

Senate Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2011

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: 43

Division/Agency: APD/MLA – Agricultural Productivity Division/Meat and Livestock Australia

Topic: Restraint boxes

Proof Hansard Page: 114 (24/05/2011)

Senator Siewert asked:

Senator SIEWERT: If we could move to the restraint boxes, and you are probably aware that we had a conversation earlier on—it was late this afternoon—in terms of restraint boxes mark 1 and mark 4. Could you tell us how many restraint boxes the MLA has supported as to mark 1 and mark 4 in Indonesia?

Mr Palmer: Yes. Mark I: about 109 boxes have been constructed, and I think they are spread across about 85 to 89 meat plants and they would represent about 85 per cent of the slaughter in Indonesia. Mark IV: these boxes are relatively new and more sophisticated and perhaps more complex and it depends on the circumstances of where they are going as to whether a plant is capable of taking them on. But I think there are about four at the moment although there may be more; I am not too sure. Don't hold me to that. We could take that on notice. Mark IV is a recent innovation. Mark I, in the circumstances that it finds itself in the nature of the plants, has achieved a lot and we will continue to work with the Mark I as we will work with successive models. But it depends a bit on the plant and it depends on what are their circumstances and what is available. We are looking at some stunning trials at the moment as well, but again it depends very much on the level of sophistication and the level of infrastructure and logistics that might operate in a plant.

Answer:

MLA advises the following.

Mark I boxes: As at 30 June 2010, there were 109 Mark I restraining boxes in Indonesia. These 109 boxes were installed in 91 abattoirs.

Mark IV boxes: Four Mark IV restraining boxes have been delivered to Indonesia. Two of these boxes were installed in the first half of 2011 and are operating. The remaining two are yet to be installed.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2011

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: 44

Division/Agency: APD/MLA – Agricultural Productivity Division/Meat and Livestock Australia

Topic: Cattle exports to Indonesia

Proof Hansard Page: 116 (24/05/2011)

Senator Siewert asked:

Senator SIEWERT asked: I want to quickly go back to the number of cattle exported. What has been the highest number that we have exported to Indonesia?

Mr Palmer: I had better take that on notice. I was going to say 700 or 750, but I would prefer to take it on notice.

Senator SIEWERT: That is fine. I understand what you are saying and that you cannot tell me precisely but it is around what we exported last year and that was around 780 or something like that.

Mr Palmer: Yes, but we would be down on that.

Senator SIEWERT: That is about the highest.

Mr Palmer: That would be the highest. I think in a big year we would have moved nearly 900 or one million, but that is to all destinations, and 60 or 70 per cent was going to Indonesia. The figures you are quoting would be pretty close to the mark. I would be happy to give you the actual figure and we will do that on notice.

Answer:

The highest number of cattle exported to Indonesia was 772 868 in 2009.

The table below shows the number of Australian cattle exported to Indonesia since 2005.

2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
347 967	386 566	516 992	644 849	772 868	521 002

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Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: 45

Division/Agency: APD/MLA – Agricultural Productivity Division/Meat and Livestock Australia

Topic: Cattle exports

Proof Hansard Page: 116 (24/05/2011)

Senator Siewert asked:

Senator SIEWERT asked: What is our next biggest market for live cattle?

Mr Palmer: The Middle East. I cannot break it down, I am sorry, but Egypt, Jordan and Israel would be the three major ones.

Senator SIEWERT: If you would take it on notice to give me that breakdown that would be great.

Mr Palmer: Yes.

Answer:

The top five destinations for Australian live cattle in 2010 were:

Country	Number	Percentage (%)
Indonesia	521 002	59.5
Turkey	65 582	7.5
China	57 418	6.6
Egypt	56 441	6.5
Israel	43 212	4.9

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Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: 46

Division/Agency: APD/MLA – Agricultural Productivity Division/Meat and Livestock Australia

Topic: Stunning Trials

Proof Hansard Page: 116 (24/05/2011)

Senator Siewert asked:

Senator SIEWERT asked: Thank you. Regarding the stunning trials, what evaluation process do you have in place to see if it is delivering benefits? You say you have five stunning trials already established with five planned by the end of the year. How much is MLA investing in those trials?

Mr Palmer: I cannot answer that question tonight; I will have to take that on notice. The first five are under trial now, so there will be an evaluation process going on as we speak, but I am not across it. The other five have not come on; they will be later. There are five under trial at the moment, but, as to the actual cost related to those five and what preliminary evaluation has occurred, I will have to take that on notice.

