

## Questions on Notice Additional Estimates 2009-2010

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Portfolio  
Monday 8 February 2010

QON No.	Date Asked	Hansard page reference/ Written	Senator	Question
CSD 01	08/02/10	9	Colbeck	<p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Where does the agency sit in an overall sense on that? You are looking specifically at one area. Are you confident in the systems overall? You have obviously got a particular problem that you are addressing within the AQIS space.</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—Senator, I think we are confident in our overall business continuity. Yes, we are confident. In fact, I think I would want to dispute the view that we are the highest risk. I think we are in very good shape in terms of business continuity, and I think we have had ANAO look at our business continuity at times, and us as well.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—How recently was the ANAO audit?</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—I would have to get back on that.</p>
CSD 02	08/02/10	10	Colbeck	<p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—And Melbourne?</p> <p><b>Ms Hazell</b>—Melbourne was associated with some new leases we signed.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—New premises or just new lease?</p> <p><b>Ms Hazell</b>—New premises as well—a different location.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—So the parking fees in Melbourne have gone from \$25,608 to \$51,359?</p> <p><b>Ms Hazell</b>—Yes, Senator.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Is there any sense of what that is a reflection of?</p> <p><b>Ms Hazell</b>—I know in part it is a reflection of a new lease in different premises, but for the exact component of that increase that relates to the new lease I would need to take that on notice.</p>
CSD 03		Written	Barnett	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How many permanent staff recruited since the supplementary budget estimates?</li> <li>2. What level are these staff?</li> <li>3. How many temporary positions exist or have been created since budget estimates?</li> <li>4. Since supplementary budget estimates, how many employees have been employed on contract and what is the average length of their employment period?</li> </ol>

CSD 04		Written	Barnett	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Have staffing numbers been reduced as a result of the efficiency dividend and/or other budget cuts?</li> <li>2. If so, where and at what level?</li> <li>3. Are there any plans for staff reduction? If so, please advise details ie. reduction target, how this will be achieved, services/programs to be cut etc.</li> <li>4. What changes are underway or planned for graduate recruitment, cadetships or similar programs? If reductions are envisaged please explain including reasons, target numbers etc.</li> </ol>
CSD 05		Written	Barnett	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Has the Department/agency received any advice on how to respond to FOI requests?</li> <li>2. How many FOI requests has the Department received?</li> <li>3. How many have been granted or denied?</li> <li>4. How many conclusive certificates have been issued in relation to FOI requests?</li> </ol>
CSD 06		Written	Barnett	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How many consultancies have been undertaken or are underway since November 2007? Please identify the name of the consultant, the subject matter of the consultancy, the duration and cost of the arrangement, and the method of procurement (ie. open tender, direct source, etc). Please also include total value for all consultancies.</li> <li>2. How many consultancies are planned for this calendar year? Have these been published in your Annual Procurement Plan (APP) on the AusTender website and if not why not? In each case please identify the subject matter, duration, cost and method of procurement as above, and the name of the consultant if known.</li> </ol>
CSD 07		Written	Colbeck	<p>Can you please provide a list of all international travel undertaken by DAFF officials including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Name of official</li> <li>• Position of official</li> <li>• Date of travel</li> <li>• Cost of travel</li> <li>• Class of airline travel</li> <li>• Reason for travel</li> <li>• Countries/cities visited</li> </ul>

CSD 08		Written	Nash	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is the total expenditure on staffing for the Department and for all portfolio agencies? What is the SES and non-SES breakdown?</li> <li>2. What are the current staffing levels for SES and non-SES officers? What is the breakdown by location?</li> <li>3. What have been the changes in ASL since November 2007? Why have these changes occurred? What have been the Budgetary implications?</li> <li>4. In the case of reductions in staff numbers, how have these reductions been absorbed by the Department? What functions have been sacrificed and why?</li> <li>5. Has there been a target for staff reductions to achieve savings? What is that target and what strategy is being implemented to achieve this?</li> <li>6. Have any voluntary or involuntary redundancies been offered to staff? If so, how have staff been identified for such offers? Are there such plans for the future?</li> </ol>
CSD 09		Written	Nash	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How much has the Department spent on consultancy services since November 2007? How can the department justify this expenditure?</li> <li>2. Could the Department provide a complete list of current consultancy services. For each consultancy, please indicate the rationale for the project and its intended use. For each consultancy, please indicate why the Department or its agencies could not have undertaken the work themselves.</li> </ol>
CSD 10		Written	Nash	Could the Department provide a list of all discretionary grants, including ad hoc and one-off grants since November 2007? Please provide details of the recipients, the intended use of the grants and what locations have benefited from the grants.
CSD 11		Written	Barnett	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is the Department's hospitality spend FYTD?</li> <li>2. Please detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events.</li> <li>3. For each Minister/Par Sec's office, please detail total hospitality spend FYTD.</li> <li>4. Please detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event.</li> </ol>
CPD 01	08/02/10	12	Colbeck	<p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Yes. Can you give us the total cost of domestic travel undertaken by the minister or ministerial staff for this budget period to date?</p> <p><b>Ms Bie</b>—The only costs that we have are departmental costs. The Department of Finance and Deregulation funds the minister and his staff when they travel.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Can you get that figure for me on notice?</p> <p><b>Ms Bie</b>—We would have to go to the department of finance.</p>

				<p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—I am happy for that to occur, if you could do that. What about international travel undertaken by the minister?</p> <p><b>Ms Bie</b>—It is the same system.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—The same? I will put the same question on notice. We asked you a question, which I referred to a moment ago and we will come back to later, about retreats and conferences. I would like to put the same question on notice for this period too, if I can, please: the cost to the department of retreats/conferences undertaken by its staff, broken down by retreat/conference name, purpose and cost. You would not have that prepared, would you? No, I did not think so. Is the department planning for an additional 3.25 per cent efficiency dividend again this estimates period?</p>
CPD 02	08/02/10	14	Colbeck	<p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—What is the projected?</p> <p><b>Ms Bie</b>—I would have to take that on notice.</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—That includes recruitment advertising as well.</p> <p><b>Ms Bie</b>—Yes.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Given that you are taking it on notice, could give us the information detailing the purpose and the focus of each of the advertising campaigns and the projected total? You do not know how much has been allocated for Australia’s Farming Future?</p>
CPD 03		Written	Barnett	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What communications programs has the Department/Agency undertaken, or are planning to undertake?</li> <li>2. For each program, what is the total spend?</li> </ol>
CPD 04		Written	Barnett	What is the gender ratio on each board and across the portfolio?
CPD 05		Written	Barnett	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What was the cost of Ministers travel and expenses for the Community Cabinet meetings held since Budget Estimates?</li> <li>2. How many Ministerial Staff and Departmental officers travelled with the Minister for the Cabinet meeting?</li> <li>3. What was the total cost of this travel?</li> <li>4. What was the total cost to the Department and the Ministers office?</li> </ol>
CPD 06		Written	Barnett	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How many Reviews are currently being undertaken in the portfolio/agency or affecting the portfolio agency?</li> <li>2. When will each of these reviews be concluded?</li> <li>3. Which Reviews have been completed since Budget Estimates?</li> </ol>

				<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. When will the Government be responding to the respective reviews that have been completed?</li> <li>5. What is the total number of Reviews <i>both completed and ongoing</i> in the portfolio/agency or affecting the portfolio agency since November 2007?</li> <li>6. What is the estimated cost of these Reviews?</li> <li>7. What further reviews are planned for 2009 - 10 FY?</li> </ol>
CPD 07		Written	Colbeck	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What plans does the Department have to conduct advertising or campaigns over the coming 12 months?</li> <li>2. What is expected expenditure for advertising and marketing over the remaining part of this financial year and next financial year?</li> <li>3. What level of advertising has occurred for the Australia's Farming Future program? And any projections?</li> </ol>
CPD 08		Written	Nash	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is the status of each election commitment within the portfolio?</li> <li>2. Which election commitments are experiencing slippages? Why? Where relevant, what are the revised implementation dates? What are the implications of this slippage?</li> </ol>
CPD 09		Written	Nash	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How much has the Department spent on advertising and marketing since November 2007? Ask for justification of expenditure.</li> <li>2. Could the Department provide a complete list of current contracts? Please indicate the rationale for each service provided and its intended use.</li> </ol>
CPD 10		Written	Nash	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How many Reports have been commissioned by the Government in the Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry portfolio since November 2007?</li> <li>2. Please provide details of each report including date commissioned, date report handed to Government, date of public release, Terms of Reference and Committee members.</li> <li>3. How much did each report cost? How many departmental staff were involved in each report and at what level?</li> <li>4. What is the current status of each report? When is the Government intending to respond to these reports?</li> </ol>
CPD 11		Written	Nash	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Are there plans to publish a full suite of electoral reports on the Department's website? If not, why not? If so, when? What data will be included?</li> <li>2. Does the Department prepare electorate level reports for Ministers? What data is included in these reports? How often is this updated? Why is this material not publicly available? Request copy of latest reports.</li> <li>3. Has electoral specific data been used by the current Government in any grants scheme since November 2007?</li> </ol>

BSG 01	08/02/10	10	Colbeck	<p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—At the last estimates we asked you a question on retreats and you gave us a list of a number of retreats that occurred in answer to a question on notice, CSD17. Can you give us some detail on the FIAF planning day that cost \$26,320?</p> <p><b>Ms Hazell</b>—The answer is, Senator, I cannot. The line area would be able to give you more detail on that planning day.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—There is no one here that can help us with that? What was achieved in—</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—No, perhaps when we get to the—</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—The set strategic directions for 2008-09, 2009-10.</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—I think when we get to the Biosecurity Services Group we should be able to help you then.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—So the same point would arise with the \$17,699 for the AQIS managers conference.</p> <p><b>Ms Hazell</b>—Yes, Senator.</p>
BSG 02	08/02/10	16	Back	<p><b>Senator BACK</b>—So this was following this introduction of an emergency regulatory measure, as I understand it, in 2001?</p> <p><b>Dr Clegg</b>—I would have to confirm that, but I believe you are right that.</p> <p><b>Senator BACK</b>—Also, I would like you to confirm, if you would, under what legislation that emergency regulatory measure was undertaken.</p>
BSG 03	08/02/10	20	Back	<p><b>Senator BACK</b>—And what do you estimate those costs to be?</p> <p><b>Dr Clegg</b>—I am sorry; I would have to get back to you on that.</p>
BSG 04	08/02/10	22	Nash	<p><b>Senator NASH</b>—How many officers would have been on each of those visits?</p> <p><b>Dr Findlay</b>—At least two, but I would have to confirm that.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—Could you take that on notice so we can get the exact numbers?</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—Could you take on notice which provinces were visited during each of those trip?</p> <p><b>Dr Findlay</b>—Yes.</p>
BSG 05	08/02/10	23	Nash	<p><b>Senator NASH</b>—I am happy for you to take this on notice: when you outline all those visits that you had, can you also outline any unscheduled visits?</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—Historically, then, perhaps if you could provide for the committee the minimum length of time from request to actual visit and the maximum length of time from request to actual visit. That would be useful.</p>

