

## Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

*Questions taken on notice for the Budget Estimates hearings 24 and 25 May 2006*

*Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF)*

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<b>WEDNESDAY 24 MAY 2006</b>								
4	Corporate Policy	CP01	O'Brien	<p><i>(late responses to questions on notice)</i></p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—You are not able to give us a precise timing for when you got the draft answers to the minister's office. Is that what you just said?</p> <p><b>Ms Hewitt</b>—I would prefer not to delve into that. If you really want to pursue that, that would be a matter I would want to consult the minister about.</p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—I do want to pursue that because I do not want to attribute blame to the department if that is not where the blame lies. I think the committee is entitled to know if the department has done its job but someone else has fallen down on theirs. It is not fair if I am criticising the department if the department is not at fault. That is why I am asking the question, and in the past we have had that information.</p> <p><b>Ms Hewitt</b>—That is certainly not an impression I would want to generate. Could I just reflect on that one and see what information we are able to give you subsequently?</p>				1

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8	Management Services	MS01	O'Brien	<p><i>(funding for 'Other decisions yet to be announced')</i></p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—I want to be clear what your position is. Are you prepared to ask Minister McGauran to make it clear whether this is a matter which has already been decided but is simply awaiting announcement—</p> <p><b>Senator Abetz</b>—I already said about 15 minutes ago—</p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—Hang on, let me ask my question before you choose to answer it—or whether this is a line item about a matter which has not yet occurred upon which no decision has yet been taken?</p> <p><b>Senator Abetz</b>—I indicated some 15 minutes ago—last I mentioned it was 10 minutes ago, now it is 15 minutes ago—that I was happy to take this to Minister McGauran to see if he wants to provide any further explanation.</p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—Can we get someone to do that this morning given that I would like to ask officers about it if something arises and they are here for a particular time, or can they come back at a later time?</p> <p><b>Senator Abetz</b>—We will see what we can do but I doubt that there is any further explanation that will be offered on that because they are matters that are yet to be announced and we will not be making announcements in the Senate estimates process.</p>				2
10		MS02	O'Brien	<p><i>(cost of occupying new premises)</i></p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—How is that \$41 million broken down? Can you give us a breakdown of the components of that?</p> <p><b>Mr Gaukroger</b>—I will have to take that on notice. I do not have a breakdown of that readily available.</p>				3
10		MS03	O'Brien	<p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—Does that include provision for removal costs?</p> <p><b>Mr Gaukroger</b>—I believe so, but it would probably be best if I get you that information.</p>				4

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16	Australian Quarantine Inspection Service	AQIS09	O'Brien	<p><i>(discussion-potential diseases in bait worms)</i></p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—My question was: 'I understand that Marnic has advised the department that, prior to the issuing of the fifth permit in 2003—which was permit number 300615340—that Marnic and a freight company called SOS freight consultants had discussions with AQIS about potential diseases in bait worms.' Is it true that those discussions took place?</p> <p><b>Mr Yuile</b>—Potential diseases in bait worms?</p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—Yes.</p> <p><b>Mr Yuile</b>—I will check. That is one of the disputed facts. We have no evidence of that taking place.</p>				5
17		AQIS10	O'Brien	<p><i>(Permit applications-importation of bait worms)</i></p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—Okay. How many permit applications have you from Marnic in relation to this importation of marine worms?</p> <p><b>Ms Clegg</b>—I would have to check that.</p>				6
24-25	Food and Agriculture	F&A01	O'Brien	<p><i>(Sugar: regional advisory group reports)</i></p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—For each region there has been one report lodged to date?</p> <p><b>Mr Souness</b>—I understand so, with the industry oversight group.</p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—Were they all lodged in December?</p> <p><b>Mr Souness</b>—I understand so. I could not give an exact answer on that, but I understand they have been.</p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—Could you take that on notice and give us the details of when the plans were lodged for each region?</p>				7

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25-26		F&A02	O'Brien	<p><i>(Sugar package- review)</i></p> <p><b>Mr Banfield</b>—I do not think your comment that a \$440 million package would not be reviewed is correct. It is normal process of government that packages are reviewed. My expectation is—I do not have the details with me—that the program would be reviewed.</p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—I am happy for you to take it on notice but I got a different impression from the answer earlier.</p> <p><b>Mr Banfield</b>—It is normal process when funds are appropriated for particular programs that programs are reviewed, as you know, on a regular basis. I certainly would expect that that would be the case with this one, but I do not have the details to hand.</p> <p>.....</p> <p><b>Mr Banfield</b>—I do not have the details of the review issue. I have undertaken, through Senator O'Brien, to take that on notice. We will come back with details about the review processes we have in mind.</p>				8
27		F&A03	O'Brien	<p><i>(Sugar: regional advisory group reports)</i></p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—Will the minister inquire beyond the reports? Will the minister determine and advise the public if the plans do not achieve the restructuring that the government requires?</p> <p><b>Mr Souness</b>—We could take that on notice.</p>				9
29		F&A04	McLucas	<p><i>(Far North Queensland regional advisory group projects)</i></p> <p><b>Senator McLUCAS</b>—So is it true that three of four major projects that were rejected by the FNQ RAG were approved by the IOG?</p> <p><b>Mr Souness</b>—I am not aware of those that were rejected. The minister announced the 21 successful ones but I am not aware of any that may have been rejected in the IOG process.</p> <p><b>Senator McLUCAS</b>—Who can I ask that question of?</p> <p><b>Mr Souness</b>—We can take that on notice, see if we have that advice and see if we can answer the question.</p>				10

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34		F&A05	O'Brien	<p><i>(Horticulture code of practice)</i></p> <p><b>Mr Phillips</b>—In the election document ‘Investing in our farming future’ the reference is to wholesalers. In the case of negotiations with industry for a voluntary code not working, the election commitment said:</p> <p>If these negotiations do not result in an outcome which satisfies the requirement for greater transparency in fresh fruit and vegetable markets, a re-elected Coalition Government, as a last resort, will put in place a new mandatory Code of Conduct specifically tailored for the grower/markets sector of the horticulture supply chain.</p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—For the ‘grower market sector’. Does that mean wholesalers?</p> <p><b>Mr Phillips</b>—That is the way it has been interpreted by some people.</p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—Apparently it has been interpreted in that way by the minister; is that right? The minister is interpreting it in that way?</p> <p><b>Mr Phillips</b>—The government is yet to make a decision as to what the coverage of the code will be. In the lead-in to that particular paragraph it talks about disputes that arose, and the context is that it is about ‘operating in the fresh fruit and vegetable markets’. So there is context around that particular sentence I read out to you earlier. I can provide you with a copy if you wish.</p>				11
35		F&A06	O'Brien	<p><i>(Wool levy and export charge)</i></p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—I note that the wool levy and export charge is expected to bring in significantly more in 2006-07 than it did in 2005-06. In 2005-06 it raised \$36.7 million. It is expected to raise \$43.2 million in 2006-07. Is that related to recovery from the impact of the drought?</p> <p><b>Mr Murnane</b>—Can you show me where you are in the PBS?</p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—Page 27, table 2.3.</p> <p><b>Mr Murnane</b>—Yes, I would expect that that is due to increased production post drought.</p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—You are not sure?</p> <p><b>Mr Murnane</b>—I can confirm that for you, if you like.</p>				12

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35		F&A07	O'Brien	<p><i>(staffing of AWS)</i>  <b>CHAIR</b>—How many people work for AWS?  <b>Mr Murnane</b>—I could not tell you off the top of my head. I can find out for you.</p>				13
43	Wheat Export Authority	WEA01	Heffernan	<p><i>(Mr Taylor's AWA)</i>  <b>CHAIR</b>—Could we see the paperwork that developed the logic for your performance bonus?  <b>Senator NASH</b>—Is that a set criterion?  <b>CHAIR</b>—There must be some logic used. We do not just say: ‘Shivers! He did a good job. We’ll give him 90 grand.’  <b>Mr Besley</b>—There is a review of the staff in the authority.  <b>CHAIR</b>—Would it be in order for us to see the review?  <b>Mr Besley</b>—I guess it would. I cannot see a problem with that.</p>				14
50		WEA02	O'Brien	<p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—It depends on when we are going to get it. I take up the point that has been made: when we receive a sheaf of answers the night before estimates, it is not very helpful considering there have been three months to provide them. We will come to that. I would like you to advise us which SES level, which position in the Public Service, Mr Taylor’s position has been aligned to.  <b>Mr Besley</b>—We will take that on board.</p>				15
50		WEA03	Ferris	<p><b>Senator FERRIS</b>—Just to reinforce what my colleague Senator O'Brien is saying, presumably your position is held against a position within the structure of the department which has a skills set attached to it that is able to be compared. For completeness, when we get this documentation it would be useful to have the complete analysis.</p>				16

