

Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates February 2007

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question no: AQIS 01 and 02

Division/Agency: Australian Quarantine Inspection Service

Topic: Tasmanian Devils Facial Tumour Disease

Hansard page: 64 (14/02/07)

Senator Milne asked:

Will you take on notice a question to the Tasmanian department: At what point did they know that a devil with Devil Facial Tumour Disease was found dead in proximity to the park? Let us establish first when and how they knew that that dead animal was near the park. Exactly where was the dead animal? I am very happy to know that.

Answer:

The Australian Quarantine Inspection Service (AQIS) has written to the Department of Primary Industries and Water Tasmania seeking answers to the questions as to exactly when, where and how the devil in question was found and when did the Tasmanian Department receive the information. Once the reply is received, more information will be provided to the Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee.

Revised answer received 18/02/2008:

On 15 March 2007, AQIS wrote to the Department of Primary Industries and Water (DPIW) Tasmania, seeking answers to the questions as to exactly when, where and how the devil in question was found and when did the Tasmanian Department receive the information. Advice was received from DPIW Tasmania on 25 June 2007 which stated the following:

“A dead devil with DFTD was found on 19 July 2004 in the Lake Rowallan area, which is some kilometres south of where Trowunna Wildlife Park is located. A departmental officer submitted this devil to Mt Pleasant Laboratories where it was diagnosed as having DFTD.

DPIW officers were advised on 25 October 2006 that in June 2006 a live wild male devil was trapped in the proximity of Trowunna Wildlife Park, just outside of the park’s perimeter fence. This wild devil was found to have DFTD. Trowunna Wildlife Park is set adjacent to an area of bushland that acts as a wildlife corridor. Since the park was established it has been normal to have evidence of wild devil activity outside the perimeter fence. The wildlife park owner indicated that a trap had been set outside the perimeter fence to look for any evidence of DFTD in wild devils in the area.”

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Question no: AQIS 03

Division/Agency: Australian Quarantine Inspection Service

Topic: Rejections of prawn consignments

Hansard page: 85 (14/02/07)

Senator Heffernan asked:

Chair—The one thing that you can be sure of is that this committee will continue to throw its weight around with regard to protecting Australia's clean, green and free status. Just as an aside, do we have any statistics on rejections of prawn consignments?

Mr Yuile—Yes, we do. In relation to the current testing program?

Chair—Yes, I probably would like to include in that, which is somebody else's job I suppose, the antibiotic part of it.

Mr Yuile—We can get you that information, Senator.

Chair—I did get some recently.

Mr Yuile—We would have the data with respect to white-spot syndrome because of the testing regime there. I can see what other data we have. My memory is about 80-odd per cent of consignments are clear and 20 per cent are rejected, but I will double-check that for you.

Answer:

Please refer question Product Integrity Animal & Plant Health (PIAPH) 01, asked by Senator O'Brien. This response answers both PIAPH 01 and the Australian Quarantine Inspection Service (AQIS) 03.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

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Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question no: AQIS 04

Division/Agency: Australian Quarantine Inspection Service

Topic: Staffing and Total Wages

Hansard page: Written question

Senator Ludwig asked:

For the years 2005-06, please indicate:

1. Not including those employed in policy functions, the number of Full-Time Equivalent positions assigned to the following areas:
 - a. The screening, holding and clearance of post arriving in Australia (not including the Torres Strait);
 - b. The screening, holding and clearance of sea cargo arriving in Australia (not including the Torres Strait);
 - c. The screening, holding and clearance of air cargo arriving in Australia (not including the Torres Strait);
 - d. The screening, holding and clearance of persons arriving in Australia by air (not including the Torres Strait);
 - e. The screening, holding and clearance of persons arriving in Australia by sea (not including the Torres Strait);
 - f. The development of technology or programs designed to augment, replace or assist any of the above functions;
2. For each of the categories in (1), please indicate:
 - a. The breakdown of APS classifications for those personnel;
 - b. The total wages cost of all personnel under that category.

Answer

1 (a) 167.67

(b) 573.53

(c) 57.9

(d) 617.07

(e) 81.26

(f) Airport - 15.88 - Australian Quarantine Inspection Service (AQIS) is a member of the Passenger Facilitation Taskforce, chaired by Customs and formed in response to increasing passenger numbers at international airports. A number of initiatives aimed at improving border agency processes were in the planning phases during 2005-06. These included trialing an express exit gate – a concept intended to allow low-quarantine risk passengers to exit the airport faster, therefore alleviating queue congestion.