BSG 06	08/02/10	26	Colbeck	<p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—What about their release to the industries themselves, though? That was a criticism that occurred during the process before, that the industry players themselves had not seen the cost recovery impact statements and considered them as part of the reform package. Now, I know that we have moved on significantly, but part of the discussion that the opposition had with the government at the time was around cost recovery impact statements for each industry sector and for them to be released publicly. I am just interested to see where we are with that.</p> <p><b>Mr Read</b>—I will take that question on notice just to confirm the process they are exactly at and just what the next step in terms of broader disclosure is.</p>
BSG 07		Written	Back	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Under the Food Control Act has a determination been made to revoke the earlier determinations which would have prevented the importation of certain food products</li> <li>2. Was an emergency order made by the Minister in 1996 under the Australian New Zealand Food Authority Act 1991 Section 37 to prevent the imports of certain beef products because of BSE?</li> <li>3. If so, does the Minister intend to revoke this emergency determination and if so how?</li> <li>4. Does the Minister intend to revoke any existing determinations that these foods are high risk?</li> <li>5. If so, what are these?</li> </ol>
BSG 08		Written	Back	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is happening with the AQIS 40 percent rebate reform?</li> <li>2. Have all the industries done a business plan? Have these been signed off by the Minister?</li> <li>3. Are the reforms on track?</li> </ol>
BSG 09		Written	Back	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What was the final cost of the Beale Review?</li> <li>2. How many of the Beale Review Recommendations have now been implemented? Do all of the recommendations still have ‘in principle support’ from the government?</li> <li>3. How many will now not be implemented?</li> <li>4. 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.’ Has any provisions been made in the budget to upgrade technology and business systems with AQIS and Bio-Security Australia?</li> <li>5. When will these upgrades begin and how much funding is being provided?</li> <li>6. When will the Beale Review recommendations be adopted in full?</li> </ol>

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) 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.?'</li> <li>b) 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'.?'</li> <li>c) Does the Government have any intention of adopting Beale Recommendation 73?</li> <li>d) What Beale Recommendations is the Government adopting in 2009-10? How much will these measures cost to implement? When is it the Governments intention to adopt implement all of 84 of the Beale Review Recommendations?</li> <li>e) Page 205 of the Beale Review states; 'It is impossible to escape the conclusion that the agencies are significantly underresourced, putting Australia's economy, people and environment at significant risk.' Does the Government concur with that view?</li> <li>f) When will the Government be implementing the Beale Review recommendations?</li> <li>g) 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?</li> </ul>
BSG 10		Written	Back	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Budget Related Paper No. 1.1, Portfolio Budget Statements 2009 -10, Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Portfolio, page 71, Program 2.1 Key Performance Indicators states that in 2008-09 'zero markets lost'. Does the Government stand by this claim?</li> <li>2. Does the Government not consider the disruption during the year to the Russian red meat market as a market lost?</li> <li>3. Have all companies, including kangaroo exporters who lost markets in Russia again exporting to Russia?</li> <li>4. What was the reason for the suspension of access for red meat exporting companies to Russia?</li> <li>5. What impact has the lost market access in Russia had on the Kangaroo industry?</li> <li>6. What work is the Government undertaking to combat the spurious claims of animal activists, such as the NSW executive director of Animal Liberation, Mark Pearson</li> </ol>



				who are using data collected illegally and under highly dubious circumstances to disrupt and discredit the kangaroo industry in Europe and China?
BSG 11		Written	Back	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What activities are undertaken at the Australian Animal Health Laboratory, (AAHL)?</li> <li>2. Has routine diagnostic surveillance for classical swine flu or any other diseases been increased in 2008-09 or will be increased in 2009-10?</li> <li>3. Has the diagnostic workload of the AAHL increased in 2007-08, and 2008-09?</li> <li>4. Why has the government failed to recognise the vital role AAHL plays in disease diagnostics and research not only here in Australia, but internationally as well?</li> <li>5. Why has the government failed to increase its contribution in real terms to the operating costs of the AAHL, with an increase of just \$21,000 in 2009-10?</li> <li>6. How many graduates are employed at AAHL under the Departments graduate program?</li> </ol>
BSG 12		Written	Back	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What Import Risk Assessments IRA's on Chinese, Russian, Indian, Indonesian, Philippine, Brazil, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay and South African products are currently under way? Are they close to being finalised?</li> <li>2. Can the department provide a list of all new and existing import applications for food and agriculture/fisheries/forestry products from China, Russia, India, Indonesia, Philippine, Brazil, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay and South Africa?</li> <li>3. What agriculture/food products are currently imported from China, Russia, India, Indonesia, Philippine, Brazil, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay and South Africa? Please provide a country by list of all imported food and agriculture products.</li> <li>4. What Australian agricultural/fisheries/forestry products are currently seeking permission from the Chinese, Russian, Indian, Indonesian, Philippine, Brazil, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay and South African Government to import products into China, Russia, India, Indonesia, Philippine, Brazil, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay and South Africa?</li> <li>5. How much funding is being made available to industry to help under take all aspects of accessing the Chinese, Russian, Indian, Indonesian, Philippine, Brazil, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay and South African markets? Please provide a breakdown of which industries/commodities are receiving funding and how much funding they are receiving?</li> <li>6. Please provide a country by country breakdown in percentage terms and the number of tests conducted on food products (fresh and manufactured) being imported into Australia from China, Russia, India, Indonesia, Philippine, Brazil, Chile, Argentina,</li> </ol>

				<p>Uruguay and South Africa?</p> <p>7. Please update the previous list of all food inspected by AQIS during the 2008/09, and 2009/10 financial year provided in during the last Senate Estimates Committee Hearing from China? Please provided the same list for Russia, India, Indonesia, Philippine, Brazil, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay and South Africa.</p> <p>8. How many of the items from China, Russia, India, Indonesia, Philippine, Brazil, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay and South Africa inspected by AQIS were rejected? What were the reasons for rejecting the shipments? Have any prosecutions been launched?</p> <p>9. 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 2008/09?</p> <p>10. What was the nature of these breaches? How many of the breaches resulted in the goods not being allowed into Australia? What happened to the goods? Have any prosecutions been launched? How many of these prosecutions were successful?</p>
BSG 13		Written	Colbeck	<p>1. What is the status of the 6 Export Certification Reform Program Ministerial Taskforces since the reform process was restarted?</p> <p>2. Can you please give a list of meetings that have occurred since the restart and those attending the meetings? And also a list of planned meetings?</p> <p>3. Can you provide a run-down the work plans for each of the 6 taskforces?</p> <p>4. Has AQIS determined the level of redundancies that will occur? (\$26 million allocated)</p> <p>5. What feedback has been received from small meat processors following the additional funding?</p> <p>6. What audits has DAFF carried out of the ECRP process since November? What have been the findings/outcomes of these audits?</p> <p>7. Can you please give an update on the audit being carried out by Ernst &amp; Young? When will this document be made public?</p> <p>8. Can you give a full breakdown of current and projected levels of the industry liability accounts for the next 2 years?</p> <p>9. In QsON, DAFF advised an additional \$2.85 million in fees was collected before the disallowance motion was moved on 15 September. Can you please advise on the status of these funds? Can you please provide the legal advice which allows DAFF to retain these funds?</p>
BSG 14		Written	Colbeck	<p>1. What is the current status of the IRA for the importation of horses?</p> <p>2. When is the expected completion date?</p> <p>3. Will it be complete and new protocols apply for Melbourne's Spring Carnival?</p>

BSG 15		Written	Colbeck	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. On 7 October 2009 Biosecurity Australia released the final report for the prawns IRA and gave 30 days for an appeal to be lodged.</li> <li>2. Was an appeal lodged? By who?</li> <li>3. What are the timeframes for the prawn IRA now?</li> <li>4. What countries does BA expect will export prawns or prawn products to Australia following the implementation of this IRA? What quantities?</li> </ol>
BSG 16		Written	Colbeck	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Can you please give a run-down on all other active IRAs?</li> <li>2. What is the anticipated completion date for each?</li> </ol>
BSG 17		Written	Colbeck	<p>Can you please provide a breakdown on imports approved by AQIS for the financial year 2009-2010 (to date) including type of product, quantity and reference number/code – from the following countries/regions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indonesia</li> <li>• USA</li> <li>• African nations</li> <li>• EU</li> <li>• China</li> <li>• Thailand</li> <li>• India</li> <li>• Indonesia</li> <li>• Philippines</li> <li>• Brazil</li> <li>• Chile</li> </ul>
BSG 18		Written	Heffernan	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. With the appointment of Prof John Mathews and his report (September 2009) &amp; review of scientific evidence into the risks associated with importing the beef and beef products from BSE affected countries:</li> <li>2. What were the contractual arrangements/terms of his contract?</li> <li>3. What was his remuneration?</li> <li>4. Who appointed him?</li> <li>5. Was this appointment arranged and discussed with the Department of Health &amp; Ageing (DOHA)?</li> <li>6. Can the Department supply copies to the Committee of his letter of appointment and contractual arrangements, remuneration package and any related correspondence to the appointment of Prof John Mathews? (And if not, why not?)</li> </ol>

BSG 19		Written	Siewert	Australia is an active member of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), however many of the countries to which Australia exports animals do not meet OIE guidelines for the handling and slaughter of animals. Can the Government provide assurances that Australian animals will not be sent to countries that fail to meet OIE guidelines to which Australia is a signatory?
MLA 01	08/02/10	42	Nash	<p><b>Senator NASH</b>—Unfortunately, we have run out of time. At a recent press club speech, Minister Burke indicated that he thought some holding positions in the research bodies were being paid too much, so perhaps you could give a response to the committee as to whether or not you agree with that.</p> <p><b>Mr Palmer</b>—Do you want to find out if I have an opinion?</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—Now you know why we have run out of time.</p> <p><b>Mr Palmer</b>—You are asking for an opinion. I am happy to prolong it if you want to go down this line.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—I am sure you will be able to provide us with a very informative answer.</p>
MLA 02	08/02/10	42	Nash	<p><b>Senator NASH</b>—I am sure you will be able to provide us with a very informative answer. Have you seen the terms of reference for the Productivity Commission inquiry? Are they available yet? Also, do you think the current levy system is working? I do want to go into that if you could come back to the committee.</p> <p><b>Senator Sherry</b>—The Productivity Commission is an issue that would go to Economics, which I coincidentally have administrative responsibility for.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—Thank you for your advice, Senator Sherry.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—But this goes to the subject of the inquiry that we are having now.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—Exactly, so if they could perhaps respond.</p> <p><b>Mr Palmer</b>—Yes, the first part of the question—</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—No, not now, Mr Palmer. It is to take on notice, because the chair is going to yell at me</p> <p><b>CHAIR</b>—It is on notice, Mr Palmer. Sorry to cut you off.</p>
MLA 03		Written	Back	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Has Australian meat and livestock gained access to any new markets (in the last year)?</li> <li>2. Have any new markets been identified and are there any barriers to access?</li> <li>3. Have we lost market trade and if so, who have we lost it to?</li> <li>4. What reasons can you provide to account for this loss?</li> </ol>

				<p>5. Who are our major markets?</p> <p>6. Who are our new / emerging major competitors? (Brazil / Indonesia??)</p>
MLA 04		Written	Back	<p>1. MLA provides research and development and marketing services to the red meat industry.</p> <p>2. Though primarily funded by transaction levies paid on livestock sales by producers and industry levies – the Federal Government also contributes a dollar for each dollar spent in R&amp;D.</p> <p>3. Can you provide me with details on the research projects currently being undertaken?</p> <p>4. Identify some priority emerging issues for producers, industry and exporters?</p> <p>5. Is MLA conducting any ‘blue-sky’ research? (ie. genetic modification of species / scenarios in the event of a disease outbreak?)</p> <p>6. Are there any restrictions on research projects undertaken by MLA? If so, what are they?</p> <p>7. Has MLA experienced any interference by Government or Departmental officials preventing them from carrying out environmental or socio-economic research?</p>
MLA 05		Written	Back	<p>1. Australian may have escaped a fourth interest rate rise last week by the Reserve Bank but what impact has the high value of the \$A together with the three rate rises since October 2009 had on the market for Australian meat and livestock?</p> <p>2. Although many market economists got it wrong this time, they are confident that there are more on their way – what impact do you anticipate this will have?</p> <p>3. Have you done any research to investigate these concerns?</p>
MLA 06		Written	Williams	<p>Figures I saw when the vote was held on the \$5 Levy indicated that only 2.6 percent of cattle producers took part in the vote- that’s 5,082 producers from around 200,000 that pay the levy. Are my figures correct?</p>
MLA 07		Written	Williams	<p>Would you not consider that a very disappointing result from the rank and file, that they just don’t care?</p>
MLA 08		Written	Williams	<p>Would you look on it as a protest vote?</p>
MLA 09		Written	Williams	<p>Did the MLA put as much energy into promoting the NO case for the increase as it did the YES case?</p>

