

Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2007

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question no: CP 01

Division/Agency: Corporate Policy

Topic: Approval for Quarantine Matters! Campaigns

Hansard page: 7 (23/05/07)

Senator O'Brien asked:

Senator O'BRIEN—Do you know when individual campaigns were referred to the Ministerial Committee on Government Communications for approval?

Mr Grant—When those in particular were?

Senator O'BRIEN—Yes.

Senator Abetz—Are you talking about the last iteration, because Quarantine Matters! has been going on for I nearly imagine decades and all that happens is that there is a new iteration of it or a bit of a tweak to it.

Senator O'BRIEN—Does that mean that there is just an ongoing brief for that particular campaign that goes back some time? Or is it reapproved on an annual basis or biennially?

Senator Abetz—On a sort of regular basis when and as it is deemed that it needs a refresh or whatever, but when you talk Quarantine Matters!, I think we have been doing that now for many years. Mr Grant, is that right?

Mr Grant—Yes, Minister. Quarantine Matters! and the exceptional circumstances funding both went through the ministerial coordination committee late last year.

Senator O'BRIEN—Are you saying that late last year they were reapproved? They went to the committee and were approved?

Mr Grant—That is correct, yes.

Senator O'BRIEN—Is there a specific date? Can you get us that date?

Mr Grant—We can get you that date, certainly.

Answer:

The Quarantine Matters! campaign has been an ongoing campaign since 2002. There has been various times where AQIS has sought approval from the Ministerial Committee on Government Communications (MCGC).

- a) New advertising concepts were brought to the MCGC for consideration on 13 September 2006 following the death of Steve Irwin.
- b) The Quarantine Matters! 'Big Bugs' creative concept materials were approved to production by the MCGC on 17 October 2006.
- c) The near final Quarantine Matters! 'Big Bugs' advertising materials and media strategy were approved by the MCGC on 28 February 2007.
- d) The final Quarantine Matters! 'Big Bugs' print advertisements were approved out of session by the MCGC on 21 March 2007.

Information relating to drought campaign should be sought from the Department of Human Services.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

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Question no: CP 02

Division/Agency: Corporate Policy

Topic: Information and awareness campaigns

Hansard page: 13 (23/05/07)

Senator O'Brien asked:

Mr Grant—It may be an information awareness raising campaign, just to advise people of the availability of funding arrangements and to give information about how they might apply for various grants under that program, but we can confirm that in Food and Agriculture. When you asked about campaigns, I was not quite sure whether you meant every time the department went out to its stakeholders or whether you meant a major organised campaign of a significant nature, such as Quarantine Matters!. So when I answered that there was nothing more on the horizon for us, I did not consider the individual programs where they go out and provide information to potential applicants to apply for funding arrangements to be in the context of your question on major campaigns—

Senator O'BRIEN—I did intend it to be broad, so this would be one that we would need to get the detail about.

Mr Grant—Having clarified that, there will be others as well from the various programs in the department where we do have funding arrangements and grants programs and where we do go out to provide information to stakeholders about the way they can apply for funds. There will be a number of those, yes.

Senator O'BRIEN—Do you have any idea how much in total is involved?

Mr Grant—No.

Senator O'BRIEN—Can you get that for us?

Mr Grant—I would have to take that on notice.

Senator O'BRIEN—Can you identify the campaigns individually?

Mr Grant—Not here now. I can take that on notice and come back to you.

Answer:

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry prepares information material on a range of its policy and programme initiatives.

The Department's Annual report lists the publications that are produced in support of each output and these materials are generally available on the Department's website.

To provide detailed information on the costing of each publication, pamphlet or activity would require a significant review of the Department's records.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

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Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question no: CP 03

Division/Agency: CP

Topic: Agricultural Managed Investment Schemes

Hansard page: 97 (23/5/07)

Senator O'Brien asked:

Senator O'BRIEN—Has the department assessed whether the government's decision to wind up agricultural managed investment schemes will have an impact on food processing in regional Australia?

Mr Mortimer—I think that is a question for the policy division, Senator. Food and Agriculture does not have responsibility for that.

Senator O'BRIEN—I will put that on notice.

Answer:

No.

Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2007

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question no: CP 04

Division/Agency: Biosecurity Australia / Corporate Policy Division

Topic: 1995 Quarantine Memorandum of Understanding

Hansard page: 117 (24/05/07)

Senator Siewert asked:

Senator SIEWERT—....When I asked about regional differences in the MOU, the answer that you gave me— and I can give you the number—was: The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Commonwealth and the States/Territories on Quarantine matters (1995, amended 2002) makes specific provision for the recognition of regional differences in pest status and risk. I have been trying to find a copy of the updated MOU, and I cannot find one, where it specifically refers to regional differences. This is an issue because, as you are probably aware, the legislation is finally about to go through the Western Australian parliament and regional difference was a big issue for us.

Ms Gordon—I cannot answer your question. I am not aware of the MOU. It might be a matter that we have to take on notice and identify in the department where the information lies.

Senator SIEWERT—Could you do that urgently, because I was asked about this a while ago. Our minds were put at rest because we were given these answers and we had had a discussion about it as well. I thought it was fixed. Now questions are being raised that suggest perhaps it might not be, so I am trying to resolve it quickly.

Dr O'Connell—We will treat that as a matter of urgency.

Answer:

The 1995 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Animal and Plant Quarantine Measures is at Attachment A. Amendments to the MOU concerning regional differences were agreed by the Commonwealth and all states and territories in 2002 through an exchange of letters. The letter from the then Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, the Hon Warren Truss MP, to the Western Australian Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, the Hon Kim Chance MLC is at Attachment B.

Attachment A - 1995 Memorandum of Understanding on Animal and Plant Quarantine Measures

Attachment B - Amendments to the Memorandum of Understanding concerning regional difference

[CP 04 attachments A and B]