

## Questions on Notice Additional Budget Estimates 2008-2009

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Portfolio

Monday 23 February 2009

QON No.	Hansard page reference/ Written	Senator	Question
Corporate Finance - 01	4-5	Colbeck	<p><i>Department programs' budgets breakdown – indicating whether each program is ahead or behind budget.</i></p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—I will quickly go to some questions relating to budget and cash flow—where the agency is in respect of its budget projections and cash flow at the moment. <b>Can you give me an overview of whether you are ahead of or behind budget? I would like to go through that program by program, if I can.</b></p> <p><b>Mr Schaeffer</b>—Broadly, the department is primarily on track to meet its four-year budget for 2008-09. Administered, we are projecting a slight underspend this year. Departmentally, we are also projecting to meet our four-year target.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—What is the quantum of the underspend that you are projecting?</p> <p><b>Mr Schaeffer</b>—At this stage, although we are working on it, it is around one per cent.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Which is quantified as how much in dollars?</p> <p><b>Mr Schaeffer</b>—I would have to check, but it would be around \$290 million.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—A \$290 million underspend. Where are the underspends projected to come from? What are the elements that are making up that \$290 million underspend?</p> <p><b>Mr Schaeffer</b>—The bulk majority of the variance is estimated to come from exceptional circumstances payments from our draft program.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Do you have a figure? What is your expected figure? <b>I would like to get a fairly detailed breakdown on how that \$290 million is made up</b>, if I can, please.</p> <p><b>Mr Schaeffer</b>—I do not have those exact details but I can take it on notice.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Could you possibly come back to me later in the morning on that? I would like to be able to go through and have a bit of a look at the detail of that as part of the day's proceedings. Can you undertake to do some work on that for us this morning?</p> <p><b>Dr O'Connell</b>—We will do what we can as quickly as we can to get that to you.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—I would like to have a sense of what areas you think you might be underspending in and what areas you might be going to underspend in.</p> <p><b>Mr Schaeffer</b>—Sure.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—That might be worth doing. <b>I would like to get a sense of which particular programs are underspent, which you are projecting to underspend and which particular programs you project to be tight on budget.</b> Frankly, I would have expected that you would have had that sort of information available given that is fundamentally what we are talking about here today.</p> <p><b>Mr Schaeffer</b>—We can get that for you reasonably quickly. As I say, it is just a matter of the timing issues between our department and the Treasury department.</p>

Corporate Finance - 02	11	Colbeck	<p><i>Hospitality – department’s hospitality spend this financial year</i></p> <p><b>Senator Colbeck</b> – Can you give us some information on the department’s hospitality spend so far this financial year?</p> <p><b>Mr Quinlivan</b> – I think we will need to take that one on notice.</p>
Corporate Finance -03	Written	Williams	What programmes have received funding cuts as a result of the 4% efficiency dividend which the government demanded the Department meet this year?
Corporate Finance – 04	Written	Williams	Has the Department being asked to find a further 1.25% efficiency dividend? Where has the Department found this funding? What programs have been affected?
Corporate Finance - 05	Written	Williams	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. When will the department undertake work on the cost of the Government’s proposed Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS) to its budget?</li> <li>2. Will the cost be included in this year’s budget in the forwarded estimates for 2010/11?</li> <li>3. Will Treasury be compensating the department for increased running costs as a result of the Government’s CPRS?</li> </ol>
Corporate Finance - 06	Written	Williams	What is the petrol budget across all divisions of the Department for 2005/06, 2006/07, 2007/08 and estimated cost for 2008/09?
Corporate Finance -07	Written	Williams	What is the annual electricity budget across all divisions of the Department for 2005/06, 2006/07, 2007/08 and estimated cost for 2008/09?
Corporate Services - 01	5	Colbeck	<p><i>Department staffing levels – conversion from headcount figure to ASL figure and the variance to the figure discussed in the November Estimates.</i></p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK—What is the current staffing of the agency and what has it varied since we last discussed that in November?</b></p> <p><b>Mr Schaeffer</b>—In the portfolio additional estimates statements on page 28, our revised target on the current staffing levels was 4,481.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—That is a target; I want to know what they are now though.</p> <p><b>Ms Hazell</b>—The department currently employs 4,255 full-time staff, 914 part-time staff and 141 casual staff. That gives you a total of 5,310 based on a headcount of staff.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—So how do I convert that so I can compare apples with apples?</p> <p><b>Ms Hazell</b>—With great difficulty. We could take on notice an ASL calculation for you but the FTE figure, I am advised, is broadly on track to meet that ASL target at year end.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—But there is no way known that I can check that because I do not have a conversion factor.</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—We can undertake to give you our conversion from the headcount to the ASL number that was in the additional estimates—</p>

Corporate Services 02	12	Colbeck	<p><i>FOI – Length of time each outstanding FOI request has been with the department</i></p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—How many FOI requests does the government have in front of it at the moment?</p> <p><b>Ms Hazell</b>—There are 12 freedom of information requests currently being processed within the department.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—<b>What is the ageing on each of those?</b></p> <p><b>Ms Hazell</b>—I am not sure I have the ageing with me. I would need to take that on notice.</p>
Corporate Services - 03	13	Williams	<p><i>Electricity and fuel costs</i></p> <p><b>Senator WILLIAMS</b>—A department your size would have a large electricity account, I would imagine. <b>Do you have any idea what the estimated cost of electricity was in the last financial year?</b></p> <p><b>Mr Quinlivan</b>—I think we have to take that one on notice.</p> <p><b>Senator WILLIAMS</b>—<b>Have you estimated the cost of your electricity for next year?</b></p> <p><b>Mr Quinlivan</b>—I will take that one on notice.</p> <p><b>Senator WILLIAMS</b>—Likewise with your fuel. <b>Could you give us on notice the fuel costs for your department last year and this current year and what your estimations are for next year?</b></p> <p><b>Mr Quinlivan</b>—We will do what we can to provide you with that information. <b>I am not quite sure whether our accounting process breaks down expenses to that level of detail, but we will do what we can.</b></p>
Corporate Services - 04	14	Williams	<p><i>Consultancies currently tendered (See also QoN from Senator Colbeck p.7) (Refer to similar QoN from November estimates).</i></p> <p><b>Senator WILLIAMS</b>—<b>Do you know how many reviews, committee task forces and inquiries have been started or formed since 24 November 2008?</b></p> <p><b>Mr Williamson</b>—Not off the top of my head. <b>We have undertaken to provide an answer on notice on current reviews. I can backdate that to 24 November, if you like. We did also provide a question on notice at the last estimates that I think was from 24 November to whenever the last estimates were.</b></p> <p><b>Senator WILLIAMS</b>—You would know the purpose of each review, I suppose?</p> <p><b>Mr Quinlivan</b>—We would, yes.</p> <p><b>Senator WILLIAMS</b>—I mean here with us now. Obviously, you would.</p> <p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b>—Excuse me, you would!</p> <p><b>Mr Quinlivan</b>—We would.</p> <p><b>Senator WILLIAMS</b>—<b>Could you provide a breakdown of all consultancies—the companies that were awarded and the cost, purpose, length of each contract for the years 2007-08 and 2008-09 and when they were awarded?</b></p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—<b>I think that we agreed to provide the consultancies on notice in response to Senator Colbeck.</b></p> <p><b>Senator WILLIAMS</b>—<b>And you will give us how many consultancies are currently tendered, et cetera?</b></p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—Yes.</p>
Corporate Services - 05	Written	Humphries	<p>How many SES positions were there in this department as at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 24 November 2007</li> <li>• 26 February 2009</li> </ul>

Corporate Services - 06	Written	Williams	What is the current EFT for the department? (Provide a yearly breakdown for 2005/06, 2006/07, 2007/08 and 2008/09)?
Corporate Services - 07	Written	Williams	<p><b>Consultancies</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide a breakdown of all consultancies (companies they were awarded too and cost of each consultancy, and purpose of each consultancy, and length each contract was awarded for) for the years 2007/08 and 2008/09 and when they were awarded?</li> <li>2. How many consultancies are currently being tendered?</li> <li>3. What was the total dollar amount awarded in consultancies in 2006/07, 2007/08 and 2008/09?</li> <li>4. How many of the consultancies awarded in 2007/08. 2008/09 have there been disputes or work not delivered as specified?</li> <li>5. What is the Department doing to rectify its reputation for being one of the worst Departments when it comes to timely and accurate reporting of consultants and contracts let?</li> </ol>
CPD – 01	7	Colbeck	<p><i>Minister's travel expenses for community cabinet meetings held since budget estimates.</i></p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK—Do you have figures on the minister's travel expenses for community cabinet meetings held since budget estimates?</b></p> <p><b>Mr D Williamson—</b>Since the last estimates there have been three community cabinet meetings: one in Launceston, one in Corio and one in Campbelltown. <b>The ministerial costs of community cabinet are handled by the Department of Finance and Deregulation, so we would have to get that information for you.</b></p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK—</b>If you would, please.</p>
CPD - 02	7	Colbeck	<p><i>Reviews and consultancies done by the department (Refer to similar QoN from November estimates) (See also QoN from Senator Williams p.14).</i></p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK—</b>You get all the good gigs, Dr O'Connell! <b>What reviews is the agency currently undertaking?</b></p> <p><b>Mr D Williamson—</b>There are a number of reviews. It might be best to discuss that when the relevant areas come up, but the main review—a large-scale portfolio review—relates to the drought. The quarantine review that I think we talked about last time, as you know, is completed, and the government has put an in-principle response out. They are the two major reviews.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK—But you cannot give me just a whole-of-portfolio summary of what reviews you are currently undertaking?</b></p> <p><b>Mr D Williamson—</b>Yes, we can. I can pull that together for you, yes.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK—</b>Okay. If you could, I would appreciate that. <b>Could you give me, with that information, projected completion dates for them, along with estimated costs for each review.</b></p> <p><b>Mr D Williamson—</b>Sure. <b>I think we provided a similar thing on notice last time, so I can structure it in the same way.</b></p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK—</b>Yes, if you could update that, that would be fine.</p> <p><b>Mr D Williamson—</b>Not that I am aware of.</p>

			<b>Senator COLBECK—You probably did a similar thing for us last time in consultancies, so I might ask you to update that as well as part of this process so that we do not get bogged down in time.</b>
CPD - 03	9	Colbeck	<p><i>Media monitoring – staffing allocation</i></p> <p><b>Senator Colbeck</b> – How much have you spent so far on media monitoring this financial year?</p> <p><b>Mr Williamson</b>—As of the end of December, the latest figure I have is \$127,288.</p> <p><b>Senator Colbeck</b> – What is the staffing allocation in the department for those duties?</p> <p><b>Mr Williamson</b> – For media monitoring? I would have to take that on notice. We use a company to provide the actual clippings. I think we have one person who collates and distributes the media monitoring within the department.</p>
CPD – 04	9-10	Colbeck	<p><i>Overseas travel – Ministerial and ministerial staffing costs and whether the costs are broken down into accomm., etc [Dep of Fin and Dereg]; Itineraries; List of events the minister did NOT attend (trade and market access division to answer later in the day?); Breakdown of departmental costs.</i></p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Since the last budget estimates has the minister had any overseas travel?</p> <p><b>Mr D Williamson</b>—Yes—two trips, from memory. He went to Italy for an FAO ministerial conference and to Spain for a food security meeting.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Do we have the costs of those particular trips available to us yet?</p> <p><b>Mr D Williamson</b>—I can provide you with the departmental costs. The Italy trip cost \$15,765 and the Spain trip cost \$46,638.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—They are the departmental costs, not the ministerial costs.</p> <p><b>Mr D Williamson</b>—Yes.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—<b>Do we have the ministerial costs?</b></p> <p><b>Mr D Williamson</b>—<b>Once again, the Department of Finance and Deregulation look after those costs, so we would have to get that for your notice.</b></p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—What was the staffing delegation on each of those trips?</p> <p><b>Mr D Williamson</b>—One DAFF official attended the Italy trip and two went to Spain.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—<b>Do we have any details of the programs of those two trips?</b></p> <p><b>Mr D Williamson</b>—I do not have them with me, but <b>we have the trip itineraries, which we can get for you.</b></p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Was there anyone outside the department who travelled on those delegations?</p> <p><b>Mr D Williamson</b>—A staff member from the minister’s office accompanied the minister as well on each of those trips.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Where would those costs be found?</p> <p><b>Mr D Williamson</b>—I believe from the finance department, again.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—So I would have to go to the Department of Finance and Deregulation to find those?</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—<b>Those costs are tabled every six months by the department of finance or ministerial travel.</b></p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—I understand. Does that include the costs of staff travel?</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—I think it—</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—I am aware of the ministerial stuff being tabled.</p> <p><b>Mr D Williamson</b>—It includes the full cost of the visits, which includes accompanying staff as well.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—<b>Do they actually break that all down into travel accommodation and other expenses</b></p>

			<p>as part of that process?  <b>Mr D Williamson</b>—I am not sure. I would have to check for you.  <b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Were there any elements of the programs that the minister did not attend, do we know?  <b>Mr D Williamson</b>—I do not know. Our trademark and access division will be better equipped to answer that one for you.  <b>Senator COLBECK</b>—I might bring that up later in the day. <b>If you could just take on notice for me the breakdown in those particular elements of the cost of departmental travel for the two delegations.</b> I will not ask you to give it to me now; I will take that on notice.  <b>Mr D Williamson</b>—Sure.</p>
CPD - 05	10-11	Colbeck	<p><i>Communication programs – A list of all communications related activities around the portfolio programs accompanied by individual costs of programs and financial year comparisons.</i>  <b>Senator COLBECK</b>—What are the current programs on communications running in the department?  <b>Mr D Williamson</b>—Quarantine Matters! is the only formal campaign under the government’s guidelines at the moment.  <b>Senator COLBECK</b>—So you are not running any other advertising or communications programs at all at this stage?  <b>Mr D Williamson</b>—No, there are a range of communications activities under various programs throughout the department, but there is a whole-of-government definition of ‘campaign’ and Quarantine Matters! is the only one that fits into that category.  <b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Do you have a list of all those programs and what the individual costs are?  <b>Mr D Williamson</b>—Not with me, but we could pull that together for you.  <b>Senator COLBECK</b>—If you could try to get that for me as quickly as you can, I would appreciate being able to have a look at that.  <b>Mr D Williamson</b>—So that is communications related activities around the portfolio programs?  <b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Yes, please. Can you do me a comparison of that with calendar year 2008 so I can just see where things are going compared to the previous calendar year?  <b>Mr Quinlivan</b>—I am not sure. Doing the numbers by calendar year might be a problem, particularly historically, because we probably do not—  <b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Fair enough. If you have the previous financial year we can make a direct comparison. That is fair enough. With the Community Cabinet and things of that nature, is there a hospitality component that the department is required to stump up as part of those programs?  <b>Mr Power</b>—No, there is no hospitality component.</p>
CPD - 06	11	Colbeck	<p><i>Minister’s offices fit-outs – Cost and components of the fit-outs of the minister’s offices in Sydney and Canberra [Dep of Fin &amp; Dereg] and details of the relocation/extension of the minister’s Sydney office.</i>  <b>Senator COLBECK</b>—... Are there any ministerial office fit-outs that are being completed at this point in time?  <b>Ms Bie</b>—There are none in progress at the moment but the details of the ministerial office fit-outs, depending on which particular office, rests with Department of Finance and Deregulation.  <b>Senator COLBECK</b>—So, no office fit-outs have been completed that your department is responsible for?</p>