MLA 10		Written	Williams	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Last April, Agriculture Minister Tony Burke wrote to peak councils asking them to justify the salaries of executives. I presume Mr Palmer your organization received that letter.</li> <li>2. What was the MLA's response to Mr. Burke, did you review salaries and did any take a pay cut?</li> </ol>
MLA 11		Written	Williams	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Bindaree Beef owner John McDonald claims saleyard prices are 21 percent down on 1988-89 and 27 percent down on 83-84. Consumption for 2009 was that each person in Australia would eat 31.3 kilos of beef, down from 43 kilos in 1998. This is despite levies increasing.</li> <li>2. Would you concede he has a good point?</li> </ol>
MLA 12		Written	Williams	What is MLA's defence?
CC 01	08/02/10	45	Colbeck	<p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—To follow up from Senator Nash's questions about attendance at the Copenhagen conference, judging by the questions you have already answered, the two officers attended for the first week. Is that correct?</p> <p><b>Mr Gibbs</b>—I do not have the exact dates, but it was approximately for the first week of the two weeks.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Would you confirm the dates of their travel and what events they attended while they were at the conference?</p> <p><b>Mr Gibbs</b>—Yes.</p>
CC 02	08/02/10	46	Colbeck	<p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Thanks. And were there any events or meetings that they attended on their way to or from the conference? Have any feedback or reports been provided by the representatives on their return?</p> <p><b>Mr Gibbs</b>—As I explained to Senator Nash, I have had some briefings with the officers involved, verbal and written.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—There is nothing that you can provide to the committee from that process?</p> <p><b>Mr Gibbs</b>—I think I would have to take that on notice.</p> <p><b>Mr Talbot</b>—I would have to take that on notice too.</p>
CC 03	08/02/10	46	Colbeck	<p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—But what about outcomes of particular programs? If I go to forestry in particular, what is the situation with respect to carbon stored in solid timber products, for example?</p> <p><b>Dr O'Connell</b>—There is certainly—</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—There are a range of things that I would have expected must have</p>

				<p>been progressed. Where we at with those particularly vital things?</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—We can certainly provide that in consultation with the climate change department. I think we are talking more about the specific issues relating to a report by those two officers back to their branch heads, which may go more towards the nature of negotiations.</p>
CC 04	08/02/10	47	Colbeck	<p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Just in respect of the actual costs for the representatives, could you give us—and I understand this will have to be taken on notice—</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—Certainly.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—the cost for the delegation broken down by hotel accommodation, airfares, events, food, alcohol and miscellaneous? I suppose that covers off on that.</p>
CC 05	08/02/10	47	Nash	<p><b>Senator NASH</b>—All right. Thanks. One flew business and one did not. Just within the department in general, Dr O’Connell, could you give us some guidance as to what the protocols are around the level of flying?</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—Normally, on a long-haul flight of that nature, it would be business class, yes.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—So why did one fly economy? Do we know?</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—I suspect it was very crowded going to—</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—No room at the inn.</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—Availability.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—Okay. If you could take that on notice and come back, that would be good. Did they toss a coin? Sorry. Could you just come back and take that on notice as to the protocols around it and the reasons why. Thank you. Sorry, Senator Colbeck.</p>
CC 06	08/02/10	52	Milne	<p><b>Senator MILNE</b>—How many samples have been taken to date across the country?</p> <p><b>Mr Gibbs</b>—I do not have the exact figure with me now, but if you would like I could come back to you on that question.</p> <p><b>Senator MILNE</b>—I would like to know how many samples have been taken and the breakdown of those states in which they have been taken. If that is the first lot of samples that comes in by the middle of this year that will have been analysed, presumably that will be your baseline? What will be the parameters of the research framework? How many samples need to be taken before you determine what will be your baseline, and where do we go from here with it?</p>

CC 07	08/02/10	57	Milne	<p><b>Senator MILNE</b>—That is fine. In terms of the large-scale research projects with cross-sectoral application, there were meant to be a minimum of 12 projects this year. Can you please tell me what those projects are?</p> <p><b>Mr Mortimer</b>—Are you talking about the Climate Change Research Program here?</p> <p><b>Senator MILNE</b>—Yes.</p> <p><b>Mr Gibbs</b>—We have exceeded that number. For example, under the livestock program there are at least 18 projects. I can get a final number for you of the number of projects across the whole program, if you like.</p> <p><b>Senator MILNE</b>—I would like to know the number of projects that you are funding under the Climate Change Research Program and what they are actually for. Are they all in livestock?</p>
CC 08	08/02/10	58-59	Macdonald	<p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—When did it go from your minister to the Prime Minister?</p> <p><b>Mr Mortimer</b>—I do not have that information with me.</p> <p><b>Dr O'Connell</b>—We will take that on notice.</p> <p>...</p> <p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—Can you tell me when he dealt with it?</p> <p><b>Dr O'Connell</b>—We have to take on notice any steps beyond that point, just to clarify the timings.</p>
CC 09	08/02/10	61	O'Brien	<p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—I want to ask about the Forest Industries Development Fund and find out if any projects have been funded. Can you give us a summary of the types of projects that have been funded under that program?</p> <p><b>Mr Talbot</b>—There have been two rounds of the Forest Industries Development Fund. In the first round, eight projects were funded to a total of \$3.6 million. In the second round, 14 projects were short-listed and contracts are being negotiated at the moment. Due to the Christmas-New Year break—they were approved just before Christmas—the potential applicants have been given until mid-February to decide whether they take up the projects.</p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—So there are 14 contracts out there waiting to be signed, there?</p> <p><b>Mr Talbot</b>—That is correct, Senator.</p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—And of the projects approved, how would you describe them?</p> <p><b>Mr Talbot</b>—Senator, there was a broad range of projects. It is probably better if I take that on notice and try to put it in writing to you because they were quite broad in terms of their outlook.</p>



CC 10	08/02/10	61-62	Colbeck	<p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Why is it that, particularly under round 2, applicants were given five weeks to make their application. As I understand it, that was before projects were announced for round 1, so applicants for round 1 were not aware of the results of the first round. Applicants for round 2 would not have been aware of the outcome of the first round because it had not been formally announced. Yet it has taken 4½ months to get to the stage of announcing this process. There seems to be a fair variance. Applicants are given five weeks to make applications, yet it takes over 4½ months to assess the outcomes.</p> <p><b>Mr Talbot</b>—Once these projects are approved one of the delays relates to the applicants taking up the offer. I do not have all the details in front of me but I am quite happy to provide them to you. One of our challenges in processing these applications relates to the fact that once we have approved and notified the applicants it is for them to decide whether they will take up the project.</p>
CC 11	08/02/10	64	Brown	<p><b>Senator BOB BROWN</b>—How much money has been given to the Australian Forestry Standard?</p> <p><b>Mr Talbot</b>—I would have to take that question on notice, Senator.</p> <p><b>Senator BOB BROWN</b>—Would you do so?</p> <p><b>Mr Talbot</b>—Yes. I do not know off the top of my head, but I will take that question on notice, Senator.</p>
CC 12	08/02/10	65	Brown	<p><b>Senator BOB BROWN</b>—Can you tell the committee what the previous government's reasons were for funding the Australian Forestry Standard but not the Forest Stewardship Council?</p> <p><b>Senator Sherry</b>—He cannot, and nor can I because it was a decision that was made by the previous government. Senator Colbeck might have an idea, but I do not know. I can take on notice the current government's attitude.</p> <p><b>Senator BOB BROWN</b>—Would you, please?</p> <p><b>Senator Sherry</b>—I will take on notice the previous government's attitude, but I am pretty confident that I know what the response will be. That was advice to the previous government and we cannot disclose that—we do not have access to it, actually.</p>
CC 13	08/02/10	65-66	Brown	<p><b>Senator BOB BROWN</b>—I ask you, Minister: will you now look at the failure of the current government to fund the Forest Stewardship Council, given the evidence we have just heard that the Japanese purchasers of wood products from Australia are interested in—if not insisting upon—the Forest Stewardship Council? You may be aware that Gunns Limited in Tasmania is now saying it would support such a standard and, indeed, so is the Tasmanian government, but we do not have one.</p>

				<p><b>Senator Sherry</b>—I will it on notice.</p> <p><b>Senator BOB BROWN</b>—Can you see that this would be an obstruction to further progress for some pretty important investment decisions in Tasmania—regardless of which side of the fence we might be on—about, for example, Gunns pulp mill?</p> <p><b>Senator Sherry</b>—That is something that Minister Tony Burke will express a view on, not me, so I will take that on notice.</p> <p><b>Senator BOB BROWN</b>—Would you please let the committee know—and you can take this question on notice—about approaches from the Forest Stewardship Council for funding and assistance? When were they made? What response is the government making to them? When will it make those responses?</p> <p><b>Senator Sherry</b>—We will that on notice.</p>
CC 14	08/02/10	66	Brown	<p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Mr Talbot, would you be aware whether or not a Forest Stewardship Council standard in Australia prevents Australian companies from achieving FSC certification?</p> <p><b>Mr Talbot</b>—I will have to take that one on notice. The reason for that is that I know there is an international standard that a number of Australian companies have used.</p>
CC 15	08/02/10	66-67	Colbeck	<p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Has the government responded to the letter from the US members of Congress including those in the House of Representatives?</p> <p><b>Mr Talbot</b>—I would have to take that on notice. We have not seen the letter in this department.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—I will have a chat to you later and I will show it to you.</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—We will take it on notice.</p>
CC 16		Written	Back	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How many new Exceptional Circumstances applications have been received from State Governments in the past six months?</li> <li>2. Which electorates are these applications from?</li> <li>3. How many have been successful? How many have been rejected? What is the status of the other applications? When will they be finalised?</li> <li>4. How many regions currently are in EC areas? (please provide an electorate breakdown)</li> <li>5. When do these regions EC expire?</li> <li>6. Has NRAC visited these areas?</li> <li>7. When will those EC areas which expire in March be informed whether they have been rolled over or whether their EC status expires?</li> </ol>

				<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8. When will the Government make an official response to the three drought reviews which have been undertaken? What was the cost of those drought reviews?</li> <li>9. Why has it taken so long to respond to the drought reviews? How much did the reviews cost?</li> <li>10. Which organisations have been consulted about the governments new drought policy? Please provide a complete list of organisations and individuals consulted? Did the department or Minister meet with the NSW Local Government and Shires Association?</li> <li>11. Isn't it a fact that the new Government Drought policy has been signed off by the Cabinet and the Prime Minister and are sitting on the Minister's desk? Why is the Government sitting on the new policy?</li> </ol>
CC 17		Written	Back	<p>I refer to an answer by the Minister for Agriculture to a question with out notice on the 25th of November, 2009 in which he stated:</p> <p>“In offsets, it is important that we continue to have a system of trading which is able to be traded internationally. That is why the government continues to argue internationally for the need to separate human activity from natural causes in the international accounting mechanisms. <b>In doing so, though, there is now agreement as to what can happen in the meantime in advance of being able to have a system of international trading in particular for soil carbon. That is why there is now agreement for a voluntary market offset system through the national carbon offset standard.</b> That will allow application for agricultural soils, both in the area of soil carbon and in the area of biochar, also for enhanced forest management and non-forest vegetation <b>to be credited and also for mechanisms in place for credits on regrowth and soil carbon</b> on land which was cleared legally between 1990 and 2008.”</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is the agreement for a voluntary market offset system through the national carbon offset standard?</li> <li>2. Will this voluntary market offset system be compatible with our International Target under the Kyoto Protocol?</li> <li>3. Will it be compatible with any post Kyoto protocol accounting rules to ensure it can be included in meeting our international certificates?</li> <li>4. How many tonnes of carbon have been traded on the voluntary market through the national carbon offset standard?</li> </ol>