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51-52		WEA04	O'Brien	<p><i>(Answers to Cole Commission inquiry)</i></p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—Mr Taylor, in preparation for these hearings I have gone over some of your evidence from the Cole commission. I want to go to some of the matters raised in that evidence. Can I get you to confirm one point you made in evidence. It is recorded on page 3881 of the Cole commission transcript. Counsel assisting Commissioner Cole asked you a question about the construction of the contracts between AWB Ltd and the Iraqi grains board, and you answered:</p> <p>I don't know how the contracts were constructed, so I don't know the answer to that.</p> <p>Can you confirm, Mr Taylor, that you, as the most senior officer overseeing the use by AWB(I) of the single desk, had no idea of how the contracts with the Iraqi grains board were constructed?</p> <p>....</p> <p><b>Mr Taylor</b>—I would prefer not to answer that question at this point in time. I would be happy to answer it at a later date and put some context around the statement that you have just put to me.</p>				17
61		WEA05	Ferris	<p><i>(Wheat industry benchmarking-report)</i></p> <p><b>Senator FERRIS</b>—My understanding is that quite recently there was a report done on wheat industry benchmarking.</p> <p><b>Mr Taylor</b>—Yes.</p> <p><b>Senator FERRIS</b>—Is it possible for this committee to be supplied with a copy of it?</p> <p><b>Mr Taylor</b>—An internal report was done by AWB of its wheat industry benchmark that has been provided on a confidential basis to the Wheat Export Authority. It is one of the issues that WEA will be assessing and reporting on in its 2006 PMR report and growers' report. That report is the property of AWB International. I would need to seek its agreement before WEA would be able to pass that on.</p>				18

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63		WEA06	O'Brien	<p><i>(WEA reports to the minister)</i></p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—Was there any response or follow-up from the department to the contents of the October 2004 report?</p> <p><b>Mr Phillips</b>—It predates my time. I would have to check. I cannot answer that question right now because I was not around at that time, but I can find out whether we provided advice.</p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—Do you know, Mr Banfield?</p> <p><b>Mr Banfield</b>—No, I do not. Again, we will take that on notice and come back to you, Senator.</p>				19
64		WEA07	Siewert	<p><i>(update to brief note on Iraq)</i></p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—In the email and its attachment that you provided to us it makes note of providing and asking for an update to the brief note on Iraq previously provided in April 2003. Did you get that update? Can that be provided to the committee?</p> <p><b>Mr Taylor</b>—I believe we did get an update on that material.</p> <p><b>Mr Besley</b>—And I think we sent it to the Cole inquiry.</p> <p><b>Mr Taylor</b>—That material would be evidence that had been tabled at the Cole inquiry. I am not sure whether we would be in a position to supply that material to you.</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—I presume, therefore, that the note that we have been provided with—the record of the meeting with AWB on 11 August 2004, which your monitor wrote—was not provided to the Cole inquiry.</p> <p><b>Mr Taylor</b>—That note has been provided to the Cole inquiry and it has been released as a public exhibit. I do not know the status of the other document you have asked for. The Cole inquiry determined that some of the material that WEA had provided, insofar as briefs from AWB(I) are concerned, were confidential and had not released them.</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—You do not know whether that briefing note has been classed as a confidential document?</p> <p><b>Mr Taylor</b>—I do not know, but I am happy to take that on notice and check that for you.</p>				20



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64		WEA08	Siewert	<p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—I asked earlier what was the other evidence that you used to decide to take no further action. I am presuming that note, because it was listed in that email, is one of those bits of information that you used. Is that a correct assumption?</p> <p><b>Mr Taylor</b>—That would be a fair assumption, yes.</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—If you could take that on notice, that would be appreciated.</p>				21
64-65		WEA09	O'Brien	<p><i>(Ms Duck's resignation)</i></p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—When did Ms Duck leave the Wheat Export Authority?</p> <p><b>Mr Taylor</b>—I would need to check to be absolutely specific, but I believe it was around about July/August 2005.</p>				22
65		WEA10	O'Brien	<p><i>(Access to contracts-awareness of board)</i></p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—Was the board aware of the normal practice—that is, that you could take copies of contracts for other matters in the past?</p> <p><b>Mr Besley</b>—I do not know that it was, actually. I personally do not recall it ever having been said to us. This was kind of special.</p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—You knew, Mr Taylor?</p> <p><b>Mr Taylor</b>—Yes. I am afraid I do not recall at this point whether we have made specific reference to the board members in briefing them on our access to contracts. My belief—which I would like to check, if you would like me to give a 100 per cent accurate answer—is that with some of the assessments we had done, such as those I ran through with Senator Ferris earlier on, we are most likely to have reported to the board that it was based on access to contracts or parts of contracts.</p>				23
76		WEA11	O'Brien	<p><i>(request for evidence from AWB(I))</i></p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—That was provided on 19 March. How long after that did you request the other information?</p> <p><b>Mr Taylor</b>—I believe it was June, but I would like to take it on notice and confirm that.</p>				24

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79-80	Grains Research and Development Corporation	GRDC 01	Nash	<p>(GRDC funding)</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—What do you in GRDC use that funding for?</p> <p><b>Mr Reading</b>—The funding is primarily spent across a number of what we call lines of business: varieties, farming practices, new products, capacity building, and communication. It is right across that lot. The majority of investment, probably approximately 60 per cent, is into varieties which covers pre-breeding, breeding, and a thing which has just been introduced last year called national variety testing. The majority goes into bringing a lot of expenditure into Australia, not only by GRDC but by other monies as well, in the pre-breeding end. Varieties is about 60 per cent.</p> <p><b>Senator NASH</b>—That is to those entities that we were talking about earlier. Is that right?</p> <p><b>Mr Reading</b>—No, that is only a small part of it. If you look up what makes up breeding or the breeding pipeline, it starts with pre-breeding, which is all the stuff about germ plasm, manipulation, gene discovery, genetic tools and all the traits. Building the traits is the pre-breeding part, and there are a number of bodies in that. Some of the CRCs are in that; CSIRO is a big player in that. Then you go into the actual breeding programs themselves, the ones we have just mentioned. Then you go out of that and into what they say is the commercialisation of that variety and national variety testing. The main stages we are involved are pre-breeding, and we put about \$16 million a year into that. Of the total it is about \$80 million that is spent up there. The total investment in breeding programs all up is about \$29 million; I would have to take on notice what our percentage of that is. Then we go into variety testing. As these programs move from the public to private, growers are demanding independent variety evaluation. So we fund that independent variety evaluation. I think the cost of that each year is about \$4.3 or \$4.4 million.</p>				25

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80		GRDC 02	Nash	<p><b>Senator NASH</b>—Just roughly, on average per year, how much of the grower levy would go to those private entities we were mentioning earlier?</p> <p><b>Mr Reading</b>—None goes into Longreach which is a fully private entity. Into DARWA, which is a completely public entity, we are putting about \$1.3 million. AGT is in the transferral stage. It is a research program that became a combination of program. SARDI was a public program. I think our research funding with that finishes in June next year, if I remember correctly. I think we are putting about \$1.5 to \$2 million into the EGA programs. But again, I would have to take it on notice and get back to you with specifics.</p>				26
81		GRDC 03	Nash	<p><b>Senator NASH</b>—Would it be possible for the committee to have a description of the makeup and a breakdown of the funding that goes to each of those initial entities we were talking about, particularly the grower funding that has come to you that goes back out to those entities?</p> <p><b>Mr Reading</b>—We can certainly provide that.</p>				27
82		GRDC 04	O'Brien	<p><i>(staffing)</i></p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—How many of these would be classified as administrative staff?</p> <p><b>Mr Reading</b>—I can get back to you with the exact number—I am just going through the breakdown in my head. I think it is probably about 15 to 20, but I would like to take the specific figure on notice. It depends on how you define admin, because you have pure admin such as the personal assistants; you have admin in corporate services, which covers accounts payable and payroll, for example. In the project management area, we have program managers and we also have some program assistants. Part of that is admin—for example, making sure the reports are in on time et cetera. So it is really a question of defining what level of admin. We can supply that information to you.</p>				28
82		GRDC 05	O'Brien	<p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—Could you give us a snapshot of the changes in the employment patterns of GRDC over that period?</p> <p><b>Mr Enright</b>—I was looking at the numbers the other day and I think four years ago we were at roughly 42. I can give you the accurate numbers, but we have gone up from 42 to 49, I think.</p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—Thank you, if you could take that on notice.</p>				29

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82		GRDC 06	O'Brien	<p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—So I take it that it is fair to say that the percentage of your budget that is spent on administration has increased over time?</p> <p><b>Mr Enright</b>—I will have to seek the actual numbers, but it has not increased exponentially.</p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—But you think there has been some increase, perhaps, but not—</p> <p><b>Mr Enright</b>—In percentage terms it has remained pretty low.</p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—If you could check that for us and let us know, I would appreciate it.</p> <p><b>Mr Reading</b>—Again, we will give you the different breakdown of admin just in case there is a difference in what you call admin and what we call admin from a project sense et cetera.</p>				30
83		GRDC 07	O'Brien	<p><i>(travel expenditure)</i></p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—Thanks for that. How much did GRDC spend on travel last year?</p> <p><b>Mr Reading</b>—The number was about \$750,000. I think it was around that. I will take that again on notice.</p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—Was that an unusual amount?</p> <p><b>Mr Reading</b>—No, not in comparison with previous years, obviously allowing for inflation, and even though the major fuel impacts would have been this year.</p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—Would it be easy to pull out the figures for each of the last five years?</p> <p><b>Mr Reading</b>—Yes.</p>				31
83		GRDC 08	O'Brien	<p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—Is there a document that sets out the guidelines for the use of the credit cards?</p> <p><b>Mr Reading</b>—Yes, there is.</p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—Is that able to be supplied to the committee?</p> <p><b>Mr Reading</b>—Yes.</p>				32

