

**Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates February 2014

**Agriculture**

**Question:** 53

**Division/Agency:** Agricultural Productivity Division/Australian Wool Innovation

**Topic:** Wild dogs

**Proof Hansard page:** Written

**Senator STERLE asked:**

1. I refer to the release of the report “Social impacts of wild dogs: A review of literature” conducted by ABARES – a media report stated that: “Federal Agriculture Minister Barnaby Joyce said wild dogs cost the industry about \$66 million a year and “strong leadership and a coordinated on-the-ground effort” was required
2. Has the AWI met with Minister Joyce to discuss the findings in this report?
3. Has the Minister been briefed on the report findings by departmental officials?
4. As stated in the media report the Minister acknowledges the great expense wild dogs cost industry, does the Minister propose to provide any funding to deal with the wild dogs issue?
5. Can you please provide clarification as to what the Minister meant when he stated “strong leadership and a coordinated on the ground effort” was required?

**Answer:**

1. This is a statement and not a question.
2. Australian Wool Innovation had not formally discussed the findings of the report with the Minister but has discussed the impacts of wild dogs.
3. Yes.
4. The Coalition’s election commitment is to expand the guidelines of the new National Landcare Programme to allow for projects to manage wild dogs. Further, the Prime Minister and Minister Joyce announced on 26 February 2014 a \$320 million comprehensive drought assistance package, including \$10 million as assistance for pest management, including wild dogs, in drought-affected areas.
5. Coordinated on-the-ground effort refers to best practice management of wild dogs on a regional basis, and this requires strong leadership from industry.