			<p><b>Ms Bie</b>—That have been completed?</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Yes.</p> <p><b>Ms Bie</b>—We have been involved in fitting out the minister’s Sydney office and we also provide some equipment for the Parliament House office as well.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Do you have costings on the ministerial office fit-out?</p> <p><b>Ms Bie</b>—No; I do not have any final costings at the moment. I would have to take that on notice.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—When was the fit-out completed?</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—We should distinguish between the component that we are responsible for. We might be able to take that on notice and give you the costs there. That is things like the IT component and others. The broad fit-out of ministerial offices is managed by the Department of Finance and Deregulation, so we would have to get that information from them in terms of the actual fit-out proper as opposed to the provision of services, which is really what we deal with—such as IT services, fax machines, phones and stuff like that. But the actual office fit-out is not our business; that is the Department of Finance and Deregulation.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—So you will take on notice for me the component of the fit-out that your agency was responsible for and give me some information as to what that was.</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—Yes.</p>
CPD - 07	12	Colbeck	<p><i>Minister’s offices fit-outs – Cost and components of the fit-outs of the minister’s offices in Sydney and Canberra</i></p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Is the Sydney office at the minister’s electorate office or is it a separate office?</p> <p><b>Ms Bie</b>—It is a combined office.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—You say that you do not have all the final figures at this point in time?</p> <p><b>Ms Bie</b>—No.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—What would be the time frame that you would expect to have that detail, given that it was completed just before Christmas?</p> <p><b>Ms Bie</b>—We could probably get that for you in the next week or so.</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—We will take that on notice and give it to you in the normal period.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—That is fine. I understand that. And we will have to go to the Department of Finance and Deregulation to find the details of the actual fit-out?</p> <p><b>Ms Bie</b>—Yes.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Was that a completely new site, do you know, or was it an extension of the existing office?</p> <p><b>Ms Bie</b>—The minister moved within the building.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—When you say ‘within’ the building’, is he on the ground floor or is he on the first floor?</p> <p><b>Ms Bie</b>—I believe he is on the first floor.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—If you could just give us the details of that, that would be great.</p>
CPD - 08	17	Colbeck	<p><i>Agricultural Finance Forum attendees – List of attendees at the November 2008 meeting and a comparative list of attendees from a meeting two or three years ago.</i></p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—When should I ask questions about the Agricultural Finance Forum? Would now be a</p>

			<p>good time? How many meetings of the Agricultural Finance Forum have occurred since November 2007?</p> <p><b>Mr Williamson</b>—I believe the answer is one.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—When did that occur?</p> <p><b>Mr Williamson</b>—It was November last year, from memory. Yes.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—So that was subsequent to the rural banking emergency summit?</p> <p><b>Mr Williamson</b>—No; that was a special meeting of the Agricultural Finance Forum.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—So it was a special meeting of the Agricultural Finance Forum?</p> <p><b>Mr Williamson</b>—Yes.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—It was not actually advertised as a meeting of the Agricultural Finance Forum. When was that meeting scheduled?</p> <p><b>Mr Williamson</b>—I might ask Mr Power to help me with that.</p> <p><b>Mr Power</b>—Senator, I do not have the exact dates of when it was scheduled, but it was shortly before the meeting was held.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—<b>So it was announced on 17 October and held on 18 October?</b></p> <p><b>Mr Power</b>—<b>I do not have the details with me; I am sorry.</b></p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Those are the dates that I have. Is there a program for meetings of the forum?</p> <p><b>Mr Power</b>—No, there is not. The forum is held on an as-required basis.</p>
CPD - 09	17	Colbeck	<p><i>Agricultural Finance Forum attendees</i></p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—<b>Who were the attendees at that meeting?</b></p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—I think we would have to take that on notice.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Sorry?</p> <p><b>Mr Williamson</b>—We would have to take that on notice. I can get you an attendees list.</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—It was certainly all the major players in the agricultural finance area.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—<b>Could you do a comparison list with those who would have been around the table, say, two or three years ago, so we can get a sense of the organisations that were involved then and how the forum might have metamorphosed now.</b></p>
CPD - 10	Written	Williams	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Who edits and produces the videos on the Minister’s website?</li> <li>2. Did the Department purchases a video and/or editing program to produce these videos?</li> <li>3. How much did these items or any other items associated with the production of the Minister’s video’s/pod casts cost?</li> <li>4. Does anyone from the Department or Minister’s office travel with the Minister to film these videos?</li> <li>5. How much travel allowances have they been paid?</li> <li>6. What are their other duties?</li> <li>7. When did they start with the Department?</li> <li>8. Were they specifically hired because of their ability to produce videos?</li> </ol>



CPD - 11	Written	Williams	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How many reviews, committees, taskforces, and inquiries have been started or formed since 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2008?</li> <li>2. What is the current status of each of these reviews, committees, taskforces and inquiries currently underway?</li> <li>3. Please indicate whether they will be released publicly and if so when.</li> <li>4. What is the purpose of each of these reviews, committees, and taskforces and inquires?</li> <li>5. Who is undertaking each of these reviews, committees, and taskforces and inquires? Provide a list of Members, their qualifications and remuneration (including daily fees, Travel Allowance</li> <li>6. How much is each of these reviews, committees, taskforces and inquiries costing? Provide a breakdown of the cost of each individual review, committee, taskforce and inquiry?</li> </ol>
WEA - 01	22-23	Williams	<p><i>Report by the Export Wheat Commission – When will the minister release it?</i></p> <p><b>Senator WILLIAMS</b>—Even people such as Senator Nash stored their grain on farm this year. The reason, one would think, is a lack of confidence. On another point, was there an inquiry into the wheat board’s chartering activities by the wheat export authority?</p> <p><b>Mr Woods</b>—Yes, there was an inquiry by the Export Wheat Commission.</p> <p><b>Senator WILLIAMS</b>—<b>Has that report been released?</b></p> <p><b>Mr Woods</b>—<b>The minister received the report on 30 June last year?</b></p> <p><b>Senator WILLIAMS</b>—<b>Did he make it public?</b></p> <p><b>Mr Woods</b>—<b>No, he has not.</b></p> <p><b>Senator WILLIAMS</b>—<b>Why not?</b></p> <p><b>Mr Woods</b>—<b>It is his choice.</b></p> <p><b>Senator Sherry</b>—<b>That is a matter for the minister. I will take it on notice and get a response for you.</b></p> <p><b>Senator WILLIAMS</b>—The reason why he has not made it public?</p> <p><b>Senator Sherry</b>—Yes.</p> <p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b>—And when he was going to release it.</p> <p><b>Mr Grant</b>—Can I just add that the report was referred to four independent investigating agencies to see whether there was a need for further action to be undertaken as a result of that report. So it would be improper for the minister to release a report while those investigations are still being undertaken.</p> <p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b>—Fair enough.</p> <p><b>Senator WILLIAMS</b>—<b>Will it be released at a later date when these other investigations are out of the road?</b></p> <p><b>Mr Grant</b>—That is a matter for the minister to decide on the basis of the—</p> <p><b>CHAIR</b>—The minister has taken that on notice.</p> <p><b>Senator Sherry</b>—I will take that notice.</p>
CC - 01	8	Coleck	<p><i>Stimulus package – date the department became involved (question for EC branch)</i></p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—With respect to the stimulus package, the only involvement that the department would have would be with the EC payments—is that correct?</p>

			<p><b>Mr Quinlivan</b>—Correct.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Was the department asked for any specific input into the stimulus package?</p> <p><b>Mr Quinlivan</b>—We were involved in the very final stage of decision making on that specific element, but that was the only involvement.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—When would that have brought you into the process? You said ‘the very final’.</p> <p><b>Mr Quinlivan</b>—I cannot recall the precise dates, but when the EC people come later in the morning, if you like, we could go through it. I will make sure I have the dates.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—<b>So we would get the date the department was approached from those involved in that process, which would have been those involved in the EC process?</b></p> <p><b>Mr Quinlivan</b>—I will make sure we have that detail when they come to the table.</p>
CC - 02	25	Milne	<p><i>Australia’s Farming Future and the Climate Change and Productivity Research Program spend for the last year.</i></p> <p><b>Senator MILNE</b>—I will ask them that when we get to ABARE. <b>We will go then to Australia’s Farming Future and the Climate Change and Productivity Research Program. Can you tell us what the money has been spent on in the last year and how much has been spent?</b></p> <p><b>Mr Mortimer</b>—It might be best if I take that on notice to give you the details.....</p>
CC - 03	46-47	Abetz	<p><i>Regulatory impact statement into banning the importation of illegally logged timber – publicly available or to the minister and length of time of response by the minister?</i></p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—On banning the importation of illegally logged timber: again, at the last estimates we were told that guidelines were being developed. Can you give us an update on where that is at?</p> <p><b>Mr Talbot</b>—We are currently having a regulatory impact statement done. The Centre for International Economics is conducting that work for us. We are hoping to have that work on the regulatory impact statement completed by 30 June.</p> <p><b>Senator ABETZ</b>—Would the regulatory impact statement—if I may interrupt, Senator Colbeck—be on the basis of a voluntary scheme? On what sort of a scheme is the impact statement being predicated?</p> <p><b>Mr Talbot</b>—The regulatory impact statement would look at a range of options—anything from some sort of voluntary approach to some sort of very strict legal approach.</p> <p><b>Senator ABETZ</b>—So it would cover the full gamut of options?</p> <p><b>Mr Talbot</b>—It would cover the full gamut of options. There would be an issues paper in March and an options paper in May. And there is a very large consultation process going on.</p> <p><b>Senator ABETZ</b>—When do you expect that to report?</p> <p><b>Mr Talbot</b>—We expect it to be finalised around 30 June.</p> <p><b>Senator ABETZ</b>—<b>Will that be made publicly available, or is it a report to the minister and at his discretion to release?</b></p> <p><b>Mr Talbot</b>—<b>My understanding is that it would be a report to the minister and at his discretion, but I had better take that on notice and clarify it.</b></p>
CC - 04	47	Colbeck/Abetz	<p><i>Importation of illegal logged timber</i></p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Once that report is received, what is the process after that?</p> <p><b>Mr Mortimer</b>—The report would then go to the minister, the department would advise the minister on the pros</p>

			<p>and cons of the different options, the minister will make up his mind and, depending on the nature of the arrangements—and, indeed, how extensive they are—the minister may wish to go to cabinet, but we do not know that at this stage.</p> <p><b>Senator ABETZ</b>—Minister, I assume this is a report to Mr Burke?</p> <p><b>Senator Sherry</b>—Yes, it is.</p> <p><b>Senator ABETZ</b>—<b>Can you take on notice for us the question of how quickly Mr Burke would anticipate that he would be able to respond to the RIS?</b></p> <p><b>Senator Sherry</b>—I will take it on notice.</p>
CC - 05	47	Colbeck	<p><i>Preparing forest industries for climate change – program expenditure to date</i></p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—<b>So how are you going against budgeted expenditure for that \$8 million?</b></p> <p><b>Mr Mortimer</b>—Let me step back a bit there. <b>I do not know what the funding profile for that \$8 million is over a number of years. I would have to take that on notice and come back to you.</b> My notes say that \$1.2 million of that \$8 million is provided for expending in 2008-09.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Yes. So it does not look as though you are going to have much chance of spending that, unless it is going to be gobbled up in preparing draft submissions.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—That cannot be right. What you are saying is that you have got a lump of money that you will expend across all of those programs and it does not really matter which program it is allocated to.</p> <p><b>Mr Mortimer</b>—No, no; the preparing of the materials is being funded by the department, Senator. I will take that one on notice.</p>
CC - 06	48	Colbeck	<p><i>Preparing forest industries for climate change</i></p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—The only one you have got any chance of spending any money on is boosting the export of forest products, and, given the submission level that you have got, I do not think—what component of the \$4.9 million is in that?</p> <p><b>Mr Talbot</b>—It basically is \$4.9 million for this financial year across—</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—That cannot be right. What you are saying is that you have got a lump of money that you will expend across all of those programs and it does not really matter which program it is allocated to.</p> <p><b>Mr Mortimer</b>—No, no. If I can just come in there, <b>Senator, it is probably best if we take on notice the reporting of expenditure to date against those programs, if that helps.</b> But I would also observe that there are still four months of the financial year to go and it is difficult—indeed, probably unhelpful—to speculate about what the end-of-year outcome will be.</p>
CC - 07	48	Colbeck	<p><i>Forestry webpage not updated</i></p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—<b>Is there any reason why the webpage has not been upgraded since 16 June 2008?</b></p> <p><b>Mr Mortimer</b>—I will take that on notice. I was not aware of that, I have to say. This is on forestry, is it?</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—According to the latest version of the forestry page that I have got, it was last reviewed on 16 June 2008 and that was a printout that was done on 21 February 2009.</p> <p><b>Senator ABETZ</b>—That would confirm the answer that forestry is going along as normal underresourced.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—I think it reflects that there is not much going on at all, quite frankly.</p> <p><b>Mr Mortimer</b>—<b>I will take that on notice, Senator.</b></p>

CC -08	51	Abetz	<p><i>Prescribed fuel reduction burns – has the department or the minister asked the state governments how much they are doing in recent years?</i></p> <p><b>Senator ABETZ</b>—And I am sure you would be right on top of it, Mr Quinlivan, if there was such a move, so thank you for that. <b>Has the federal government pursued the state governments to get an indication as to how much prescribed fuel reduction burning they have undertaken in recent years?</b> I recall that the Western Australian government had nothing to hide and provided us figures from 1985 right through to 2007 in relation to the areas that were burnt—by prescribed burn area by wildfire in their state. That information was sought from New South Wales and Victoria and surprisingly never materialised during my time. <b>Is that being pursued by the federal department to get that out of their state counterparts?</b></p> <p><b>Mr Quinlivan</b>—We are not sure of the answer to that question, Senator. We will have to take that on notice.</p> <p><b>Senator ABETZ</b>—Yes, take that on notice. Minister, could I invite the minister that you represent to ask his state counterparts to provide us with that sort of information? I think it would be most instructive because we had all sorts of statements at the time coming out of Mr Thwaites. At the time he was saying, ‘We have a plan to burn so many hectares,’ but when you asked, ‘How many hectares were burnt?’ it was apparent that it was a very small subset of what they had allegedly planned. And just in case there needs to be any further background for staff, there was a Financial Review article on 24 April 2007 and other articles around about that time. Also, on 25 April in the Weekly Times Mr Thwaites said: ‘Victoria was doing as much mitigation work as possible.’ I do not think anybody would agree with that statement today. All I am asking is that something positive comes out of the very, very serious and devastating events in recent weeks as, might I add, Minister, occurred in our home state of Tasmania after the 1967 bushfires. That lesson was learnt, well and truly, and fuel reduction burns were then undertaken on a very sensible and ongoing basis for about 20 years and then it fell out of fashion because a new ideology took over. I think we have to get back to what we learnt from the ’67 fires, from the Victorian fires—I inspected the mountain ash there; it was just devastating—and from New South Wales as well. The fuel management issue in New South Wales and Victoria left a lot to be desired. The most tragic thing is that, at the ministerial council meeting I was at, the people that I crossed swords with were John Thwaites from Victoria and Phil Koperberg from New South Wales. And they were the two states that had the worst record and still do not seem to have learnt. And I say that, as I said earlier, in a non-partisan way. I would encourage the government and the department to really ramp this area up because it is going to be more and more important as the years go by and as our population spreads into the bushland areas of Australia. I will leave it at that and just encourage—</p> <p><b>Senator Sherry</b>—In response to the question that is contained within that statement, I will pass on the suggestion to the minister and I will take on notice what his response is to your suggestion. If it is in the positive—that states are requested to provide such information—I would further take on notice that the data that is provided by the states, if it is provided, is also provided on notice.</p>
CC - 09	52	Macdonald	<p><i>Bushfire vulnerability of forests – comparison study of before and after logging.</i></p> <p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—Using Victoria as an example, when there was logging in those forests you had a group of people who understood the forests, who would back-burn, who put through fire trails and had big machinery around, who were skilled and adept and who were paid to look after these things. <b>Mr Talbot, has any assessment ever been done which would give us an indication of how much more the forests are vulnerable now than they used to be when there was logging in them?</b></p>

