime Minister about travel. At the moment we continue to do that and we will continue to talk with his office around travel. He is always keen to travel to places like Indonesia. He did that in 2015. My understanding at the moment is that we are talking with the Deputy Prime Minister's office about, possibly, the G20, early in January, which is in Germany.

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**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2016

**Agriculture and Water Resources**

**Question: 223**

**Division/Agency:** Trade and Market Access Division

**Topic:** Kangaroos

**Proof Hansard page:** Written

**Senator RHIANNON asked:**

Please provide an update on what is happening to lift the Californian and the Russian bans; details of any funding, resources or personnel that have been provided to this; and details of any Australian Government representations that have been made to overseas interests or legislators in this regard.

**Answer:**

Russia: Russia's agricultural import ban for Australian products does not include kangaroo meat. Trade ceased due to Russia suspending the eligible establishments. The Department of Agriculture and Water Resources has written to invite Russian authorities to conduct an in-country audit of Australian establishments seeking access, agreement to a date for this to occur has not been reached.

California: The Australian Government continues to address this market access issue as part of its role in supporting various Australian industries to open and maintain market access and remove unnecessary trade barriers. The Australian Government and its representatives have not facilitated, funded or made any formal representations to Californian lawmakers on the issue of kangaroo market access to California in 2016.

No financial assistance has been provided to the Kangaroo Industry Association of Australia by the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources for market access work on kangaroo exports to California since June 2014.

On 4 May 2016, the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources registered its concern on the current ban on kangaroo exports from Australia to California with the United States federal government at the Australia-US Free Trade Agreement Joint Committee Meeting.