CC 18		Written	Back	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Can the Department confirm whether Mr. Simon French or Mr. Ian Michael Ruscoe work for the Department? (note these are the names on the list of the 114 Australian Delegation)</li> <li>2. Were these two men accredited to attend the Copenhagen Climate Change Conference in December? What is their role with the Department? What is their classification?</li> <li>3. How many from DAFF attended the Copenhagen Conference? What was the cost of attending the Copenhagen Conference?</li> <li>4. What was the purpose of DAFF sending officers to the Copenhagen Conference?</li> <li>5. How many sessions and what sessions did the DAFF Officers Attend?</li> <li>6. In relation to Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries what was achieved at the Copenhagen? What was agreed to at Copenhagen?</li> </ol>
CC 19		Written	Back/Nash	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Was there any agreement on new international accounting and measuring rules agreed to at Copenhagen to replace those currently operating under the Kyoto Protocol? When does the Department expect the new rules to be agreed to? Given the Kyoto Protocols expire in 2012 what is the time critical date for an agreement to be reached?</li> <li>2. Does the Government's CPRS Legislation rely on the 'offsets' allowable under the Kyoto Protocols to meet its International targets?</li> <li>3. What 'offsets' are currently available under the Kyoto Protocols for Australian businesses including farmers?</li> <li>4. What are the penalties for not complying with international targets under the Kyoto Protocols?</li> <li>5. Does the Government believe there needs to be changes to international accounting and measuring rules post Kyoto?</li> </ol>
CC 20		Written	Back	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What did the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry mean when he stated in answer to a question in Parliament on the 25<sup>th</sup> of November, 2009 that; "In offsets, it is important that we continue to have a system of trading which is able to be traded internationally. That is why the government continues to argue internationally for the need to separate human activity from natural causes in the international accounting mechanisms."</li> <li>2. Please give examples of the types of 'human activity' the Minister is specifically talking about?</li> <li>3. Please give examples of which forums the Government has argued internationally for the need to separate human activity from natural causes in the international accounting mechanisms?</li> </ol>

				4. Is it the Government's position that timber products such as housing frames should be a carbon sink allowable under international accounting mechanisms?
CC 21		Written	Back	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What practical measures are the government telling farmers can be taken by primary producers at the farm level to reduce emissions?</li> <li>2. What are these measures (please provide a list, including the main benefits and/or problems surrounding implementation, the cost of successfully implementing each measure and the estimate carbon reductions that can be achieved by implementing each measure)?</li> <li>3. What support/grants/funding/training is available to farmers to undertake these initiatives?</li> <li>4. Is the Department concerned about any schemes being promoted to farmers to reduce their carbon footprint, provide carbon sinks or offsets?</li> <li>5. How are the benefits of these measures benchmarked? Ie how are the emissions measured and accounted for? Can they actually be accounted for?</li> <li>6. How will the government work out the emissions on a livestock enterprise, a mixed farming operation or grain growing enterprise?</li> <li>7. Is it not a fact that emissions released by livestock are a natural occurrence and part of a natural cycle?</li> <li>8. Is it not a fact that the only industry to have reduced its emissions footprint is the red meat livestock industry, which has seen sheep and cattle numbers drop to the lowest level in also a century?</li> <li>9. How big emitters are termites what measures are the government taking to reduce the emissions from termites?</li> </ol>
CC 22		Written	Back	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How many food processors or manufactures are consider to be large emitters and will be included in the initial CPRS scheme?</li> <li>2. How many food processors or manufactures will be eligible for free credits?</li> <li>3. How will Australian grown, processed or manufactured products compete with on both the international and domestic markets against produce from nations who have no emission trading scheme?</li> <li>4. Has any economic modelling been done by the department on the cost to food manufacturing, processing sector of the ETS?</li> <li>5. Has this economic modelling given any indication of increases in the price of food?</li> <li>6. Is the Emission Trading Scheme a tax for collection purposes?</li> </ol>

CC 23 Note: As this question was submitted late, it is not due to be answered by the due date of 14 April 2010		Written	Birmingham	How much of the Government's \$60 million Climate Change Adaptation funding for farmers promised by Rudd Labor at the 2007 election as part of the Australia's Farming Future policy has been granted? Please provide a breakdown of projects funded.
CC 24		Written	Colbeck	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What representations has DAFF had from forest contractors in Tasmania over the past 6 months about assistance for their industry?</li> <li>2. What proposals have been put to the Department?</li> <li>3. What briefs have been provided to the Minister on how to assist forest contractors – short or long term?</li> </ol>
CC 25		Written	Colbeck	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In November last year, PIMC agreed to support a push to get the Green Building Council to accredit the Australian Forest Certification Scheme. Is the Department satisfied all Federal Government agencies – along with State Governments – have implemented procurement policies which recognise the AFCS?</li> <li>2. Has the Department been in any discussions with international trading partners about forest certification? What has been the nature of those discussions?</li> </ol>
CC 26		Written	Nash	Is it the Government's position that timber products such as housing frames should be a carbon sink allowing under international accounting mechanisms?
CC 27		Written	Nash	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What did the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry mean when he stated in answer to a question in Parliament on the 25<sup>th</sup> of November, 2009 that; "In offsets, it is important that we continue to have a system of trading which is able to be traded internationally. That is why the government continues to argue internationally for the need to separate human activity from natural causes in the international accounting mechanisms."</li> <li>2. Please give examples of the types of 'human activity' the Minister is specifically talking about?</li> </ol>
CC 28		Written	Nash	Please give examples of which forums the Government has argued internationally for the need to separate human activity from natural causes in the international accounting mechanisms?

CC 29		Written	Xenophon	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Given the important role the Rural Financial Counselling Service of South Australia plays in rural communities, many of which are suffering severe financial hardships caused by drought, climate change and water restrictions, what plans are in place for future funding and support?</li> <li>2. If the conditions in rural areas continue to worsen, what contingency plans are in place to help the RFCSSA cope with an increase in clients?</li> </ol>
CC 30		Written	Nash	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What advice has been provided to the Minister in relation to the impact on job losses?</li> <li>2. For example, has there been modelling carried out on what job losses could be expected through the closure of coal mines?</li> <li>3. If so, please detail – where, numbers, etc.</li> <li>4. What about the impact on power stations that rely particularly on the use of brown coal?</li> </ol>
CC 31		Written	Nash	<p>The impact on other sectors?</p> <p>Small business Rural sector</p>
ABARE 01	08/02/10	101	Williams	<p><b>Senator WILLIAMS</b>—On overall production of agricultural products in Australia—lamb, mutton, beef, cereal grains—say since early 2002, have we dropped off much due to the drought or have we maintained a reasonable level of production throughout our cereal crops and our livestock industries? Have you any idea, or would that be more an ABARE statistic?</p> <p><b>Mr Grant</b>—ABARE should certainly have that. Certainly there was a drop-off in grain production over the period of the drought. That has picked up within the last two years and production is very positive again. I do not have the exact numbers, but I could certainly get those on notice from ABARE if that would help.</p>
SRM 01	08/02/10	50	Nash	<p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—I was looking to what the minister said. Whether or not there is an association to another document is something I would have to look at and take on notice. Obviously I do not have that in front of me. As I say, this division is not the relevant division for the camels issue. The relevant division is the sustainable resource management division.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—But it is the relevant division for climate change as it relates to agriculture. Obviously there is some relativity there, because a couple of officers went over to Copenhagen. There is obviously some relativity here for agriculture and climate</p>

				<p>change. I am merely trying to determine whether or not there is a conflict between your minister—it is quite appropriate to ask a question about your minister here—and the minister for climate change, Penny Wong. Very simply, one is saying that the emissions from camels do count—indeed, that they cost \$3.73 million—and the other is not.</p> <p>I am merely trying to determine whether or not there is a conflict between your minister—and is it quite appropriate to ask a question about your minister here—and the Minister for Climate Change and Water, Penny Wong. Very simply, one is saying that the emissions from camels does count—indeed, it is \$3.73 million—and the other is not.</p> <p><b>Senator Sherry</b>—As it goes to a claimed ministerial view, I will take it on notice and ask the minister for you.</p>
SRM 02	08/02/10	72	Nash	<p><b>Senator NASH</b>—I want to ask a few questions about camels. Mr Thompson, are you my camel man?</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—We can answer some questions on camels.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—I want to make this point absolutely clear. How much do camels emit?</p> <p><b>CHAIR</b>—Emit in relation to what?</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—How much do they emit in methane flatulence?</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—Senator, I am not sure that we are in a position here to be precise about the emissions from camels.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—Do you have a rough ballpark figure?</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—I do not think I have a rough ballpark figure for the camels overall, but it is possibly one that we could get from the climate change department.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—Thank you, Dr O’Connell. I would appreciate it very much if you could do that. I ask this question for clarity. There would be no difference in the flatulent emission from a camel whether it is feral or domestic. Would that be correct?</p>
SRM 03	08/02/10	72	Nash	<p><b>Senator NASH</b>—Excellent. If you could take that on notice for me and provide an answer that would be extremely useful. I do not think you were here earlier, Mr Thompson, when I was referring to a joint ministerial media release on 2 July last year from your Minister Burke and Mr Garrett relating to a \$403 million investment for the Australian environment and sustainable agriculture. The media release states:</p> <p>Feral camels cover an estimated 3.3 million square kilometres and cause an estimated \$14 million in damage, including to fences, water troughs, bores, buildings and vegetation.</p> <p>Would you have given the minister advice—perhaps by way of a background brief—relating to that media release?</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—We would have provided the minister with some background to that</p>



				<p>media release and we would have given him some information about the impacts of camels on the Australian environment.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—Would it be fairly safe to assume that you would have given him a breakdown on what the \$14 million went across, just for his understanding and knowledge of what it would go to?</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—We would have to take that on notice to recall exactly what the information was rather than second guessing what we did at the time.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—Nicely done, Dr O’Connell. Mr Thompson, if you could take that on notice and perhaps provide for the committee the exact breakdown of the \$14 million that you provided to the minister at that time that would be useful. I wish to continue to referring to camels but I will refer to closer ground than emissions, which, according to you, are questions for Climate Change. Last time we had some discussion about the management of camels. I refer to Ninti One. Is that where the proposal came from?</p>
SRM 04	08/02/10	73	Nash	<p><b>Senator NASH</b>—In answer to a question on notice you kindly broke that down to reveal the proposal prepared by Ninti One. If I am not reading this correctly please tell me, but there is a \$2,882,000 component for administration for this proposal. Could you give the committee a breakdown of that? Will well over half a million dollars a year be spent on administration?</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—I do not have that detail with me. That would be something that we could take on notice.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—In the proposal that has been put forward how many staff are involved in this project</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—I am not familiar with the exact detail of it.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—Does anybody have the detail?</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—Do you mean our staff or do you mean people on the ground putting the project together?</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—Sorry; I should have been much clearer—people on the ground that Ninti One is providing to the proposal.</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—I do not have that number. Clearly, a small number of staff is involved and they will be contracting staff to do the culling.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—So you would only expect a small number?</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—I would expect a small number of administrative staff.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—Why would it cost over half a million dollars a year to administrate?</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—As I said, I am not sure of the detail of that, but a range of costs are possibly involved in managing contracts for the harvesters, and for arranging transport and</p>

