

Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2008

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: ID 01

Division/Agency: International Division

Topic: Ministerial Travel

Hansard Page: 14 (26/05/08)

Senator Scullion asked:

Senator SCULLION—What was the total cost of the travel, accommodation and any other expenses? You may be able to give me an overall total now, but if you could break it up that would be useful.

Mr Burns—I will take that one on notice, but we can get that to you very quickly.

Senator SCULLION—Okay. You can also, when you are providing that—if you do not have the answer at the moment—include how many ministerial staff or family members accompanied the minister on that trip.

Mr Burns—There was one member of the minister's staff but no family.

Senator SCULLION—You may want to provide the cost of the staff member's travel in the same context of the other three points. Did any officers from the department accompany the minister on that trip?

Mr Burns—Yes, two officers from the department.

Senator SCULLION—Again, you may want to provide me with the travel, accommodation and any other expenses for them.

Answer:

Travel costs for the minister and his staff are included in table 1. These costs were met by the Department of Finance and Deregulation.

Travel costs for two departmental officers accompanying the minister are outlined in table 2. These costs were met by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. Additional expenses paid for by the department are included in table 3

Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2008

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Table 1 – Travel costs for Minister and staff met by Department of Finance and Deregulation

Hon. Tony Burke MP *

Flights & Transport	Accommodation	Meals	Travel Allowance & Incidentals	Hospitality	Other Costs	Total
\$11,574	\$4,621	\$105	\$824	\$2,407	\$167	\$17,291

* Costs for two nights in Beijing not included as reconciliation pending.

MOP(S) Act employee *

Flights	Accommodation	Meals	Travel Allowance & Incidentals	Other Costs	Total
\$10,906	\$3,491	\$258	\$695	Nil	\$15,350

* Costs for two nights in Beijing not included as reconciliation pending.

Table 2 – Travel costs for departmental officers met by Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Officer	Flights	Accommodation	Meals	Incidentals	Other Costs	Total
SAMSON Cliff	\$11,145	\$4,306	\$508	\$477	\$8	\$16,444
BURNS Craig	\$11,218	\$4,234	\$502	\$477	\$48	\$16,479

Table 3 – Additional travel costs met by Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Country	Other Costs *
Japan	\$4,281
Seoul	\$7,136
China	\$9,834

* Other costs include hospitality, taxi fares, hire car fees and interpreting costs.

Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2008

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: ID 02

Division/Agency: International Division

Topic: Livestock exports

Hansard Page: 72-73 (26/05/08)

Senator Siewert asked:

Mr Morris—We do not have a specific requirement in place that countries are members of the OIE, the world animal health organisation. We would have to check as to whether each country we export to is a member or not. But we do not have a specific requirement that they are members.

Senator SIEWERT—Could you provide me with a list of countries that are and are not that we export to? Is that available?

Mr Morris—Certainly that is available. We will be able to provide you a list of those and I presume a list of whether they are OIE members or not.

Senator SIEWERT—Yes, that is what I meant: can I have a list of countries that we export to that are and are not signed up. I am sorry if I was not clear. What I am interested to see is whether we are exporting to countries that do not meet the guidelines. Also, if we are exporting to countries that do not meet the guidelines, do we have any other understandings in place with them that meet some of the shortcomings where they do not meet the guidelines? Is that clear?

Mr Morris—Yes. At the moment our overall objectives in terms of working with the countries that import our animals is to try and improve their standards to match those of the world animal health organisation, whether they are members of that organisation or not. So a lot of the activities that we work on with industry in those markets are aimed at increasing the standards to be closer to the international standards.

Senator SIEWERT—Could you provide me with a list of the countries that you are doing that with?

...

Mr Morris—What you asked me before, as I understand it, was for a list of the countries that we export animals to and whether they are members of the world animal health organisation or not.

Senator SIEWERT—I am glad we had this clarification because what I want to do then is find out which countries do or do not meet the guidelines. If I understand what you have just said, you in fact do not do an analysis against those guidelines to see whether countries, even if they are members, are meeting them or not.