			<b>Dr O’Connell</b> —We will take that on notice, Senator. Certainly there is a fair amount of research work done under the CRC for bush fire reduction or whatever it is called. And it may be that that area has been looked at.
CC - 10	52	Macdonald	<p><i>Forests – has there been studies done on loss of trees and cost of carbon emissions due to logging compared to bushfires?</i></p> <p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—Okay, that would be good. Forestry was shut down in a lot of these areas because we wanted to save the trees. Has anyone ever done a comparison with what trees we lost through logging compared to the horrendous loss of trees, amongst other things, not even thinking about human life and animal life, but just trees alone? That is, <b>the comparison between trees we lost from logging and trees we lost due to the horrendous wildfires</b>. What impact has that had on greenhouse emissions and carbon emissions generally? <b>I am wondering if anyone has done work on the cost of carbon emissions from logging compared to the sorts of carbon emissions we have when these forests are devastated because they are not properly maintained and, as Senator Abetz pointed out, the fuel reduction is not dealt with. Do you know if anyone has done work on that?</b></p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—Again, I suggest we could take that on notice and see what there is in terms of both the bushfire CRC and other areas that have been doing work in this area.</p>
CC – 11	Written	Colbeck	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How many applications for Exceptional Circumstances (EC) Exit Grants were made in the 2007-08 and 2008-09 financial years and what is the State/Territory breakdown for applications?</li> <li>2. How many EC Exit Grants were paid in the 2007-08 and 2008-09 financial years and what is the State/Territory breakdown for applications?</li> <li>3. For what reasons were applications deemed unsuccessful?</li> <li>4. How are those who are unsuccessful informed? Are reasons for the denial fully explained?</li> </ol>
CC - 12	Written	Colbeck	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Will the new Exceptional Circumstances scheme be ready to start on July 1 2009 as promoted?</li> <li>2. Will Exit Grants be part of the new scheme?</li> </ol>
CC - 13	Written	Colbeck	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. There is a budget for the Climate Change Adjustment Program Advice and Training Grants of \$8.9 million for 2008-09. Are the Advice and Retraining Grants (which fall under the heading Drought Assistance on the DAFF website) taken from this same pool of \$8.9 million?</li> <li>2. What is the total amount of EC Drought Assistance Advice and Retraining Grants made to date in 2008-09.</li> <li>3. Can you provide a breakdown of the types of farming operations involved and the type of advice provided?</li> <li>4. What is the total number of Advice and Training Grants made under CAPP to date 2008-09? Again, is there a breakdown of the operations involved and the type of advice provided?</li> </ol>

			5. Is the uptake for these programs lower than expected? Is it likely there will be an underspend and what is the estimated value of this underspend?
CC – 14	Written	Williams	<b>Exception Circumstances Drought Funding</b> 1. How many regions are currently receiving exceptional circumstances drought funding? 2. What percentage of Australia’s agriculture country is this?
CC – 15	Written	Williams	<b>Exception Circumstances Drought Funding</b> How many regions will be eligible to receive exceptional circumstances funding from 1 April 2009?
CC – 16	Written	Williams	<b>Exception Circumstances Drought Funding</b> What will be the estimated savings as a result of cancelling drought EC areas as announced in the Minister Media Release of 12 February 2009?
CC – 17	Written	Williams	<b>Exception Circumstances Drought Funding</b> What is the average interest rate paid on which EC Interest Rate subsidies have been paid?
CC - 18	Written	Williams	<b>Exception Circumstances Drought Funding</b> 1. Will the government be increasing the EC Interest Rate cap for eligible farmers? 2. How many farmers have already reached the cap?
CC - 19	Written	Williams	<b>Exception Circumstances Drought Funding</b> Is the Government reviewing any regions which have been not been extended beyond April 2009?
CC – 20	Written	Williams	<b>Exception Circumstances Drought Funding</b> How many farmers are currently receiving EC assistance?
CC – 21	Written	Williams	<b>Exception Circumstances Drought Funding</b> Please provide a region by region breakdown of how many farmers and the dollar amount are receiving the EC Interest Rate Subsidy and or the EC Household Support for the following years 2006/07, 2007/8 and estimated for 2008/09.
CC – 22	Written	Williams	<b>Exception Circumstances Drought Funding</b> 1. What transitional support is available for farmers who have been taken out of EC areas?

			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. What are the criteria used to access any transitional support?</li> <li>3. How many farmers from the Brewarrina region in NSW have been able to access the transitional support?</li> </ol>
CC - 23	Written	Williams	<p><b>Exception Circumstances Drought Funding</b>  How many exceptional circumstances exit grants have been paid in the past 12 months, how many are outstanding or waiting to be approved?</p>
CC - 24	Written	Williams	<p><b>Exception Circumstances Drought Funding</b>  Please provide an electorate by electorate breakdown of successful applicants and the amount of each exit grant in that electorate.</p>
CC - 25	Written	Williams	<p><b>Exception Circumstances Drought Funding</b>  <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How many applications were made for the exit grants? Please provide an electorate by electorate break down.</li> <li>2. Why were these exit grants unsuccessful?</li> </ol> </p>
CC – 26	Written	Williams	<p><b>Exception Circumstances Drought Funding</b>  Does the Government consider this grant program to have been a success?</p>
CC – 27	Written	Williams	<p><b>Exception Circumstances Drought Funding</b>  Will the Government change the criteria for the exit grants to allow more people to be eligible?</p>
CC - 28	Written	Williams	<p><b>Exception Circumstances Drought Funding</b>  <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Are applicants who have been unsuccessful for the exit grants informed of the reasons their application has not been approved?</li> <li>2. If not, why not?</li> </ol> </p>
CC -29	Written	Williams	<p><b>Exception Circumstances Drought Funding</b>  <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How many applicants for the exit grant who have been refused have appealed the decision?</li> <li>2. How many appeals avenues are available to them?</li> </ol> </p>
CC - 30	Written	Williams	<p><b>Exception Circumstances Drought Funding</b>  <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Have any of the rejected applicants taken their appeal to the Ombudsman?</li> <li>2. What were the grounds of their appeals? Were any of them successful?</li> </ol> </p>

CC - 31	Written	Williams	<p><b>Exception Circumstances Drought Funding</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Have any of the State Governments written to the Government asking for any regions which were removed or are to be removed from EC in the past twelve months to be either reviewed or made applications for the region to be returned to EC status?</li> <li>2. Which State Governments have made requests and for what regions?</li> <li>3. What were the grounds for their appeals?</li> <li>4. Were any of them successful?</li> </ol>
CC - 32	Written	Williams	When will the Government finalise its response to its \$3 million plus Drought Review?
CC - 33	Written	Williams	How much money is currently held by farmers in FMDs?
CC - 34	Written	Williams	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Is it a fact that under the Kyoto protocols that a fire started by man such as prescribed burns are counted as emissions, yet a fire started by lightning is not included as an emission?</li> <li>2. How many tonnes of carbon are estimated to have been released by State Government National Parks and Reserves as a result of bushfires in 2003/04 to 2008/09?</li> <li>3. Does this not make the National Parks and reserves the greatest carbon polluters of all land managers both private and public in Australia?</li> <li>4. What steps are being taken to reduce the carbon footprint of National Parks and reserves in Australia?</li> <li>5. Who would be responsible for any carbon being release as a result of bushfires from on private land where individuals had sold carbon credits under the Government's proposed CPRS?</li> </ol>
SRM - 01	53	Milne	<p><i>Native Vegetation Regional Pilot Projects</i></p> <p><b>Senator MILNE</b>—Thank you, Chair. I will just reiterate. <b>I just wanted to have a report on the Native Vegetation Regional Pilot Projects.</b> I understand from your annual report last year that you expected the knowledge and experience from these pilot projects to lead to established guidelines and templates that inform future national programs et cetera. I want to know where the evaluation of those projects is up to, what has been discovered, and have we got the guidelines and templates underway? What is the story?</p> <p><b>Mr Hunter</b>—I am not sure that we have a knowledge of that here at the table just now. Could we get an annual report page reference and, hopefully, get back to you on that before the day is out, if that is something that falls within the area of Sustainable Resource Management?</p> <p><b>Senator MILNE</b>—Yes. <b>It is page 39 and 40 under 'Natural Resources Access and Management' in the 2007-08 annual report,</b> in which you say that by early this year it would all be finished and evaluated. <b>I was interested to know whether these pilot projects are finished, what are the lessons from them and what is the</b></p>



			<p><b>evaluation—all those kinds of issues.</b></p> <p><b>Mr Shaw</b>—I can confirm the pilots have been completed and we are undertaking some reviews of those at the moment. I am sorry I did not understand your question at the beginning.</p> <p><b>Senator MILNE—So what can you tell me about what you have learnt?</b></p> <p><b>Mr Shaw</b>—I am sorry, I do not have that information. I am happy to take it on notice and provide it to the committee, but I do not have it with me here today. I am sorry.</p> <p><b>Senator MILNE</b>—Guidelines and templates were meant to be developed as a result of them. Are they being developed and for what? Guidelines and templates to do what?</p> <p><b>Mr Shaw</b>—If I could take that on notice, Senator, I will get back to you.</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—I think some of this work was being undertaken by the Bureau of Rural Sciences on our behalf, so it may be that we have some further information from BRS and we can make sure we capture that when they come on.</p> <p><b>Senator MILNE</b>—Particularly, I do want to know what has come about, because that pertains to some of the remarks that have been made about managing native vegetation. I am very interested to know what we have learnt from those and what the templates are for, what the guidelines are for, what the BRS are saying about it and anything else that we can find out in relation to that.</p> <p><b>Mr Shaw</b>—Senator, I will see if I can get that information this afternoon.</p>
SRM - 02	60	Macdonald	<p><i>Defeating the Weed Menace – total spend and replacement program details.</i></p> <p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—Take this on notice in view of the time—can you confirm for me in writing <b>what the total funding for Defeating the Weed Menace was and then point out to me what the replacement program is and what money is involved and over what period of time?</b></p> <p><b>Mr Shaw</b>—Yes.</p>
SRM - 03	60-61	Macdonald	<p><i>NRM groups – current staff levels and whether money from the stimulus package can be used to increase these levels.</i></p> <p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—<b>Can I also ask you on notice if you have—and I appreciate you do not do this—any indication of the staff employed in NRM groups and whether your department is able to use the \$42 billion spending package to try and get some funds to create employment projects in parts of Australia which perhaps would not otherwise benefit from the \$42 billion.</b> I am referring to remoter country areas that employ three or four people in these NRM groups, most of which, on my understanding, have now been dismissed. <b>Could you tell me if there is somewhere you could go to in the structure of the \$42 billion package to try and get some money for employment related to NRM.</b></p>
SRM - 04	61	Macdonald	<p><i>Reef Rescue package – evidence of tangible work done in Queensland.</i></p> <p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—... Thirdly—and this is not on notice—can anyone tell me what actual tangible work has been done in relation to the Reef Rescue package, and I do not mean making plans, having conferences or doing assessments. Has any work actually been done in the last 12 months as part of the Reef Rescue package?</p> <p><b>Mr Shaw</b>—In relation to Reef Rescue, \$30 million was allocated in 2008-09 budget for Reef Rescue. That focused on the reef water quality component.</p> <p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—I know the money has been allocated. People are telling me the money has been</p>

			<p>allocated but has not been spent or, if it has, there is no tangible evidence—</p> <p><b>CHAIR</b>—Sorry to interrupt. I urge you to put this on notice, because Senator Colbeck is waiting for a couple of questions as well.</p> <p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—I am just finishing. What I really want to know is have they planted trees along this section of the coastline to stop run-off. What practical things can I see for the money that has been allocated?</p> <p><b>Mr Shaw</b>—I can tell you that for 2008-09 under the water quality grants \$24.125 million has been paid into the Queensland government’s single holding account.</p> <p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—That is the trouble—it goes to the Queensland government’s holding account and that is where it stops. <b>So I am asking you on notice—we have not got time now—to actually ask the Queensland government what they spent it on, although you will only get a dodgy answer now. I want to know where I can go and see, somewhere along the coast of Queensland, the money having been spent on something. Can you do that?</b></p> <p><b>Mr Shaw</b>—Certainly.</p>
SRM - 05	61	Colbeck	<p><i>Open grants (including Landcare grants) – breakdown of the applications into the various streams, allocated funding and amount applied for.</i></p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—On the Landcare grant round that has recently been announced, can you give us information on the value of applications received versus the amount of money that was actually handed out? I am trying to get a sense of the demand out there versus what is available. I have had very similar experiences to that which Senator Macdonald has had—that is, concerns being expressed to me about the future of Landcare across Tasmania. They basically believe they do not have one. I would be interested to know what the application amount was versus the amount that was actually handed out.</p> <p><b>Mr Shaw</b>—Senator, are you referring to the open grants which Landcare was a component of?</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—There was an announcement on 20 November 2008 of \$8.9 million in Landcare projects. It is that allocation. And I have all the ones that have been granted so I do not need those. I am just interested in what the application level was.</p> <p><b>Mr Shaw</b>—<b>We received 1,300 applications under open grants. They were not all Landcare and I would need to take that on notice to get a breakdown of the number that related to Landcare out of that total.</b></p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—You are talking about the total funding available under Caring for our Country as well in those 1,300, aren’t you? So there would be applications that would be hived off to different streams?</p> <p><b>Mr Shaw</b>—That is correct.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—<b>So I do not have to go through the process again later, could you provide us with a comprehensive breakdown of the various streams, allocated funding and the amount that was actually applied for?</b></p> <p><b>Mr Shaw</b>—Okay.</p>
SRM - 06	61-62	Colbeck	<p><i>Torres Strait commercial line fishery re-allocation – Difference between budgeted figure of \$7.5M and cost provided to last estimates of \$7.83M.</i></p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Thank you. I want to go onto fishing. <b>Going back to the previous estimates, I asked a question on the final cost of the buybacks in the Torres Strait commercial line fishery re-allocation. The information came back that the Commonwealth provided \$7.83 million. The original figure was \$7.5. I was</b></p>

			<p><b>just interested in the difference.</b></p> <p><b>Mr Pittar</b>—I am going to have to take that one on notice. The amount of \$7½ million was in fact the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry’s contribution to the buyback. The total amount of the buyback was \$10½ million, which included also a contribution from the Torres Strait Regional Authority. In terms of the precise difference between 7.3 and 7.5, that is something I am going to have to take on notice.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—So 7.83 is the amount that we ended up putting in, so more than 7.5 was initially budgeted. That is what I am after. So it was not 7.3; it is 7.83.</p> <p><b>Mr Pittar</b>—Yes, 7.83.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—But you still do not know the answer?</p> <p><b>Mr Pittar</b>—I do not have that detail with me.</p>
SRM - 07	62-63	Macdonald	<p><i>Recreational fishing Industry Development Strategy Advisory Committee – report on meeting held 25-26 February 2009.</i></p> <p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—There is a meeting on Wednesday and Thursday. Could you give us the results of that as a question on notice after the event?</p> <p><b>Mr Pittar</b>—I would be happy to consult with the minister’s office on what information it may wish to put forward in that context. The minister is yet to meet with the committee as a whole, and I will suggest to the minister’s office that they consider that question.</p> <p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—Give us a report, whatever you can report on that that.</p>
SRM - 08	64	Milne	<p><i>Australian Agriculture and Natural Resources Online – department’s use of the database.</i></p> <p><b>Senator MILNE</b>—Dr O’Connell, did you use that database in looking at these projects?</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—The relevant people, of course, are in the climate change division, so I would have to take that on notice. But certainly, as Dr Robinson said, we are part of the CCRSPI process. It is not that it is a separate process. We are partners in the exercise, so these things are well coordinated.</p> <p><b>Senator MILNE</b>—I would like you to take that on notice, because I would like to know what they took away from that analysis that will inform the grants. Dr Robinson, you just said a minute ago there were a couple of conclusions after the analysis that became apparent. What were they?</p> <p><b>Dr Robinson</b>—I am sorry, Senator, I cannot recall off the top of my head the detail. But, for example, the one I do recall that we shared with the Senate and the committee is that there are about 12 projects on soil carbon around the country out of that 404. But that is the only specific one I remember. I can take that on notice.</p>
SRM - 09	68	Colbeck	<p><i>AFMA appointments</i></p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—So all of the commissioners will be appointed for five years or will you have a process whereby it allows for rolling appointments—say, 50 per cent might get 2½ years to start with and then the other half will get five?</p> <p><b>Mr Hurry</b>—No. Under the initial arrangements, my understanding is it is five years.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Are there any limits on terms? Say, for example, can a commissioner serve only two terms or something of that nature?</p> <p><b>Mr Hurry</b>—I am unsure.</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—We will have to take that on notice, I think.</p>

