

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012**

Outcome 3 - Tertiary, Skills, International and Indigenous Strategy

DEEWR Question No. EW0849_12

Senator Back asked on 20 October 2011, Hansard page 98

Question

National Food Plan draft

Senator BACK: Minister, I wonder if you have had any communication with Minister Ludwig on the national food plan draft document?

Senator Chris Evans: We have had a chat about it privately but I want to take the discussion papers on notice because there have been some cabinet discussions on it. I have certainly had a chat to Senator Ludwig about those issues and issues you raised about agribusiness. In fact that was the cause of the conversation I had with him—about the shortage of people training for agribusiness and the job opportunities that might be available. I would have to take on notice formally where the paper is at, I am afraid.

Answer

- The National Food Plan is being developed to help the Government achieve its vision of a sustainable, globally competitive, resilient food supply that supports access to nutritious and affordable food.
- The government released an issues paper in June and is currently analysing and considering the full range of stakeholder feedback received.
- On 27 October 2011, Minister Ludwig announced that the government has decided to develop the National Food Plan through a green paper/white paper process.
- Over the coming months, the government will develop the next step in this process - the green paper.
- Feedback on the green paper will inform the National Food Plan, to be released as a white paper.
- The development of the National Food Plan is a whole of government initiative. The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry play a leading role and provided the information for this response.