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83-84		GRDC 09	O'Brien	<p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—How much would GRDC have spent on corporate hospitality, let us say, in the current financial year?</p> <p><b>Mr Enright</b>—I would have to do some analysis and provide you with that figure. Corporate hospitality is not big in our area. We do have expenses for conducting our business, being a national organisation, and talking with research institutions right across the country. We have a lot of people travelling, obviously, and doing a lot of negotiations with people with whom we are investing. Obviously, they eat when they are travelling, but I do not know whether you would put that in the category of corporate entertainment or whatever.</p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—Are you entertaining people with a business relationship with GRDC?</p> <p><b>Mr Enright</b>—We certainly do some of that.</p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—Could you give me some details of the expenditure on that form of corporate hospitality over the current financial year and the previous one?</p>				33

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85		GRDC 10	O'Brien	<p><i>(funding of grain industry)</i></p> <p><b>Mr Reading</b>—There is a conference called the agricultural conference. We support that to the tune of about \$8,000 or \$9,000 a year. From time to time, we have had requests to support state conferences for sponsorship and we do that on a case by case basis.</p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—Those would be the sorts of grains industry events that you would sponsor?</p> <p><b>Mr Reading</b>—Correct. The benefit we provide is that it brings together a lot of growers. They normally have topics on the agenda which are of particular interest. I think Senator Siewert was talking about biofuels—those types of things. They are specific types of industry things. There is a sunflower association, a maize association, a sorghum association and we help support those conferences. But they are basically research conferences—growers come and they learn about the latest R&amp;D techniques and things like that.</p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—There would be 20 or 30 a year?</p> <p><b>Mr Reading</b>—No, not that many. I think there would be about seven a year. Again, I can get you the specific number if you want. I am just trying to remember them. Certainly, sorghum, maize, sunflower associations—</p>				34

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85		GRDC 11	O'Brien	<p><i>(review of GRDC operations)</i></p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—You talked about commissioning, I think, Graham Pocknee and Associates to undertake a review. Was that the review in 2002-03 to review GRDC operations?</p> <p><b>Mr Enright</b>—Not to review GRDC operations.</p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—Did Pocknee and Associates, in fact, do that?</p> <p><b>Mr Reading</b>—No. The background to Single Vision is that it started in about 2003. I was checking the notes the other day. There were great changes going on in the grains industry in terms of the traditional statutory bodies going to public listed corporations and the breakdown of things like PBR legislation and all these things. There was a thing about relooking at the industry: where is the industry going? That looked at things such as future demand scenarios; ongoing sustainability; fragmentation and duplication that exist in the industry; and the potential new demand uses that neutraceuticals, pharmaceuticals and bioceuticals have. That culminated in that document entitled <i>Towards a Single Vision</i>—which I am happy to leave you a copy of—which was launched at April Grains Week in Perth. That is all the consolidation work that went into the publication of that document.</p>				35
94	Australian Bureau of Agriculture and Resource Economics	ABARE 01	Siewert	<p><i>(crude oil stocks)</i></p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—I have been looking at your figures on Australia's energy supply and disposal for June 2005. I have also been looking at the figures of the Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources and I am trying to compare the two. One is in petajoules.</p> <p>.....</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—What I am doing now is looking at what the Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources has said. They have said in the year 2003-04, 'The crude oil in stock is around two million barrels,' so what I cannot understand is the difference between what ABARE says and what the department says.</p> <p><b>Dr Fisher</b>—I do not believe that I can answer this question on the run, because I do not know which documents we are talking about. I would have to take this on notice. If you can provide us with the relevant reference to the ITR document that you are referring to, then I can compare it with my forecasts.</p>				36

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100	Grains Research and Development Corporation	GRDC 12	O'Brien	<p><i>(review of GRDC operations)</i></p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—Someone keeps telling me that Pocknee did a report for GRDC which was about the GRDC's operations. You are categorically saying that did not happen?</p> <p><b>Mr Reading</b>—I have been in the job since February 2004 and certainly not in my time.</p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—It was commissioned in 2002-03, I am told.</p> <p><b>Mr Reading</b>—I have no knowledge of it.</p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—Can you take that on notice?</p> <p><b>Mr Enright</b>—Yes, sure. It was a report on—</p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—A review of the operations of GRDC.</p> <p><b>Mr Enright</b>—In 2002?</p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—It was commissioned in 2002-03.</p> <p><b>Mr Enright</b>—I have no independent recollection of that, but I will check on that.</p>				37
101		GRDC 13	O'Brien	<p><i>(GRDC funding-Single Vision Grains)</i></p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—The Grains Council inform us that they were in fact paid by GRDC. Does that mean that they could simply have GRDC pay a bill and claim it as their remuneration?</p> <p><b>Mr Reading</b>—I would have to take that on notice, but I presume what would have happened, if the Single Vision interim board came to an agreement with GCA, GCA would have then passed the bill on to Single Vision, who then would have asked us to pay that bill. I will take that on notice. I can get you that answer tomorrow morning. I just have to ask the accountants.</p>				38



Hansard page no	Division/ Agency	Question no	Senator	Subject & Question on Notice	Date reply received	Date to Senators	Tabling date	No.
104-105		GRDC 14	O'Brien	<p><b>Mr Enright</b>—I am happy to answer to the best of my ability. I am trying to do that, but I think we need to look at it in the context of what has been put in place here. The fact was that the only way we could use that name was to buy the company from GCA. That is where it is operating but, as I have stressed on a number of occasions, in terms of GRDC operating with that corporate company we do not operate it.</p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—Perhaps you could take on notice and let us know how it came to pass, if it did, that a GRDC cheque or an electronic funds transfer paid Grains Council for the company?</p> <p><b>Mr Enright</b>—I will certainly do that.</p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—If that occurred, then there would need to be an explanation; otherwise, it would appear that you owned the company.</p> <p><b>Mr Enright</b>—Yes. I will make sure we get the financial transactions of how this occurred. I will sort them out.</p>				39
105		GRDC 15	O'Brien	<p><i>(export marketing research-Single Vision)</i></p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—Now that we have clarified that Single Vision actually is part of GRDC, I want to go to the work Single Vision commissioned into the export marketing arrangements for the industry. This research commenced in March this year and included economic analysis of different wheat marketing systems, and the Centre for International Economics undertook some modelling of alternatives to the current single desk marketing arrangements. How much is Single Vision or GRDC paying CIE for the work?</p> <p><b>Mr Reading</b>—The amount that CIE were paid? I am not sure if we have received a bill from them yet. I will take that on notice and get back to you.</p>				40

Hansard page no	Division/ Agency	Question no	Senator	Subject & Question on Notice	Date reply received	Date to Senators	Tabling date	No.
106		GRDC 16	O'Brien	<p><i>(research funded by other research and development corporations)</i></p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—Was the department aware of any examples of research and development corporations operating through other entities using the research and development pool of funds they have through those entities for the research work? I will try to express the current situation we have been discussing, in a meaningful way. I take it, Mr Banfield, you heard the discussion. You know the arrangements that exist between GRDC and the unincorporated body Single Vision et cetera?</p> <p><b>Mr Banfield</b>—I am not aware of other research that has been funded by other research and development corporations, so if you want me to take the detail of that on notice, I am happy to do that. The point that I would make is that, as I think Mr Enright and Mr Reading have indicated, there is a remit in the PIERD Act for the RDCs to legitimately undertake research into some of these wider areas, including in relation to things like marketing. If your question is, 'Have other R&amp;D corporations potentially funded research associated with marketing and aspects of that?' the answer is yes, as I understand it; but I would take the detail on notice. whether that has got to structures, in terms of potential structures of industry, is another matter. The point I am making in general terms is that, as I understand it, research into marketing and those sorts of things is legitimately covered within the ambit of the PIERD Act.</p>				41

Hansard page no	Division/ Agency	Question no	Senator	Subject & Question on Notice	Date reply received	Date to Senators	Tabling date	No.
106		GRDC 17	O'Brien	<p><i>(Single Vision's research into the WEA)</i></p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—Is it appropriate, in the government's view, for one statutory authority indirectly to inquire into the appropriateness of another statutory authority's existence?</p> <p><b>Mr Banfield</b>—Again, I would have to take the detail of that on notice, but what we are talking about here is a different set of circumstances, where you have the GRDC, which as you know is part industry and part government funded, looking at research across the whole of the grains industry at a time when there is a lot of discussion about wheat marketing arrangements. As you know, there are a variety of proposals that have been floated publicly around the place. On the other hand, you have the Wheat Export Authority, which has a very clear remit in terms of monitoring of the single desk arrangement and of monitoring AWI. In a contextual sense, I think there is a difference here, in that WEA is very much more constrained in terms of its roles and responsibilities.</p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—I will read that answer with interest.</p> <p><b>Mr Banfield</b>—If you are asking me in a legal sense, I will take that on notice. I am giving you a bit of context around it, trying to be helpful.</p>				42