			<b>Mr Hurry</b> —Yes, we will take it on notice.
SRM - 10	70	Colbeck	<p><i>Fisheries Research Program</i></p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Well, it was actually picked up by another vessel that was leaving at the same time and turned around and came back, Senator Sherry, but it was assisted by a wind change before it managed to get to Bellerive. I will leave that. I just want to broaden the horizons and bring in the rest of the ensemble at this stage. I want to go back to the fisheries research program. We were told at the previous estimates that \$1.1 million had been allocated to BRS. There was an allocation of \$1.87 million for this year. Where is the rest of that being allocated?</p> <p><b>Mr Pittar</b>—I am going to have to take that question on notice, I am afraid.</p>
SRM - 11	72	Siewart	<p><i>Securing our Fishing Future</i></p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—I want to go to the Securing our Fishing Future package. Can you tell me what percentage of the funding was used to actually buy out fishing effort, actual fishing effort, versus latent effort? Have you done an analysis of that?</p> <p><b>Mr Pittar</b>—I do not believe that the buyback distinguished between latent effort and other effort per se. It was essentially directed at buying back Commonwealth fishing concessions without necessarily making that distinction.</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—Okay. So you do not think, or you know?</p> <p><b>Mr Pittar</b>—I am unsure. If there is any difference we will come back to you on notice.</p>
SRM - 12	Written	Macdonald	<p>Please provide a comprehensive, interdepartmental matrix detailing:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. the full range of Natural Resource Management Programs (including Coastcare, Reef Rescue, NRM Groups Base Funding, Caring for Country) and their inter-relationships;</li> <li>2. a brief description of the purpose of each program;</li> <li>3. the term/timeline for each program;</li> <li>4. the amounts of funding available for whom for each program;</li> <li>5. timetable for funding applications;</li> <li>6. timetable for provision of funds to approved projects.</li> </ol> <p><i>Note: This question has also been directed to DEH/GBRMPA and any other relevant agencies/departments.</i></p>
SRM - 13	Written	Colbeck	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 46 grants were made under the Caring for our Country Landcare round in November 2008. What was the total amount of applications received? What is the State/Territory breakdown of the number of applications received?</li> <li>2. There are several organisations which are listed more than once? Was there any restriction on</li> </ol>

			<p>the number of applications an organisation or individual could put forward?</p> <p>3. Why does the web address <a href="http://www.landcare.gov.au">www.landcare.gov.au</a> now re-route through to the DAFF website?</p> <p>4. What future funding will the National Landcare Program receive?</p>
SRM - 14	Written	Colbeck	<p>What is the background of the project which saw \$500,000 allocated to the <a href="http://www.seafood.net.au">www.seafood.net.au</a> website? What future involvement will DAFF have with this project?</p>
SRM - 15	Written	Colbeck	<p>Why are there 11 vacant positions on the Australian Landcare Council, as per advice on Agency Appointments and Vacancies at 19<sup>th</sup> January 2009?</p>
Land and Water Australia - 01	65	Macdonald	<p><i>TRaCK program and the number of released reports</i></p> <p><b>Senator Ian Macdonald</b> – I do not mean this in a nasty way, but <b>what can we look at? What have you got to show for that so far? Are there reports?</b></p> <p><b>Dr Robinson</b> – Yes. The TRaCK program has released a number of reports. I could not name them off the top of my head, but they are available.</p> <p>Senator Ian Macdonald – <b>I think I have seen the earlier ones. I am just wondering if there have been any recent reports back to you, or from you back to the department</b></p> <p><b>Dr Robinson</b> – Certainly, we get our six monthly program reports, but I think you are referring to the technical or scientific reports. I would have to taken on notice the specific ones that have come in over the last six to 12 months.</p>
AFMA - 01	68	Colbeck	<p><i>Management Advisory Committee Rationalisation</i></p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—You mentioned your stakeholders. Who are the stakeholders that you are consulting with?</p> <p><b>Dr Rayns</b>—We have spoken with some of the current members and chairs of MACs. There is also the industry itself, particularly groups like the Commonwealth Fisheries Association, our peak body; scientific groups that are on our MACs; conservation NGOs; and recreational fishers.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Could you provide us with a list of your consultative group?</p> <p><b>Mr Hurry</b>—Yes.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—You can provide us with details of those.</p> <p><b>Dr Rayns</b>—We can, indeed.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—So the closing date for this feedback is 20 March?</p> <p><b>Dr Rayns</b>—I would have to check. It is a four-week consultation process, so that sounds about right.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Okay. And those that receive the stakeholder letters would be that list that you are giving us? When you provide me with that stakeholder information, I would be interested in both the initial stakeholder group and also those who received the letter, if you could take that as part of it.</p>
AFMA - 02	69-70	Colbeck	<p><i>E-lodgements</i></p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—How is the eLodgement service process going?</p>

			<p><b>Mr Hurry</b>—Reasonably good at this stage. We are looking for a start date for most of our suite of eprojects on 1 July.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—That is the date the fishers will be able to make their lodgements online?</p> <p><b>Mr Hurry</b>—The first part of the log system will go live in the northern prawn season, which should be 1 April. That will be the new part of the system. But we have run e-logs in the northern prawn system under an older arrangement for probably 18 months to two years now. We have actually redeveloped it and the new lot will start to roll out. But we have a suite of e-projects. There is e-licensing and there is a better method of quota trading that we will bring live on 1 July.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Okay. Do you have any specific information on those particular e-projects?</p> <p><b>Mr Hurry</b>—Yes, we do. We have been using it in the process of informing industry and I am quite happy to share that with you.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—I would appreciate that. Thanks very much. What has your feedback been on the eLodgement service, and what is your anticipated take-up—or is it a mandatory process?</p> <p><b>Mr Hurry</b>—On the estimations we did, we were looking for about an 80 per cent take-up on the system. But as we get into this and it becomes better tested, we would move it across most fisheries. I suspect we would be looking for a mandatory take-up on this, I would think, as we move forward because the benefits of this are getting as many as you can on an electronic log system so we can pull some of the paper based systems out of the organisation. That is where we are trying to head. But we are also conscious that some of the vessels we have in the fisheries do not have the electronics to allow them to use some of these technologies. So we know we will have to probably keep a small set on more paper based reporting, but the more we can get over the more efficiencies we gain as an organisation.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—How much have you spent on the system at the moment?</p> <p><b>Mr Hurry</b>—I would have to take that on notice and get you the figures, but I think on e-log it is probably about \$1.5 million.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—I would be interested in getting a sense of the costs of your other suite of projects as well. That would be good. What are your anticipated cost savings?</p> <p><b>Mr Hurry</b>—It depends on the take-up. I am happy to share what figures we have on that with you, but I would have to take the figures on this on notice.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Let us say an 80 per cent take-up, which is what you indicated you were aiming for. What sort of efficiencies would that bring you?</p> <p><b>Mr Hurry</b>—Let me take that one on notice for you and I will get the correct figures for you.</p>
AFMA - 03	71	Macdonald	<p><i>IUU vessels</i></p> <p><b>Mr Venslovas</b>—There is no sign of any IUU vessels inside the Australian or French zones. There is still the odd IUU vessel fishing in CCAMLR waters, but certainly not inside Australian waters.</p> <p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—Could you perhaps just on notice though give me the allocation of time for the <i>Oceanic Viking</i> to fisheries and to other matters, both in calendar year 2008 and up-to-date as far as you have them? I have another issue, very quickly, if I can just impose on Senator Colbeck for a second and then I will depart, for Mr Kalish—and you are listed to appear later in another section of the department, but it is here that I want to ask you this anyhow—you gave me a very good report on the IOTC after the last estimates. You talked about the internal performance review focusing on the effectiveness of the commission to fulfil its mandate. There</p>

			<p>was a meeting held in Kobe in January 2008. The first meeting of the review panel was held in February 2008. I am just wondering if you could give me an update, perhaps on notice, about the progress. You have given me a very detailed answer on notice from the last estimates, which is good. I am just wondering if there has been any further progress or if we are just stalled—or rather if the international community is stalled not us?</p>
TMA - 01	72	Macdonald	<p><i>Indian ocean tuna commission</i>  <b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—What were the recommendations? I guess that is what I was asking you?  <b>Mr Kalish</b>—I have identified the weaknesses and there is a suite of recommendations. The report will be available on the IOTC website as well.  <b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—It is not available yet?  <b>Mr Kalish</b>—I do not believe it is on the website yet. It will be available after the—  <b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—Is it appropriate for me to ask you on notice to let me have those recommendations?  <b>Mr Kalish</b>—We can certainly make available a copy of the report, I believe. I do not know if that is a problem.</p>
TMA - 02	78	Colbeck	<p><i>Tariffs for Russia</i>  <b>Senator COLBECK</b>—So it is effectively an open supply market, but it has got very high requirements with respect to product quality.  <b>Mr Read</b>—Yes. I will confirm that. Quota into Russia is something that I am not familiar; it is certainly something I have not heard talked about. What I have heard as being the issue is your last statement around the performance requirements.  <b>Mr Kalish</b>—There may be some tariffs.  <b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Yes, that was going to be on the next point: are there tariffs and what are the levels of tariff into the country?  <b>Mr Morris</b>—We know there are tariffs certainly on cattle going in there, but I am not quite sure of the levels on meat.  <b>Ms Anderson</b>—I am sure there are tariffs on beef as well, but we would just have to check that for you, Senator.</p>
TMA - 03	96-97	McGauran	<p><i>Importation of New Zealand apples</i>  <b>Senator McGAURAN</b>—I am not sure this is Biosecurity either—and I hope this question was not asked while I was watching the monitor in my room—but I just wanted a status report on the WTO challenge of New Zealand against Australia's quarantine rules on importation of apples.  <b>Dr O'Connell</b>—That would be trade and market access division.  <b>Senator McGAURAN</b>—Yes, I know.  <b>Dr O'Connell</b>—They would probably still have—  <b>Senator McGAURAN</b>—Was that question asked?  <b>Dr O'Connell</b>—No, but we probably still have the relevant officer who can answer if you want to do that.  <b>CHAIR</b>—No worries. While we are waiting on that, Senator McGauran, do you have any other questions?  <b>Senator McGAURAN</b>—Not offhand.  <b>Dr O'Connell</b>—While Mr Morris is getting his notes together, it is probably worth saying that we expect that this</p>

			<p>dispute is going on a bit longer than has previously been expected in the panel. The WTO panel ruling is now not expected until early next year. We were expecting it this year, which seems unlikely now. I can probably filibuster a bit more if I need to.</p> <p><b>Mr Morris</b>—Yes, unfortunately our expert has disappeared for the moment. We are just looking through our brief on it—but, certainly, we are actively progressing that case. As I understand the situation at the moment, a number of experts have been selected and questions have been asked of those experts from the panel and at this stage we are waiting to get the replies from the experts. Those are due on 10 March. Those expert replies will then be considered by both the Australian side and the New Zealand side, and we have a chance to comment on those by 9 April and then an opportunity for written rebuttals on each other’s comments by 21 April. So at this stage that is where we are at. We are not expecting a panel ruling at this stage until early 2010.</p> <p><b>Senator McGAURAN</b>—<b>What has been the budgeted cost? How much is all this going to cost Australia?</b></p> <p><b>Mr Morris</b>—All WTO disputes are handled through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, although other agencies are also involved—such as Attorney-Generals and ourselves—so the actual cost would involve costs from a number of agencies. I obviously do not have the costs of all of those agencies with me.</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—<b>We could take that on notice and see if we can get a consolidated view.</b></p>
TMA – 04	79	Milne	<p><i>Food miles</i></p> <p><b>Senator MILNE</b>—We have raised in this committee before the issue of carbon footprints and food miles and the potential of the EU to use food miles as a non-trade tariff barrier. So I just wondered we were up to in Australia in addressing this issue of actually establishing what our carbon footprint is in relation to our export primary products into various markets, including the EU.</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—That is Climate Change division, I am afraid, Senator. That would have been the place to ask that one. We can take that on notice and give you an account.</p>
TMA - 05	Written	Siewert	<p>I understand in the current negotiations around an FTA with Indonesia, Indonesia has asked for assistance from the Australian government to establish its own domestic beef and dairy cattle industry. Has the Department any specific details about the form this assistance will take and the costs of this assistance?</p>
TMA - 06	Written	Fierravanti-Wells	<p><b>DAFF: Free Trade Agreement with China</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In relation to the proposed agreement, what aspects pertaining to wool and the industry is it envisaged could be covered by the FTA with China?</li> <li>2. Have any discussions commenced in relation to the same?</li> </ol>
TMA - 07	Written	Fierravanti-Wells	<p><b>DAFF: Free Trade Agreement with China</b></p> <p>Is the Department aware of difficulties being encountered by wool traders as a consequence of credit limitations by insurance companies such as Atradius, formerly EFIC? If so, is this an area where DAFF has any responsibility or involvement? Please provide details.</p>



TMA - 08	Written	Williams	How much funding is being made available to industry to help under take all aspects of accessing the Chinese markets? Please provide a breakdown of which industries/commodities are receiving funding and how much funding they are receiving?
TMA - 09	Written	Siewert	The government has funded 95 restraint boxes in Indonesia at a cost of \$705,000.  1. What type of restraint boxes are these, i.e. how are the cattle restrained, are they slaughtered whilst upright, and are they stunned prior to slaughter? 2. Where have they been installed? 3. On whose advice were these boxes provided and did the government seek the advice of animal welfare experts to ensure that these devices were humane?"
TMA - 10	Written	Siewert	Once equipment (financed under the IAC-LATP) is installed, what government checks are in place to ensure that it is operating appropriately and in a manner that protects the welfare of animals?
TMA - 11	Written	Siewert	Is the government seeking advice outside of the live export industry when determining animal welfare funding priorities and appropriate initiatives and equipment in the Middle East?
TMA - 12	Written	Siewert	How is the Department measuring and monitoring animal welfare outcomes desired from the IAC-LATP?
TMA - 13	Written	Williams	1. Is the Government aware of market access issues surrounding red meat into Russia? 2. What is the issue and what support is the government giving red meat exporters such as the Kangaroo industry to help regain these valuable markets?
Quarantine and Biosecurity Policy Unit - 01	83 - 84	Heffernan	<i>FMD virus</i> <b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b> —No, I am not going to the thinking of the panel at all. I am going to who made the submission that said we should bring in live foot and mouth, which has alarmed all farmers in Australia. <b>Dr O’Connell</b> —You said what was the seed of the panel’s thinking. <b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b> —No. Who sowed the seed with the submission to the panel? I was talking about the submitters to the panel, nothing to do with the panel. <b>Dr O’Connell</b> —I think we could probably— <b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b> —Because if the panel did not have a seed sown and they took it upon themselves, they were completely out of order. <b>Dr O’Connell</b> —We could take that on notice. ..... <b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b> —But there is a recommendation. <b>Senator Sherry</b> —As far as the government is concerned, there are no plans to import live FMD viruses in