				<p>training.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—It seems to me to be quite an extraordinarily high figure. I am happy for you to take that question on notice, but as it will be in a project proposal document somewhere perhaps before the end of this evening you could undertake to find the details of that administration.</p>
SRM 05	08/02/10	74	Nash	<p><b>Senator NASH</b>—Referring to the process, does the department then write to those proponents who put in an expression of interest and explain why they were not successful in going further down the process?</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—I think we wrote to all proponents advising them of the outcome of the process. We certainly made it available to all proponents to seek advice and feedback on their applications.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—After they had been told that they were not going any further in the process?</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—Yes. All proponents were able to seek further advice.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—Did any of them choose to do that?</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—I would have to take that question on notice; I do not know.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—What a shame you did not bring the folder with you. It would be great if you could also take that question on notice, Mr Thompson. If you can get any of this to us by the end of the day it would be very useful, given the length of time it has taken to get back questions on notice. If you could do that by the end of today it would be much appreciated.</p>
SRM 06	08/02/10	75	Siewert	<p><b>Mr Bartlett</b>—I will answer that question as I am one of the general managers in Australian Government land and coast. At this stage we have not finalised the process for assessing applications that we receive. We are working on that at the moment but we have not finalised it. Again, we have separated all the comments that we have received through the consultation process, we have dealt with the assessment process, and we are now working out how to build those into a revised process.</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—Are you still going for the fairly centralised panel process, or will you incorporate some more state and local assessment processes?</p> <p><b>Mr Bartlett</b>—Those decisions have not yet been made.</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—When will you be making those decisions?</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—Those decisions will be made in the coming weeks. We are mindful of the comments that were received from many in the community about the assessment process that was undertaken last time, and those requests for greater linkages to people</p>

				<p>with regional and local knowledge.</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—What is the timeline for your decision-making process, and who is helping to develop where you go to from here?</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—The applications for Caring for our Country close in April and we are hoping to go through the assessment process and again announce projects as early as we possibly can in the new financial year, or at the end of this financial year.</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—Thank you for that useful information. However, I will try again: when will you finalise your assessment process? I am referring to the process that will be used and not the assessment itself.</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—As I have said, I do not have that data with me. We expect to have that process finalised in the next couple of weeks.</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—I will have to wait until May to find out, or can you take that question on notice and as soon as you have finalised it you can send it out to us? I will be asking this question again at the May estimates committee hearings. You know why I am asking this question; I am looking for an acknowledgement that there will be improvement in the process and I would like to know what that will be.</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—Referring to the timeframe, Senator, I think we can probably successfully take that question on notice. It will probably be finished by the time our questions on notice are being returned to you, so we should be able to tell you when it is sorted out. You are looking at the timeline for finishing that process?</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—I am looking at the timeline for finishing that process and I am also looking at the actual process.</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—Perhaps, as the secretary said, if we take that question on notice, it should be in the timeframe of questions on notice.</p>
SRM 07	08/02/10	84-85	Colbeck	<p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—What about consultations prior to the CMS meeting in Rome in December 2008?</p> <p><b>Mr Pittar</b>—I do not have information going back that far I am afraid. I presumed you were talking about consultation post the meetings of the CMS in late 2008.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—That is where damage was done, or the actual decision at an international level to list them was made. Obviously Australia went into that with a position. I am interested to know what consultation your department had with DEWHA going into that decision.</p> <p><b>Mr Pittar</b>—I would have to take that on notice; I do not have that information in front of me.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—That is my perspective as a critic at this point in time. Was the</p>

				<p>department consulted in relation to the makeup of the delegation?</p> <p><b>Mr Pittar</b>—I do not have details about the nature of consultations between DEWHA and DAFF in the lead-up to that November 2008 meeting. I will have to take that on notice.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Can you give me dates of consultations post the December 2008 meeting?</p> <p><b>Mr Pittar</b>—We can include that in our answer.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—And since the tabling of the listing in November? I hope you are taking notice of this Professor Hurry, because they are all coming your way as well, unless you would like to chime in now on that initial round. Did you have any consultations prior to December 2008 with DEWHA on the potential listing?</p> <p><b>Prof. Hurry</b>—I would have to go back and check that. I remember a discussion about white sharks at about the same time. I cannot remember whether that was CMS or CITES. But in regard to porbeagles and makos, I thought the discussions we had were just prior to this last round. I will check that and come back formally.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—By white sharks do you meant big ones—great whites?</p> <p><b>Prof. Hurry</b>—Yes. There was a listing of them some time ago. I thought that would have been around 2008. But I do not remember any prior discussion on porbeagles and makos. I will check and come back to you formally.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—You cannot remember so you obviously cannot answer this next question. What consultations have either of you had with the commercial and recreational fishing sectors prior to December 2008 and post the announcement of the listing?</p> <p><b>Mr Pittar</b>—We will have to take that on notice.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—I understand that you will have to take that on notice, because you cannot remember whether you were consulted. Obviously that question provides some memory issues.</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—It is not just a memory issue; it actually goes back before our time and we would have to consult the records.</p> <p><b>Prof. Hurry</b>—I will have to do the same.</p>
SRM 08	08/02/10	86	Colbeck	<p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Given that there is a management plan in place to oversight the catching of those sharks, that provided the circumstance under section 13 for an exemption under the EPBC Act, but the management plan has to be modified to incorporate that live sharks be released?</p> <p><b>Dr J Findlay</b>—That is right.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—That is essentially the effect. Can you provide us—perhaps best on notice—with some of that catch information? I am happy for that to be on notice.</p>

				<p>...</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—The indication to me from professional fishermen is that they prefer to be in waters where there are not large numbers of them because they cut their gear off and it is expensive to get it back. When you provide that information can you break it down by region to give us the capacity to assess that?</p> <p><b>Dr J Findlay</b>—I caution that there are some limitations on the scale at which we can provide you data. We have a policy that prevents us data publicly below five boats. With that caution we can go to as fine a scale—</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—I do not necessarily want it to that level of detail. I am looking for some overall numbers and perhaps some regional numbers. I do not know whether that creates any sensitivity based on who fishes in what areas. But I am happy to work within the parameters that you might have to provide some data. I am interested in getting a sense of the broader data.</p> <p><b>Dr J Findlay</b>—We will do our best.</p>
SRM 09	08/02/10	88	Colbeck	<p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Okay. So there may be further consultations through the policy review committee process on potential government responses?</p> <p><b>Mr Pittar</b>—We would anticipate that there would be some further public consultation over the draft document that the committee has prepared, but they are ultimately decisions for government.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—I would like a schedule of the consultations to a date. I am happy to put that on notice as part of the process.</p>
SRM 10	08/02/10	91	Macdonald	<p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—Okay. I do not want to spend too much time on the Coral Sea fishing permits, but you introduced a new permit on 1 November—this is AFMA, I think.</p> <p><b>Prof. Hurry</b>—Yes.</p> <p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—It coincided, unfortunately, with Environment doing what some might say is ‘pue’ process. What additional obligations have been imposed upon both recreational and commercial fishermen in the Coral Sea section of the eastern tuna and billfish fishery since 1 November that were not there before?</p> <p><b>Dr J Findlay</b>—As a result of the Coral Sea Conservation Zone declaration, there has been no change as a direct result of that with regard to our permits. The only condition put on us was to preclude further development to additional permits being issued or new fisheries being developed in that area. There are no permit conditions that we impose to deal with the issue. We are awaiting the assessments, and those things will eventuate further down the track, I suspect.</p> <p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—Okay, but AFMA did require a Coral Sea permit. Is that</p>

				<p>right?</p> <p><b>Prof. Hurry</b>—If it was the Coral Sea, we would have had permits for all those fisheries for some time. They probably would not be new within the 12 months.</p> <p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—But was this not something new that happened from 1 November?</p> <p><b>Prof. Hurry</b>—No.</p> <p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—That does not ring a bell?</p> <p><b>Prof. Hurry</b>—No. Let me have a look.</p> <p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—What the question on notice would be is whether you can assure me that since, say, 1 July last year there have been no additional requirements imposed on commercial or recreational fishermen from your point of view.</p> <p><b>Prof. Hurry</b>—Yes, I will check. I will also check if there are any WTO restrictions that might have come through for the fishery—any model of trade restrictions. But I am sure it would have just been a rollover of the previous permit.</p>
SRM 11		93	Macdonald	<p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—We are still pursuing the same objectives in the Indian Ocean. We trying to get international cooperation on sustainably managing fish stock out of it. That is the broad picture.</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—Senator, your point made about the difficulties in the IOTC are well made and understood. We are working to do something constructive to address them.</p> <p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—But they have been well understood for the last four to six estimates committee hearings. What I am trying to ascertain is what the Australian government is doing towards addressing it. It would involve a bit of DFAT work as well. But it was being handled out of this department in the past. As I recall, Dr Kalish was very much involved in it. I do not seem to detect the same sort of enthusiasm, expertise or interest in that. I am asking someone to assure me I am wrong rather than just saying, ‘Ah yes, it’s complex, and we’re looking into it.’ Nobody can give me any comfort. Perhaps it is something I should take up with the minister. I will not ask Senator Sherry to do it because he does not seem to be with me.</p> <p>Senator Sherry, I am just expressing that my assumption that the Australian government seems to have lost its enthusiasm and expertise in this area. I was asking someone to assure me that that is not right and correct. There has been a bit of silence. I do not blame the officers: they can only do what they can do. Is it something that you could refer to the minister for me, Senator Sherry? Perhaps I will also write, but perhaps you could refer the minister to this part of the estimates. You might like to take that as a question on notice to which you could respond to the whole committee in relation to.</p> <p><b>Senator Sherry</b>—I will.</p>

SRM 12		93	Colbeck	<p><b>Mr Pittar</b>—Senator, in the context of the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation discussions, which took place late last year, there were a series of resolutions relating to interim arrangements that would be in place prior to the formal establishment of the SPRFMO. Some of those interim arrangements related to the use of gill nets. Those resolutions were carried, which would essentially, if I recall correctly, require countries either to state that they would not enforce a ban of gill nets or, alternatively, would enforce a ban on gill nets. I think the date for that was either the beginning or the end of February. I cannot remember whether it was 1 or 28 February. The intention would be that there would be bans in place for gill netting in that area which would be covered by the SPRFMO agreement.</p> <p><b>COLBECK</b>—Has that directly raised with the EU and Spain?</p> <p><b>Mr Pittar</b>—It has been. I would need to take on notice the precise detail of that, but my understanding is that the European commission has now agreed that that ban on gill netting would apply in the interim until establishment of the SPRFMO. If I am not entirely correct, I will correct that on notice.</p>
SRM 13		Written	Adams	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What assessment has been made of wild dog infusion in the pure breed dingo population?</li> <li>2. Is the increasing wild dog population a threat to the pure dingo breed?</li> <li>3. To what extent is the spread of the wild dog population being monitored?</li> <li>4. At what rate is the pure breed dingo habitat being reduced, due to the spread of the wild dog population?</li> </ol>
SRM 14		Written	Back	<p>I refer to a Joint Ministerial Media Release from Mr Burke and Mr Garrett issued on the 2nd of July, “\$403 million investment for the Australian Environment and Sustainable Agriculture.”</p> <p>The Media Release states; “Feral camels cover an estimated 3.3 million square kilometres and cause an estimated \$14 million in damage, including to fences, water troughs, bores, buildings and vegetation.”</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Can the department please provide a breakdown of the how the Government arrived at the figure of \$14 million in damage? Did the Department verify the \$14 million economic damage figure prior to the Minister releasing the Media Release?</li> </ol> <p>Isn't it a fact that the “Camel fact sheet” on the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts website states;</p> <p>“The economic costs of feral camels has been estimated at over \$14 million per year, comprising:</p>

