

Senate Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Budget Estimates 21 February 2011
Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Division/Agency: Corporate Policy

Question: CPD 01

Topic: Myrtle Rust

(Proof Hansard 21/02/11, page 14)

Senator Richard Colbeck asked:

What is the nature of communication on Myrtle rust and Asian Honey Bees?

Answer:

- Communiqués are developed by the National Management Group and issued following meetings of the Group.
- The Myrtle rust National Management Group is comprised of the chief executive officers of the national and state/territory departments of primary industries across Australia, representatives of peak industry bodies and Plant Health Australia. The Group is chaired by the Commonwealth.
- Six communiqués have been issued on Myrtle rust since May 2010. A question and answer information sheet has also been published on the department's website and regularly updated, with the latest version published on 23 December 2010.
- The Asian Honey Bee National Management Group is comprised of the chief executive officers of the national and state/territory departments of agriculture and primary industries across Australia, representatives of the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council, Plant Health Australia and is chaired by the Commonwealth.
- Two communiqués have been issued on the Asian Honey Bees since September 2010. The Communication Branch distributes communiqués to the media and publishes them on the department's website.
- An article on Myrtle rust was published in the December 2010 edition of Biosecurity Bulletin which is produced by the Communication Branch and distributed to approximately 7,000 recipients.

Senate Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
Additional estimates 2010-2011
DAFF

Tabled document no: 2

By: *Ms Rona Mellor, A/g secretary*
DAFF

Date: *21* February 2011

Senate Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Budget Estimates 21 February 2011
Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Division/Agency: Climate Change

Question: CC 01

Topic: Funding support for the International Year of the Forests
(*Proof Hansard 21/02/11, page 71*)

Senator Richard Colbeck asked:

What support is the department providing for the International Year of Forests and associated events?

Answer:

The department is providing financial support of \$20 000 to the Institute of Foresters of Australia (IFA) and the Forests Steering Committee to help promote the International Year of Forests in Australia. Activities will be held in city and regional areas and will include fairs, seminars, field trips and dinners.

Some of the funding will be used towards the joint conference being organised by the IFA and the New Zealand Institute of Foresters. This conference will be held in Auckland in May 2011 and will incorporate the aims of the International Year into the conference theme of "Pacific Forestry – Growing a forestry future".

The conference website advises that issues such as illegal logging and climate change will be on the agenda and, that as 2011 is the International Year of Forests there will also be a strong focus on social, cultural and economic importance of forests in the region.

The department will also be using the International Year of Forests to promote Australia's policy on illegal timber imports.

DAFF is also providing \$10 000 in sponsorship for the International Year of Forests Dinner scheduled for 21 March 2011 at Parliament House.

Senate Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
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Division/Agency: Climate Change

Question: CC 02

Topic: Tasmanian forests statement of principles to lead to an agreement
(Proof Hansard 21/02/11, page 68)

Senator Richard Colbeck asked:

Can you provide a copy of the terms of reference?

Answer:

See Attachment A.

Terms of reference for an independent facilitator

Tasmanian forests statement of principles leading to an agreement

CONTEXT

During 2010, forest industry, union and environment non-government organisations collaborated to develop the *Tasmanian Forests Statement of Principles to lead to an Agreement* (the Statement). The intent of the Statement is to resolve the conflict over forests in Tasmania, protect native forests, and develop a strong sustainable timber industry.

Governments were not part of the development of the Statement. Signatories to the Statement presented it to the Tasmanian Government on 18 October 2010 and to the Commonwealth Government on 22 November 2010.

The Statement demonstrates strong goodwill between the Signatories and support for developing a detailed Agreement. However, there is considerable detail to be developed before an Agreement could be concluded and it is apparent that there remains a divergence of views between the Signatories and with other stakeholder groups.

THE TASK

The Australian and Tasmanian Governments wish to assist the signatories to the Statement and other stakeholder groups to reach a common understanding and interpretation of the Statement and to develop an implementation plan that would allow an Agreement to be concluded.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

As a high-level independent facilitator the principal role is to act as an honest broker to bring stakeholders together to further develop the principles under the Statement and prepare an implementation plan. The Facilitator's Terms of Reference require him to:

- work with the Signatories and other stakeholder groups to determine how they wish to engage with each other and with governments to develop an implementation plan. This will be guided by the steps outlined in the Statement of Principles;
- work with the Signatories and other stakeholders to develop further detail and reach a common understanding of the principles under the Statement;
- facilitate agreement on, and access to, key data and information that allows assessment of available resources, the long-term industry structure and community (social and economic) implications of implementing the Statement;
- advise the Signatories, other stakeholder groups and governments on areas of common agreement, areas unable to be agreed and potential to reach an enduring Agreement;
- report regularly to both Governments on progress and make any interim recommendations which would assist progress; and,
- facilitate the preparation of an implementation plan that would allow an Agreement to be developed and concluded.

The facilitator will not have authority to commit governments, signatories or other stakeholders to any actions or expenditure.

The facilitator will report back to all parties by the end of June 2011.

The facilitator will be supported by a small secretariat provided by the Australian Government.