Senator SIEWERT: If you could take on notice the cost of the first set and the second set, what the evaluation process is and when you expect to release those results, that would be appreciated.

Mr Palmer: Yes, definitely.

Senator SIEWERT: Thank you.

Answer:

In January 2011, a local consultant was contracted to deliver a stunning project. The project aims to build a process involving stunning equipment being imported, operators trained and the equipment used daily in the processing of Australian cattle. The project has the following objectives:

- gain registration for the import of non-penetrative stunners and power loads
- gain approval for the use of non-penetrative stunners by religious authorities
- identify suitable abattoir sites
- achieve agreement with abattoir management to adopt the use of stunning following acceptable procedures
- train abattoir staff in correct use of stunning equipment
- implement practices that ensure the secure use of the stunners and provide servicing of equipment

To-date the project has achieved the following outcomes:

- an import licence for stunners and power loads has been obtained and is effective for 1 year
- the religious authority, Majelis Ulama Indonesia, West Java has given a strong endorsement of the practice of stunning cattle prior to slaughter. The practice has been recorded on a DVD for further distribution

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Budget Estimates May 2011

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: 46 (continued)

- because of this project, two abattoirs have implemented stunning as part of their daily slaughtering process
- one abattoir is using a newly installed restraining box designed for stunning. The facility also has a Mark IV Box
- one abattoir is using stunning in a converted Mark 1 box
- training has been provided to abattoir staff in correct use of stunning equipment, security of the equipment and in servicing of equipment
- evaluation / acceptance of stunning is being judged by butchers and their customers. The two pilot abattoirs are being used to encourage other participants.

The MLA and the consultant's staff are regularly visiting the two pilot sites to evaluate the progress of the project. The lessons from this project will be used to encourage others to adopt stunning. The evaluation process includes:

- reviewing if the stunning equipment is being used correctly
- assessing if operators require any assistance with the equipment
- reviewing the skill of the operator
- assessing the need for additional upgrades to lairage and races
- providing additional training by slaughter experts.

The benefits of stunning are that it means to induce a state of insensibility in an animal about to be slaughtered. Done properly it will achieve this aim immediately. The feasibility study was part of the Live Trade Animal Welfare Partnership 2009–10 project “Indonesian point of slaughter improvements” Milestone 2 Stunning Trial with expenditure of \$5000. This was 50/50 funded by industry and the government.

The current stunning trial project funded under MLA's Live Export Program has a contracted budget of \$50 000. The manufacture and installation of the new restraining boxes was approximately \$7900 and the modification of the Mark 1 box was approximately \$1500.

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Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: 47

Division/Agency: APD/MLA – Agricultural Productivity Division/Meat and Livestock Australia

Topic: Mark boxes in abattoirs

Proof Hansard Page: Written

Senator Coonan asked:

1. Can the Department confirm that 104 Mark I boxes plus another five Mark IV were installed? If not how many?
2. Have any and if so how many of the Mark I boxes been removed from these abattoirs. If still in situ how many are still installed and/or being used?

Answer:

1. As at 30 June 2010 there were 109 Mark I restraining boxes in Indonesia. These 109 boxes were installed in 91 abattoirs.

Four Mark IV restraining boxes have been delivered to Indonesia.

Two of these boxes were installed in the first half of 2011 and are operating. The remaining two are yet to be installed.

2. To the best of MLA's knowledge, none have been removed. MLA estimates that due to current constraints on cattle supply in some regions, 20 boxes are currently not being used and a further 10 sites have closed down.

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Budget Estimates May 2011

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: 48

Division/Agency: APD/MLA – Agricultural Productivity Division/Meat and Livestock Australia

Topic: Restraint boxes

Proof Hansard Page: Written

Senator Coonan asked:

Is it still correct that restraint boxes were in just 10 locations as suggested in the May 2010 report? If not how many locations were they installed in?

Answer:

No this is incorrect. During 2009–10, restraining boxes were installed in 10 locations taking the total number of boxes to 109 in 91 locations.

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Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: 49

Division/Agency: APD/MLA – Agricultural Productivity Division/Meat and Livestock Australia

Topic: Calf boxes

Proof Hansard Page: Written

Senator Coonan asked:

Are the four new calf boxes proposed as part of the 2010/2011 project now installed or still pending?