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$5.51 million per year in damage to infrastructure, property, and people: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ pastoral lands suffer major damage to fences, yards, and water troughs</li> <li>○ government agencies and remote settlements suffer major damage to buildings, fixtures, fences, bores and</li> <li>○ individuals suffer damage primarily through vehicular collisions.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• \$2.35 million per year in direct control and management costs,</li> <li>• \$3.42 million per year in impacts on livestock production through competition with stock for food and other resources, and</li> <li>• \$3.73 million per year contribution to greenhouse gas emissions and impact on global climate change. “</li> </ul> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. How was the figure \$3.73 million per year contribution to greenhouse gas emissions and impact on global climate change derived?</li> <li>3. Can you please explain why the Minister for Climate Change, Penny Wong told the Australian Newspaper that greenhouse gas emissions from feral camels ‘don’t count’ because they are not counted under the Kyoto Protocol, yet the Ministers for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and the Environment are including a figure of \$3.73 million per year contribution to greenhouse gas emissions and impact on global climate change?</li> <li>4. Did the Ministers make a false and misleading claim in the Media Release issued on the 2nd of July about the economic costs of feral camels?</li> <li>5. Who is right. The Ministers for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and the Minister for the Environment or The Minister for Climate Change and Water?</li> </ol>
SRM 15		Written	Colbeck	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Can you give me a run-down of DAFF/AFMA's role in the listing of the mako and porbeagle sharks under the EPBC Act?</li> <li>2. When was DAFF/AFMA consulted about this listing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• prior to the Rome meeting of CMS in December 2008?</li> <li>• following the meeting?</li> <li>• since the tabling of the listing in November?</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. What consultations has DAFF/AFMA had with the commercial and recreational fishing sector over these shark species listings?</li> <li>4. Did DAFF offer any advice to DEWHA about this issue? What was the nature and content of that advice?</li> <li>5. With respect to commercial fishermen in Australian waters, what is currently their position in the fishing of these species – either targeted or as by-catch?</li> <li>6. Do you have information on the annual catch of these species by the commercial sector? Broken down by region?</li> </ol>



				<p>7. Is DAFF aware of further potential listings through the Convention for Migratory Species or CITES (Convention for International Trade of Endangered Species)?</p> <p>8. What role has DAFF played in the planning for these potential listings?</p>
SRM 16		Written	Colbeck	<p>The EPBC Act review was completed and released in December last year.</p> <p>1. What input has or will DAFF have from this point?</p> <p>2. Has DAFF provided any briefs to DEWHA re the Hawke Review recommendations?</p> <p>3. What is the nature of these?</p> <p>4. Does DAFF have any particular concerns about any of the final report recommendations? Which ones?</p>
AFMA 01	08/02/10	96	Colbeck	<p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Obviously there was some uncertainty at the time about what was going to happen with the vessel and with logistical arrangements, so I think a week is reasonable. Did the officer take any role with respect to the people who were taken onto the ship, do you know?</p> <p><b>Mr Venslovas</b>—Our approach is that where officers are deployed on patrol boats that become involved in the apprehension of SIEVs, our officers normally do not get involved in the law enforcement aspects of that program. However, from a logistical point of view, where there is practical value that can be added by the officer, they become involved in certain areas. On this occasion, the female officer, or AFMA officer, on board was assisting in the searching of female asylum seekers.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Okay. I understand if you have to take this on notice, but could you give us the cost implications of the time that was lost during that particular process from the time that the people were picked up to when the officer was repatriated to Darwin and the costs associated with that, please?</p> <p><b>Mr Venslovas</b>—Yes.</p>
AFMA02	08/02/10	97	Colbeck	<p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Hopefully that is something that is positive coming forward. I think we had some discussion at an earlier estimates hearing in relation to recognition of statutory fishing rights. The department or AFMA was doing some work on the recognition of those where they sat. Is there anything further that you can report to me on that, or is there any information that you might be able to give us as far as how they are being recognised? I understand there was some legal advice being sought on the actual statutory nature of the rights.</p> <p><b>Prof. Hurry</b>—I think we took that question but it is going back a while.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—It is a little while. I am just wondering if there is anything further on that.</p> <p><b>Prof. Hurry</b>—Unless Dr Findlay has something, I would probably be better placed to take it on notice and come back to you.</p>

AFMA 03		Written	Colbeck	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Can AFMA advise on the operation of the <i>Oceanic Viking</i> for the first half of this financial year.</li> <li>2. In the 2009-2010 budget, funds were set aside for the vessel: “More than \$6 million over two years will also be provided for the <i>Oceanic Viking</i> to undertake an additional 80 days of surveillance and patrol in Australia’s northern waters.” (12 May 2009 media release by the Minister for Home Affairs)</li> <li>3. As far as I am aware, the vessel was in Northern Waters on 20th of September (most probably there much earlier) and remained there until early to mid December. This would put its time in Northern Waters at 80 days or well over.</li> <li>4. How many days did AFMA officers spend on the ship in Northern Waters?</li> <li>5. What was the role of AFMA officers with respect to refugees transported by the vessel to Christmas Island or to Indonesia?</li> <li>6. If they were on the vessel at this time, what was the cost of their wages, etc?</li> <li>7. Have there been any sightings or arrests of poachers by the <i>Oceanic Viking</i> in the Southern Ocean since December?</li> </ol>
AFMA 04		Written	Colbeck	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In November there were media reports of Spanish vessels fishing with gillnets in the Tasman Sea as well as a significant length of gillnet being found in Antarctic waters.</li> <li>2. Can AFMA confirm these?</li> <li>3. Does AFMA have any further details of sightings or reports?</li> <li>4. Were these ships with Australian waters or international waters?</li> <li>5. Is this the first time AFMA had become aware of such fishing practices – by Spanish vessels or anyone else?</li> <li>6. Was this matter raised directly with the EU or Spain?</li> <li>7. Can you provide details on the status of the ban that was discussed in the meeting of the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation in Auckland in November?</li> <li>8. Has this been implemented? What will be the effects, if any, on Australia's commercial fishing sector?</li> </ol>
APD 01	08/02/10	101	Williams	<p><b>Senator WILLIAMS</b>—Fair enough. I want to take you to another issue, Mr Grant, which has been a concern of mine for many years, and that is the productivity of cereal crops and the condition of our soil and fertiliser. Two years ago we had exceptionally high fertiliser prices—I think MAP was around \$1,700 a tonne. I know we have one phosphate mine in Queensland but I think it exports every ounce it produces. Is it the situation that we import all of our fertiliser?</p>

				<p><b>Mr Grant</b>—I do not know the exact proportions of imported versus domestic production. I do know we import a lot, but I would have to take on notice the exact proportions of imports versus domestic production.</p>
APD 02	08/02/10	102	Williams	<p><b>Senator WILLIAMS</b>—Does China have a large import tariff on wine such as countries like Thailand have? I think Thailand has 370 per cent, or some outrageous level, of import tariff. Do you know if China has also got large barriers up as far as importing wine?</p> <p><b>Mr Grant</b>—I do not know. I would have to take that on notice.</p> <p><b>Senator WILLIAMS</b>—Could you take that on notice for me, please. I would be interested.</p> <p><b>Mr Grant</b>—Yes, I can.</p> <p><b>Senator WILLIAMS</b>—As I said, it was 370 per cent. I think that, under the free trade agreement with Thailand, it might have come down a bit, but a basic bottle of wine in Australia for \$10—you would pay A\$55 in Thailand. Of course it is nearly all import duty, which is holding the market back enormously, especially with their tourist industry. These are obviously barriers we have to try to get over.</p> <p><b>Mr Grant</b>—I have not heard from the industry that tariffs are a problem, but let me take that on notice and I can find out for you.</p>
APD 03	08/02/10	103	Nash	<p><b>Senator NASH</b>—I am sure, Minister, that I would be right if I were to say the government is still intending to honour all their election commitments.</p> <p><b>Senator Sherry</b>—It was an election commitment and we have three years, I would point out, to implement election commitments. I will take it on notice and see if there is anything further from the minister.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—All right. But, as with all of the election commitments, they will be fulfilled, as has been the government's view? Senator Conroy spends a lot of time in this room saying that you are going to fulfil all your election commitments.</p> <p><b>Senator Sherry</b>—The Prime Minister has made it very clear about election commitments. But as far as this specific issue is concerned I will, as I say, take it on notice and we will see if the minister can provide you with further detail.</p>

APD 04	08/02/10	107	Colbeck	<p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Where would that statutory levy investment come in then, in those figures?</p> <p><b>Mr Grant</b>—It comes into the Commonwealth investment. The matched funding and statutory levy moneys are within the Commonwealth money—</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—So both amounts are in that \$349 million?</p> <p><b>Mr Grant</b>—Yes, they are in the \$349 million.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Are you sure that is right? My recollection is that it was in excess of half a billion dollars in that time frame, 2006-07, and it is still more than that.</p> <p><b>Mr Grant</b>—That is true, yes. I would have to check those figures, wouldn't I, because the investment in—</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Because I think we cracked half a billion dollars during 2005-06.</p> <p><b>Mr Grant</b>—Yes, my apologies. I would have to check where the industry levy moneys go. So certainly the Commonwealth matching money would be in the \$349 million.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Yes, I am happy to accept that.</p> <p><b>Mr Grant</b>—So \$200 million of that would be—but I would just have to check. Yes, and CSIRO is in there as well, so it is probably the total of those two.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—I would suggest there is very little chance of the—</p> <p><b>Mr Grant</b>—On balance, you may be right that the industry levy moneys may be in business investment, but I would have to confirm that with the data.</p> <p><b>Mr Glyde</b>—We should be able to provide the table and the sources of information after we have consulted with the ABS on that.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—So the total spend has gone from \$0.75 billion to \$1.67 billion—</p> <p><b>Mr Grant</b>—Yes.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—in that 10-year period. What is that in terms of real growth?</p> <p><b>Mr Grant</b>—I do not have that figure. I would have to check. I would have to take that on notice.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—I would be interested in that calculation to get a sense of where it has actually gone—and I understand that there are fluctuations, particularly in the matching funding, depending on—</p> <p><b>Mr Grant</b>—The timing of payments and drought and other—</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—drought and other conditions within the markets.</p> <p><b>Mr Grant</b>—Yes.</p>
APD 05	08/02/10	110	Colbeck	<p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Do you have any response to criticisms from various industry groups with respect to our nonattendance at the Fruit Logistica trade fair?</p>

				<p><b>Mr Grant</b>—I do not. Mr Ottesen, have you heard anything in that area?</p> <p><b>Mr Ottesen</b>—No.</p> <p><b>Mr Grant</b>—No, the issue of attendance or otherwise has not been raised with the department to my knowledge.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—It was fairly recent—3 to 5 February the trade fair occurred.</p> <p><b>Mr Grant</b>—Is this Australia’s attendance or the government’s attendance?</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—It is the government’s attendance or Australia’s attendance through DAFF at the trade fair in Berlin on 3 to 5 February.</p> <p><b>Mr Grant</b>—I am not aware that the department has ever gone, but I can take that on notice.</p>
APD 06	08/02/10	110	Colbeck	<p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Okay. The criticism is quite recent—it is today—from AUSVEG, the issue being that Australia now imports more fruit and veg than it exports. This is obviously seen by AUSVEG as a major international fair that promotes those particular products.</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—I am not aware of AUSVEG approaching us before the event either seeking our attendance. We could talk with AUSVEG—</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—As I said, the press release that I have is very fresh—it is today’s. I understand that you may have been otherwise occupied today—</p> <p><b>Senator Sherry</b>—You have outbriefed us, Senator Colbeck, because it is not in here but you have it!</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Do you have any sense of the fair itself: who attends and its composition?</p> <p><b>Mr Grant</b>—I think it is a trade fair. It buys and sells, basically. I really do not have much of an idea, but that is usually what trade fairs are about, so that is all I can guess. I can find out more information for you on notice.</p>
APD 07	08/02/10	111	Colbeck	<p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—What proportion of the \$6.4 million in round 1 would be contracted?</p> <p><b>Mr Grant</b>—I do not have that figure on me. I do not know whether Mr Souness does.</p> <p><b>Mr Souness</b>—No. All we can say is that we have negotiated and signed off on eight funding agreements out of the 15, I think it was, but I do not have the proportions in front of me. That is something we would have to provide on notice.</p>
APD 08	08/02/10	112	Colbeck	<p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Can you give us some information on the status of the VegVision, which began in 2007.</p> <p><b>Mr Grant</b>—The government’s involvement in that is finished. We put some money into helping the industry develop that vision and it is now completed and the industry is essentially implementing that vision.</p>