Answer:

During the period 31 May 2007 to 31 May 2008 records from the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service show that Australian exported livestock to 36 destinations. These being Argentina, Bahrain, Brazil, Brunei, Chile, China, Chinese Taipei, Fiji, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, Madagascar, Malaysia including Sabah and Sarawak, Mauritius, Mexico, New Caledonia, New Zealand,

Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2008

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Oman, Pakistan, the Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Thailand, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, United States of America and Norfolk Island an external territory of Australia. All destinations are either members or the territory of members of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2008

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: ID 03

Division/Agency: International Division

Topic: New Zealand Apples World Trade Organization (WTO) Dispute

Hansard Page: 92 (26/05/08)

Senator Milne asked:

Senator MILNE – There is no mechanism now, it is a locked in process? I just think the apple and pear growers would appreciate any detail you can give us, notwithstanding that you are obviously in preparing your case so you are not going to talk about that in any detail, but I would like to have as much detail as you can provide about where we are up to.

Mr Burns – One point I would make initially is that the industry is briefed regularly by DFAT, which runs the case, on where the case is up to so they are briefed on that. But the way the WTO process works is that a dispute panel will meet twice. The first meeting is, as I said, in September. The time frames on how that plays out from there we could provide in writing, if you like, because there is a very set process for that.

Senator MILNE – I would appreciate that.

Answer:

The timetable for the WTO panel process has been settled by the Panel, however it may be modified by the Panel at any time of the proceedings. Key dates include:

- New Zealand's first written submission: 20 June 2008
- Australia's first written submission: 18 July 2008
- Third party submission: 25 July 2008
- First Panel hearing: 2-3 September 2008 (Geneva)
- Second Panel hearing, including a meeting with experts chosen to advise the Panel: 3-5 March 2009 (Geneva)
- Issue of the Panel's final report to parties: Second half of 2009

Either party will have an opportunity to appeal the Panel's report. The appeal process normally takes between 60 – 90 days.

Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2008

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: ID 04

Division/Agency: International Division

Topic: New Zealand Apple Dispute

Hansard Page: 95 (26/05/08)

Senator Heffernan asked:

Mr Bowen—The driver is a WTO agreement called the Sanitary Agreement, and New Zealand has alleged that Australia has broken some of the rules under the WTO SPS agreement in regard to the conditions, or measures, set out for imports for apples and they are challenging those conditions.

Senator HEFFERNAN—But there is a codified law. The difficulty with the courts, as you would be aware, is that they are absolutely about the law and not necessarily about the truth. That is just a fact. If you are guilty of something and you go to court and you get a QC or SC to take your case, his job is to avoid the truth to get you off the hook and he will use every trick in the law to do that. In terms of quarantine issues, certainly terrorism issues and the issue we are confronted with today, fire blight, people can use the law to dud Australia's farmers. The protocol clearly says that, as part of the acceptance—and everyone just nodded their head and went to sleep—yes, we will bring fire blight but we will not infect Australia's farms. That is crazy.

Senator Sherry—But I think the point you are making goes to the legal basis apparently in international law for the handling of disputes like this. I am sure we can find a paper that would outline that for you with some case precedent and what has happened and previous disputes to respond to your question.

Senator HEFFERNAN—But the difficulty, with great respect, is that that is what I am frightened about, because that will fail the practical test—the reason they did not kick down the door at Emerald that time. This is a thing that keeps apple and pear growers awake at night when they are reminded about it, and they will be reminded about it as a consequence of today's hearings. Senator Fielding, you are right: it is a very serious issue for Australia for us to be playing around with the law. The venerable scientists have said, 'Yes, we will bring it in but we will not infect anyone.' If that all goes to custard, no-one will get the sack, but a lot of Australia's apple and pear growers will grow broke.

Senator Sherry—You have made your point very forcefully and frequently. As to the debate around the adoption of an international quarantine protocol, and whatever the processes are, I am not familiar with when that occurred, but I am sure that there were some internal discussions, debates in government and in the community at the time. If it is any help, we will not only get a copy of the treaty, protocol, or whatever the particular technical legal term is, and also the background for signing of such an approach and any debate that occurred at the time.

Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2008

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Answer:

The World Trade Organization (WTO)

1995 following the Uruguay Round of trade negotiations. The Hon. Bob McMullan MP, the Minister for Trade for Australia at this time, was part of the Ministerial Meeting that finalised the Uruguay Round implementing the WTO.

The WTO superseded the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) as the umbrella organization for international trade. There are now 152 Member countries of the WTO. All these Members, which includes Australia and all of its major trading partners, are subject to the same set of trading rules outlined in several multilateral agreements.

SPS Agreement

The WTO's *Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures* (SPS Agreement) covers the application of food safety and animal and plant health regulations to international trade in animals, plants and their products. The SPS Agreement entered into force with the establishment of the WTO on 1 January 1995. Access to the full text of the SPS Agreement is available at:

http://www.wto.org/english/docs_e/legal_e/15-sps.pdf.

The negotiations of the SPS Agreement was principally motivated by concerns that, unless clear rules were made regarding the use of sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures, the gains achieved in the negotiations on agricultural trade could be eroded by the imposition of new or additional, unjustified restrictions in the form of SPS measures.

The decision to negotiate an agreement on the application of SPS measures was made in 1986 when the GATT Uruguay Round was launched. The SPS negotiations were open to all of the 124 GATT government Members at the time, including Australia. Many governments were represented by their food safety or animal and plant health protection officials. The negotiators also drew on the expertise of technical international organizations such as the FAO, the Codex (the peak international food standard setting body) and the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE).

WTO Dispute Resolution

One of the key features of the WTO is its binding dispute settlement system which allows WTO Members to bring formal proceedings to enforce their rights under WTO rules if they believe another WTO Member is in breach of those rules. The conduct of WTO disputes is governed by the *Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes* (the DSU). Access to the full text of the DSU is available at: http://www.wto.org/english/docs_e/legal_e/28-dsu.pdf.

The DSU encourages WTO Members to settle their disputes by mutual agreement,

Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2008

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

but where this is not possible it sets out detailed procedures for their resolution. WTO disputes are heard by panels, and panel findings may be appealed to the WTO's Appellate Body. WTO Members must remove or amend measures found to be WTO inconsistent within a reasonable period of time, failing which they may be required to pay compensation (usually in the form of tariff concessions to the "winning" party) or they risk retaliation by the "winning" party (usually in the form of the suspension of tariff concessions). The DSU states that both compensation and retaliation are temporary measures and should not be preferred to full implementation of a recommendation bringing the offending measure into conformity with WTO rules.

Australia has successfully prosecuted several WTO disputes as a complainant in order to advance its trade interests. These include disputes where the outcome was beneficial for Australian exports of lamb, sugar and beef. Australia has also been a respondent (or defendant) in a number of WTO disputes, six of which were SPS disputes. All of these SPS disputes have challenged the scientific basis of Australia's quarantine measures and some have alleged that Australia's quarantine measures were more trade-restrictive than required. A brief description of each of these WTO SPS disputes is set out below.

WTO SPS Disputes brought against Australia

Australia – Measures Affecting Importation of Salmon, involved a complaint by Canada against Australia's quarantine prohibition on fresh, chilled or frozen Canadian salmon. After an adverse ruling by the WTO, the Commonwealth Government adjusted its quarantine measures.

Australia – Measures Affecting Importation of Salmonids involved a complaint by the United States. The complaint was settled without proceeding to litigation. The United States accepted the adjusted arrangements applying to wild, ocean caught, Pacific salmon and trout from Canada.

The ***Australia – Certain Measures Affecting the Importation of Fresh Pineapple*** involves a complaint by the Philippines against Australia's quarantine measures on fresh pineapple. The dispute has not progressed beyond the consultations stage.

The dispute also includes a broader complaint against Australia's quarantine system. The ***Australia – Certain Measures Affecting the Importation of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables*** involves a complaint by the Philippines that was lodged in conjunction with the ***Australia – Fresh Pineapple*** dispute. A panel was established on 29 August 2003, at the request of the Philippines, although to date the matter has not progressed further. This dispute involves a complaint against Australia's quarantine system as it relates to fresh fruit and vegetables, in particular bananas, plaintain and papaya.