Import Clearance - Not Collected. A significant component of time is spent on developing standard operation procedures, treatment standards and the development of technologies or programmes designed to augment, replace or assist AQIS' screening, holding and clearance activities.)

2. See the below table for response.

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(Information provided below excludes Torres Strait)- Financial Year 2005/2006

	Classifications	FTE	Total Wages
	P_T-B1	134.21	\$7,601,118
	P_T-B2	30.10	\$2,126,625
	P_T-B3	3.36	\$342,424
Total 1a		167.67	\$10,070,167
	P_T-B1	453.08	\$24,660,638
	P_T-B2	103.24	\$7,294,112
	P_T-B3	17.21	\$1,753,905
Total 1b		573.53	\$33,708,655
	P_T-B1		The breakdown by classification is not available because the total salary cost is an aggregate based on an average and as such it might be misleading to detail the cost by classification scale.
	P_T-B2		
	P_T-B3		
Total 1c		57.90	\$3,729,686
AIRPORT			
In reference to Q1d (Airport)**	P_T-B1	487.12	\$27,588,670
	P_T-B2	79.15	\$5,592,106
	P_T-B3	10.80	\$1,100,650
	Total (Airport)	577.07	\$34,281,426
In reference to Q1d (Detector Dogs)			
	P_T-B1	31.00	\$1,755,716
	P_T-B2	9.00	\$635,868
	Total (Detector Dogs)	40.00	\$2,391,584
Total 1d		617.07	\$36,673,010
In reference to Q1e	P_T-B1	47.78	\$2,706,068
	P_T-B2	26.98	\$1,906,191
	P_T-B3	6.40	\$652,236
	DAFF Vet Stream	0.10	\$11,557
Total 1e		81.26	\$5,276,052
In reference to Q1f	P_T-B1	0.00	\$0
	P_T-B2	7.52	\$531,006
	P_T-B3	8.36	\$851,648
Total 1f^		15.88	\$1,382,654
	Total Q1	1,513.31	\$90,840,224

AQIS Classification Structure

P_T_B1: Policy and Technical - Band 1

P_T_B2: Policy and Technical - Band 2

P_T_B3: Policy and Technical - Band 3

DAFF Veterinary Stream

Notes:

Q1d (Airport)**: Costs are based on Actual FTEs employed by the Program for FY05/06 and not budgeted FTEs. Cost per FTE is calculated at an average per FTE in the band and does not include additional expenses such as airport allowance and penalties paid	Total 1f^: Costs are based on Actual FTEs employed by the Program for FY05/06 and not budgeted FTEs. Cost per FTE is calculated at an average per FTE in the band.
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Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question no: AQIS 05

Division/Agency: Australian Quarantine Inspection Service

Topic: Staffing and Total Wages

Hansard page: Written question

Senator Ludwig asked:

For the years 2005-06, please indicate:

1. Not including those employed in policy functions, the number of Full-Time Equivalent positions assigned to the Torres Strait region.
2. For each of the categories in (1), please indicate:
 - a. The breakdown of APS classifications for those personnel;

The total wages cost of all personnel under that category;

Answer

Please see the below table.

(Information provided below for Torres Strait) - Financial Year 2005/2006

AQIS05WRITTEN

(The breakdown of APS Classifications for those personnel (Torres Strait))

	Classifications	FTE	Total Wages
	P_T-B1	17.80	\$1,008,120.80
	P_T-B2	3.06	\$216,195.12
	P_T-B3	1.00	\$101,912.00
Total		21.86	\$1,326,227.92

AQIS Classification Structure

P_T_B1: Policy and Technical - Band 1

P_T_B2: Policy and Technical - Band 2

P_T_B3: Policy and Technical - Band 3

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Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question no: AQIS 06

Division/Agency: Australian Quarantine Inspection Service

Topic: Bird Flu (05/06) and Quarantine Matters! campaigns

Hansard page: Written question

Senator Wong asked:

Below is a list of active campaigns that were tabled on 30 October 2006 at Senate Estimates, what were the actual costs for those which have been completed as relevant to each department and agency in the Minister's portfolio?

- Bird Flu (05/06)- AQIS
- Quarantine Matters! (Jul 06 – Dec 06)- AQIS

Answer:

The Bird Flu and Quarantine Matters! campaigns are still ongoing. Details of final actual costs incurred cannot be provided at this stage.

Revised answer received 18/02/2008:

1) Bird Flu (05/06) – AQIS

\$660,000 (GST incl)

2) Quarantine Matters! (06/07) – AQIS

The answer to this question has been provided in Budget Estimates May 2007 – Question no AQIS 01.

\$4,741,685 (GST incl)