Answer:

Two of the restraint boxes, also referred to as Mark IV boxes, have been installed in 2011.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2011

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: 50

Division/Agency: APD/MLA – Agricultural Productivity Division/Meat and Livestock Australia

Topic: Training on boxes by MLA

Proof Hansard Page: Written

Senator Coonan asked:

According to the May 2010 report, training had been provided by MLA on about 50 of the boxes (reference: May 2010 report, page 5). Can the Department identify the proposed plan and timetable to complete training on the rest of the boxes?

Answer:

The department can advise that as part of 2010–11 Live Trade Animal Welfare Partnership funding, MLA proposed to deliver training in 70 per cent of facilities in Indonesia with industry installed restraining boxes. MLA advised in January 2011 that it had completed training at 18 per cent of facilities under this project. The department is awaiting MLA's final report on the completion of this project.

The department notes that MLA has recently announced further training activities at sites with restraining boxes in Indonesia.

On 22 May 2011 MLA announced on behalf of industry a strategic vision for in market animal welfare, which included the proposed delivery of training to every facility with an industry installed restraining box in Indonesia on an annual basis.

The department also notes that subsequently on 17 June 2011, MLA announced that it would increase training for Indonesian abattoir workers as part of its \$9 million animal welfare plan for Indonesia. The announcement noted that a team of eight Australian stock handling experts had delivered intensive training programs during the previous two weeks.

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Budget Estimates May 2011

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: 51

Division/Agency: APD/MLA – Agricultural Productivity Division/Meat and Livestock Australia

Topic: Slaughter facilities in Indonesia

Proof Hansard Page: Written

Senator Coonan asked:

1. How many slaughter facilities are there in Indonesia?
2. How many have been inspected since March 2010?
3. In May 2010, only 85 facilities had been inspected. Have those been re-inspected since?
4. What was the assessment?

Answer:

MLA advises that:

1. According to the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the UN, in 2008 there were 800 officially registered slaughter facilities in Indonesia
2. 114 inspections have been conducted by MLA staff and contractors engaged by MLA. Some sites have had multiple inspections.
3. Yes. Many have been reinspected as part of the 114 inspections undertaken since May 2010.
4. The assessments cover infrastructure and skills. It also identifies if any repairs, upgrades or infrastructure requirements are needed and if further training is required.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2011

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: 52

Division/Agency: APD/MLA – Agricultural Productivity Division/Meat and Livestock Australia

Topic: Stunning

Proof Hansard Page: Written

Senator Coonan asked:

How many and where are the facilities using stunning and where are the best practice ones situated?

Answer:

MLA has provided the following summary of stunning locations as at 27 June 2011. The number of Australian cattle processed at each establishment is an estimate of cattle processed over a 12 month period.

Name of Abattoir- Current stunning sites	Area	Province	Status	Number of Australian cattle processed in each establishment.
R.P.H Dermaga	Java	West Java	Operating Prior to 2011	14 592
P.T. Bina Mentari Tunggal	Java	West Java	Operating Prior to 2011	7680
R.P.H Hashindo	Java	West Java	Operating Prior to 2011	11 520
R.P.H Jonggol	Java	West Java	Operating Prior to 2011	6912
R.P.H Karawaci	Java	Banten	Started stunning in May	15 360
R.P.H Parung Panjung	Java	West Java	Started stunning in June	3072
R.P.H Sofyan	Sumatera	South Sumatera	Started stunning in June	768
R.P.H Wabin Jayatama	Java	Banten	Started stunning in June	11 520
R.P.H Z Beef	Sumatera	South Sumatera	Started stunning in June	4608
R.P.H Zidin Karo	Sumatera	North Sumatera	Started stunning in June	1152
R.P.H Zul	Sumatera	South Sumatera	Started stunning in June	1152
Total number sites stunning	11			78 336

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Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: 53

Division/Agency: APD/MLA – Agricultural Productivity Division/Meat and Livestock Australia

Topic: Stunning

Proof Hansard Page: Written

Senator Coonan asked:

How many of all facilities have electricity?

Answer:

MLA advises that all facilities that process Australian cattle have some basic level of electricity to run lighting, however most don't have suitable supply for running significant equipment.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2011

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: 54

Division/Agency: APD/MLA – Agricultural Productivity Division/Meat and Livestock Australia

Topic: Action on May 2010 report

Proof Hansard Page: Written

Senator Coonan asked:

Has any action been taken in relation to the government run operations that the May 2010 report says are the most poorly run?

