

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2006

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: RPI 01

Division/Agency: Rural Policy & Innovation

Topic: Dairy Australia annual report and compliance report

Hansard Page: 43 (25/05/06)

Senator O'Brien asked:

Is that an inordinate delay in checking and finetuning of the [material relating to the Dairy Australia Act Compliance Report] so that it is checked off and in a state to be tabled in the parliament?

Answer:

No.

Question: RPI 02

Division/Agency: Rural Policy & Innovation

Topic: Dairy Australia audit report

Hansard Page: 43 (25/05/06)

Senator O'Brien asked:

When did the department get [Dairy Australia's] audit report?

Answer:

Dairy Australia Limited sent the audit report on 23 December 2005. The department received the report (together with the other information relating to the Compliance Report) in the first week of 2006.

Question: RPI 03

Division/Agency: Rural Policy & Innovation

Topic: Dairy Australia annual report

Hansard Page: 44 (25/05/06)

Senator O'Brien asked:

How long did it take the department to prepare advice for the minister after he had received it from the company?

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Answer:

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry provided Minister McGauran with a briefing on the material provided by Dairy Australia Limited in a minute on 20 February 2006.

The period from receipt of the audit report to providing advice to the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry was approximately six weeks.

Question: RPI 04

Division/Agency: Rural Policy and Innovation

Topic: Exceptional Circumstances assistance

Hansard Page: 44 (25/05/06)

Senator O'Brien asked:

Do you keep statistics by area on how much assistance flows to each of those declared areas?... That table, I take it, will show us the areas that have come in and those that have gone out, if any, over the 12-month period?]

Answer:

A breakdown of the Exceptional Circumstances assistance paid to each Exceptional Circumstances declared area since July 2002 is presented in the following table:

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Exceptional circumstances Assistance Expenditure, from July 2002 to 9 June 2006

EC Area	Interest Rate Subsidy		Income Support		Total Expenditure \$m
	Number of Applications	Expenditure \$m	Number of Applications	Expenditure \$m	
<i>EC Areas that commenced receiving assistance during 2005-06</i>					
NSW					
Northern Tablelands - small areas	38	0.74	55	0.58	1.32
<i>EC Areas that continued to receive assistance during 2005-06</i>					
NSW					
Bourke and Brewarrina	334	6.16	195	6.56	12.72
Braidwood	51	1.14	57	1.16	2.31
Central North/North West	1700	32.42	2126	36.64	69.06
Central Tablelands	233	5.27	216	4.43	9.70
Condobolin (Div and B)	167	3.66	1	0.00	3.66
Condobolin (Div C and D)					
Narrandera (Div A)	857	18.93	949	24.45	43.38
Cooma/Bombala/ACT	93	1.86	118	1.98	3.84
Dubbo RLPB	471	12.01	678	6.83	18.85
Eastern Riverina	270	8.37	307	5.37	13.73
Forbes RLPB	925	19.80	552	15.05	34.85
Goulburn and Yass	258	6.13	229	5.40	11.52
Gundagai RLPB District (Tree Crop Growers)	6	0.09	7	0.08	0.17
Hay	196	5.06	184	5.47	10.52
Majority Western Division	988	22.23	710	22.51	44.74
Molong	258	5.31	223	4.72	10.03
Mudgee-Merriwa	242	3.95	161	3.02	6.97
Narrandera B (All livestock producers)	0	0.00	6	0.15	0.15
Northern New England					
Region 2	365	4.92	355	5.88	10.80
Nyngan RLPB	292	6.39	329	6.95	13.34
Parts of Armidale RLPB	304	6.32	462	5.54	11.86
Rice Growers in the Murray Valley	260	8.02	267	4.58	12.60
Riverina RLPB	298	7.84	700	16.86	24.70
South West Slopes and Plains	582	14.23	508	5.09	19.32
Wagga A, B, C and					
Narrandera C	170	4.84	360	6.50	11.34
Walgett/Coonamble	719	19.14	557	11.61	30.76
Young (stone fruits)	11	0.16	11	0.56	0.72