			<p>Australia. On the matter of who suggested it in a particular submission, if indeed any submission suggested it—</p> <p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b>—Well, no-one did, apparently.</p> <p><b>Senator Sherry</b>—we are taking it on notice and we will analyse the submissions to see if anyone specifically suggested it. Your approach to the witness is bordering on unreasonable badgering.</p>
Quarantine and Biosecurity Policy - 02	89	Williams	<p><i>Government timetable of responding formally to the beale review</i></p> <p><b>Senator WILLIAMS</b>—Perhaps I should direct this to the minister: what is the government’s timetable of responding formally to the Beale review? Minister, would you know?</p> <p><b>Senator Sherry</b>—I do not know the precise date. Do you have any idea?</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—No. That is in the government’s decision-making process.</p> <p><b>Senator Sherry</b>—I will have to take that on notice.</p>
Quarantine and Biosecurity Policy - 03	90	McGauran	<p><i>Live virus samples of foot and mouth disease</i></p> <p><b>Extract from page 86</b></p> <p><b>Senator WILLIAMS</b>—Still on the <i>Land</i> newspaper, it says that the government has accepted, in principle, all recommendations from the Beale report. Minister Burke is quoted as saying: The principle here is that we make science-based decisions. It would be irresponsible to rule out ever allowing in live virus samples of foot and mouth disease. If there is an outbreak, live virus samples allow scientists to make the fastest and most accurate diagnosis of the virus strain, to determine the best vaccine to use. The government has clearly said they will accept in principle all recommendations from the Beale report, and here is the minister’s statement saying they would not rule out not importing it. My big concern is that, just like when the calicivirus was brought to Australia—as Senator Heffernan has said, they like playing with fire—if it gets out it will be the ruination of rural Australia. What I would like to hear from Minister Sherry representing Minister Burke is: can you give this committee a guarantee that the government will not import foot-and-mouth disease?</p> <p><b>Page 90</b></p> <p><b>Senator McGAURAN</b>—All right. It is simply not clear to those of us on this side of the table what the intentions of the government are—particularly as my colleague, Senator Williams, quoted the minister in the <i>Land</i> newspaper not ruling out the principle. It is just not clear. Can you rule it out? Make it clear now. Have you any instructions from the minister? To use the words ‘There is no proposal’ is simply not clear enough; it has to be ruled out.</p> <p><b>Senator Sherry</b>—I am happy to take your question on notice.</p>
Quarantine Biosecurity Policy - 04	Written	Colbeck	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Have there been any adjustments to the costs of the Beale Review as supplied following the October 2008 Estimates and if so what are the costs now?</li> <li>2. What was the individual breakdown of payments for each panellist and the chair of this Review?</li> <li>3. At what rate were these panellists paid?</li> </ol> <p>What are the breakdowns for the travel costs for this review?</p>

Quarantine Biosecurity Policy - 05	Written	Williams	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How much did the Beale Review cost?</li> <li>2. Please provide a breakdown of all individual costs</li> </ol>
Quarantine Biosecurity Policy - 06	Written	Williams	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is the Government's timetable for responding formally to the Beale Review?</li> <li>2. When will legislation be introduced?</li> </ol>
Quarantine Biosecurity Policy - 07	Written	Williams	Who has the Government consulted within industry on the Beale Reviews recommendations?
Quarantine Biosecurity Policy -08	Written	Williams	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Has industry welcomed all aspects of the Beale Review?</li> <li>2. Are there any alternative views within industry on any recommendations, particularly in relation to market access arrangements and establishing new markets, particularly import protocols in relation to quarantine matters including cost?</li> </ol>
Quarantine Biosecurity Policy - 09	Written	Williams	Why did the Government give in principled support to every single recommendation in the Beale Review without first consulting with industry?
Quarantine Biosecurity Policy - 10	Written	Williams	Is the government reviewing its 'in principle support' for any of the Beale Review recommendations?
Quarantine Biosecurity Policy - 11	Written	Williams	What is the estimated cost of implementing the Beale Review Recommendations? (Please provide a breakdown, including any additional costs and/or savings)
Quarantine Biosecurity Policy - 12	Written	Williams	Does the Government still give 'in principled support' to recommendation 59 of the Beale Review which in part states; <i>'The panel's view is that access to positive control samples such as the FMD virus is vital and should be permitted ... to approved laboratories and to AAHL (Australian Animal Health Laboratory.'</i>
AQIS - 01	93	Milne	<p><i>Didymo</i></p> <p><b>Senator MILNE</b>—This committee took a keen interest in didymo and tried to strengthen the quarantine arrangements in relation to it. I am aware of the changed passenger cards and so on in response to that and am pleased that that has occurred. I just wondered whether very many cases of contaminated fishing gear and that sort of thing have been picked up since there has been the increase public awareness campaign, and increased quarantine vigilance, if you like, in relation to that area.</p> <p><b>Dr Parker</b>—I would not have the exact figures on the numbers of fishing gear or other freshwater recreational material that is coming across the border. I can look into whether we are able to get that for you. I am</p>

			<p>not sure we keep it exactly be category, but certainly any of that material is intervened with and it is looked at and seen whether it is actually a risk of bringing didymo into this country.</p> <p><b>Senator MILNE</b>—So you cannot give me a sense of whether you are picking up contaminated material on a regular basis or not?</p> <p><b>Dr Parker</b>—There are over two and a half million passengers a year coming from New Zealand. The simple answer to that is yes, we are picking up material because we are looking at that sort of material.</p> <p><b>Senator MILNE</b>—I would appreciate anything that you can tell me about that. It only takes one, and the impact of didymo getting into our alpine systems, as you are well aware, is very serious.</p> <p><b>Dr Parker</b>—I will take that on notice and provide what I can.</p>
AQIS - 02	99	Heffernan	<p><i>Cattle out to sea</i></p> <p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b>—A previous owner of Airdmillan, a place up in the gulf, actually spotted some of their cattle 40 mile out to sea. I just wondered whether island-hopping—</p> <p><b>Mr Read</b>—Were they alive?</p> <p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b>—Yes, they were. It was a pretty sad event, I have to tell you.</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—I am just not quite sure what it is you are suggesting.</p> <p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b>—I just wonder whether, after a huge rain event, if there are any things that can be activated, because it is fairly catastrophic. It looks spectacular on the television, but there are on-the-ground effects of all of that and a lot of starving cattle. Take it on notice.</p>
AQIS - 03	Written	Heffernan	<p>Following the release of the BEALE Report, I understand the Rudd govt will establish a new and independent statutory authority to replace the AQIS and Biosecurity Australia.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How will this new authority differ from the old regime?</li> <li>2. How much will the new authority cost?</li> <li>3. Who will head up the new authority?</li> <li>4. There have been a number of quarantine breaches in recent years, how will the new authority operate to tackles any future breaches?</li> <li>5. Will any of the existing staff from AQIS and BA be transferred to the new authority?</li> <li>6. How will the new authority seek the support from the States and Territories?</li> </ol>
AQIS - 04	Written	Siewert	<p>The recommendation of the Beale Report from December 2008 was that export certification functions should return to 100 per cent cost recovery as scheduled at the beginning of July 2009.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is the timeline for the introduction of this cost recovery?</li> <li>2. Can you indicate the savings to the Government of this cost recovery?</li> </ol>

AQIS - 05	Written	Williams	<p>1. Given the Government's 'in principle support' for the Beale Review Recommendation has it acted on recommendation 79 which states;  <b>79</b> Export certification functions should return to 100 per cent cost recovery as scheduled at the beginning of July 2009, noting that this would require an early decision and announcement by the Government to allow businesses to prepare for the additional costs as well as for the necessary consultation on revised fee structures.</p> <p>2. Provide a breakdown of what it will cost each affected industry per annum to implement recommendation 79.</p> <p>3. Has the Government received any industry responses to this recommendation? If so what were they?</p> <p>4. How does increasing the costs to exporters increase our international competitiveness in the current financial circumstances, particularly given exports are expected to decline in the foreseeable future?</p>
AQIS - 06	Written	Siewert	<p>Currently the Government provides a 40% export subsidy.</p> <p>1. Can you provide some breakdown as to which industries this subsidies. Specifically what proportion of this subsidy is for the live animal export industry? Perhaps some figures over the past 10 years?</p>
AQIS - 07	Written	Heffernan	<p>40% increase in AQIS charges has been accepted by Cabinet, this 40% represents an additional \$32 million per annum cost to industry.</p> <p>1. Was there any consultation by the Beale Committee with the Australian Red Meat Sector during their review process on AQIS charges?</p> <p>2. Was there consultation with the Australian Red Meat Sector prior to the decision by Government of the 40% increase in AQIS charges?</p> <p>3. What is the value of this 40% increase to the Red Meat Industry?</p> <p>4. What is the direct cost impact of this 40% increase on AQIS services to an export processing facility? Is it a 40% increase to current costs? If not what the % costs increase? Is this figure closer to a 60-70% increase?</p> <p>5. Along with this decision on 40% increase has there been a corresponding review of the costs of the AQIS Meat Program to identify costs savings, efficiencies and a better quality of service?</p>
AQIS - 08	Written	Nash	<p>1. Is it correct that AQIS officers travel overseas to perform inspections?</p>

			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. For what reasons are inspectors required to travel internationally?</li> <li>3. How many overseas inspections have taken place since 1 July 2006 (breakdown of figures annually)?</li> <li>4. What method and class of transport do inspectors use when travelling overseas?</li> <li>5. What has been the cost of international travel for inspectors since 1 July 2006 (total cost and costs incurred for each individual trip)?</li> </ol>
AQIS - 09	Written	Williams	Can the department provide a list of all new and existing import applications for food and agriculture/fisheries/forestry products from China?
AQIS - 10	Written	Williams	What agriculture/food products are currently imported from China? Please provide a list of all imported food and agriculture products.
AQIS - 11	Written	Williams	What Australian agricultural/fisheries/forestry products are currently seeking permission from the Chinese Government to import permits into China?
AQIS - 12	Written	Williams	Other than melamine what else does Australia routinely test for in food products (fresh and manufactured) coming into Australia from China?
AQIS - 13	Written	Williams	Please provide in percentage terms and the number of tests conducted on food products (fresh and manufactured) being imported into Australia from China?
AQIS - 14	Written	Williams	Please update the previous list of all food inspected by AQIS during the 2008/09 financial year provided in during the last Senate Estimates Committee Hearing?
AQIS - 15	Written	Williams	How many of the items from China inspected by AQIS were rejected? What were the reasons for rejecting the shipments? Have any prosecutions been launched?
AQIS - 16	Written	Williams	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How many shipments of agriculture products were held up and or rejected by AQIS last year because of breaches to Australia's Quarantine rules in 2006/06, 2007/08 and 2008/09?</li> <li>2. What was the nature of these breaches?</li> <li>3. How many of the breaches resulted in the goods not being allowed into Australia?</li> <li>4. What happened to the goods?</li> <li>5. Have any prosecutions been launched?</li> <li>6. How many of these prosecutions were successful?</li> </ol>

AQIS - 17	Written	Siewert	1. Before granting export permits to exporters for live Australian cattle and sheep what specific checks does the government put in place to ensure that the animals can be transported, handled and slaughtered humanely in the importing country?
AQIS - 18	Written	Siewert	Could you please provide some figures on the cost of the live export industry with breakdowns as to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. the amount spent on administration?</li> <li>2. veterinarian costs of examining animals for fitness to transport?</li> </ol>
AQIS - 19	Written	Siewert	What is the financial value, to Australia, of live cattle export to Indonesia?
BA/AQIS - 01	Written	Williams	What Import Risk Assessments IRA's on Chinese products are currently under way?
PIAPH - 01	121-122	Colbeck	<p><i>Fundamental determinant</i></p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Thanks for that. We talked a bit about the cost recovery review process that you are going through at the moment. The old chestnut of minor uses and how you actually adequately research those particular minor uses and have effective label requirements for them: is that process going to be picked up as part of this review of charges? Are we continuing to progress with providing a better service for the sector that says it is always left out there on its own, which is minor use, and you end up with a lot of off-label uses that have got special permits and things of that nature? How are we progressing with dealing with that as an issue?</p> <p><b>Dr Bennet-Jenkins</b>—We are working in partnership with the department in relation to the minor use issue. We are also doing a lot of work in the international arena. We share an expert group on minor use at the OECD precisely to allow there to be better sharing of information and possibly data and assessments, so that one can streamline and have a better process for minor uses coming into Australia or approved in Australia.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—What are the key bottlenecks that you are facing? Funding is obviously one, but what are the key bottlenecks?</p> <p><b>Dr Bennet-Jenkins</b>—From our perspective, we do not coordinate or organise the research. That is very much for the grower groups to do, the industry to do. The bottleneck for us again is assisting in providing advice on the type of data that we need, streamlining how we might assess that data, providing and writing guidance documents to make it easier for people who need to apply. So our value proposition is also to free up resources to allow our officers to look at streamlining, how we actually set our data requirements and assess uses for minor use.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—So resource effectively is the fundamental determinant of where it is at?</p> <p><b>Dr Bennet-Jenkins</b>—From our perspective, yes.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—If you have the money, you can be more effective?</p> <p><b>Dr Bennet-Jenkins</b>—Yes.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—I might get Dr O'Connell to take a question on notice in respect of what</p>

			<p>considerations might be given to providing some additional resources in that area, in working with minor uses. I think I can understand that it might be a budget question, so I am not going to get an answer now, anyway.</p> <p>Dr O’Connell—I will take that on notice, yes.</p>
PIAPH - 02	Written	Williams	Other than AAHL which other laboratories in Australia would be ‘approved’ to handle live FMD virus?
PIAPH - 03	Written	Williams	Is the Government aware of any Laboratories where live FMD virus was found to have escaped and infected surrounding animals? Where and When? (Note it escaped from Purbright FMD World Reference Laboratory UK)
PIAPH - 04	Written	Williams	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Given the Government’s refusal to rule out importing live FMD virus into Australia will the Government compensate fully all Australian industries (livestock, tourism, meat, hides, natural fibres etc) if FMD was to escape and pay for all the cost associated with eradicating and regaining FMD free status without vaccination to OIE standards?</li> <li>2. If not why not?</li> </ol>
PIAPH - 05	Written	Williams	What is the estimated cost of an FMD outbreak to the Australian economy over a five year period?
PIAPH - 06	Written	Williams	Isn’t it a fact that Australia already enjoys a very good relationship with the Pak Chung Regional Reference Laboratory (FMD RRL) in Thailand?
PIAPH - 07	Written	Williams	Isn’t it a fact that this Laboratory currently receives live FMD virus samples from around the Southeast Asian Region and plays an integral part in the OIE Southeast Asian Foot and Mouth Disease Campaign, to which Australia has been a leading donor?
PIAPH - 08	Written	Williams	What discussions has the Government/Department had in relation to establishing a relationship between AAHL and the Thailand FMD Laboratory?
PIAPH - 09	Written	Williams	Has the Government had any discussions with their Thailand counterparts in relation to establish a closer relationship between AAHL and the Pak Chung FMD RRL?
PIAPH - 10	Written	Williams	What is the timeframe for moving towards a ‘twinning’ program between AAHL and Pak Chung which would result in resources and research being shared?