Hansard page no	Division/ Agency	Question no	Senator	Subject & Question on Notice	Date reply received	Date to Senators	Tabling date	No.
107		GRDC 18	Siewert	<p><i>(climate change)</i></p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—False hope! How much work are you doing to factor climate change into the research that you are doing? I am aware of, for example, some of the work that Ross Kingwell has been doing in WA. How much do you factor that into the research that you fund and do?</p> <p><b>Mr Enright</b>—We have quite an investment. Do you have the details, Peter? We can probably get them to you, Senator, if not. There are a number of examples I can think of—the CRCs and the climate initiative, the name of which escapes me.</p> <p><b>Mr Reading</b>—I will come back on notice with the specific amount. What we are trying to do on climate, which is consistent with some of the discussions we were having before, is to work with all the bodies to make sure we are not duplicating and we are not fragmenting. We are looking at climate change from a number of aspects. Some are specific in terms of the impact on rainfall and things such as that. We are taking a lead role and looking at the impact on the plant system itself. With climate change, not only do you have reducing moisture in certain areas—and Western Australia is a case where rainfall has reduced—but we are looking at the impact of greenhouse gases in terms of not only the environmental greenhouse impact but also in terms of crop yield and in terms of actually increasing crop production because of the higher concentrations of CO<sub>2</sub>.</p> <p>We need to make sure we are taking a coordinated approach across all industry groups, and we are making some progress there through the CRC through our panel chairs—one of the climate variability studies. We are looking specifically at plant interreactions and soil interreactions. It is quite a substantial campaign.</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—Are you able to provide some of the detail on the—</p> <p><b>Mr Reading</b>—The dollars?</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—Yes.</p> <p><b>Mr Reading</b>—Yes.</p> <p><b>Mr Enright</b>—There is a nationally coordinated body that is looking at all aspects of this. I cannot remember the name of it offhand, but we will give you that.</p>				43

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116	Bureau of Rural Sciences	BRS01	Heffernan	<p><i>(water 2010 project)</i></p> <p><b>CHAIR</b>—As you know, 38 per cent of run-off in the Murray-Darling Basin comes from two per cent of the catchment. That two per cent of the catchment would be a good place to start with this. Do you have a geographic area that you have nominated to start in?</p> <p><b>Dr Ritman</b>—Not that I know of.</p> <p><b>CHAIR</b>—That is where you ought to start, in my view.</p> <p><b>Dr Ritman</b>—I will take that on notice.</p>				44
<b>THURSDAY 25 MAY 2006</b>								
5	Biosecurity Australia	BioSec Aus01	O'Brien	<p><i>(funding for IT system improvements)</i></p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—Perhaps we could have on notice the details of the system improvements you are expecting to fund out of this initiative just to get an idea of the work you are undertaking.</p> <p><b>Mr Cahill</b>—I am happy to take that on notice.</p>				45
6		BioSec Aus02	O'Brien	<p><i>(IRA report for uncooked chicken meat)</i></p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—In the lead-up to this stage, you expect that there would have been extensive consultation, and that is what you have intimated in your earlier answers. Is it possible to get a document which sets out that process and advises who has actually been consulted to date?</p> <p><b>Mr Cahill</b>—We can provide you with advice on notice of the process that we have used to develop the draft report to date and the consultation attached to that. That could help.</p>				46
6		BioSec Aus03	O'Brien	<p><i>(members of the IRA panel)</i></p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—Where are Dr Turner and Dr Gilchrist based?</p> <p><b>Mr Cahill</b>—Dr Turner is based in Victoria. As to where Dr Gilchrist is based, I would have to take that on notice</p>				47

Hansard page no	Division/ Agency	Question no	Senator	Subject & Question on Notice	Date reply received	Date to Senators	Tabling date	No.
8		BioSec Aus04	Hogg	<p><i>(Biosecurity Australia's visit to the Philippines)</i></p> <p><b>Senator HOGG</b>—When was your last visit?</p> <p><b>Mr Cahill</b>—I think I would have to take that on notice.</p> <p><b>Senator HOGG</b>—I am just wondering if that has a bearing on the reluctance to accept you back now.</p> <p><b>Mr Cahill</b>—I do not know. I am happy to take that on notice, but I think it was probably about 15 months or so ago.</p>				48
14		BioSec Aus 05	O'Brien	<p><i>(negotiations for draft protocol)</i></p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—Who was involved from the industry?</p> <p><b>Ms van Meurs</b>—I would have to take that on notice, but there were stone fruit growers, cherry growers and grape growers. I think at one point we had 20 to 25 growers on the line. We had the AHEA, departments of agriculture and researchers on the line. It depends again on which telephone hook-up you are referring to. We had numerous telephone hook-ups over that period. I will have to take that on notice and get back to you.</p>				49
15		BioSec Aus06	O'Brien	<p><i>(USDA schedule-temperature regime)</i></p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—What order of temperature are we talking about?</p> <p><b>Ms van Meurs</b>—It was 2.2 degrees Celsius. I think it has dropped back to around zero degrees. It might be a little higher than that. I would have to take that on notice. The time span in transit from Australia to Taiwan is different, so it also affects how you can ship the product.</p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—Perhaps you could give us those differences on notice.</p>				50
17	International	Int01	O'Brien	<p><i>(Free trade agreement with China)</i></p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—What is the balance of trade in horticulture products between the countries at the moment?</p> <p><b>Mr Morris</b>—I think we might have to take those specific numbers on notice. I know there is trade in both directions, though. I do not have the specific numbers. Citrus is obviously one of our major ones going over there at the moment. I think we do import things like garlic and pears from China at the moment, but I will see if we can get the specific numbers for you on notice.</p>				51

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17-18	Australian Quarantine Inspection Service	AQIS01	Abetz	<p><i>(Testing arrangements)</i></p> <p><b>Senator Abetz</b>—Yes, for chemicals. There is some suggestion that they might have high levels of mercury or something. Have we tested for those?</p> <p><b>Ms Hewitt</b>—We will ask Peter Yuile to explain the broad process of how that testing operates. We have done quite a bit of work on that.</p> <p><b>Senator ABETZ</b>—I am sorry to intervene here. It is just a matter of interest. In my state there are large plantations of garlic, going down Cressy way, put in by an Australian company. They are having issues with Chinese imports, so that is why I ask.</p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—You see it regularly in the supermarket. It is now being labelled as being Chinese.</p> <p><b>Ms Hewitt</b>—That is right. Peter will tell us of the testing arrangements.</p> <p><b>Mr Yuile</b>—For imported food the standards are established by Food Standards Australia New Zealand.</p> <p><b>Senator Abetz</b>—Yes, but do we test the garlic on a regular basis?</p> <p><b>Mr Yuile</b>—Each of the foods is categorised into three groups. There is a risk group, an active surveillance group and a random surveillance group. They have associated with them specific numbers of tests per consignment. In the case of risk foods, if 20 consecutive tests prove that they meet our standards, then it comes down from 100 per cent to, say, 25 per cent. I will check the numbers for you. There is a sequence and it is based on risk categorisation by Food Standards Australia New Zealand. In addition, Minister McGauran established a surveying process. We did some horticultural surveying work last year and we will be doing it again this year. The results from that are fed back in turn to FSANZ to help them in their assessments in defining their risk categorisations.</p>				52
18	International	Int02	O'Brien	<p><i>(Free trade agreement with China-negotiations)</i></p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—Is it possible to get a list of the seminars conducted and those that are planned?</p> <p><b>Mr Morris</b>—That should not be any problem at all, so we will take that on notice.</p>				53

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20		Int03	O'Brien	<p><i>(breakdown of funding)</i></p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—How much of that money is for the administration of departments and how much for the programs on the ground?</p> <p><b>Ms Hewitt</b>—I do not think we could give you an answer to that either until we determine precisely what sorts of project we are going to settle on and how they are to be managed.</p> <p><b>Mr Morris</b>—It is all the minister's money so that—</p> <p><b>Ms Hewitt</b>—Yes, but I thought the question related to how much of it would be spent on funding our own staff to do things.</p> <p><b>Mr Morris</b>—Being the minister's money though, I think it is all project related.</p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—So it is not available to fund departmental staff; is that what you are saying?</p> <p><b>Senator Abetz</b>—Can we take that on notice and clarify it for you?</p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—I am happy for it to be—</p> <p><b>Ms Hewitt</b>—We are at a bit of a disadvantage today in not having our key China experts with us.</p> <p><b>Mr Morris</b>—I am sorry. I beg your pardon. There may be two positions under it. We will confirm that on notice. My colleagues just clarified that for me. We will clarify that further for you and give you a specific breakdown.</p>				54