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QLD					
Burnett	877	11.51	906	19.14	30.64
Burnett - Dairy Addendum	4	0.10	18	0.18	0.27
Central Coast	311	7.05	329	5.17	12.22
Central Darling Downs (previously part of the Eastern Darling Downs)	316	6.26	516	6.79	13.05
Central Mid West (including Aramac Shire)	329	8.66	133	3.15	11.81
Emerald Bauhinia	124	4.51	74	1.99	6.50
Hinchinbrook/Thuringowa Region	85	1.32	9	0.78	2.10
Inglewood/Stanthorpe	247	4.18	294	4.66	8.84
Mackay/Whitsunday	339	5.11	36	4.02	9.13
North West Ashy Downs	169	5.96	67	1.53	7.49
Northern Darling Downs (previously part of the Eastern Darling Downs)	422	8.14	763	9.55	17.69
Southern Darling Downs (previously part of the Eastern Darling Downs)	224	3.18	536	6.29	9.47
Southern Murweh	88	1.58	87	1.60	3.18
Southern South East	224	3.64	411	5.57	9.22
South-West QLD	460	10.82	368	11.78	22.60
Western Downs & Maranoa	1194	26.18	1195	17.42	43.60
SA					
Annex to Central North East Pastoral Area	10	0.20	87	0.52	0.73
Central North East Upper North Cropping District	67	0.90	103	1.34	2.24
VIC					
Central and East Gippsland	255	3.47	394	11.28	14.75
Central Victoria	104	1.69	338	4.51	6.20
Eastern Mallee	234	4.07	314	9.72	13.79
Goulburn, Loddon, Campaspe, Irrigation Areas	1864	31.64	1315	40.42	72.06
Mallee-Northern Wimmera	435	8.59	954	11.63	20.21
Murray system dairy	110	1.94	312	4.22	6.16
North East, Victoria	255	3.76	857	12.91	16.67
Northern Victoria	71	0.85	241	4.24	5.08
South East Mallee Dry land	74	1.16	136	2.39	3.55
WA					
North Eastern Wheat belt	46	1.16	118	0.58	1.73
EC Areas that ceased receiving assistance during 2005-06					
NSW					
Casino	378	4.37	260	7.83	12.20

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Grafton and Kempsey RLPBs	437	6.22	631	17.28	23.50
Gundagai (Div B & C east of the Hume Hwy, Division D)	107	2.78	60	1.05	3.83
Hume RLPB	137	2.46	62	1.11	3.57
Moss Vale South Coast	255	6.72	281	6.19	12.91
Young (Broadacre)	354	7.27	172	3.26	10.54
QLD					
Atherton	75	1.21	56	1.20	2.40
Peak Downs	232	5.98	171	4.38	10.36
Sunshine Coast	87	1.23	199	3.52	4.75
WA					
Southern Rangelands	214	6.12	100	2.11	8.23
 <i>EC Areas that ceased receiving assistance prior to 2005-06</i>					
QLD					
Eastern Darling Downs	987	11.73	1089	12.94	24.67
TAS					
Central Highlands	37	0.42	15	0.67	1.09
WA					
Central North Eastern, Central Eastern, Central South Eastern Wheat Belt	246	7.89	234	4.35	12.24
Northern Wheat Belt	229	6.09	213	3.20	9.29
South Eastern Wheat Belt	113	2.81	14	2.40	5.21
 Totals					
NSW	11756	254.80	11789	244.69	499.49
QLD	6796	128.34	7257	121.66	250.01
SA	215	3.39	265	5.64	9.03
TAS	37	0.42	15	0.67	1.09
VIC	3403	57.16	4861	101.32	158.48
WA	848	24.07	679	12.64	36.70
National	23055	468.18	24866	486.62	954.80

These statistics report assistance to Exceptional Circumstance Declared Areas through Exceptional Circumstances Interest Rate Subsidy (IRS) and Relief Payment (RP) programmes, along with Prima Facie assistance. Detailed information on other assistance measures (such as the 9 December 2002 assistance) is not available.

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Question: RPI 05

Division/Agency: RPI/IPP

Topic: Country Women's Association Drought Aid Fund

Hansard Page: 84 (25/05/06)

Senator Stephens asked:

And it is a question for the Minister. It is about output 2; it is about the Country Women's Association Emergency Drought Aid Fund. I wonder if anyone can tell us where that is up to. There is \$3 million in that fund for this year. It is used as part of emergency assistance to distressed families in drought and other extenuation circumstances, but there is nothing there for next year

Answer:

The \$3 million Country Women's Association (CWA) Emergency Drought Aid Fund was part of the Prime Minister's Drought Assistance Package announced in May 2005. This funding has been fully allocated across the CWAs in each State and the Northern Territory from the 2005-2006 budget.

Based on monthly reports received from the CWAs, funds distributed by CWAs up to 31 May 2006 is some \$2.5 million. It is estimated that \$2.7 million of the funds will have been distributed by the CWAs by 30 June 2006.

The CWAs have agreed to continue distributing these funds to eligible individuals and communities until the remaining funds are fully distributed. It is anticipated that the \$3m funding package will be fully distributed by the end of the first quarter in 2007.