PIAPH - 11	Written	Williams	Isn't it a fact the at very little cost Australia scientist and veterinary staff could not only contribute a great deal in terms of scientific mentoring and research capabilities to the Pak Chung FMD RRL which would benefit not only Thailand but all ASEAN countries, but also have the ability to do research on live FMD virus's as well as allowing Australia to validate its inactive reagents used in diagnostic test?
PIAPH - 12	Written	Williams	Isn't a fact that Thailand specifically allows hazardous biological material like live FMD virus to be imported into the country for testing at Pak Chung FMD RRL and has been importing live FMD virus from neighbouring countries, including Myanmar, Vietnam, Cambodia and Malaysia for years?
PIAPH - 13	Written	Williams	Why couldn't Australia validate its diagnostic tests at Pak Chung FMD RRL?
PIAPH - 14	Written	Williams	Is it not a fact that Australia currently has a standing contract with at private company to produce FMD vaccine for Australia in the event it was need during an FMD outbreak? How much is this contract worth?
PIAPH - 15	Written	Williams	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How is the Australian Animal Health Laboratory at Geelong funded?</li> <li>2. How much of its funding comes from the Commonwealth Government, industry, or State Governments? (Provide a breakdown of individual funding in 2006/07, 2007/08, 2008/09?)</li> </ol>
PIAPH - 16	Written	Williams	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What type of work is undertaken at AAHL?</li> <li>2. What research is being undertaken at AAHL?</li> </ol>
PIAPH - 17	Written	Williams	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Was AAHL exempt from the Governments 4 percent efficiency dividend? If not why not?</li> <li>2. Was AAHL again subjected to the Government's additional 1.25% efficiency dividend? To what programs were these efficiency dividends made?</li> </ol>
PIAPH - 18	Written	Williams	<p>I refer you to the Document 'Labor's Plan for Primary Industries', Election 2007; Page 20 which states; Consideration of amendments to the Food Standards Code to clarify county of origin labelling requirements.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What 'Consideration' has the department undertaken to clarify country of origin labelling requirements?</li> <li>2. What are the current requirements for the country of origin labelling on fresh food and on processed food?</li> <li>3. Is it currently possible of a consumer to find out where processed food which is labelled 'packaged in Australia from import products' comes from?</li> <li>4. How would the consumers find out where the imported products came from?</li> <li>5. Is it possible for the department to find out where the imported products came from?</li> <li>6. Has the department undertaken any work or training exercises on being able to trace back and trace forward ingredients used in processed food?</li> </ol>

			7. Who within the Department has been talking to Treasury about amending the Trade Practices Act? When were these discussions held?
PIAPH - 19	Written	Williams	I refer you to the Document ‘Labor’s Plan for Primary Industries’, Election 2007; Page 20 which states; ‘Strengthening compliance arrangements’ 1. What work has the Department undertaken to strengthen food labelling compliance arrangements? 2. Has the department made any inspections of major retailers to ensure they are labelling country of origin the food properly? 3. Who within the Department has been talking to Treasury about amending the Trade Practices Act? When were these discussions held?
AWI - 01	109-110	Fierravanti-Wells	<i>Merino breeding ewe flock</i> <b>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS</b> —We have now got about 80 million sheep and that is projected to decrease to about 72 million in 2013. Increasing this demand presupposes there will be sufficient flock to sustain the growth. <b>What is the size of the current Merino breeding ewe flock?</b> <b>Mr Merriman</b> —It is generally recognised as about half the ewe flock. <b>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS</b> —What, about 40 million, 42 million? <b>Mr Merriman</b> —I would say about 40 million. I sell rams for a living and I can tell you that, in my business and everyone else’s business, this boat is going down like that and it is going to take a long time to bring it back up. The amount of crossbred rams we had this year was more than last year. You have got to start firstly by putting a Merino ram out before we can get more wool in the world. The graph is still going down. <b>Mr Olsson</b> — <b>I can take that on notice. I can get the actual figures for you.</b> <b>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS</b> —Yes, I would appreciate that. I am happy for you to take it on notice if you cannot provide it. Of those, say, 40 million or 42 million ewes, how many will be used for Merino breeding and how many will be used with meat-bred for breeding? <b>Mr Merriman</b> —It is the 40 million that is left, isn’t it? <b>Mr Olsson</b> —Once again, Chair, I think we can take that on notice, because we are getting statistical information coming through our forecasting committee as we speak. <b>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS</b> —Okay. <b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b> —Just to clarify the question that it is on notice. This will be whether there is a terminal sire or a— <b>Mr Olsson</b> —Or a Merino ram over the top of it. <b>Mr Merriman</b> —Yes, that is there. It would be dated. It would be more like 12 months ago.
AWI - 02	110-111	Fierravanti-Wells	<i>International retail and brand partners</i> <b>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS</b> — <b>In terms of your targeting the international retail and brand partners, have we actually seen an increase in orders in any of these firms?</b> <b>Mr Merriman</b> —The orders do not come to us. <b>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS</b> —But, surely, Mr Merriman, as one of the peak bodies or so-called peak bodies in the wool industry, you would be aware of the statistics in the industry. I mean, if one of your aims is to increase and to work with the top 200 international retail brands, I would assume that you would have at least

			<p>some statistics in terms of whether there has been an increase in these markets.</p> <p><b>Mr Merriman</b>—I could not tell you. Stuart might.</p> <p><b>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS</b>—Well, that is fine. I am happy, Mr Merriman, for that question to be taken on notice. I appreciate we do not have a lot of time this evening. I am just simply asking a question.</p> <p><b>Mr Merriman</b>—I can do that.</p> <p><b>Mr Olsson</b>—I would like to take that on notice. But just to give you a summary because your question is of interest to many wool growers in view of their investment via the levy and generous government contributions. The recent test marketing campaigns in the States were very interesting. We can give you that information. There has been a notable increase in certain sectors of some woollen knitwear that we organised through the American campaign, which we would love to show you. Secondly, the information coming in on the Japanese marketing program, the Korean marketing program and Asia's marketing program we are collecting now on actual woollen garments that we have invested with these retailers against last year's sales, so we can actually show some physical evidence of what extra wool sales are happening in these markets.</p> <p><b>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS</b>—I am conscious of the time, so I will put some further questions on notice in relation to that. Moving to target B of the reduction, Mr Barry, I think you said that is still on target; the 40c reduction in the cost of production. Can you tell me whether you have done any benchmarking in relation to costs of production? Is that something that you do at AWI? Are you aware of any benchmarking that has been done?</p> <p><b>Mr Barry</b>—I will have to take that on notice. The most recent example was the last performance review, where the investment in on-farm activity showed—and I am not sure of the figures absolutely—certainly a return in excess of fivefold. I will come back with the exact figures. That is the last time that I am aware of an independent review.</p>
AWI - 03	111	Fierravanti-Wells	<p><i>Accredited animal ethics</i></p> <p><b>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS</b>—I am happy for you to take this on notice: since 2005 or thereabouts, what steps have you taken to develop any accredited animal ethics standard to protect the industry against future animal rights intervention such as we have seen in the past?</p> <p><b>Mr Merriman</b>—I will have to take it on notice.</p>
AWI - 04	112	Heffernan	<p><i>Biodegradable clips</i></p> <p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b>—Will the clips be biodegradable?</p> <p><b>Mr Merriman</b>—Yes.</p> <p><b>Mr McCullough</b>—Yes.</p> <p><b>Mr Merriman</b>—They have worked on a biodegradable product.</p> <p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b>—Because that would be a pain in the you know what.</p> <p><b>Mr Olsson</b>—Just for the Senate's record, I have got an interest in mulesing. Not only do I run sheep and mules my sheep but our company invested in pain relief five years ago because none of the market would take it on; so I have an interest. But, in saying that, clips are one alternative I think that people can use because there is no blood with the product, and in some cases it is very effective, but I cannot agree that there will be a biodegradable clip available next year because I have not seen one yet. I think we should take that on notice and give more information on if it works and if it can be biodegradable. As yet, I am not sure we have gone that far.</p>

			<b>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS</b> —Yes, absolutely.
AWI - 05	114	Fierravanti-Wells	<p><i>United Nations Year of Natural Fibres</i></p> <p><b>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS</b>—Thank you, Senator Heffernan. <b>2009 is the United Nations Year of Natural Fibres. You are participating in that?</b></p> <p><b>Mr Merriman</b>—Yes.</p> <p><b>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS</b>—I did not see AWI listed on their website, but I am sure you will remedy that fairly quickly.</p> <p><b>Mr Merriman</b>—I can tell you something about it and then I will hand you over to Stuart or somebody who knows about it.</p> <p><b>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS</b>—I am happy for you to take on notice what your involvement is going to be.</p> <p><b>Mr Merriman</b>—One thing I can tell you is that there is a huge charge, which we cannot afford, to have our name sitting up on there.</p> <p><b>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS</b>—Perhaps you might take on notice what you will be doing in relation to that.</p> <p><b>Mr Barry</b>—We will take it on notice.</p>
AWI - 06	114	Fierravanti-Wells	<p><i>Hong Kong Polytechnic</i></p> <p><b>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS</b>—Thank you, Mr Olsson. On the last occasion Senator Heffernan, I think it was, asked some questions about Hong Kong Polytechnic. Having spent now four months talking to a lot of people in the wool industry, one of the concerns that has been raised with me is what is really being seen as the development of the Chinese wool industry, perhaps at the expense of other traditional markets and, to some extent, our Australian wool growers. Could you take on notice the projects that have been undertaken by Hong Kong Polytechnic in the last 12 months. This will be on the record, Mr Olsson, in the transcripts.</p> <p><b>Mr Olsson</b>—Yes, no problem.</p>
AWI - 07	111-112	Fierravanti-Wells	<p><i>Blowfly management programs</i></p> <p><b>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS</b>—Again, you may want to take this on notice: in terms of the blowfly management programs, with our 50,000 or thereabouts sheep producers, can you give us the sorts of concrete programs that have basically hit the ground, if I can put it that way, and actually improved the management of sheep? With your efforts and what is out there at the moment, have you seen any reduction in fly strike in sheep? The figure you mentioned was 3.5 million. Is that a static figure per annum or have you seen changes?</p> <p><b>Mr Merriman</b>—You have got a situation where everybody muleses. In the beginning there was no mulesing. I think during the thirties the mules operation started to become popular because it saved sheep. Out there now, everybody muleses. Now people are starting to come to grips with the idea of not mulesing, of using methods other than surgical mulesing, and the pain relief option has come in. As I said, some 10 per cent of the clip has now been declared. Two-thirds of that was unmulesed and ‘intend to cease mules’ and one-third of it was mulesing with pain relief. Over 90 per cent of the growers out there are still mulesing. That is what that shows.</p> <p><b>Mr Olsson</b>—If you require it, I would like to give you information from the New Zealand model when, five or so years ago, they decided to cease mulesing in most of the South Island, in response to the Icebreaker brand, which is one of the most successful Merino brands in the world, which had a high degree of demand for unmulesed</p>

			<p>wool. The modelling that is coming back from there shows a significant increase in costs and new deaths, especially when they came from the mountains to the plains. Thirty per cent of that flock, I am led to believe, is now going back to mulesing because of the costs associated with not mulesing. As a comparative model it would be, I think, very valuable for the Senate to see that. We can take that on notice and give that to the Senate.</p> <p><b>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS</b>—Thank you.</p>
AWI - 08	115	Fierravanti-Wells	<p><i>CRC and program cuts</i></p> <p><b>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS</b>—And also whether that sort of project was product development, garment development or R&amp;D of wool fibres. To some extent, at a time when this government is talking about support for R&amp;D, and R&amp;D in Australia, I would be very disturbed to see Australian money being used for R&amp;D being done in China that could well be done here. That is really the gist of my question, without taking you into the detail at this point in time. If there are problems with CSIRO not meeting R&amp;D requirements, perhaps we should be looking at CSIRO rather than going off and giving money to Chinese organisations because we have a problem with CSIRO. Minister, I raise that because it was raised on the last occasion and I would like to put that on the record.</p> <p>In your last annual report you have a list of all the projects that you are undertaking. I am amazed at the number that we have with China and I am particularly interested in how many of those projects are a shift of any intellectual property to China. Could you please take on notice and tell me which of those projects you intend to continue and which of those projects you will now be ceasing—in particular, the projects that have Chinese involvement—because it seems to me from some of the things that I have been told recently that we have pumped a lot of money into the Chinese wool industry, I think at the expense of Australian wool growers, and I would like to know how many of those projects could otherwise have been done in Australia that are being done in China. I put that on the record.</p> <p><b>Could you also take on notice how the CRC is going and your involvement in relation to that as far as program cuts are concerned. It is clear that AWI has bridges to mend in various areas, and I think that is an understatement. Can you tell me what AWI is doing to make wool growers who are not already shareholders aware of their entitlements to become shareholders—to encourage them to come into the fold, so to speak— because I am concerned you have about 30,325 AWI shareholders listed in your annual report. How many total eligible wool growers are there who pay a levy? I would be interested to know how many are shareholders.</b></p>
AWI - 09	115	Fierravanti-Wells	<p><i>AWI board elections</i></p> <p><b>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS</b>—At the last AWI board elections how many actual people—physical people—voted? You have this system where you have got to pay a \$100 levy to be able to vote in this archaic, strange—</p> <p><b>Mr Merriman</b>—By shareholding.</p> <p><b>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS</b>—Which is, of course, something you have inherited. I am not making that comment. The question I am asking is: how many wool growers contribute? How many are enfranchised, participate? That is really what I am trying to get to.</p> <p><b>Mr Merriman</b>—The exact number, I am not sure whether we can tell you.</p> <p><b>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS</b>—I would be very interested.</p>

			<b>Mr Barry</b> —We will take that one on notice.
AWI - 10	Written	Fierravanti-Wells	<p><b>AWI: Strategic Plan 2008/09 – 2010/11</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. During the hearing, contradictory evidence was given about the strategic plan. Mr Barry confirmed that the strategic plan is still current given the changes on the board and there would not be a revised plan. What is the work being done by Mr Boundy or any other person in relation to this? How will the strategic plan be revised?</li> <li>2. If there is a revised plan, please provide a copy of the same.</li> </ol>
AWI - 11	Written	Fierravanti-Wells	<p><b>AWI: Strategic Plan 2008/09 – 2010/11</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In relation to the overhead reduction indicated by Mr Merriman at the hearing, please provide details of those reductions including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. a copy of the revised structure of the corporation;</li> <li>b. Details of positions abolished, revised or amalgamated with other positions;</li> <li>c. Costs of any redundancies;</li> <li>d. Details of any former directors of AWI who are currently employed, receiving consultancies and in any other way financially associated with AWI;</li> <li>e. Details of any candidates who ran for the AWI Board elections in 2008 who are currently employed, receiving consultancies and in any other way financially associated with AWI.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
AWI - 12	Written	Fierravanti-Wells	<p><b>AWI: Strategic Plan – Target A</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Further to questions put at the hearing, please ensure that in relation to the target to create an additional 20 million kgs per annum (clean) demand for Australian merino by working with the top 200 international retail and brand partners to lead the market, AWI outlines what specific plans are in place to achieve this.</li> <li>2. Further to questions put at the hearing, what specific performance indicators have been put in place to achieve this target over each of the next three years?</li> <li>3. What is the nature and breakdown of the kind of wool that is projected to form the additional 20 million kgs pa over each of the next three years?</li> </ol>
AWI - 13	Written	Fierravanti-Wells	<p><b>AWI: Declining Flock and Ewe Numbers</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is the size and composition of the current sheep flock?</li> <li>2. Do you agree that the flock is projected to decline to about 72 million sheep by 2013? If not, please provide your views.</li> <li>3. What is the projected decrease or increase in the flock over the next five years?</li> <li>4. What is the estimated increase in the size and composition of the sheep flock that will required to achieve the projected increase in demand of an additional 20 million kgs of wool over the next three years?</li> <li>5. If you increase demand, does AWI believe that there will be a sufficient flock to sustain the projected growth in demand of 20 million kgs pa over the next three years?</li> </ol>

AWI - 14	Written	Fierravanti-Wells	<p><b>AWI: Declining Flock and Ewe Numbers</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Further to the question taken on notice about the size of the current merino breeding ewe flock, please provide a profile of the ewe flock such as age etc.?</li> <li>2. Of those current merino breeding flock, how many are used for merino breeding and how many are used with meat breed rams?</li> </ol>
AWI - 15	Written	Fierravanti-Wells	<p><b>AWI: Declining Flock and Ewe Numbers</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is the national average lambing percentage?</li> <li>2. Taking into account the national average lambing percentage, how many merino lambs do you envisage will be born: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. in each of the next three years?</li> <li>b. over the next five years?</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. How many of the estimated merino lambs born are likely to be ewes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. in each of the next three years?</li> <li>b. over the next five years?</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
AWI - 16	Written	Fierravanti-Wells	<p><b>AWI: Declining Flock and Ewe Numbers</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. With the number of merino ewes being slaughtered for historically high lamb prices, will there be a sufficient ewe base: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. in each of the next three years; and</li> <li>b. over the next five years</li> </ol> to maintain, let alone increase the Australian merino flock? </li> <li>2. With the number of merino ewes being slaughtered for historically high lamb prices, will there be a sufficient ewe base over the next five years to maintain, let alone increase the Australian merino flock?</li> </ol>
AWI - 17	Written	Fierravanti-Wells	<p><b>AWI: Declining Flock and Ewe Numbers</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How many lambs born in each of the next three years will need to be kept for breeding to increase the flock necessary to meet the projected increase in demand of 20 million kgs pa?</li> <li>2. To ensure quality, how will AWI ensure that these lambs are kept for breeding and not used for the dual purpose?</li> </ol>
AWI - 18	Written	Fierravanti-Wells	<p><b>AWI: Declining Flock and Ewe Numbers</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. At the moment we have about 80 million sheep and we produced last year about 440 million kgs of wool. So to produce 460 kgs of wool – that’s an increase of about 4.5% pa, we will need more than 80 million sheep – arguably an extra 3.6 million of which 1.8 million would be ewes. Does AWI agree? If not, will AWI be reviewing its forecast set out in AWI press release of 12 December 2008?</li> </ol>
AWI - 19	Written	Fierravanti-Wells	<p><b>AWI: Declining Flock and Ewe Numbers</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is AWI doing to inform growers of the need to plan for the future? Is this not the role of AWI?</li> </ol>