Hansard page no	Division/ Agency	Question no	Senator	Subject & Question on Notice	Date reply received	Date to Senators	Tabling date	No.
28-29	Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service	AQIS02	O'Brien	<p><i>(Issue of import permits)</i></p> <p><b>Ms Gordon</b>—We issue somewhere between 18,000 and 19,000 import permits a year.</p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—And is the life of a permit two years generally?</p> <p><b>Ms Gordon</b>—It depends very much on the particular requirements that go to the inherent risk of the product. We have moved to a system of issuing import permits for a longer period of time. Of course if, within that period of time, the scientific advice from Biosecurity Australia changes, we might change the conditions and reissue permits. In some cases we issue a once-off permit for a specific purpose. If you want more detail about how many are issued for a longer period of time, we would have to take it on notice and come back to you.</p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—If you would, thank you.</p>				55
29		AQIS03	O'Brien	<p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—Are the majority of permits for two years?</p> <p><b>Ms Gordon</b>—I think it is probably fair to say that, but I would have to check the data and come back and confirm it to you. Our preference is to issue permits for the longest possible period of time, consistent with managing the risks, because it provides stability in the trade and some certainty for the importers themselves.</p>				56

Hansard page no	Division/ Agency	Question no	Senator	Subject & Question on Notice	Date reply received	Date to Senators	Tabling date	No.
31		AQIS04	O'Brien	<p><i>(consultation process-AQIS and Biosecurity Australia)</i></p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—So after the organisation split it was less formal until April or mid-2004 between the two organisations?</p> <p><b>Mr Yuile</b>—I was not there, but I would not characterise it as being informal.</p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—I said 'less formal'.</p> <p><b>Mr Yuile</b>—Yes. I am not sure about that. I would need to ask others who were involved during that time.</p> <p><b>Ms Gordon</b>—I guess it depends on definitions of formality, but we in AQIS have always traditionally relied on Biosecurity Australia or the organisational units that manage the scientific assessments to provide us with formal advice in writing about changed assessments of biosecurity risks and quarantine risks. Indeed, on the basis of that formal advice, we would change what we call the ICON case, the conditions that are in the database. I think the issues of informality that have been discussed are in relation to when we get an application for an import permit and, as Dr Clegg said, they are not a set of conditions that immediately are able to be applied or that mean there are questions that need to be raised. We would ask Biosecurity Australia for advice on that. I think we are now moving to a much more formal system for managing the form of request, but it would have always been in writing. Nonetheless, quite likely there would be—and there will go on being—a range of conversations that could be described as informal when further clarity is sought or when the AQIS officer or the Biosecurity Australia officer really wants to fully understand the information that is there or to fill out some of the answers that might be provided. It would not be accurate to say that we did not have a formal system. I think what we are talking about now, particularly with the two organisations being more formally separated, is a means of actually much more formally, perhaps through an IT system, exchanging our information so that we have a much better database record of requests that are made and responses that are provided to us regarding the conditions that we might apply to import permits.</p>				57

Hansard page no	Division/ Agency	Question no	Senator	Subject & Question on Notice	Date reply received	Date to Senators	Tabling date	No.
34		AQIS05	O'Brien	<p><i>(Import permit process-legal advice sought by Biosecurity Australia)</i></p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—Did Biosecurity Australia seek legal advice about how a changed approach to assessing permit applications and the implications for existing permit holders might be dealt with?</p> <p><b>Ms Gordon</b>—I believe Dr Clegg can answer that specifically in relation to the review of the conditions that the Marnic case provided. But, since the Australian Pork Ltd case, we have got quite specific legal advice on the actual process of the consideration of an import permit, the issues we need to take into account and the order in which we need to take those issues into account. That is the basic process we are now trying to underpin and support through the development of an IT system so that we can be confident that officers do turn their minds appropriately to the issues they need to consider and that, when they make a decision, they take into account the advice from Biosecurity Australia considered in the other issues they might have to think about before they make a decision to grant a permit, refuse a permit or impose particulate conditions.</p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—Is there any reason why this committee could not see that advice?</p> <p><b>Ms Hewitt</b>—Could we reflect on that? We would want to review that carefully.</p>				58
38		AQIS06	O'Brien	<p><i>(Advice to minister-procedural amendments in biologicals unit)</i></p> <p><b>Dr Clegg</b>—I do not know that we ever gave the minister that information, but we gave the executive director a minute along those lines.</p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—Can the committee have a copy of that?</p> <p><b>Ms Hewitt</b>—That is something we would have to take on notice.</p>				59

Hansard page no	Division/ Agency	Question no	Senator	Subject & Question on Notice	Date reply received	Date to Senators	Tabling date	No.
39		AQIS07	O'Brien	<p><i>(importation of potatoes from Libya)</i></p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—I would tell you. I think you had better go and see Mr Prosser. He claims a document was tabled in the federal parliament that showed the West Australian government had agreed to potato imports from Libya.</p> <p><b>Mr Yuile</b>—I cannot comment on what the Western Australian government may or may not have agreed to.</p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—Has Mr Prosser written to AQIS about this matter?</p> <p><b>Mr Yuile</b>—He has not written to me, if that is the question.</p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—Perhaps you could check whether he has written to AQIS and let us know.</p>				60
40	Food and Agriculture	F&A08	O'Brien	<p><i>(prioritisation of Q vacs supplies)</i></p> <p><b>Mr Banfield</b>—Another issue Senator O'Brien raised in the discussion last night related to Q vacs. You will recall there was a discussion last night about the prioritisation of the remaining Q vacs supplies. I have now got, and again I am happy to table, an indicative list of the people who received Q vacs based on a lower priority, mid-priority and highest priority category. In very brief terms, the highest priority of course goes to the likes of abattoir workers. The mid-priority includes special risk groups outside of the abattoirs, including people like veterinarians, veterinary students, laboratory personnel, shearing teams et cetera. The lowest priority relates to agricultural communities on a state-by-state basis in descending order. Hopefully that will answer the questions you had. If you want any further details, I am happy to provide further elaboration either now or on notice.</p>				61

Hansard page no	Division/ Agency	Question no	Senator	Subject & Question on Notice	Date reply received	Date to Senators	Tabling date	No.
43	Rural Policy and Innovation	RPI01	O'Brien	<p><i>(Dairy Australia annual report and compliance report)</i></p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—Apparently it takes the people who do the checking and finetuning of it an awfully long time to do it. Can you find out how long that takes? It just seems an incredible amount of time for the material from the AGM to be checked off and in a state to be tabled in the parliament.</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—I would have to take that on notice. I am not familiar with the detail of that. But they do some consultation. Then they provide it to the department. Then it is prepared and printed for tabling in the parliament. As to the time and detail, I will have to take that on notice.</p>				62
43		RPI02	O'Brien	<p><i>(Dairy Australia audit report)</i></p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—When did the department get the audit report?</p> <p><b>Ms O'Flynn</b>— I do not have that information in front of me at the moment. We would have to take that question on notice.</p>				63
44		RPI03	O'Brien	<p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—How long did it take the department to prepare that advice for the minister after he had received the auditor reports from the company?</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—I do not have those dates.</p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—Will you take it on notice?</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—I can take it on notice.</p>				64

Hansard page no	Division/ Agency	Question no	Senator	Subject & Question on Notice	Date reply received	Date to Senators	Tabling date	No.
44		RPI04	O'Brien	<p><i>(exceptional circumstances declared areas)</i></p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—That would be very useful; thank you very much for that. Do you keep statistics by area on how much assistance flows to each of those declared areas?</p> <p><b>Mr Koval</b>—We keep statistics on the level of assistance paid for most of the measures. Some measures we cannot get broken down on a region-by-region basis, things such as health care card, youth allowance and administration cost. But certainly we do keep statistics on the level of income support and interest rate subsidies, and on the numbers of applicants.</p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—Can we get those as well, please?</p> <p><b>Mr Koval</b>—Of current areas?</p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—Yes, please.</p> <p><b>Mr Koval</b>—Yes.</p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—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?</p> <p><b>Mr Koval</b>—I can do it for all areas where they are currently declared or have since ceased, if you like.</p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—That would be even better.</p>				65
48-49	Fisheries and Forestry	F&F01	O'Brien	<p><i>(funding for northern illegal fisheries management)</i></p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—Again, you have increased vessel disposal over the period of \$25.94 million. Then you have the vessel destruction number announced on 31 January 2005 and a vessel destruction increase announced on 11 October 2005. If I add those three numbers together, will I get a total number or will I have to find another number as well?</p> <p><b>Mr Hurry</b>—If it helps, Senator, it might be easier if we pulled these together as a composite table for you, if you like, and take it on notice and provide the figures that way.</p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—If that system does not give me the number then, please, yes.</p>				66

Hansard page no	Division/ Agency	Question no	Senator	Subject & Question on Notice	Date reply received	Date to Senators	Tabling date	No.
50		F&F02	O'Brien	<p><i>(Recreational Fishing Community Grants program-applications)</i></p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—I note from the web site that, of 166 applications received in round 1, 71 were successful. I understand that a panel assessed the applications and made recommendations to the minister. Can you tell me whether any projects were recommended by the panel and not approved by the minister?</p> <p><b>Mr Hurry</b>—I cannot off hand, but I am happy to take that on notice and provide that information to you.</p>				67
50		F&F03	O'Brien	<p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—Could you tell me whether the minister approved any projects against recommendations of the panel? If so, can you tell me which projects?</p> <p><b>Senator Abetz</b>—We can take that as well.</p> <p><b>Mr Hurry</b>—We can take that on notice for you as well, Senator.</p>				68
51		F&F04	O'Brien	<p><i>(Contracts for Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna research program)</i></p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—In last year's budget the government announced a \$3 million program to support the scientific research program of the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna. Who is managing the program and who is doing the work?</p> <p><b>Mr Hurry</b>—We manage the program out of our area. Work is undertaken by the Bureau of Rural Sciences. I think there are contracts to CSIRO in this one, but I could get you a breakdown of them.</p>				69
51		F&F05	O'Brien	<p><i>(Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna research program)</i></p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—Thank you. Where is the program up to?</p> <p><b>Mr Hurry</b>—I would have to check what we actually funded this year. We try to fund work in this that supports the work of the external panel in the southern bluefin tuna commission, which is a group of expert scientists who are guiding the science in the commission.</p>				70