				<p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—But what about the work that was supposed to occur to explore social, economic and environmental impacts? We talked about this, I think, last time. There were some studies that were being done but have not seen the light of day yet.</p> <p><b>Mr Grant</b>—I do not recall that. I am happy to take that on notice. Mr Ottesen, do you recall that?</p> <p><b>Mr Ottesen</b>—No.</p>
APD 09	08/02/10	113	Colbeck	<p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—According to you, when did your involvement cease?</p> <p><b>Mr Grant</b>—I cannot give you the exact date, but it was 2007-08 or early 2008-09. Again, I can take that on notice, but I am pretty sure the last payments that we made were around that time.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—So as far as you are concerned all VegVision actions that the government might have been responsible for are completed?</p> <p><b>Mr Grant</b>—We helped to fund the VegVision, which is sort of a forward-thinking strategy for the industry.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—I remember it very clearly. You do not have to remind me.</p> <p><b>Mr Grant</b>—I guess our involvement was to facilitate the funding and the conduct of the survey, not then to implement it.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—No, I understand that. But there are some reports, as I understand it, that have not seen the light of day which the department were involved with and that is what I am trying to get to the bottom of. That is all.</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—It is probably best we take that on notice.</p>
APD 10		Written	Back	<p>I refer you to the Document ‘Labor’s Plan for Primary Industries’, Election 2007; Page 19 which states;</p> <p><i>‘A Rudd Labor Government will simplify and strengthen food labelling laws. This will include;</i></p> <p><i>A new ‘Grown in Australia’ label under the Trade Practices Act for products that are not only made in Australia, but also grown in Australia.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What work has been undertaken on developing a new ‘Grown in Australia label?</li> <li>2. Who within the Department is undertaking the work?</li> <li>3. What consultations and with whom have they been held in relation to the Grown in Australia label?</li> <li>4. When will the label ‘Grown in Australia’ be introduced?</li> <li>5. What products will the label apply to?</li> <li>6. Will it be compulsory for all food retail and wholesale outlets to display the label?</li> <li>7. What is the expected cost to food manufacturers?</li> </ol>

				<p>8. Who within the Department has been talking to Treasury about amending the Trade Practices Act? When were these discussions held? I refer you to the Document ‘Labor’s Plan for Primary Industries’, Election 2007; Page 20 which states; <i>Consideration of amendments to the Food Standards Code to clarify country of origin labelling requirements.</i></p> <p>9. What ‘Consideration’ has the department undertaken to clarify country of origin labelling requirements?</p> <p>10. What are the current requirements for the country of origin labelling on fresh food and on processed food?</p> <p>11. Is it currently possible of a consumer to find out where processed food which is labelled ‘packaged in Australia from import products’ comes from?</p> <p>12. How would the consumers find out where the imported products came from?</p> <p>13. Is it possible for the department to find out where the imported products came from?</p> <p>14. Has the department undertaken any work or training exercises on being able to trace back and trace forward ingredients used in processed food?</p> <p>15. Who within the Department has been talking to Treasury about amending the Trade Practices Act? When were these discussions held? I refer you to the Document ‘Labor’s Plan for Primary Industries’, Election 2007; Page 20 which states; <i>‘Strengthening compliance arrangements’</i></p> <p>16. What work has the Department undertaken to strengthen food labelling compliance arrangements?</p> <p>17. Has the department made any inspections of major retailers to ensure they are labelling country of origin the food properly?</p> <p>18. Who within the Department has been talking to Treasury about amending the Trade Practices Act? When were these discussions held?</p>
APD 11		Written	Colbeck	<p>1. What analysis has been conducted of the expenditure by State Governments on agriculture R&amp;D?</p> <p>2. What levels of spending are done by State Governments on agriculture R&amp;D? How does this compare historically?</p> <p>3. Has the Federal Government – through PIMC or other means requested additional spending from State Governments?</p> <p>4. Is DAFF aware of the number of jobs lost in State Government agriculture R&amp;D? And how many research stations/centres closed in recent years?</p> <p>5. What is the historic trend in agriculture productivity? Is there a breakdown by State?</p>

APD 12		Written	Colbeck	<p>As part of VegVision, specific studies to examine input costs, including climate change costs, were begun in 2007 and due by June 2009 (Veg Vision Action 2.4.1). They were suppose to also explore the social, economic and environmental impacts of vegetable production.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Can DAFF provide the status of these studies?</li> <li>2. Can DAFF also provide the status of all other aspects of VegVision for which it had full or part responsibility?</li> </ol>
APD 13		Written	Colbeck	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What role is DAFF playing in the COAG food labelling law and policy review?</li> <li>2. What advice is DAFF providing to Dept of Health &amp; Ageing on this review?</li> <li>3. Does DAFF have any concerns that food industry matters may not get the hearing they deserve? I understand this may have been the case in past food reviews where DOHA has responsibility.</li> </ol>
APD 14		Written	Colbeck	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Why is it Australia could send over 100 officials to Copenhagen and DAFF could spend \$26,000 on sending 2 of its own officials, but we couldn't have support the horticultural industry to have representation at the Fruit Logistica Trade Fair in Berlin, one of the most important horticultural industry events on an annual basis? (Feb 3-5)</li> <li>2. Is DAFF aware of key trading competitors having significant presence at the Fair?</li> <li>3. Do you believe there were lost opportunities from not supporting industry to attend the event?</li> <li>4. Have DAFF officials ever attended this event in previous years?</li> </ol>
APD 15		Written	Siewert	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How much has the Commonwealth Government spent in each of the past twenty years on all research and development projects into genetically modified: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) crops; b) foods; c) food additives and processing aids?</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. What demonstrable economic and social benefits (both commercial and public good) has this research and development expenditure produced?</li> <li>3. Who reaped these economic and social rewards - government or industry partners?</li> <li>4. Will the government in future monitor and regularly report on the Commonwealth's expenditures on, and benefits from, research and development into genetically modified: a) crops; b) foods; c) food additives and processing aids?</li> <li>5. Since the last federal election, which business, science or other non-government organisations have made representations to Commonwealth Ministers on any aspect of genetically modified crops and foods?</li> <li>6. To which Ministers did each of those organisations make representations?</li> </ol>



				7. Please supply copies of: a) those written representations; b) the Ministerial responses to each of those representations; and c) the notes and minutes from all meetings at which Ministers and/or their advisors met with organisations about genetically modified crops and foods.
APD 16		Written	Siewert	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The livestock export industry is required to comply with the Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock. The ASEL is referenced under Commonwealth Law and can only be enforced once the animals are shipside by the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS). As the States and Territories have not referenced the ASEL in their legislation their agencies cannot enforce the ASEL. Given this, can the Government outline how the ASEL are being enforced?</li> <li>2. Despite the existence of Memoranda of Understanding with a large number of Middle Eastern importing countries, Australian animals continue to be transported, handled and slaughtered in an unacceptable way and no sanctions are implemented. What mechanisms will the Government put in place to prevent Australian animals from being sent to countries that breach those MOU that they have signed with Australia?</li> </ol>
GRDC 01		Written	Adams	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In the lifetime of the GRDC, has this organisation ever been subjected to any independent scrutiny (apart from Senate Estimates) as to the performance of increasing financial returns and therefore increased viability, to its grower stakeholders?</li> <li>2. Does the GRDC believe that funding pre-breeding and then selling this I.P. to commercial entities such as InterGrain and then expecting growers to pay again through Plant Breeders Rights and End Point Royalties, is in the best interests of GRDC's grower stakeholders?</li> <li>3. Can GRDC's investment in InterGrain with statutory gained growers' funds and then InterGrain's subsequent charge to growers Plant Breeders Rights and End Point Royalties on its varieties, be regarded as a conflict of interest or a misuse of growers' funds?</li> <li>4. Does GRDC consider the \$109 million in reserve funds are in excess of GRDC's needs, keeping in mind Western Australian grain growers' 2010/11 budgets are in general in the negative?</li> <li>5. Do you consider GRDC's extension program, as to getting the R&amp;D to the growers' paddock, as adequate and at least-cost pathway?</li> <li>6. Why aren't the GRDC Board and panels elected by growers (who are compulsorily made to fund GRDC)?</li> <li>7. Has it ever been considered that the GRDC Board and panels be elected by stakeholders, rather than appointed?</li> </ol>

				<p>8. With de-regulation which has now occurred within the grains industry, are there any ways the GRDC considers its role has or should change, which reflect structural changes in the industry?</p> <p>9. If growers pay for promotion and breeding of new varieties of grains through levies, which have not been proven to be better in broad acre conditions and have not proved to be better quality for the buyer (end users), why are growers then charged End Point Royalties? (Often these new varieties perform worse in all aspects compared to older varieties)</p> <p>10. What degree of nutritional research is done in grain production? How much nutrient research has been conducted over the past 30 years? How close is nutrient research tied to developments and changes in farming practices?</p>
TMA 01	08/02/10	123	Colbeck	<p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—You indicated to us when we discussed it at, I think, budget estimates that you would use staff resources from other posts or other locations to manage issues that cropped up in those three particular posts. What have we needed to attend to in those three posts to date since they have been removed?</p> <p><b>Mr Burns</b>—As I think I indicated last time, in the case of Brussels and Washington, when we withdrew a person we left the more senior person there. They are supported by locally engaged staff, so they each have two locally engaged staff who assist with their work. Where necessary, we have supplemented that with more missions from Australia—for example, if we need to be discussing a particular technical market access issue we might have sent some people from the Biosecurity Services Group who have detailed knowledge that can assist with negotiations—and we have tried to schedule more regular Canberra based visits.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—So how many times have we had to send people out to any of those posts?</p> <p><b>Mr Burns</b>—I could not give you an exact answer off the top of my head. I could take that on notice. But it is a combination of scheduling—if somebody is in the region, maybe visiting Brussels as well—and we have had a couple of particular negotiations where we have sent people. For example, when we were talking about the new beef market access, the extra tonnages of beef that we have recently got into the EU, we had some people go and specifically discuss that, including myself.</p>

TMA 02	08/02/10	124	Colbeck	<p><b>Ms Anderson</b>—The Russians suspended all kangaroo exports from 1 August last year pending some improvements that they requested to our process, from harvest through to processing. They had some concerns about that. They came out to audit earlier last year and the suspension came through in August following that audit. Since that time Biosecurity Services Group has been working with the state regulatory authorities and the state governments, obviously, and the industry to try to put together some information and make some improvements to the supply chain. The next step is a submission to Russia. I cannot give you an exact date on that. The Biosecurity Services Group is managing that, with the state regulatory authorities, but I expect that to be in the next few months. The next step after that would be either, hopefully, a re-establishment of the trade, or there is potential that Russia may seek to visit and audit some of those facilities before they re-establish the trade.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Given that we are working with the states, is there a national protocol or are there individual protocols in each state? How is that process working to develop it?</p> <p><b>Ms Anderson</b>—There is a working group, but as to the detail of how that is working, that would probably be a question for the Biosecurity Services Group. We can take it on notice and get you an answer.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Okay.</p>
TMA 03	08/02/10	125	Colbeck	<p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Can I just go to the implementation of the Australia-New Zealand-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement, which came into force from 1 January, as I understand it. How many of the countries have finalised their sign-on process and where are we at with those that have not?</p> <p><b>Mr Ross</b>—You are correct. The agreement came into force on 1 January. Most countries have completed their domestic processes. Just allow me to check my notes. Indonesia, Laos and Cambodia, I believe, have not finished their processes.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Do we know how far away that might be, or that is an internal issue for them?</p> <p><b>Mr Ross</b>—It is a timing issue for them, but they have given assurances that it will be early in this calendar year.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—What is the process of bringing all that online then?</p> <p><b>Mr Ross</b>—It is Laos, Cambodia, Indonesia and Thailand that have not completed their domestic processes. As I said, their commitment is to endeavour to have those completed early this year.</p>