Australia – Quarantine Regime for Imports involved a complaint by the European Communities that included a challenge to Australia's overall quarantine regime. This dispute was settled by Mutually Agreed Solution (MAS) notified to the WTO in March 2007, without amendment to Australia's quarantine legislation or Australia's very low quarantine risk setting.

Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2008

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Australia — Measures Affecting the Importation of Apples from New Zealand involves a complaint by New Zealand against Australia's quarantine measures for New Zealand apples. The dispute is currently before the WTO.

Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2008

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: ID 05

Division/Agency: International Division

Topic: New Zealand Apples World Trade Organization (WTO) Dispute

Hansard Page: 96 (26/05/08)

Senator Heffernan asked:

Senator HEFFERNAN—Could you inform us as to who represents the industry in these consultations with DFAT?

Mr Bowen—Yes. The consultations have been held with Horticulture Australia Limited, Apple and Pear Australia Limited and the National Farmers Federation.

Senator HEFFERNAN—The individual person. A lot of these people are golliwogs.

CHAIR—That is a new one.

Senator HEFFERNAN—Who are the individuals, so we can ring them up?

Mr Bowen—If you are interested in Apple and Pear Australia Limited, Darryl Ashton, and John Corboy is the head of their Fire Blight Task Force, and Tony Russell. Those are the names that come to my mind at the moment, but I would have to get a complete list.

Senator HEFFERNAN—You can take that on notice.

CHAIR—Take it on notice.

Answer:

Since the World Trade Organization (WTO) dispute *Australia – Measures Affecting the Importation of New Zealand Apples* commenced, Australian industry has been consulted four times via face to face meetings or teleconferences (13 September 2007, 16 October 2007, 6 February 2008 and 2 April 2008) and has received additional briefing via email (14 March 2008, 9 April 2008, 12 June 2008 and 16 June 2008). The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade manages these industry consultations as the lead Australian Government department in WTO disputes.

Representatives from Apple and Pear Australia Limited (APAL), Horticulture Australia Limited (HAL), National Farmers Federation (NFF) and the National Fire Blight Taskforce have been involved in the industry consultations on the dispute. The following individuals have been involved in some or all of the face to face meetings and teleconferences:

Darral Ashton, Chairman, APAL

Tony Russell, General Manager, APAL

John Corboy, Fire Blight Task Force Chair, APAL

John Webster, Managing Director, HAL

Stephen Winter, HAL

Scott Mitchell, Manager, Trade Policy, NFF

David Rees, Advisor, Quarantine, Animal Health and Welfare, NFF.

Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2008

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: ID 06

Division/Agency: International Division

Topic: New Zealand Apples World Trade Organization (WTO) Dispute

Hansard Page: 97 (26/05/08)

Senators O'Brien and Heffernan asked:

Mr Bowen—The third parties to the dispute are the United States, the European Commission, Chile, Japan, Taiwan and Pakistan.

Senator HEFFERNAN—Are any of those people fire blight free?

Mr Bowen—That is a—

Senator HEFFERNAN—They are not.

Senator O'BRIEN—Japan?

Mr Bowen—I think Japan would say they probably were.

Senator O'BRIEN—We are not sure about Taiwan?

Mr Bowen—I am not sure about Taiwan. We would have to check what their conditions are, but they are third parties.

Answer:

Panel Members' countries' fire blight status

The World Trade Organization (WTO) Panel consists of a South African (Chair) and a panel member from both Canada and Uruguay.

South Africa and Uruguay claim freedom from fire blight. Fire blight has been found in most parts of Canada.

Note that the panellists in this case were chosen by the WTO Director General from a permanent list of well qualified candidates and they cannot receive instructions from their governments.

Third Party Members' countries' fire blight status

Japan, Pakistan and Taiwan claim freedom from fire blight. Fire blight has been found in parts of the European Communities and in parts of the United States.

No party has disclosed their position in the dispute to date. Third party submissions are due 25 July 2008.

Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2008

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: ID 07

Division/Agency: International Division

Topic: Australia-Korea Bilateral Memorandum of Understanding Concerning Cooperation in Animal Health and Quarantine Matters

Hansard Page: 101 (26/05/08)

Senator Heffernan—How much funding is committed to the implementation of the MOU between the Republic of Korea and Australia on quarantine matters?

Mr S Hunter—I think we might need to take that on notice.

Answer:

No discrete allocation of funds has been sought or provided for the Memorandum of Understanding Concerning Cooperation in Animal Health and Quarantine Matters (MoU) signed in March 2008. Any agreed activities under the MoU would be absorbed under the normal DAFF departmental appropriation. The MoU sets a general framework for cooperation on these issues based on mutual interest.

Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2008

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: ID 08

Division/Agency: International Division

Topic: Stone fruit imports from US to Australia

Hansard Page: 131 (26/05/08)

Senator McGauran asked:

Senator McGAURAN—What is the market worth to the US, do you know?

Mr Cahill—I will have to take that question on notice.

Answer:

There is currently no value for the market as the US does not have market access approval to import stone fruit into Australia.

Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2008

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: ID 09

Division/Agency: International Division

Topic: International Agricultural Cooperation Programs

Hansard Page: 4-5 (27 May 2008)

Senator McGauran asked:

Senator McGAURAN—Can I have a list of the programs that you are involved in in this particular area— international agricultural cooperation? What do you actually get up to? Sounds like AusAID to me.

Mr Burns—I will take that on notice and we can provide a list of the projects that we have carried out over the last year or so. Would you like the last two years? Three years?

Senator McGAURAN—Last year will do.

.....

Mr Burns—It can happen in any country where we identify that there is a particular need. If there was a particular project that we think might be useful in Taiwan then yes we could spend that money there. We do a lot of projects under this program—for example, in Eritrea. When we talked about the live animal trade issue yesterday we mentioned Eritrea as a country that provides an emergency facility for us in the event of a shipment having to be redirected. In doing that, we maintain a strong relationship with the Eritrean agricultural department and provide some training activities in Eritrea. We can give you all of those details.

Senator McGAURAN—Details and countries, please, for the last 12 months.

.....

Senator McGAURAN—Where the industry has worked in partnership with the department could you also give me the details.

Answer:

Funding for the Department's international agricultural cooperation projects is derived from: the International Agricultural Cooperation Program (\$10.5 million over 5 years ending in 2012); and the Live Animal Trade Program (\$4 million over 4 years ending in 2008).

Details of projects undertaken in the 2006-07 financial year are provided in the **attached** table.

[ID 09 attachment]

Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2008

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: ID 10

Division/Agency: International Division

Topic: Australia – Japan Free Trade Agreement Negotiations

Hansard Page: 8 (27/05/08)

Senator McGauran asked:

Senator McGAURAN—Is this correct: it has been reported that the Japanese parliament, or Diet I believe it is called, or something of that nature, has moved a resolution or legislation—I am not sure how they do it over there—distinctly excluding agriculture from this free trade agreement. What are you all talking about when the parliament has already laid it down? Their negotiators are bound by that resolution. Is that true? And if it is true, would it have to be reversed by the parliament naturally?

Mr Burns—That is not a decision that has been taken at a whole government level in Japan. The resolution that I think you are referring to is from a group that I guess you could equate with this committee.

Senator McGAURAN—Right, so it is not the government at all. It is just like one of our parliamentary resolutions or notices of motion, is it?

Senator HEFFERNAN—We must meet this committee; it could be fun!

Senator Sherry—I think it is a bit difficult for the officer to make an observation about whether the Japanese Diet has binding resolutions depending on the nature of the resolution et cetera. I do not know whether he has that level of knowledge of the Japanese political system.

Senator McGAURAN—I would hope that at least one of our negotiators would have that knowledge, because when they walk into that room they have to know what they are up against. If they are up against the Japanese Diet, which has already said ‘No go’, then what is the point?

Senator Sherry—I am sure they do, and I am sure the Japanese cast their eye over resolutions that go through our parliament, in the House of Reps and the Senate, that you and others speak on, and they know the particular insignificance of those sorts of statements that occur from time to time.