If so, what?

Answer:

MLA advises that Indonesian Government-run facilities with restraining boxes are included in MLA's ongoing work program. This includes training abattoir staff in animal handling and slaughter techniques and standard operating procedures for restraining boxes, and inspecting facilities to determine whether maintenance or infrastructure improvements are required.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2011

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: 55

Division/Agency: APD/MLA – Agricultural Productivity Division/Meat and Livestock Australia

Topic: Stunning

Proof Hansard Page: Written

Senator Coonan asked:

The May 2010 report identifies that regular use of stunning leads to better practice. Therefore, is it possible to identify what facilities process the greatest head of cattle? If so what and where are those facilities?

Answer:

MLA has provided the following information showing the largest non-government facilities in Indonesia.

Name of Abattoir	Area	Province	Estimated No. of Aust / Year
R.P.H Karawaci	Java	Banten	19,200
R.P.H Karawaci	Java	Banten	15,360
R.P.H Gondrong	Java	Banten	19,968
R.P.H Palembang	Sumatera	South Sumatera	16,896
R.P.H Saiban	Java	Jakarta	15,360
R.P.H Pasar Kemis	Java	Banten	15,360
R.P.H Dramaga	Java	West Java	14,592
R.P.H Cipayung	Java	West Java	12,672
R.P.H Wabin Jayatama (Santori)	Java	Banten	11,520
R.P.H Hashindo	Java	West Java	11,520
R.P.H Cikaret (Cadas)	Java	Banten	11,520
R.P.H Sinar Mulya ex (Elly Jaya)	Java	West Java	7,680
Kibif	Java	West Java	7,680

To the best of MLA's knowledge the majority of other non-government facilities would be processing on average less than 15 head per night.

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Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: 56

Division/Agency: APD/MLA – Agricultural Productivity Division/Meat and Livestock Australia

Topic: Funding to MLA from levies

Proof Hansard Page: Written

Senator Coonan asked:

1. How much funding does MLA receive each year from producers by way of levies?
2. How much is spent on overseeing and managing Australian live exports to Indonesia?

Answer:

MLA advises:

1. Budgeted producer levies for 2010–11 are Research and Development–\$23.6 million and Marketing–\$72 million. As part of these funds, Cattle Grass Fed levies are expected to be Research and Development–\$11.3m and Marketing–\$44.9 million. Grass-fed levies are the only levies that fund the Animal Welfare program in Indonesia.

The marketing levies received by MLA for live cattle sold to exporters for shipment to Indonesia is estimated to be \$1.7 million in 2010–11.

2. MLA's role is delivering support programs covering Market Access, Technical Support (Feedlot Improvements), Trade support (marketing) and Animal Welfare.

In 2010–11, MLA estimates it will spend \$1.6 million specifically allocated to Indonesia of which \$902 000 will be from cattle levies. Cattle levies are also applied to a range of other programs such as communications, the National Livestock Identification Scheme, Market Information and Product Integrity.

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Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: 57

Division/Agency: APD/MLA – Agricultural Productivity Division/Meat and Livestock Australia

Topic: Mark 1 restraint boxes

Proof Hansard Page: Written

Senator Coonan asked:

1. How much has been spent on Mark 1 restraint boxes?
2. How many have been supplied?

Answer:

Through the Live Trade Animal Welfare Partnership, the Australian Government and the live export industry have jointly funded (on a 50:50 co-contribution basis) two projects up to a total value of \$550 000 to improve animal welfare outcomes for Australian livestock at the point of slaughter in Indonesia. In addition, through the former Live Animal Trade Program, the Australian Government approved over \$850 000 in funding from 2004 for animal welfare projects in Indonesia. A significant proportion of the funding was provided for the installation and maintenance of infrastructure, including restraining boxes. Through this investment, 109 Mark I restraint boxes have been installed in Indonesia.

Senate Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2011

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: 58

Division/Agency: APD/MLA – Agricultural Productivity Division/Meat and Livestock Australia

Topic: Mark 1 restraint boxes

Proof Hansard Page: Written

Senator Coonan asked:

When was the moratorium on the supply and/or use of Mark 1 boxes issued and by whom?

Answer:

On 30 May 2011 Senator the Hon. Joe Ludwig, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, directed the department to implement a moratorium on the installation of any new Mark I restraint boxes using Commonwealth funds.