Hansard page no	Division/ Agency	Question no	Senator	Subject & Question on Notice	Date reply received	Date to Senators	Tabling date	No.
51		F&F06	O'Brien	<p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—Have any findings or results been released as yet?</p> <p><b>Mr Hurry</b>—These three years are a roll-on of previous work that we have done on science in the commission. I do not know whether any direct results have come out of this, but I can check, Senator, and let you know. It is a fairly open program. We run it, the work we do through the management advisory committee of the southern bluefin tuna commission. I will check and see what is out and available.</p>				71
51		F&F07	O'Brien	<p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—If you would, I would appreciate that. How much was spent in 2005-06?</p> <p><b>Mr Hurry</b>—Again, I will need to check.</p>				72
54		F&F08	O'Brien	<p><i>(use of helicopters)</i></p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—It is an over land thing rather than an over water thing? You are not going to winch people down to boats in the water?</p> <p><b>Mr Hurry</b>—I would have to check with Customs, but I think the understanding was that it would land in the vicinity of these boats. If it landed on beaches or up creeks in north Australia, we would have access to these boats; whereas, by the time we get to them by traditional means, they are long gone. At least this gives us a chance to actually get out there and interact—</p>				73



Hansard page no	Division/ Agency	Question no	Senator	Subject & Question on Notice	Date reply received	Date to Senators	Tabling date	No.
55		F&F09	O'Brien	<p><i>(Dismissal of charges relating to illegal fishing)</i></p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—What sorts of grounds do people get off on—if you apprehend them out at sea, you cannot prove they were in the waters or something?</p> <p><b>Senator Abetz</b>—There is a celebrated West Australian case that I do not think anybody really knows, other than the jury, as to why they got off.</p> <p><b>Mr McLoughlin</b>—That was an Antarctic toothfish pirate—</p> <p><b>Senator Abetz</b>—Yes.</p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—Apprehended near South Africa, as I recall it.</p> <p><b>Senator Abetz</b>—Yes. There were two trials in relation to that.</p> <p><b>Mr McLoughlin</b>—The only case I can recall, although I am happy to check for you, is where a magistrate in a Darwin court dismissed the charges against an Indonesian crew. The Indonesian crew that were apprehended came from a particular ethnic group within Indonesia, essentially Indonesian gypsy marine people who spoke their own dialect. There was cause for concern that they may not have understood the Bahasa Indonesian cards that we provided as they were apprehended. There was enough doubt, in the absence of absolute proof, that they could speak Bahasa Indonesian as opposed to their own language. The magistrate declined to accept the charges and they were let off. That is the only case I can think of.</p>				74
56-57		F&F10	O'Brien	<p><i>(education campaign for foreign fishers)</i></p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—Do you know what medium will be used, given that there are significant illiteracy problems with some of the communities?</p> <p><b>Mr Hurry</b>—My understanding of this—and I am happy to check this for you, Senator—is that there are media inside Indonesia who are being consulted on how to develop this as a program. Also, there have been port visits undertaken by embassy officials. As part of this process, DAFF will locate an officer in Jakarta who will work not only on AQIS and biosecurity issues but also fairly extensively on illegal fishing issues across the Indonesian archipelago.</p>				75

Hansard page no	Division/ Agency	Question no	Senator	Subject & Question on Notice	Date reply received	Date to Senators	Tabling date	No.
57	Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service	AQIS08	O'Brien	<p><i>(assistance to Aboriginal communities to support sea rangers)</i></p> <p><b>Dr Carroll</b>—We have identified 27 communities overall that we will be dealing with, but we will not be dealing with all of those communities every year. It will be based partly on the relative risk in the area where those communities are. It will be based on what specific work we need done with those communities and the capacity of those communities to do that work. As I said, 27 communities will be worked with over a four-year period. Some of those communities might do a lot of work for us each year. Some of those communities may do only a bit of work for us in one of those years. It will be a risk based decision.</p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—Can you provide us with a list of those communities?</p> <p><b>Dr Carroll</b>—We should be able to do that, yes.</p>				76

Hansard page no	Division/ Agency	Question no	Senator	Subject & Question on Notice	Date reply received	Date to Senators	Tabling date	No.
59	Fisheries and Forestry	F&F11	O'Brien	<p><i>(illegal foreign fishers- sightings)</i></p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—Do we know how many sightings there were within the three- to 12-mile zone last year?</p> <p><b>Senator Abetz</b>—I would imagine Coastwatch would have that.</p> <p><b>Mr McLoughlin</b>—That is data that is held by Coastwatch. We respond to that on the sightings data that they provide for us and ask for responses on every occasion.</p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—It is Customs?</p> <p><b>Mr McLoughlin</b>—That is Customs. Coastwatch has that data.</p> <p><b>Senator Abetz</b>—I have just been advised, for what it is worth, that those who got that hefty \$5 penalty courtesy of a South Australian magistrate were caught within the 12 nautical mile zone. That is one lot. We will try to find out for you from Coastwatch how many sightings there were.</p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—And within the three-mile zone?</p> <p><b>Senator Abetz</b>—That is the state zone. That is up to the various states and territories.</p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—Presumably Coastwatch would not ignore them. How many were seen?</p> <p><b>Senator Abetz</b>—Seen as opposed to prosecuted?</p> <p><b>Mr Hurry</b>—Coastwatch should have that data. We can provide it as a package.</p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—As a proportion, do we have any idea how many get that close and how many are merely in the EEZ?</p> <p><b>Mr McLoughlin</b>—I do not have that data with me.</p>				77

Hansard page no	Division/ Agency	Question no	Senator	Subject & Question on Notice	Date reply received	Date to Senators	Tabling date	No.
59		F&F12	O'Brien	<p><i>(illegal foreign fishers- apprehensions)</i></p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—Where there are apprehensions, I take it it is known at which point they are apprehended, and we would know now how many would be apprehended in those zones?</p> <p><b>Mr McLoughlin</b>—That is correct. Yes, we would.</p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—Could we get those figures on notice?</p> <p><b>Mr McLoughlin</b>—I will take that on notice.</p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—Within three miles and three to 12 miles?</p> <p><b>Mr McLoughlin</b>—Yes.</p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—And outside that. Could we get the same figures for administrative seizure?</p> <p><b>Mr McLoughlin</b>—For the 2005 year?</p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—Yes.</p>				78
61		F&F13	Webber	<p><i>(Western Australian Department of Fisheries report on fish stocks)</i></p> <p><b>Mr McLoughlin</b>—I have a copy of that report with me and I am happy to organise a copy of the relevant pages for you today, Senator, if you would like to take them with you.</p>				79
61		F&F14	Webber	<p><i>(cost of detaining vessels)</i></p> <p><b>Senator WEBBER</b>—Can you outline what proportion of the total expenditure relates to the costs incurred after illegal fishing vessels are detained, as compared with the amount expended on apprehending the vessels at sea?</p> <p><b>Mr McLoughlin</b>—We will have to take that on notice.</p>				80

Hansard page no	Division/ Agency	Question no	Senator	Subject & Question on Notice	Date reply received	Date to Senators	Tabling date	No.
62		F&F15	Webber	<p><i>(local work creation in Indonesia)</i></p> <p><b>Senator WEBBER</b>—Indeed. Has the department given any consideration to or taken any steps towards working with other agencies, like AusAID, to address the issues of local work creation in Indonesia, to encourage people to stay at home?</p> <p><b>Senator Abetz</b>—That is part of the package as well—through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, is it?</p> <p><b>Mr Hurry</b>—AusAID.</p> <p><b>Senator Abetz</b>—Do you have the details?</p> <p><b>Mr Hurry</b>—I do not have the figures on that, Senator Webber. Can I take that on notice? We started work some years ago on a project in Roti, I think it was, that was funded through DEH, and we worked with AusAID to try to build some alternative livelihood projects. They will work in some areas of Indonesia. But in others, where this is a well-organised shark finning activity, you cannot build the base of income from these types of projects to make people stay away from illegal fishing. You have quite a resource of unemployed labour who are quite happy to do some trips on boats into the Australian zone. It is one of the planks of this approach that will end up being a useful alternative source of income for Indonesian fishermen, but it is not the answer in itself.</p>				81
63		F&F16	Webber	<p><i>(funding for northern waters work)</i></p> <p><b>Senator WEBBER</b>—Can you tell me—feel free to take it on notice, because you will have to check with Customs—how much additional cost that was for the work?</p> <p><b>Mr Hurry</b>—The northern one? Can we take that on notice?</p>				82