Senator McGAURAN—Perhaps we could get the status of that resolution.

Senator Sherry—We can take that on notice.

Answer:

The resolution, adopted in December 2006, by the Upper and Lower House Committees on Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, demanding the Government of Japan effectively exclude agriculture from the negotiations is not binding on the Japanese Government. In developing FTA negotiating positions, the Government of Japan takes account of not only the views of Diet members, but a range of other key stakeholders, including those from the agriculture sector, business and academia.

Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2008

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

While not binding, the resolution is nonetheless completely consistent with current Japanese Government policy, which has sought to have sensitive agricultural products (effectively, rice, beef, dairy, barley, wheat and sugar) excluded from the negotiations. For decades Japan has maintained the policy of excluding agricultural reform in every multilateral, plurilateral, and bilateral trade policy negotiation. That said, Japan did significantly liberalise its agriculture markets in the Uruguay Round. It is also worth noting that, notwithstanding Japan's current stance, Australia is seeking the complete elimination of all barriers to agricultural trade.

Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2008

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: ID 11

Division/Agency: International Division

Topic: Australia – Japan Free Trade Agreement Negotiations

Hansard Page: 9 (27/05/08)

Senator McGauran asked:

Senator McGAURAN—What are the planned processes in 2008-09?

Mr Burns—The next round of the negotiations is being held in late June, I think. I am not exactly sure of that, but I can check on that for you.

Senator McGAURAN—In Japan?

Mr Burns—I can check on that. The Japanese do have an election later this year. We do not know the date of that yet; that has not been announced. The number of negotiating sessions and the progress of those will depend very much on the timing of that election.

Answer:

Australia is currently working to a pattern of four Australia Japan FTA negotiating rounds per year. The 6th round (and third for 2008) of FTA negotiations is scheduled to be held in late July 2008 (date to be confirmed) in Tokyo, Japan. Australia is currently negotiating with Japan on the dates for the 7th round (the fourth and final for 2008), which we expect will be in the last quarter of this year, in Canberra. Australia is planning to hold four rounds in 2009, roughly once per quarter. The precise dates are yet to be fixed.

Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2008

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: ID 12

Division/Agency: International Division

Topic: Australia – Japan Free Trade Agreement Negotiations

Hansard Page: 9 (27/05/08)

Senator McGauran asked:

Senator McGAURAN—Does Japan have a free trade agreement with any other country?

Mr Burns—I cannot remember them all off the top of my head.

Answer:

Japan has signed nine Free Trade Agreements or in Japan's preferred terminology, Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA). These include agreements with ASEAN, Singapore, Mexico, Malaysia, Chile, Thailand, Philippines, Brunei and Indonesia. Japan is currently negotiating EPAs with Australia, Republic of Korea, Vietnam, India, Switzerland and the Gulf Cooperation Council.

Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2008

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: ID 13

Division/Agency: International Division

Topic: Australia – Japan Free Trade Agreement Negotiations

Hansard Page: 9 (27/05/08)

Senator McGauran asked:

Mr Burns—Perhaps what we can do is pass on to you the speech that was delivered by Minister Burke to the Japanese Press Club in Tokyo, in which he made that point very clearly.

Senator McGAURAN—Excellent.

Answer:

The address by the Hon Tony Burke, MP, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry to The Japan National Press Club, Tokyo on Friday 4 April 2008 is **attached**.

[ID 13 attachment]

Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2008

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: ID 14

Division/Agency: International Division

Topic: Australia-China Free Trade Agreement

Hansard Page: 10 (27/05/08)

Senator McGauran asked:

Senator McGAURAN—So you have got one meeting in your diaries. It is hard enough for us to organise meetings so we do plan ahead as much as we can. You have got one meeting organised with regard to the China free trade agreement in June and no-one knows what is happening after that.

Mr Burns—My understanding would be that there are further negotiating sessions post that June meeting, but I do not have the details of the dates at the moment and the assessment of how we are progressing is one that is coordinated by DFAT. I reiterate that the question of tactics and how we negotiate is one that should be directed to DFAT.

Senator McGAURAN—Can you take on notice and get back to me about the diary dates for the negotiations with China?

