

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2009
Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: BSG 56

Division/Agency: Biosecurity Services Group – Strategic Projects/BPU Division

Topic: Beale Review

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Nash asked:

On page 205 of the Beale Review it states: ‘In addition, the Panel is recommending a remediation investment of approximately \$225 million over a number of years to upgrade information technology and business systems for the National Biosecurity Authority.’

1. Have any provisions been made in the budget to upgrade technology and business systems with AQIS and Bio-Security Australia?
2. When will these upgrades begin and how much funding is being provided?

Answer:

On 23 September 2009, the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry announced expenditure of \$14.7 million in 2009-10 to progress foundation elements of the biosecurity reforms. The \$14.7 million includes funding for scoping work on the proposed investment in information and communication technology. Further investment and timing of future implementation will be subject to government budget processes.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2009
Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: BSG 59

Division/Agency: Biosecurity Services Group – Strategic Projects/BPU Division

Topic: Beale Review

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Nash asked:

Page 205 of the Beale Review states; ‘It is impossible to escape the conclusion that the agencies are significantly under resourced, putting Australia’s economy, people and environment at significant risk.’

Does the Government concur with that view?

Answer:

The government has accepted all Beale recommendations in principle. In its preliminary response, the government noted that resourcing requirements would be considered in budget processes. A copy of the government’s preliminary response is available at: www.daff.gov.au/about/publications/quarantine-biosecurity-report-andpreliminary-response.

On 23 September 2009, the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry announced expenditure of \$14.7 million in 2009-10 to progress foundation elements of the biosecurity reforms. The Minister’s press release is available at: www.maff.gov.au/media/media_releases/2009/september/progress_continues_on_reforms_to_strengthen_australias_biosecurity

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2009
Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: BSG 61

Division/Agency: Biosecurity Services Group – Strategic Projects/BPU Division

Topic: Beale Review

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Nash asked:

Given the fact that the Beale review states ‘Without these additional resources, the National Biosecurity Authority will not be able to deliver the One Biosecurity: a working partnership model envisaged by the Panel.’

Does the Government believe it can implement any recommendations from the Beale Review without increasing funding by \$260 million per annum?

Answer:

The government has accepted the Beale recommendations in principle. Implementation will take some time and the resourcing requirements will be subject to normal budget processes. This was highlighted in the government’s preliminary response to the review which is available at:
www.daff.gov.au/about/publications/quarantine-biosecurity-report-and-preliminaryresponse.

\$14.7 million has already been committed in 2009-10 for foundation elements of the reform process. The Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry’s press release of 23 September 2009 provides further detail. The press release is available at:
www.maff.gov.au/media/media_releases/2009/september/progress_continues_on_reforms_to_strengthen_australias_biosecurity.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates May 2009
Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: QBPU02

Division/Agency: Quarantine and Biosecurity Policy Unit
Topic: Independent Review of Australia's Quarantine and Biosecurity
Hansard Page: Written

Senator Nash asked:

Isn't it a fact the Beale Review Recommendation 73 states; *The Commonwealth should increase its bio-security investment by an amount in the order of \$260 million per annum, subject to a full costing by departments, to meet the recommendations of this report.*'?

Answer:

Yes. Recommendation 73 can be found on page 210 of the Beale review.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates May 2009
Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: QBPU03

Division/Agency: Quarantine and Biosecurity Policy Unit

Topic: Acceptance of Beale review recommendations

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Nash asked:

Is it a fact that the Minister in a media release announcing the release of the Beale Review stated '*the Rudd Government had accepted all 84 recommendations in principle*'?

Answer:

Yes. In a media release posted on the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry's website on 18 December 2008 it was stated that '*the Rudd Government had accepted all 84 recommendations in-principle*'. This media release may be found at: http://www.maff.gov.au/media/media_releases/2008/december/report_proposes_major_overhaul_of_australias_biosecurity_system.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates May 2009
Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: QBPU04

Division/Agency: Quarantine and Biosecurity Policy Unit
Topic: Independent Review of Australia's Quarantine and Biosecurity
Hansard Page: Written

Senator Nash asked:

Does the Government have any intention of adopting Beale Recommendation 73?

Answer:

The government has accepted all 84 recommendations in-principle. The government has yet to respond in detail to the Beale Review including to the budgetary implications which will be subject to normal budgetary processes.