Hansard page no	Division/ Agency	Question no	Senator	Subject & Question on Notice	Date reply received	Date to Senators	Tabling date	No.
64		F&F17	O'Brien	<p><i>(structural adjustment package-port visits)</i></p> <p><b>Mr Talbot</b>—There were 14 port visits. To decide on the number of port visits, we took advice from industry associations as to which ports we should visit. They recommended that we reduce the number to those specific ports that are stated in the tender document.</p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—Which ones missed out?</p> <p><b>Senator Abetz</b>—It depends on how many ports there are around the country.</p> <p><b>Senator O'BRIEN</b>—From the original list.</p> <p><b>Mr Talbot</b>—I would have to take that on notice. One of the ports that missed out in the end was Sydney, for example. The industry preferred to have the sessions in other places. I do know that one of the other ones was Fremantle. You are testing my memory here. There was also one in Tasmania that industry decided on—St Helens.</p>				83
65		F&F18	Webber	<p><i>(Meetings with Indonesia)</i></p> <p><b>Senator WEBBER</b>—During the last hearings we were advised that the head of Coastwatch, Rear Admiral Crane, was planning a meeting with his counterpart in Indonesia to map out a way for the two surveillance agencies to cooperate. Is anyone aware whether that meeting took place and, if so, what was the outcome?</p> <p><b>Senator Abetz</b>—Was that in these estimates or in that of Customs?</p> <p><b>Senator WEBBER</b>—It was in these estimates.</p> <p><b>Mr Hurry</b>—Back in February.</p> <p><b>Senator WEBBER</b>—It certainly was. Mr Quinlivan told us about it.</p> <p><b>Mr Hurry</b>—We will have to take that on notice.</p>				84

Hansard page no	Division/ Agency	Question no	Senator	Subject & Question on Notice	Date reply received	Date to Senators	Tabling date	No.
66		F&F19	Webber	<p><b>Senator WEBBER</b>—At the same time there was reference to discussions between Mr Downer, then Minister Macdonald and the Indonesian ministers, just before Christmas, where it was agreed that ways of cooperating on enforcement measures should be investigated. Where is the enforcement cooperation between the two countries up to, or do you want to take that on notice, too?</p> <p><b>Mr Quinlivan</b>—Most of it was part of those conversations envisaged between our Coastwatch and their Defence agencies. We will get a report on that for you.</p>				85
66		F&F20	Webber	<p><i>(joint Indonesian-Australian study into illegal fishing in the region)</i></p> <p><b>Senator WEBBER</b>—Has the joint Indonesian-Australian study into illegal fishing in our region commenced?</p> <p><b>Mr Hurry</b>—As far as I understand, Senator, it has. I would have to take that on notice and come back to you.</p>				86
66		F&F21	Webber	<p><b>Senator WEBBER</b>—Perhaps you could also take on notice who is doing the work on it and what the time line for the project is.</p> <p><b>Mr Hurry</b>—I am happy to do that.</p> <p><b>Mr Quinlivan</b>—It is being done—not the actual contract but the organisation of the task—by the embassy in Jakarta, by our Foreign Affairs officials. It is not actually our project.</p>				87
66		F&F22	Webber	<p><i>(evaluation of the Eden adjustment package)</i></p> <p><b>Senator WEBBER</b>—I presume that work will be in the form of a report. Will that be able to be made available to the committee when it is completed?</p> <p><b>Mr Hurry</b>—Can we consider that and come back to you, Senator? Can we take that on notice?</p> <p><b>Senator WEBBER</b>—Yes, you certainly can take it on notice. Perhaps you could also take on notice the value of the consultancy.</p> <p><b>Mr Hurry</b>—If you bear with me until we get to forestry, I can probably find that in my notes and give you the details of it. I am happy to do that.</p>				88

Hansard page no	Division/ Agency	Question no	Senator	Subject & Question on Notice	Date reply received	Date to Senators	Tabling date	No.
67		F&F23	Webber	<p><i>(Boydton hotel)</i></p> <p><b>Senator WEBBER</b>—if we can provide them with a continental breakfast when they book their accommodation. Can you tell me when that money was paid to the company?</p> <p><b>Mr Hurry</b>—I would have to take that on notice, Senator. I am not sure what the time of finalisation of the grants was, but I am happy to take that on notice and provide you with the information.</p>				89
67		F&F24	Webber	<p><b>Senator WEBBER</b>—Okay. Within that program were there milestones that had to be met and periodic inspections undertaken?</p> <p><b>Mr Hurry</b>—It may be in my notes on forests, Senator Webber. I am happy to have a look then.</p> <p><b>Senator WEBBER</b>—You can take it on notice, and perhaps take on notice whether those milestones were met.</p> <p><b>Mr Hurry</b>—Okay.</p> <p><b>Senator WEBBER</b>—And when the inspections took place and what flowed from them.</p> <p><b>Mr Hurry</b>—Yes.</p>				90



Hansard page no	Division/ Agency	Question no	Senator	Subject & Question on Notice	Date reply received	Date to Senators	Tabling date	No.
68		F&F25	Siewert	<p><i>(decline in shark numbers)</i></p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—I asked a question last estimates of Environment about sharks and I am going to be asking some more when I go back. In answer to one of my questions, where I asked, ‘Is there concern about the apparent decline in shark numbers?’ the department said yes. Then when I asked, ‘Has the National Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks been reviewed,’ they said no. I am wondering: are you aware of any moves to review that, or do you think it is a good idea that that be reviewed?</p> <p><b>Mr Hurry</b>—The national plan of action for sharks is basically a living document and I understand there is a working group that has been involved in getting the plan of action in place. I will check for you, but I thought that was an ongoing process of working with the states to continue to develop better practices of managing shark fisheries. I did not think it was a document that you just put in place and let stand and then reviewed at some future point in time. I understood it was a more interactive process, if you like, as we manage sharks. But I will check that and make sure that I have got that right.</p>				91
68		F&F26	Siewert	<p><i>(funding for studies of species threatened by illegal fishing)</i></p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—I would appreciate that, because that is not how I have understood it in the past. But, if that is the case, it is much better. I understood it was announced that there was money in the new budget being put into studies of species that are threatened by illegal fishing—sharks being included, I presume. Can you remind me—I know I saw a media release about this—how much money is being put into that?</p>				92

Hansard page no	Division/ Agency	Question no	Senator	Subject & Question on Notice	Date reply received	Date to Senators	Tabling date	No.
70		F&F27	Siewert	<p><i>(deep-sea trawling)</i></p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—Can I move on to deep sea trawling. I have quite a few questions. Some of these you might need to take on notice; I am aware of that. In 2004-05, as I understand it, there were about five Australian vessels that were undertaking deep sea trawling.</p> <p><b>Mr Hurry</b>—There would not have been any more than that. I would be a bit surprised if it was five, but around that number would be right.</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—That was in 2004-05. Can you tell me what those figures are now?</p> <p><b>Mr Hurry</b>—I do not think it would have changed very much for deep ocean trawling. We have vessels trawling for patagonian toothfish off Heard and McDonald Islands. There is a bit of fishing on the Indian Ocean ridges on the way back by those vessels. I think that is about all.</p> <p><b>Mr McLoughlin</b>—That is correct.</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—So you do not think there would have been any change since then?</p> <p><b>Mr Hurry</b>—No.</p> <p><b>Mr McLoughlin</b>—I think the number has reduced to three vessels, but I can confirm that.</p>				93
70		F&F28	Siewert	<p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—Do you know what the catch was?</p> <p><b>Mr McLoughlin</b>—We certainly record what catches come in. We have observers on those vessels as well, so they are very well monitored operations. I do not have those figures with me. I cannot provide those figure if there are less than five vessels because of confidentiality issues around identifying which boats have been fishing where and have caught what. We try and merge that.</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—If there are more than three, can you give it to me?</p> <p><b>Mr Hurry</b>—No. It has to be more than five for us to give you the data.</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—Can you check if there was? If there was, can I have that information and also the bycatch figures, please.</p> <p><b>Mr McLoughlin</b>—Yes.</p>				94

Hansard page no	Division/ Agency	Question no	Senator	Subject & Question on Notice	Date reply received	Date to Senators	Tabling date	No.
71		F&F29	Siewert	<p><i>(impact of the Australian fishery)</i></p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—Thanks. Do you have any data on monitoring the impact of the Australian fishery?</p> <p><b>Mr McLoughlin</b>—Very substantial and extensive data. We put two observers on every boat that goes into the Heard and McDonald Islands fishery and the Macquarie Island fishery, in addition to those Australian boats that fish in CCAMLR territory. We record catch and bycatch data routinely on every trip. We have a management advisory committee with the Department of the Environment and Heritage and conservation NGO members on that. As Mr Hurry has indicated, it is almost certainly the most closely monitored high seas fishery in the world, and the costs of that monitoring are met by the industry participants, not the taxpayer.</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—Can that information be provided?</p> <p><b>Mr McLoughlin</b>—I think there is a substantial amount of information that is already in the public domain, and we are happy to provide that which is there.</p>				95
78	Natural Resource Management	NRM01	McEwen	<p><i>(Murray-Darling Basin Commission funding- environmental works)</i></p> <p><b>Senator McEWEN</b>—Can you tell me what funding has been set aside for environmental works and measures prior to this latest injection of money?</p> <p><b>Mr Smalley</b>—I could not tell you the specific number that would have been set aside within that \$92 million budget, but I think it would be reasonable that we could get that information.</p> <p><b>Mr Aldred</b>—We can take on notice the split between capital works and the environmental works and measures program.</p>				96
82		NRM02	McEwen	<p><i>(regional investment-sustainable agricultural outcomes)</i></p> <p><b>Senator McEWEN</b>—Each of the evaluations deals with the area of sustainable agricultural outcomes from the regional investment?</p> <p><b>Mr Aldred</b>—Or biodiversity outcomes, salinity outcomes and so on. I can provide a list of the 10 if you do not have it.</p>				97