On 31 May 2011 and 2 June 2011, the department wrote to MLA stating that all work underway on the installation of Mark I boxes using Commonwealth funds must immediately cease. The department also asked MLA to halt the installation of Mark I boxes using industry funds.

Senate Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2011

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: 59

Division/Agency: APD/MLA – Agricultural Productivity Division/Meat and Livestock Australia

Topic: Beef levy review

Proof Hansard Page: Written

Senator Coonan asked:

I refer to the report of May 2009 entitled, “Beef Levy Review 2009” which was prepared by industry experts and stakeholders of the Beef Marketing Funding Committee.

The report outlined a suggested budget for MLA. It proposed to retain the same level of funding for “improving welfare standards” from 2008 to 2014/15 at \$186 000 (reference, page 46).

1. What was the extent of MLA’s involvement in consultation of the report?
2. Were the report’s recommendations taken into account when considering future budgets for animal welfare provisions?
3. Does the MLA stand by the advice of this report?
4. Has the Committee’s position on animal welfare funding changed in light of the current circumstances and in the aftermath of the Four Corners report?
5. The report also indicates an indicative program budget for MLA by 2014-15 and recommends an increase from \$800 000 to \$1.9 million for “increased defence activities against welfare and environmental claims” (page 50).
6. Has MLA taken the advice of the Committee and included their proposed budgetary provisions in their own budget?
7. Can MLA identify the nature of “increased defence activities”?
8. Why are “increased defence activities” recommended as deserving a \$1.1 million budget increase whereas the funding standard for “improving welfare standards” remained the same over the same period?
9. Is this indicative of the Committee’s priorities?
10. If not, why is animal welfare granted a smaller budget allocation as opposed to an increase in improving the public image of the industry?

Answer:

MLA advises:

1. The Beef Marketing Funding Committee consisted of 12 industry representatives and two MLA Directors. MLA was involved in the consultation process.
2. Yes, however demands and changes in the market place have required MLA to increase animal welfare funding since the review. This has been done in consultation with industry. Cattle levies applied to the Live Export Animal

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Question: 59 (continued)

Welfare Budget was increased to \$200 000 in 2009–10, \$450 000 in 2010–11 and the MLA draft Budget for 2011–12 proposes a further increase to \$1.035 million.

3. Yes. The purpose of the report was for levy payers to consider and vote on the continuation of the \$1.50 levy increase, approved by levy payers in 2005. The report was prepared and presented to industry, levy payers and MLA members through an extensive consultation process. Using this report along with the Meat Industry Strategic Plan, the MLA Strategic Plan and in conjunction with industry, MLA prepares a Annual Operating Plan that sets out MLA's program expenditure for the year ahead. Funding allocations and priorities may change, in consultation with industry, from year to year as a result of market dynamics.
4. The Committee's role was to analyse the funding requirements for marketing programs for the beef industry. The Committee was disbanded once the report was finalised and MLA members and levy payers had voted on the committee's proposal.
5. Communication of the industry integrity, environment and animal welfare within the Australian market has increased in line with the recommendations. \$1 million of the increase was specifically directed to building trust in the community in the red meat industry's environmental management and performance.
6. Yes, the budget for community communications within Australia was \$2.163 million for 2010-11.
7. The majority of the increase funded the development of an environment communications program.
8. The committee identified that additional expenditure on environment communications was the highest priority at the time.
9. Yes.
10. The amount shown on page 46 for Animal Welfare is only a small portion of MLA's Animal Welfare Budget. The total MLA Animal Welfare Budget for 2009–10 for Live Export for both Research and Marketing was \$3.055 million. With a further \$1.474 million being directed to Animal Welfare Research. In MLA's Adoption Program budget of \$7.706 million are funds for the awareness of and adoption of Animal Welfare standards and practices for Producers.

Senate Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

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Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: 60

Division/Agency: APD/MLA – Agricultural Productivity Division/Meat and Livestock Australia

Topic: Animal welfare manager for Indonesia (Cameron McDonald)

Proof Hansard Page: Written

Senator Coonan asked:

1. I understand that in May 2010 Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA) and LiveCorp appointed an animal welfare manager for Indonesia (Cameron McDonald), to be responsible for delivering ongoing animal welfare improvements for Australian cattle exported to that important market. Is this correct? If yes, what were and are Mr McDonald's duties?
2. Was one of his duties to monitor and report on practices in slaughterhouses or abattoirs?
3. If so how many has he visited to date?
4. Was one of his duties to monitor the use of restraint boxes and observe the slaughter of Australian livestock?
5. Has Mr McDonald prepared a report on his activities and if so can that be provided?
6. Has MLA appointed any other personnel either before or since May 2010 to Indonesia and if so who and when, what are their duties and what reports have they provided?