Mr Burns—To the extent that we have those, I can take that on notice and pass them on.

Answer:

The Hon. Simon Crean MP, Minister for Trade, agreed with his Chinese counterpart in April 2008 that the two sides should accelerate negotiations, including by holding two further negotiating rounds this year, following the 11th round which begins on 16 June 2008. Dates for these are yet to be confirmed.

Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2008

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: ID 15

Division/Agency: International Division

Topic: Australia-China Free Trade Agreement

Hansard Page: 13-14 (27/05/08)

Senator Heffernan asked:

Senator HEFFERNAN—You could not table for this committee any documentation to support the input of the various industries that Senator Milne is talking about, could you? It is all right to verbally say that. It could be quite meaningless. I am sure the vegetable growers that Senator Milne represents in Tasmania would have some serious concerns. I just wonder whether they had been asked, in the wisdom of the department, about what they think.

Mr Burns—The submissions that come into the negotiations are submitted to DFAT by the industry organisations in most cases—in some cases by individual producers—but they remain the property of the groups that have provided the submissions. So we would have to, in the first instance, talk to DFAT and, in the second instance, I suspect seek the permission of the—

Senator HEFFERNAN—So could you do that? Could you write to the various people and ask them, in reflection of their interests, whether they could provide those submissions to this committee?

Mr Burns—We could follow up on that—yes, Senator.

Senator HEFFERNAN—Thanks very much.

Senator MILNE—I would really like to make sure that that includes those industry groups that expressed concern about what is going on.

Senator Sherry—We will take it on notice and will follow up with all of the industry groups that have lodged a submission. Whether they approve it is up to them, but we will follow through with all the industry groups, Senator Milne.

Answer:

Below is a list of organisations/entities that have provided permission to be listed publicly as having made a submission to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade on an Australia-China Free Trade Agreement.

These submissions can be found on the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade website at <http://www.dfat.gov.au/geo/china/fta/submissions/index.html>.

Submissions received (listed in alphabetical order):

- Abalone Association of Australasia Incorporated
- Abalone Council Australia Ltd
- Adsteam Marine Ltd
- ALCOA
- Alex Malik
- Altium Ltd

Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2008

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

- ANZ Group
- Apple & Pear Australia
- ASPECT Melbourne Pty Ltd
- Association of Consulting Engineers Australia
- Aust Vice-Chancellors Committee
- Australasian Performing Right Association Limited (APRA) / Australasian Mechanical Copyright Owners Society (AMCOS)
- Australia China Business Council (Victoria)
- Australia Tibet Council
- Australian Automotive Aftermarket Association
- Australian Chamber of Commerce (Beijing)
- Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Australian Chicken Meat Federation Inc
- Australian Conservation Foundation
- Australian Cotton Industry Council Ltd
- Australian Cotton Shippers Association
- Australian Dairy Industry Council Inc
- Australian Electrical & Electronic Manufacturers' Association
- Australian Fair Trade & Investment Network (AFTINET)
- Australian Federation Against Copyright Theft
- Australian Film Commission
- Australian Food and Grocery Council
- Australian Horticultural Exporters Association
- Australian Industry Group
- Australian Labor Party - Geelong West Branch
- Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union
- Australian Nurses Federation
- Australian Nursing and Midwifery Council
- Australian Oilseeds Federation
- Australian Plantation Products & Paper Industry Council
- Australian Pork Limited
- Australian Prawn Farmer's Association
- Australian Steel Institute
- Australian Stock Exchange
- Australian Tyre Manufacturers' Association
- Australian Wine and Brandy Corporation
- Australian Wool Innovation Ltd.
- Australian Wool Processors Council Inc
- Avcare Ltd
- AWB Limited
- Basell Australia Pty Ltd
- Beat Knoblauch & Associates
- Benedict Coyne
- BHP Billiton
- BlueScope Steel
- BRADSAL - National Coating Company Pty Ltd
- Building Products Innovation Council (BPIC)

Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2008

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

- Business Council of Australia
- Business Development Services Australia
- Carindale Wines
- Carpet Institute of Australia Ltd
- CBH Group
- Cement Industry Federation
- Central Queensland University
- ChevronTexaco Australia
- Clayton Utz
- Commonwealth Bank
- Conference of Leaders of Religious Institutes in New South Wales
- Copyright Agency Limited
- Coral Sea Studios
- CPA Australia
- CPA Australia Hong Kong Division
- Dairy Australia
- David Smith
- Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu (Deloitte)
- Department of Education and Training, Western Australia
- Dibbs Abbott Stillman
- Dr Peter Thorn
- Dr Thomas Faunce, Australian National University
- Dr Turlough F. Guerin
- Edith Knight
- Education Queensland International
- EGR
- Elders Australia Ltd
- Engineers Australia
- Falun Gong Human Rights Working Group
- Federal Chamber of Automotive Industries
- Federation of Automotive Products Manufacturers
- Fisher Adams Kelly
- Flight Centre Ltd
- Ford Motor Company
- Furnishing Industry Association of Australia
- GENENG PTY LTD
- Gift and Homewares Australia
- Global Foundation Secretariat
- Goodman Fielder Ltd
- Growcom
- Holden
- Horticultural Market Access Committee (HMAC)
- Horticulture Australia Ltd
- Hunt & Hunt
- Hydro Tasmania
- Ian Quin

Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2008

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

- Institute for International Business, Economics and Law; University of Adelaide
- Institute of Patent and Trade Mark Attorneys
- Insurance Australia Group
- Jak Fruit
- Julie D'Alcorn
- JML Australia
- John Cole and Ruth Hill
- Kembla Products
- Law Institute of Victoria
- Lawyers for Animals
- LiveCorp
- Mahinder Lall
- MasterFoods ANZ (Mars)
- Mayne Group Ltd
- Meat & Livestock Australia
- Media Entertainment & Arts Alliance
- Medical Devices Industry Action Agenda
- Minerals Council
- Murray Valley Citrus Marketing Board
- National Association of Forestry Industries (NAFI)
- National Farmers Federation
- Northern Territory - Minister for Asian Relations and Trade
- One Steel
- Penrice Soda Products
- Plastics and Chemicals Industries Association
- Q Concepts
- Qantas
- Qenos
- Queensland Nurses' Union
- Ricegrowers' Association of Australia Inc
- Richardson Business Consultants Pty Ltd
- RJ Quirk Consulting
- Royal Australian Institute of Architects
- Science Industry Action Agenda
- South Australian Aquaculture Council Inc
- South Australian Government
- Southedge Seeds Pty Ltd
- Stephen Thornton
- Supply Line (Australia) Pty Ltd
- Symex Holdings Ltd
- Tanda International Pty Ltd
- Telstra Corporation
- Textile & Fashion Industries of Australia
- Textiles, Clothing and Footwear Union of Australia
- Thomas Winch Company (Qld) Pty Ltd
- Toyota

Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2008

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

- Trade Mark Investigation Services (TMIS)
- UnitingCare NSW/ACT
- Victoria - Minister for Manufacturing
- Victorian Government
- Viscopy Ltd
- WA Chamber of Commerce & Industry
- WA Fishing Council
- Warren Cauliflower Group Inc
- Western Australia - Department of Industry and Resources
- Western Australian Farmers Federation (Inc)
- Windsor Farm
- Winemakers Federation of Australia
- World Organisation to Investigate the Persecution of Falun Gong

Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2008

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: ID 16

Division/Agency: International Division

Topic: Australia-China Free Trade Agreement

Hansard Page: 14 (27/05/08)

Senator Hutchins asked:

Senator HUTCHINS—As Senator Milne was commencing her series of questions in relation to who was vulnerable and who may not be vulnerable in these discussions with China, you referred to a paper.

Mr Burns—Before we commenced the negotiations there was a joint feasibility study undertaken with China and there was a modelling exercise done with that which was attached to the report of the feasibility study. I probably tabled that study several estimates committees ago but we can provide another one.

Answer:

The Australia-China Free Trade Agreement Joint Feasibility Study can be found on the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade website at

<http://www.dfat.gov.au/geo/china/fta/index.html>