AWI - 20	Written	Fierravanti-Wells	<p><b>AWI: Declining Flock and Ewe Numbers</b></p> <p>1. If Australia cannot maintain its breeding flock, how is AWI and the wider industry going to supply the markets it wishes to develop?</p>
AWI - 21	Written	Fierravanti-Wells	<p><b>AWI: Declining Flock and Ewe Numbers</b></p> <p>1. How has AWI improved demand for Australian merino wool in regard to the AWI goal of increasing demand by 20 million kgs?</p> <p>2. Where does this show through to the wool market in Australia where we see continued falling prices?</p> <p>3. Is there a strategic plan for which micron / price points this 20 mil kg increase should be aimed?</p>
AWI - 22	Written	Fierravanti-Wells	<p><b>AWI: Declining Flock and Ewe Numbers</b></p> <p>1. Is there not a significant difference between the fine wool market for quality apparel versus broader wools?</p>
AWI - 23	Written	Fierravanti-Wells	<p><b>AWI: Declining Flock and Ewe Numbers</b></p> <p>1. Going back to your target of 200 top international retail and brand partners, have we actually seen an increase in orders from any of these firms? Please provide specific details in terms of quantity and value.</p>
AWI - 24	Written	Fierravanti-Wells	<p><b>AWI: Strategic Plan – Target B</b></p> <p>1. Further to questions put at the hearing, please ensure that in relation to the target to reduce wool’s cost of production by 40cents a kg clean over 3 years through increased productivity and lower costs, AWI outlines what specific plans are in place to achieve this.</p> <p>2. Further to my questions at the hearing, what specific performance indicators have been put in place to achieve this target over each of the next three years?</p>
AWI - 25	Written	Fierravanti-Wells	<p><b>AWI: Strategic Plan – Target B</b></p> <p>1. There seems to be an exodus away from merino wool with trends showing that wool merino breeding stock is not being replaced and consequently, cost of production is going up, not down? Do you agree? If not, please provide details as to why this may not be the case.</p> <p>2. What are the figures on trends in costs of production?</p> <p>3. Has any benchmarking been done by AWI? Please provide details regarding the same.</p>
AWI - 26	Written	Fierravanti-Wells	<p><b>AWI: Strategic Plan – Target C</b></p> <p>1. Further to questions put at the hearing, please ensure that in relation to the target to provide woolgrowers with alternatives to mulesing in support of the industry’s commitment to phase out the practice out by the end of 2010, AWI outlines what specific plans are in place to achieve this.</p> <p>2. Further to questions put at the hearing, what specific performance indicators have been put in place to achieve this target over each of the next three years?</p>
AWI - 27	Written	Fierravanti-Wells	<p><b>AWI: Strategic Plan – Target C</b></p> <p>1. One of the perceptions that is out there is that this board has been elected on a pro-mulesing ticket? Your view?</p>



AWI - 28	Written	Fierravanti-Wells	<p><b>AWI: Strategic Plan – Target C</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Further to the question taken on notice about any steps that AWI has taken to develop accredited animal ethics standards to protect the industry against future animal rights interventions such as have been seen in the past, please advise: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. whether AWI has in the past considered or rejected supporting animal ethics programs in Australia? If so, please provide details regarding the consideration or rejection. If rejected, why was it rejected?</li> <li>b. whether there such standards in place in other countries such as the United States?</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
AWI - 29	Written	Fierravanti-Wells	<p><b>AWI: Strategic Plan – Target C</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Further to comments about the “interim” period at page 111 of the hearing transcript, please advise whether the incoming AWI has changed its position on mulesing? If not, then is AWI on track to meet its timetable for a 2010 timetable?</li> <li>2. If AWI has changed its position on mulesing, what is the revised timetable for phasing out of mulesing?</li> <li>3. Assuming that such a revised timetable goes beyond the 2010 deadline, is AWI considering defending mulesing and the need for it during this interim period? If so, will this involve some form of communications or marketing campaign? If so, please provide details.</li> </ol>
AWI - 30	Written	Fierravanti-Wells	<p><b>AWI: Strategic Plan – Target C</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Further to questioning at page 111 of the hearing transcript, please provide specific details as to which practices in other countries do the ethics of the Australian wool industry compare so favourably?</li> </ol>
AWI - 31	Written	Fierravanti-Wells	<p><b>AWI: Strategic Plan – Target C</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What actions have AWI to increase its programs in blowfly management to its 50,000 sheep producers? What real actions have hit the ground to improve the management of sheep in this area?</li> </ol>
AWI - 32	Written	Fierravanti-Wells	<p><b>AWI: Strategic Plan – Target C</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Please provide details of the nature of commercial arrangements that AWI has entered into with any persons or entities in relation to non-biodegradable clips and/or biodegradable clips, including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The relationship of any such person or entity to any current director or person employed or otherwise engaged with AWI;</li> <li>b. The relationship of any such person or entity to any past director or person employed or otherwise previously engaged with AWI in the past five years.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
AWI - 33	Written	Fierravanti-Wells	<p><b>AWI: National Wool Declaration</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Has AWI fully investigated the validity of grower declarations in regard to animals status of mulesed or not mulesed?</li> <li>2. Do the current standards of this grower declaration meet the needs of a quality assured value chain?</li> </ol>

			3. In a global market where AWI is trying to promote our ethically grown wool should there not be a more stringent set of standards regarding non mulesed certification?
AWI - 34	Written	Fierravanti-Wells	<b>AWI: National Wool Declaration</b> 1. Is the National Wool Declaration a desk audit only?
AWI - 35	Written	Fierravanti-Wells	<b>AWI: National Wool Declaration</b> 1. Is AWI aware of instances where growers are just ticking the box? Are these declarations validated?
AWI - 36	Written	Fierravanti-Wells	<b>AWI: National Wool Declaration</b> 1. In relation to paragraph 1(a) of the National Wool Declaration, does AWI believe that this is a clear statement? 2. In relation to paragraph 1(b) of the National Wool Declaration, does AWI believe that this is a clear statement or is it simply a loophole? 3. Does AWI agree that this is a question of substantiation and if a grower is not being accurate with his disclosure, then this undermines the integrity of the system. 4. Would the National Wool Declaration be clearer if paragraph 1(b) were deleted?
AWI - 37	Written	Fierravanti-Wells	<b>AWI: National Wool Declaration</b> 1. In evidence at the hearing, it was indicated that AWI undertakes random audits. Is AWI aware of the nature of such random audits, including: a. The frequency of such audits; b. How they are undertaken; c. Are growers notified in advance of the random audits d. Any statistics regarding discrepancies or failure to properly disclose.
AWI - 38	Written	Fierravanti-Wells	<b>AWI: National Wool Declaration</b> 1. Of the large quantity of wool AWI claims is available as ethically produced, what percentage is mulesed with pain relief (or known as the better choices brand)? 2. What percentage is from flocks that have ceased mulesing? What percentage is from animals that are not mulesed?
AWI - 39	Written	Fierravanti-Wells	<b>AWI: National Wool Declaration</b> 1. Does AWI explain to processors that a large percentage of the ethically produced wool is from sheep which are mulesed with pain relief? Is this an acceptable standard for the marketing companies promoting the new ethical non mulesed approach to ethical consumers?
AWI - 40	Written	Fierravanti-Wells	<b>AWI: National Wool Declaration</b> 1. I refer to AWI Press release of 2 February 2009 – 10 million kgs sold as either non-mulesed, ceased mules or mulesed with pain relief, upon what facts and circumstances did AWI rely upon to make the assertions

			<p>contained therein including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>e. whether AWI independently verified the information contained?</li> <li>f. How the three categories were quantified?</li> <li>g. Is it the obligation of the overseas buyer to verify the accuracy of the declaration by the grower?</li> </ul>
AWI - 41	Written	Fierravanti-Wells	<p><b>AWI: National Wool Declaration</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It seems that on the one hand AWI relies on the veracity of the Wool Declaration System whilst non the other hand deny faith in the system. Please clarify this contradictory position.</li> </ol>
AWI - 42	Written	Fierravanti-Wells	<p><b>AWI: Annual Report – Projects listed</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Further to the questions asked at the hearing and taken on notice, please list all projects funded by AWI or otherwise undertaken by AWI since 2001 that have been undertaken with, or for the benefit of, Chinese companies, persons or other entities with a Chinese parent company, including those associated with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. genetics or the transfer of genetic material;</li> <li>b. intellectual property or the transfer of the same;</li> <li>c. product or garment development.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>
AWI - 43	Written	Fierravanti-Wells	<p><b>AWI: Annual Report – Projects listed</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Please provide details of any projects, studies or investigations undertaken by AWI since 2001 years in relation to getting wool into sophisticated blends/garments? If none have been undertaken, what plans does AWI have to undertake such projects in the future?</li> </ol>
AWI - 44	Written	Fierravanti-Wells	<p><b>AWI: Annual Report – Projects listed</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What consultation with industry is undertaken in the development of new marketing campaigns i.e. focus groups for feedback. Please provide details as to what consultation processes AWI will undertake in relation to its proposed marketing strategy?</li> </ol>
AWI - 45	Written	Fierravanti-Wells	<p><b>AWI:Governance and voting on Board</b></p> <p>As specified in the 2007/08 Annual Report, there are 30,325 AWI shareholders. What proportion of the total eligible wool growers does this figure make up?</p>
AWI - 46	Written	Fierravanti-Wells	<p><b>AWI:Governance and voting on Board</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Does AWI have a list of all wool growers eligible to become shareholders?</li> </ol>
AWI - 47	Written	Fierravanti-Wells	<p><b>AWI:Governance and voting on Board</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In relation to the results of the last AWI Board elections – how many actual people voted?</li> </ol>
AWI - 48	Written	Fierravanti-Wells	<p><b>AWI:Governance and voting on Board</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In relation to the voting system, does it mean that the vote is controlled by those people who pay more levy because they sell more wool – it favours those growers who sell at the high end?</li> </ol>

AWI - 49	Written	Fierravanti-Wells	<b>AWI:Governance and voting on Board</b> 1. Does AWI intend to undertake a review of governance issues, including making recommendations for change to its voting system?
AWI - 50	Written	Fierravanti-Wells	<b>AWI:Governance and voting on Board</b> 1. One of the issues that has given rise to some controversy has been the appointment of interim directors pending nomination at the next AGM. Do you intend to review your constitution to review this?
AWI - 51	Written	Fierravanti-Wells	<b>AWI:Governance and voting on Board</b> 1. I note that the make up of the Board – between 5 and 10 – is determined by the Board itself. This seems very complicated and open to creative manipulation. Does AWI intend to consider a more simple system?
AWI - 52	Written	Fierravanti-Wells	<b>AWI:Governance and voting on Board</b> 1. What is the basis for determination of AWI directors fees? Do wool grower shareholders have any, and if so, what say in the determination of or setting of the level of directors fees?
AWI - 53	Written	Fierravanti-Wells	<b>AWI:Governance and voting on Board</b> 1. How many stud breeders are currently on the board of AWI?
AWI - 54	Written	Fierravanti-Wells	<b>AWI:Governance and voting on Board</b> 1. In relation to the AWI Board elections, please advise: a. Are the current directors all shareholders of AWI? b. What is the shareholder voting entitlement of each Board member elected to the Board?
AWI - 55	Written	Fierravanti-Wells	<b>AWI: Woolpoll</b> 1. What steps are the AWI Board undertaking to ensure growers are adequately prepared / informed for Wool Poll vote?
AWI - 56	Written	Fierravanti-Wells	<b>AWI: Woolpoll</b> 1. With the indication of a shift by AWI to more marketing and the acquisition of the Woolmark, is it proposed that AWI will spend less for on-farm R&D? If so, how much less government funding will be available? 2. What action or strategies will AWI undertake to address this potential reduction in government funding?
AWI - 57	Written	Fierravanti-Wells	<b>AWI: Woolpoll</b> 1. Given criticism of millions of dollars spent by AWI in useless R&D, it is understandable that growers do not see they are getting value for money with AWI? How is AWI going to convince growers to support a continuation of the levy at 2% or any levy at all?
AWI - 58	Written	Fierravanti-Wells	<b>AWI: Woolpoll</b> 1. I refer to AWI press release of 11 February 2009, please specify the process by which Mr Roberts was

			<p>appointed.</p> <p>2. Was Mr Roberts ever a director of AWI or a candidate for election to the AWI Board? If so, please provide details of the same.</p>
AWI - 59	Written	Fierravanti-Wells	<p><b>AWI: Woolpoll</b></p> <p>1. What is the process for the establishment of the “independent WoolPoll Panel”?</p> <p>2. Is there a selection criteria for the establishment of the Panel? If so, please provide details including</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A copy of the same</li> <li>Who determines the criteria</li> <li>The process for establishment of the panel</li> <li>The number of panel members</li> <li>The remuneration paid the panel members</li> </ol>
MLA - 01	Written	Siewert	<p>The Federal government co-funded with MLA a restraint device for the Amman abattoir in Jordan in 2006 at a cost of \$112,000, and the device has now been replaced after having been deemed inhumane by animal protection experts and two of MLA’s senior consultants.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On whose advice was this box installed?</li> <li>Which company provided it?</li> <li>What steps did the government take to ensure that this device was humane before approving the recommendation?</li> </ol>
MLA - 02	Written	Williams	<p>MLA is mostly funded by producer levels (\$5 per head sold). The supermarket share of the consumer dollar continues to rise and the producer share fall (now 25% when producers in the USA, UK and NZ are on over 45%).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Why does the MLA measure the result of its advertising expenditure on what consumers pay for beef rather than the price of cattle sold by those who fund it?</li> <li>Why didn’t MLA give evidence to support producers at the ACCC Grocery Inquiry in 2008 when they had given evidence at the ACCC inquiry into Livestock Prices in 2007?</li> <li>Are they too close to the supermarkets with their advertising payments?</li> </ol>
MLA - 03	Written	Williams	<p>Why have the Directors of MLA sought, and with Cattle Council and ALFA support, achieved a large increase in their remuneration at a time when Australia cattle prices are the second lowest in the developed world and falling?</p>
MLA - 04	Written	Williams	<p>Can MLA members have the funds from the Ernst &amp; Young Inquiry into NLIS farm online poll rort?</p>
APD - 01	21	Williams	<p>Rail Taskforce looking into NSW grain lines (Dep of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government).</p> <p>Senator WILLIAMS—When does this report—or this committee or whatever has been formed—on this whole transport issue of wheat kick off?</p>

			<p>Mr Grant—There is a task force that has been established. That is currently operating.</p> <p>Senator WILLIAMS—Who is on that task force?</p> <p>Mr Grant—I do not have a list of the members. I know it is chaired by Mr Des Powell, and I know the secretariat comes out of the infrastructure and industry department. I will have to take it on notice and get the members of the task force from the other department.</p>
APD - 02	125	Williams	<p>Horticulture Code Committee</p> <p>Senator WILLIAMS—Has or will the department be contributing to this review?</p> <p>Mr Grant—We provide the secretariat to the Horticulture Code Committee and are involved in providing a service to that committee to ensure that it does its work effectively and efficiently.</p> <p>Senator WILLIAMS—Has the department undertaken any independent inspections of the markets to ensure the code is operating effectively?</p> <p>Mr Grant—I cannot give you the names and dates of when our officers went to markets but I know they have. Whether or not you define them as inspections, I do not know, but certainly our staff have been in and around markets to try to understand the sorts of relationships that exist between wholesalers and growers.</p> <p>Senator WILLIAMS—Is the department aware of any industry concerns that the government is attempting to water down the code?</p> <p>Mr Grant—I would wait until we hear from the industry itself through the code committee before we make judgments in that area.</p> <p>Senator WILLIAMS—Could you take on notice whether the department has undertaken any independent inspections of the markets to ensure the code is operating effectively? Can you get some finer detail on that?</p> <p>Mr Grant—Yes, of course.</p>
APD - 03	127-128	Colbeck	<p>Horticulture Australia report</p> <p>Senator COLBECK—I am not sure if this is the right place, Dr O’Connell, but I want to ask some quick questions about funding into one of the R&amp;D corporations. I know that we have a whole heap of them in on a separate basis, but I wanted to ask some quick questions about the dust-up within Horticulture Australia with AUSVEG and the review process that was conducted. I am aware that the previous minister requested a review into AUSVEG. I understand there may have been more than one done, but I am not certain that they have actually seen the light of day.</p> <p>Mr Grant—Yes, I can help you. The previous minister did ask for a review to be undertaken about project funding that was made available by Horticulture Australia to AUSVEG. There were some concerns expressed about whether that funding had been used to reflect the full extent of the funding agreement; so whether it had been used appropriately.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK—Yes.</p> <p>Mr Grant—A report was provided. When the government changed, and the current minister looked at that, he was not happy with the response that had been provided so he asked for further work to be undertaken and further analysis of the issue. Subsequent to that, Horticulture Australia have written to the minister providing the additional information that he requested in terms of the arrangements that existed between HAL and AUSVEG. The minister has not released that information and he is still considering it.</p> <p>CHAIR—We are over time, Senator Colbeck, so I would ask if you could—</p>