Answer:

MLA advises:

1. Yes. Mr McDonald was appointed by MLA on 12 May 2010 and took up his position in Indonesia on 25 August 2010 as Manager - Animal Welfare for Indonesia. The objective of the role is improving animal welfare practices in Indonesia involving Australian live cattle.
2. Yes. Mr McDonald and his team have been involved in providing the standard operating procedure training and conducting the inspections as noted in earlier questions.
3. 114 inspections have been conducted. Some sites have had multiple inspections, of which Mr McDonald since arriving in Indonesia would have conducted the majority.
4. Yes.

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Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: 60 (continued)

5. Mr McDonald has supplied a half yearly report for the Live Trade Animal Welfare Partnership program since being in Indonesia. A copy of the report is **attached**.
6. MLA received approval and a licence to open an office in Indonesia in February 2010. Prior to this, the region was serviced out of MLA's head office, utilising a number of contractors with expertise in various areas. Two contractors were engaged in the provision of Animal Welfare support. Animal Welfare training was subcontracted. Since February 2010 MLA has moved to replace the contractors with employees. Since the office opened MLA has employed six locally engaged employees and two expatriates.

<u>Position Appointed</u>	<u>Date Appointed</u>
Country Representative	1 June 2010
Promotional Assistant	1 June 2010
Office Administrator	28 October 2010
Manager Animal Welfare (Expatriate)	25 August 2010
Animal Welfare Assistant	1 June 2010
Animal Welfare Assistant	14 March 2011
Animal Welfare Assistant	1 June 2011
Country Manager appointed by MLA 14 March 2011 awaiting visa to take up role in Indonesia, as an expatriate (expected July 2011)	

[Attachment]

Senate Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

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Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: 61

Division/Agency: APD/MLA – Agricultural Productivity Division/Meat and Livestock Australia

Topic: Animal welfare

Proof Hansard Page: Written

Senator Coonan asked:

1. According to the Department's website, animal welfare conditions were improved in 2009-10. Do you agree with that statement? If not, why not?
2. How does MLA measure whether improvements in animal welfare are being achieved by MLA activities?

Answer:

1. Yes.
2. MLA advises that it commissions independent reviews to assess the outcomes of various programs. The last report on Indonesian live export was the May 2010 report. Other measures are the take up of standard operating procedure training and the outcomes from the many inspections undertaken. Observations are made on a plant specific basis relative to the last visit to that site and the progress of adoption of the recommendations.

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Budget Estimates May 2011

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: 62

Division/Agency: APD/MLA – Agricultural Productivity Division/Meat and Livestock Australia

Topic: Animal welfare

Proof Hansard Page: Written

Senator Coonan asked:

1. More broadly over the last 12 months, how many full time equivalent MLA employees work on improving animal welfare in the Middle East?
2. Where are they based?

Answer:

1 and 2.

MLA advises it has one fully dedicated employee based in the Middle East, Bahrain, who uses a number of consultants and contractors. These resources are supported by an R&D capability based in Australia.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2011

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: 63

Division/Agency: APD/MLA – Agricultural Productivity Division/Meat and Livestock Australia

Topic: Animal welfare

Proof Hansard Page: Written

Senator Coonan asked:

1. Over the last 12 months, how many full time equivalent MLA employees work on improving animal welfare in South East Asia?
2. Where are they based?

Answer:

1. See response to Question 60 (APD/MLA).

In addition MLA staff use a number of consultants and contractors. These resources are supported by an R&D capability based in Australia. Animal Welfare resources in other South East Asian markets are contracted as required.

2. They are based in Indonesia.

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Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: 64

Division/Agency: APD/MLA – Agricultural Productivity Division/Meat and Livestock Australia

Topic: Animal welfare

Proof Hansard Page: Written

Senator Coonan asked:

How does MLA measure whether improvements in animal welfare are being achieved by MLA activities?

Answer:

See answer to Question 61 part 2 (APD/MLA).