				<p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—How does that impact access into those particular markets?</p> <p><b>Mr Ross</b>—The undertakings under the agreement do not apply until they ratify the agreement.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—So that works in a bilateral sense, obviously, so until those things are finalised we do not get access. There has been some concern raised out of the horticulture sector of the agreement. Where does the balance, as you see it, lie in that particular area?</p> <p><b>Mr Ross</b>—If you look across the range of countries involved, I guess you would probably characterise the outcomes for horticulture as a little mixed. In most cases there are opportunities to enhance access. For instance, for vegetables there are good gains to be delivered in Malaysia and Vietnam, but there are a number of high tariffs on products in Indonesia that will remain, and in the Philippines there will only be some modest reductions on vegetables. For fruit, most tariffs are going to be eliminated, except for mandarins and mangoes in Indonesia and a number of tropical fruits in Malaysia. For processed fruit and veg, tariffs are bound at zero on entry into force or will phase to zero in most countries.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—What is the time frame for the phasing?</p> <p><b>Mr Ross</b>—I do not have that detail in front of me, but I can provide it to you. It differs between countries.</p>
TMA 04	08/02/10	126	Back	<p><b>Senator BACK</b>—I apologise, I was not here earlier. Was there a question asked about Australia's fast-rising food prices in terms of other OECD countries? Okay. The comment that has been made is that OECD data shows that Australians are paying the fastest rising food prices of any developed nation. Would anybody care to or have the capacity to comment on that assertion?</p> <p><b>Mr Burns</b>—I do not think that is an issue that we would comment on, and in fact I have not seen that data. So I would prefer to see that data first.</p> <p><b>Senator BACK</b>—That is great. I will put it on notice and that might give you the opportunity, if we can point to it. Chairman, that concludes the questions I wanted to ask. Thank you.</p>
TMA 05		Written	Back	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Are any of the positions to be scrapped Agricultural Attaches attached to Australian Embassies? In which Embassies are Agricultural Attaches attached? Have any been removed in the past twelve months? If so why where were they located? How will the work previously done by the Agricultural Attaches be undertaken and by whom?</li> <li>2. Has the Department received any complaints from any Australian business or lobby group in relation to the scrapping of the Agriculture attaches positions?</li> </ol>

APVMA 01		Written	Siewert	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Why has APVMA continued to defend its registration of the organochlorine pesticide endosulfan, despite the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review committee (POPRC) of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants recently agreeing that endosulfan satisfied all the criteria of a persistent organic pollutant (POP) and moved it to the next stage for global phase out?</li><li>2. Is it true that the APVMA is now at odds with the Australian government on endosulfan since the Australian government delegation at POPRC supported the international scientific consensus that endosulfan is a POP and must move to the next stage for global phase out?</li></ol>
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Questions on notice taken at Additional Estimates hearing – Monday 8 February 2010 – and answered later in the hearing

QON No.	Date Asked	Hansard page reference/ Written	Senator	Question
CSD Tabled doc 1 – Q1	08/02/10	4	Colbeck	<p><b>Graduate Recruitment Costs</b>  <b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Of what extent is the cost saving in the recruitment program? How much are you saving there and how are you doing it?  <b>Ms Hazell</b>—We have looked at the way we are running our recruitment program. We have cut back the amount of travel, we have cut back our assessment centres and we are doing a lot more things online. We think this year that the cost of our recruitment program will be around \$220,000.  <b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Down from how much?  <b>Ms Hazell</b>—It was nearly \$400,000. If you want an exact figure I would need to take that on notice.</p>
CSD Tabled doc 1 – Q2	08/02/10	5	Colbeck	<p><b>Staffing table comparison</b>  <b>Senator COLBECK</b>—So your overall staffing levels are projected to remain the same?  <b>Dr O’Connell</b>—Our overall staffing levels—we are talking about the reduction from the previous year to this year, and I do not have the exact numbers on me, but around about an ASL reduction of 250.  <b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Do you have a chart or a table that you can table for us?</p>
CSD Tabled doc 1 –Q3 (Cairns)	08/02/10	10	Colbeck	<p><b>Cairns Carparks and lease</b>  <b>Senator COLBECK</b>—So we were paying nothing for car parking before and we are paying \$50,000 now?  <b>Ms Hazell</b>—Yes. It depends on the lease and the location of the office. And that particular lease is in the Cairns airport.  <b>Senator COLBECK</b>—So we are paying airport parking fees, effectively?  <b>Ms Hazell</b>—No, it is part of the lease—a certain number of car parks usually, Senator. For Cairns I would need to take on notice the exact number, but most leases that we do sign include a provision for car parks.  <b>Senator COLBECK</b>—So you have relocated offices in Cairns and it is a different configuration of the lease—  <b>Ms Hazell</b>—Yes.  <b>Senator COLBECK</b>—So you are now paying \$50,000 for car parking. What is the overall leasing cost variation?  <b>Ms Hazell</b>—I would need to take that on notice, Senator. I do not have the total cost of the Cairns lease with me.  <b>Senator COLBECK</b>—You have got no recollection as to whether it is a major increase or—  <b>Dr O’Connell</b>—We can try and get those numbers during the day.  <b>Senator COLBECK</b>—That would be good. So what about the situation in Brisbane?</p>

				<b>Ms Hazell</b> —I would like to take that on notice and check as well, Senator, and whether it was a change in the number of car parks or a change in the lease arrangements.
CSD Tabled doc 1 – Q4	08/02/10	11	Colbeck	<b>Recruitment of deputy secretary</b> <b>Senator COLBECK</b> —I was just interested in getting a cost of the process. <b>Dr O’Connell</b> —I should be able to provide that. Again, probably by the end of the day, we should be able to get that, I think.
CPD Tabled doc 1 – Q5	08/02/10	15	Macdonald	<b>Cost of pot plants in the Minister’s office</b> <b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b> —It is either for the secretary or the minister. How many pot plants there are in the minister’s office? <b>Senator O’BRIEN</b> —That is an important question. <b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b> —Who is paying for them? How much do they cost? Is the department aware that the government have decided the pot plants in senator’s offices are too expensive and therefore have removed them? I am interested to know if the department is following the austerity line that is being imposed on senators.
BSG Tabled doc 1 – Q6	08/02/10	26	Colbeck	<b>Senator COLBECK</b> —Have there been any modifications to the membership of any of the six groups? <b>Mr Read</b> —There would be one or two that would have changed, but nothing significantly from what you would have been informed of. I will have to check with horticulture. Horticulture is typically a bit bigger than the others. I will take it on notice and tell you exactly which names have changed.
BSG Tabled doc 1 – Q7	08/02/10	31	Back	<b>Review panel on equine influenza</b> <b>Senator BACK</b> —Did you say that that review report is out? <b>Dr O’Connell</b> —The review report was provided to the ministerial council, and the ministerial council has asked for consultation with industry players—I am just looking for confirmation here—with a report back to the ministerial council in April. <b>Senator BACK</b> —Has that been made publicly available or can you table that report for the committee? <b>Dr O’Connell</b> —I do not think it has been made publicly available. I will perhaps have to just take that on notice in terms of the processes of the ministerial council.

<p>BSG Tabled doc 1 –Q8</p>	<p>08/02/10</p>	<p>34</p>	<p>Siewert</p>	<p><b>Timber furniture</b>  <b>Mr Magee</b>—As Mr Chapman said, all of these products are subject to quarantine. In the case of some of the furniture items you referred to—indeed, some of the other higher quality items are made, such as guitars and things like that—there is a category of goods in there that are not subject to mandatory inspection but, on the basis of how they have been manufactured to address the risks, may be cleared on presentation of suitable documentation—that they are from an accredited source or they have been made in a high-quality manner, as assessed by us. So whilst they are all subject to quarantine, there is not a physical inspection, necessarily, in each case.  <b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—Is it possible to find out which categories are inspected and which are not?  <b>Mr Magee</b>—Yes.  <b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—Could you take that on notice and give us a list?</p>
<p>CC (tabled at hearing) Tabled doc 1 – Q9</p>	<p>08/02/10</p>	<p>55</p>	<p>Colbeck</p>	<p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Of those that are currently in the EC how many regions are due to expire?  <b>Mr Mortimer</b>—34 are about to expire at the end of March.  <b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Out of how many in total?  <b>Mr Mortimer</b>—The 34 are due to expire at the end of March, and another five are due to expire—  <b>Mr McDonald</b>—Currently there are 47 EC areas across Australia.  <b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Okay. Thank you. And there are a further five due to expire?  <b>Mr Mortimer</b>—If I can just step you through this. There are 34 due to expire at the end of March, five due to expire at the end of April and seven due to expire at the end of June.  <b>Senator COLBECK</b>—I might get you to give me on notice a detailed listing of those. At what stage of the process is NRAC in their visitations?</p>
<p>CC (tabled at hearing) Tabled doc 1 –Q10</p>	<p>08/02/10</p>	<p>57</p>	<p>Milne</p>	<p><b>Eligibility for grants</b>  <b>Senator MILNE</b>—What is the difference between eligibility for re-establishment or exit under extreme circumstances versus this climate program?  <b>Mr Mortimer</b>—It might be best to take that on notice, just to make sure we get the detail right.  <b>Dr O’Connell</b>—It will be a question of the decision on the guidelines, so we would need to take that on notice.</p>
<p>SRM (tabled at hearing) Tabled doc 1 – Q12</p>	<p>08/02/0</p>	<p>82</p>	<p>Siewert</p>	<p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—There is supposed to be one in each regional area of Australia.  <b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—Can you provide a list of where they are?  <b>Mr Thompson</b>—Yes. We will have to take that on notice.</p>



<p>CC answered at Hansard p100</p>	<p>08/02/10</p>	<p>56</p>	<p>Milne</p>	<p><b>FarmReady</b>  <b>Senator MILNE</b>—I would like to get an update from you on FarmReady. I see in the budget there is a substantial allocation for this financial year for reimbursement grants to primary producers and Indigenous land managers to attend climate change training activities. I would like you to give me a number of primary producers and Indigenous land managers who have actually attended anything.  <b>Dr O’Connell</b>—You may not have been here, but Mr Mortimer provided some advice earlier on.  <b>Mr Mortimer</b>—It was advice about the number of farmers. Essentially 7,000 farmers have used their vouchers, which pay for their training, to do the training. They have completed the training. But are you looking for a bit more detail than that?  <b>Senator MILNE</b>—I wanted to know how many of them were Indigenous land managers.  <b>Mr Mortimer</b>—We will have to take that on notice.</p>
<p>CC answered at Hansard p100</p>	<p>08/02/10</p>	<p>56</p>	<p>Milne</p>	<p><b>Industry Grants</b>  <b>Senator MILNE</b>—I would like a list of the industry grants that have been made to date under this particular program.  <b>Mr Mortimer</b>—We will need to take that on notice too. I do not have that information with me, not in that detail.</p>
<p>CC answered at Hansard p100</p>	<p>08/02/10</p>	<p>56</p>	<p>Milne</p>	<p><b>Community networks and capacity building</b>  <b>Senator MILNE</b>—What has happened with the community networks and capacity building? I am interested to know what you have done with particular target groups—women, for example.  <b>Mr Mortimer</b>—Probably we need to come back to you with a list of projects. That money is being spent on a range of projects. I do not have them all listed here. Sorry, I just do not have the detail with me.</p>