			<p>Senator COLBECK—I will wrap this up. I do not want to go into it in too much detail. Is the report in a form that could be released?</p> <p>Mr Grant—The report is a letter from Horticulture Australia, with an attachment provided by a set of consultants. In theory, if the minister were willing to release it, it could be released in that form.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK—Could you take on notice whether he would be prepared to release it.</p> <p>Mr Grant—Sure. I could ask him.</p> <p>Senator COLBECK—I would be interested. Obviously, in my general neck of the woods, it is an issue of some interest, certainly within the horticulture sector. So I would be very interested to see if I get some sense of what the outcomes of those investigations were, because the fact that questions have been asked, there was a process that was put into place and there has been no known outcome from it at this point in time, is causing some angst.</p> <p>Mr Grant—I am happy to take it on notice.</p>
APD - 04	Written	Fierravanti-Wells	<p><b>DAFF: CRC for Sheep Industry Innovation</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What has been the level of investment by the department in the CRC?</li> <li>2. Please provide any documents regarding progress, recommendations etc. which have been produced by the CRC.</li> </ol>
APD - 05	Written	Williams	<p>Under the Anderson Deed Agreement of 1997 the Red Meat Advisory Council (RMAC) was give access to interest from \$40 million levy reserve left of over from the wind up of AMLC and AMRDC. A condition of the deed was that the principle was not to be touched.</p> <p>Why has no one questioned the loss of over\$6 million from the fund and why have the RMAC members increased their drawings in the last year?</p>
APD - 06	Written	Williams	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Is the Department satisfied that the Horticultural Code of Conduct is achieving its aim?</li> <li>2. Is the Department aware of any reviews in the Horticultural Code of Conduct by the ACCC?</li> <li>3. Has or will the Department be contributing to this review?</li> <li>4. Has the Department undertaken any independent inspections of the markets to ensure the code is operating effectively?</li> <li>5. Is the Department aware of any industry concerns that the Government is attempting to water down the code?</li> </ol>
APD - 07	Written	Colbeck	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How many FarmReady Reimbursement Grants have been paid?</li> <li>2. What is the process to register a course with the FarmReady program?</li> <li>3. What percentage of the \$26.5 million allocated for training farmers to prepare for climate change has been allocated to the FarmReady grants program?</li> </ol>
APD - 08	Written	Fierravanti-Wells	<p><b>FMD in wool industry in Australia</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. At the estimates hearing, there was considerable discussion about foot in mouth risks. Has DAFF undertaken research, assessment or otherwise given consideration to any impact of an</li> </ol>

			outbreak of foot in mouth on the wool industry. If so, could you please provide copies of any material, report or documents in this respect.
BRS - 01	Written	Colbeck	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. At whose direction was Ernie Dingo asked to appear as an entertainer at the Plant Health Australia National Biosecurity Forum held September 17, 2008 in Canberra? Who authorised his engagement?</li> <li>2. Was Mr Dingo asked to provide his services free of charge, in the interest of the serious topics at hand and Mr Dingo's personal interest in the area, as stated by the Department at the October Estimates?</li> </ol>
ABARE - 01	Written	Williams	What is the current average debt for the average farm for each commodity group? i.e. dryland farming, beef, sheep, mixed farming, poultry, pork, citrus, horticulture, dairy?
ABARE - 02	Written	Williams	What is the debt burden currently on agriculture according to the RBA? How much has it increased over the past 10 years? Please provide a region by region breakdown for each of the previous 10 years.
ABARE - 03	Written	Williams	Will the credit crisis impact on the ability of farmers to borrow money to fund this year's winter crop, or replanting of permanent plantings or for restocking purposes devastated by the drought?
ABARE - 04	Written	Williams	Have all of the recent interest rate cuts (last four) been passed on to farmers? If not how much has been passed on?
ABARE - 05	Written	Williams	What is the average interest rate currently being paid by farmers?
ABARE - 06	Written	Williams	Is ABARE still 'a professionally independent government economic research agency' or is it now directed by outside Department's and agencies on what it can and can't do economic modelling on?
ABARE - 07	Written	Williams	Has ABARE continued to demand that it is independent and takes its orders from no-one as was the case in the days when Dr Brian Fisher was heading the organisation?
ABARE - 08	Written	Williams	Who decides what projects ABARE will investigate/research?
ABARE - 09	Written	Williams	<p>Given Dr Glyde told this Senate Estimate Committee in October last year that in relation to the Government's proposed CPRS and ETS;</p> <p>"Our model has the capacity to look at impacts right across the economy—different sectors throughout the economy—at the impacts on growth and employment and the like"</p> <p>Does Dr Glyde stand by this statement that ABARE does have the ability to model the impacts of the Government's CPRS scheme, or any ETS for that matter?</p>
ABARE - 10	Written	Williams	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Has ABARE now undertaken any work (or when will it under take any work) on what will be the impact on the average Australian farm of the Government's proposed emissions trading scheme if agriculture is not included in the initial emissions trading scheme?</li> </ol>



			2. Please provide a breakdown of the cost per commodity (based on average farm size of each commodity group; i.e. wheat/winter cereals/dryland, irrigated cereals/cotton, beef, dairy, horticulture, wool, fat lamb, citrus, stone fruit, fishing and forestry)?
ABARE - 11	Written	Williams	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Has the Government done any economic modelling to provide the cost of an emissions trading scheme for each commodity group whether agriculture is in the ETS or not?</li> <li>2. What was the result of that modelling and at what price was a tonne of carbon priced?</li> </ol>
ABARE - 12	Written	Williams	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Given the food manufacturing sector is vital to agriculture, whether it is abattoirs or milk processing plants, will food manufactures such as abattoirs be allowed under an ETS to pass their increased costs back on to farmers?</li> <li>2. For example will dairy farmers be forced to take a farm gate cut to the price they receive for milk to pay for the energy intensive manufacturing of cheese, milk powder and pasteurising milk?</li> </ol>
ABARE - 13	Written	Williams	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What modelling has the Government done on the cost to food manufactures such as dairies and abattoirs of the Governments proposed ETS?</li> <li>2. If no modelling has been done why not and when will it be done?</li> <li>3. Will the modelling be publicly available and when?</li> </ol>
ABARE - 14	Written	Williams	Will the ACCC or other government agency be monitoring the impact of the ETS on the price of food and what measures will be put in place to ensure farmers are not being forced to bear the entire cost of the ETS through lower farm gate prices?
ABARE - 15	Written	Williams	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What were the assumptions used in the Treasury modelling for the Government's CPRS in relation to farm productivity under a business-as-usual scenario; an Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) with Agriculture excluded and an ETS with Agriculture included?</li> <li>2. Did ABARE provide these assumptions?</li> <li>3. How were they derived?</li> </ol>
ABARE - 16	Written	Williams	<p>I refer to a media release released by the Australian Farm Institute which states  "The Australian Government's proposed Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS) has the potential to reduce the value of Australian agricultural production by \$2.4 billion per annum by 2020, and \$10.9 billion annum by 2030 compared to what would otherwise be the case under according to comprehensive new economic modelling released today by the Australian Farm Institute."</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Has ABARE done any modelling to refute these claims by the Australian Farm Institute with the support of Australian Wool Innovation, Dairy Australia and the Cotton Research and Development Corporation?</li> </ol>
ABARE - 17	Written	Williams	<p>The Media Release also states that  "The economic modelling, carried out by the Centre for International Economics, identifies that the biggest</p>

			<p>impacts of the CPRS will be on the Beef, Wool, Sheepmeats, Pork and Dairy sectors of agriculture, with these experiencing production declines of 9%, 6.8%, 5.8%, 3.9% and 2.7% respectively by 2020, and 28.2%, 27.5%, 21%, 10.4% and 8.1% by 2030 compared to a business-as-usual scenario without a CPRS.”</p> <p>1. Has ABARE done any modelling to refute these assumptions? If so what does ABARE’s economic modelling show will be the affects of the Government’s Emissions Trading Scheme on these industries?</p>
ABARE - 18	Written	Williams	<p>1. Under the Australian Farm Institute modelling isn’t it a fact that many primary producers would suffer severe financial hardship leading to some farmers being forced off the land?</p> <p>2. What would be the economic impact of this lost production be to the Australian economy?</p>
ABARE - 19	Written	Williams	<p>Isn’t it a fact that the Australian Farm Institute modelling is the first of its kind to be undertaken by either the public or private sector?</p>
ABARE - 20	Written	Williams	<p>When will ABARE actually show some leadership and undertake comprehensive economic modelling on the impact of the Government’s ETS on agriculture?</p>
ABARE - 21	Written	Williams	<p>Has ABARE been instructed by any one in the Minister’s office, the Department or the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet or Treasury not to undertake any research or conduct any modelling of the cost of the Governments CPRS on agriculture or the agriculture manufacturing sector, independently of its commissioned work for Treasury?</p>
ABARE - 22	Written	Williams	<p>I refer to the document ‘Analysing the economic potential of forestry for carbon sequestration under alternative carbon price paths’ produced by ABARE in November 2008 which was commissioned by The Commonwealth Treasury to estimate the potential increase in afforestation on agricultural land under four hypothetical carbon price scenarios.</p> <p>1. Does ABARE stand by this accuracy of this document?</p> <p>2. Were the assumptions in this document used in the Treasury Modelling of the Government’s CPRS? If so how were they used?</p> <p>3. Does ABARE really believe that the assumptions that Under the CPRS -15 carbon price scenario, the area of agricultural land economically suitable for afforestation in Australia is projected to be around 26 million hectares by 2050, with 83 per cent of this being environmental plantings (Table 7). In this scenario, the potential level of carbon sequestration in the economically suitable areas is estimated to be 885Mt of carbon over the period 2007-2050 (Table 8), although there will be significant additional sequestration after this period? (page 13/14)</p> <p>4. How much land is currently farmed in Tasmania?</p> <p>5. In the above scenario it claims that 1,076 million hectares in Tasmania is suitable for Timber Plantations, isn’t it a fact that there is only around 1.2 million hectares in Tasmania currently farmed?</p> <p>6. Did ABARE do any modelling under these assumptions on what planting all of Tasmania or planting 26</p>

			<p>million hectares of forests would do Australia's ability to produce food?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. Did ABARE do any modelling under this assumption on what planting 26 million hectares of forests would do the Australian economy if food was not produced on this land? Was this taken into account in the modelling?</li> <li>8. Did Treasury use any of the assumptions in this document to offset the cost of its CPRS of the Government CPRS on the Australian economy?</li> <li>9. What is the definition of an 'environmental planting'? How would an 'environmental planting be managed? For how long would the land be used as an 'environmental planting'?</li> <li>10. Does the modelling take into consideration land management costs such as fencing, fire control, weed and pest control, particularly for 'environmental plantings'?</li> <li>11. In Appendix B: Potential landuse conversion to forestry under alternative carbon price paths Which show maps of the potential landuse conversion to forestry under alternative carbon price paths are presented, can ABARE provide maps of current land use in the proposed areas which would be environmental plantings and plantations? (page 20)</li> <li>12. Is it not a fact that the land ABARE proposes could be converted to environmental forests is some of the best grazing and mixed farming land in Australia?</li> <li>13. What is the annual economic production from this land in 2006/07 and 2007/08?</li> </ol>
ABARE - 23	Written	Williams	<p>The Minister during the press Conference on 25 February, 2009 also stated; The carbon price that's been spoken about, the emissions targets that have been set, were then put through ABARE.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Is this information publicly available?</li> <li>2. Is this work that was 'put through ABARE' reflected in 'Analysing the economic potential of forestry for carbon sequestration under alternative carbon price paths' produced by ABARE in November 2008 which was commissioned by The Commonwealth Treasury to estimate the potential increase in afforestation on agricultural land under four hypothetical carbon price scenarios or is it different advice?</li> <li>3. If the work that has been 'put through ABARE' is not the modelling in the document 'Analysing the economic potential of forestry for carbon sequestration under alternative carbon price paths' is it publicly available and does it supersede the work commissioned by Treasury?</li> </ol>
ABARE - 24	Written	Williams	<p>In a media conference with the Minister for Climate Change and Water, on 25 February 2009, the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, stated; Now, the Government has always acknowledged that you do need to have some land-use change, and that will be an implication and an outcome of the White Paper. But our advice has always been that we'd be looking at marginal land. The Minister also stated; The advice that came back to me was that under the White Paper and the proposals that are there, prime agricultural land would not be at threat. It would be marginal land, where the economics stacked up, for people to be looking at doing more tree-planting.</p>

			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What will be the 'land-use change' the Government has always acknowledged that you do need which will be an implication and an outcome of the Government's Emissions Trading Scheme referred to by the Minister?</li> <li>2. Where will that 'land use change' take place and how will it take place?</li> <li>3. How many hectares of trees are estimated to be planted under the Government's Emissions Trading scheme?</li> <li>4. What is the definition of 'marginal land' that the Minister was referring to when he stated 'our advice has always been that we'd be looking at marginal land'? (please provide maps of land which the Government considers 'marginal' and on what basis it is referred to as marginal ie rainfall, carrying capacity etc).</li> </ol>
ABARE - 25	Written	Fierravanti-Wells	<p><b>DAFF: Sheep flock statistics</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is the size and composition of the current sheep flock?</li> <li>2. Do you agree that the flock is projected to decline to about 72 million sheep by 2013? If not, please provide your views.</li> <li>3. What is the projected decrease or increase in the flock: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. In each of the next three years</li> <li>b. over the next five years.</li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p><i>Note: These questions have also been asked of AWI separately</i></p>
ABARE - 26	Written	Fierravanti-Wells	<p><b>DAFF: Sheep flock statistics</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In relation to the merino breeding ewe flock, please provide a profile of the ewe flock such as age etc.?</li> </ol> <p><i>Note: These questions have also been asked of AWI separately</i></p>
ABARE - 27	Written	Fierravanti-Wells	<p><b>DAFF: Sheep flock statistics</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Of the current merino breeding flock, are you able to provide statistics as to how many are used for merino breeding and how many are used with meat breed rams?</li> </ol> <p><i>Note: These questions have also been asked of AWI separately</i></p>
ABARE - 28	Written	Fierravanti-Wells	<p><b>DAFF: Sheep flock statistics</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is the national average lambing percentage?</li> <li>2. Taking into account the national average lambing percentage, how many merino lambs do you envisage will be born: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>c. in each of the next three years?</li> <li>d. Over the next five years?</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. How many of the estimated merino lambs born are likely to be ewes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. in each of the next three years?</li> <li>b. Over the next five years?</li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p><i>Note: These questions have also been asked of AWI separately</i></p>

ABARE - 29	Written	Fierravanti-Wells	<p><b>DAFF: Sheep flock statistics</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. With the number of merino ewes being slaughtered for historically high lamb prices, will there be a sufficient ewe base:<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. In each of the next three years; and</li><li>b. over the next five years</li></ol>to maintain or increase the Australian merino flock?</li><li>2. How many lambs born in each of the next three years will need to be kept for breeding to increase the flock necessary to meet the projected increase in demand of 20 million kgs pa?</li></ol> <p><i>Note: These questions have also been asked of AWI separately</i></p>
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