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2011

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: 65

Division/Agency: APD/MLA – Agricultural Productivity Division/Meat and Livestock Australia

Topic: Restraint box training

Proof Hansard Page: Written

Senator Coonan asked:

1. According to the May 2010 report, training had been provided by MLA on about 50 of the boxes? (reference: May 2010 report, page 5)
2. Can MLA identify the proposed plan and timetable to complete training on the rest of the boxes?

Answer:

See answer to Question 50 (APD/MLA).

Senate Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2011

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: 66

Division/Agency: APD/MLA – Agricultural Productivity Division/Meat and Livestock Australia

Topic: Accreditation on abattoirs

Proof Hansard Page: Written

Senator Coonan asked:

In relation to the MLA's "Australian cattle industry provides animal welfare solution" publicly released on June 6 2011 please advise:

1. The location of the 25 selected abattoirs for accreditation and what category each is in. ie
 - a) Those currently using stunning
 - b) Those able to introduce stunning in the near future
 - c) Those that can be gradually introduced
2. What is the timeframe for accreditation of each of these proposed facilities?
3. What are the criteria for accreditation?
4. Will it be to OIE standards (which doesn't mandate stunning) or Australian standards?
5. Who is able to independently audit the abattoirs for current status and verify compliance with upgrades?
6. When will the 'closed system' commence?
7. What is going to happen in the meantime as no-one seems clear on this thus far?

Answer:

On 6 July 2011 Minister Ludwig announced that he had lifted the suspension to the trade with strict new conditions in place. This decision overtook MLA's 6 June 2011 announcement and so the details of its proposal were not provided.

Senate Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2011

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: 67

Division/Agency: APD/MLA – Agricultural Productivity Division/Meat and Livestock Australia

Topic: Mr Palmer's visit to Indonesian abattoirs

Proof Hansard Page: Written

Senator Coonan asked:

In his evidence to Estimates on May 24 MLA Managing Director Mr Palmer advised that he had visited abattoirs in Indonesia that killed 20-40 cattle a night.

When did he visit, where did were these abattoirs and what did he observe of the slaughtering?

Answer:

MLA advises that Mr Palmer visited one abattoir, Cibinong near Jakarta, in February 2010. He observed a Mark 1 restraining box in operation and three or four animals being slaughtered.

Senate Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2011

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: 68

Division/Agency: APD/MLA – Agricultural Productivity Division/Meat and Livestock Australia

Topic: Mr Palmer's visit to Indonesian abattoirs

Proof Hansard Page: Written

Senator Coonan asked:

Mr Palmer advised of the national identification system that Australia invested in and was 'set up for all our trade'.

Was it considered for Indonesia and if so when?

Answer:

The Primary Industries Ministerial Council (PMIC) agreed to a national livestock identification system that was designed to rapidly respond to disease and food safety issues within Australia. The system would minimise the risk to market access for all importing countries and was not designed to be specific to any country, including Indonesia.

In April 2003, PMIC agreed to exemptions for identification of individual cattle consigned from property of birth directly to slaughter or live export. The exemptions remain in place in WA and NT.

In October 2003, PMIC decided that the system developed would be known as National Livestock Identification and Tracing System (NLIS). NLIS commenced in southern states in July 2004 and in July 2005 in northern states.

Senate Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2011

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: 69

Division/Agency: APD/MLA – Agricultural Productivity Division/Meat and Livestock Australia

Topic: Meat sales and meat growth

Proof Hansard Page: Written

Senator Coonan asked:

What are the MLA projections for meat sales and meat growth in Indonesia for both Live and boxed meat that Mr Palmer referred to?

Answer:

MLA has advised that prior to 7 June 2011 it was forecasting sales for 2011–12 for boxed beef to be 55 000 tonnes and 500 000 head of cattle to Indonesia.

MLA also predicts that Indonesian consumption will increase by 48 000 tonnes carcass weight or by about 9 per cent from 2010 to 2015.

Senate Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2011

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: 70

Division/Agency: APD/MLA – Agricultural Productivity Division/Meat and Livestock Australia

Topic: MLA money received from levies

Proof Hansard Page: Written

Senator Coonan asked:

1. How much money does MLA receive each year from producers by way of levies?
2. How much is spent on overseeing and managing Australian live exports to Indonesia?

Answer:

3. Duplicate question - See answer to Question 56, part 1 (APD/MLA).
4. Duplicate question - See answer to Question 56, part 2 (APD/MLA).