Hansard page no	Division/ Agency	Question no	Senator	Subject & Question on Notice	Date reply received	Date to Senators	Tabling date	No.
84	Rural Policy and Innovation	RPI05	Stephens	<p><i>(Country Women's Association Emergency Drought Aid Fund)</i>  <b>Senator STEPHENS</b>—And it is a question for the minister. It is on 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 extenuating circumstances, but there is nothing there for next year.</p> <p><b>Senator Abetz</b>—There is a good question.</p> <p><b>Senator STEPHENS</b>—And we are still desperately in drought.</p> <p><b>Senator Abetz</b>—That we are.</p> <p><b>CHAIR</b>—Would you like to take that on notice?</p> <p><b>Mr Quinlivan</b>—Yes, we will need to.</p>				98
<b>POST HEARING ADDITIONAL WRITTEN QUESTIONS ON NOTICE</b>								
Written	All Departments and Agencies	Whole Of Gov't01	Ludwig	<p><i>(expenditure on legal services)</i>            What sum did the department or agency spend during 2005-2006 on external legal services (including private firms, the Australian Government Solicitor and any others).</p>				99
Written		Whole Of Gov't02	Ludwig	What sum did the department or agency spend on internal legal services.				100
Written		Whole Of Gov't03	Ludwig	What is the department or agency's projected expenditure on legal services for 2006-2007.				101

Hansard page no	Division/ Agency	Question no	Senator	Subject & Question on Notice	Date reply received	Date to Senators	Tabling date	No.
Written		Whole Of Gov't04	Ludwig	<p>The following questions relate to the purchase of executive coaching and/or other leadership training services by the department/agency, broken down for each of the last four financial years.</p> <p>Where available, please provide:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Total spending on these services.</li> <li>2. The number of employees offered these services and their salary level.</li> <li>3. The number of employees who have utilised these services and their salary level.</li> <li>4. The names of all service providers engaged.</li> <li>5. For each service purchased from a provider listed in the answer to the previous question, please provide: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The name and nature of the service purchased.</li> <li>b. Whether the service is one-on-one or group based.</li> <li>c. The number of employees who received the service.</li> <li>d. The total number of hours involved for all employees.</li> <li>e. The total amount spent on the service.</li> <li>f. A description of the fees charged (e.g. per hour, complete package).</li> <li>g. Where a service was provided at any location other than the department or agency's own premises, please provide: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. The location used</li> <li>ii. The number of employees who took part on each occasion</li> <li>iii. The total number of hours involved for all employees who took part.</li> </ol> </li> </ol> </li> </ol>				102
Written		Whole Of Gov't05	O'Brien	<p>Can the department identify all departmental or administered costs related to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Australia's engagement in Iraq</li> <li>(2) Australia's engagement in Afghanistan</li> </ol> <p>in each of the forward years to 2009-10 including, but not necessarily limited to, assistance to Ministries of Agriculture?</p>				103

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Written	Australian Bureau of Agriculture and Resource Economics	ABARE 02	Siewert	<p><i>(Oil Stocks)</i> The ABARE Aust Petroleum Statistics June 2005 (Australian Energy supply and disposal, 2003-04 – energy units) gives a figure of 196.6 PJ of crude oil in 'stock changes and discrepancies'.</p> <p>The Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources stock reports for the same period report total stocks as 2,047,600 tonnes.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does 196.6 PJ equate with around 4 million tonnes?</li> <li>Can you explain the discrepancy between the two figures?</li> <li>What do the two sets of figures really mean?</li> <li>Why are stock changes and discrepancies combined? Does this effectively mask the level of error or uncertainty in ABAREs figures?</li> <li>These numbers seem to imply that we are unable to account for twice as much oil as we actually have oil stocks. Is this really the case? How could we effectively lose so much oil?</li> <li>ABARE figures appear to show a similar discrepancy for 3 years running, is this correct?</li> </ol>				104
Written		ABARE 03	Siewert	<p>Why is it that ABARE sees it should have this role rather ABS?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does the fact that ABARE is unable to compel data have any impact on its ability to compile complete and accurate figures?</li> <li>Is this data used by other agencies?</li> <li>If so, which agencies and for what purpose?</li> <li>What impact does this discrepancy have on our greenhouse accounting figures?</li> </ol>				105
Written		ABARE 04	Siewert	<p><i>(GMOs)</i> Is ABARE doing any ongoing analysis of consumer trends in Europe and Asia that investigate consumer concern about GM crops?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If not, why not?</li> <li>If yes, what does it say?</li> </ol>				106
Written		ABARE 05	Siewert	<p>Are ABARE concerned that as Asian countries get richer their concerns with GM crops will reflect the concerns with GM foods of other richer countries like Europe and Australia?</p> <p>On what basis and on what evidence does ABARE make their conclusion?</p>				107

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Written		ABARE 06	Siewert	How were the assumptions about the productivity increases from GM crops arrived at, and other estimates?				108
Written		ABARE 07	Siewert	Have ABARE done any meta studies of what the academic literature suggests are the range of assumptions and estimates? If so, How does this compare with the ABARE figures?				109
Written		ABARE 08	Siewert	<i>(Operations)</i> Most professional research houses, including CSIRO and Universities, typically expose their work to independent peer review prior to publishing; as with academic journals. What quality assurance measures does ABARE have in place to ensure that their economic research is of the highest quality, i.e. is objective, balanced and free of vested interests?				110
Written		ABARE 09	Siewert	How does ABARE guard against a narrowing of its internal culture? How does ABARE, as a publicly funded research agency which aims to inform discussion and policy-making in the public interest, ensure that their research professionals are drawn from and engage with wide variety of perspectives in the field of economics, agricultural and natural resource management? a. Does ABARE employ social scientists other than economists? b. Does ABARE employ any physicists, chemists or other physical scientists? c. If not, how does ABARE cross-check the physical and chemical assumptions it relies on for its modelling?				111
Written	Biosecurity Australia	BioSec Aus07	Siewert	<i>(principle of regional difference)</i> Is the principle of regional difference supported by Biosecurity?				112
Written		BioSec Aus08	Siewert	What administrative, or other guidelines, provide the requirement for quarantine procedures to recognise regional difference?				113

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Written		BioSec Aus09	Siewert	<p>To what degree does Australia demonstrate a high level of regional difference of pests and diseases in comparison with other members of the World Trade Organisation?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Can you please table any maps or charts or data bases that show the regional differences for various agricultural products' pests and diseases in Australia?</li> <li>If this work has not been done can you table maps or other information showing the spatial distribution of major pests and diseases that effect agricultural production?</li> <li>For administrative purposes do regions of biosecurity follow State and Territory boundaries?</li> <li>If not how are such regions determined?</li> </ol>				114
Written	Fisheries & Forestry	F&F30	Siewert	<p><i>(Bottom trawling)</i></p> <p>In response to my question last year asking if the Minister was aware of the extent of the damage inflicted on deep sea coral and sponge environments by the practice of bottom trawling I was informed that “There is little known evidence as to the extent or impact of bottom trawling.” The answer cited a World Conservation Union and World Wildlife Fund report which in turn said “there has been no systematic study of the geographic extent of bottom trawl fisheries in relation to vulnerable deep-sea ecosystems or the extent of its impact on these ecosystems”. (answer to question 1182 provided on 7 Feb 2006)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is the Minister still of the view that “There is little known evidence as to the extent or impact of bottom trawling.”</li> <li>If so – does that mean Australia is in breach of it international and national legal obligations to apply the pre-cautionary principle</li> <li>Is it ‘responsible’ to license these fishing vessels if we are unaware of their impacts on ecosystems</li> </ol>				115



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Written		F&F31	Siewert	<p><i>(Regulating Australian High Sea Bottom trawlers)</i></p> <p>According to answers last year the requirements on these boats are:            “All Australian fishing vessels fishing on the high seas are required to meet a range of regulations in line with the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement. These include: mandated use of an integrated computer vessel monitoring system (IVCDS); nil take of a range of fish species such as black marlin; a ban on the use of driftnets; implementation of a range of by catch measures and completion of logbooks for lodgement with the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (FAMA).” (Answer to question 1183 provided on 13 October 2005)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Could you provide more specific details on these requirements?</li> <li>b. Is the possibility of unreported or under-reported catches an issue for the Department?</li> <li>c. 3. Are there requirements not to disturb the ocean floor?</li> </ol>				116