

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2009

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: WEA01

Division/Agency: Wheat Export Australia

Topic: Tonnages of wheat exports to 'new' countries

Hansard Page: 63 (25/05/2009)

Senator Nash asked:

Senator NASH—You are just purely saying a new country that is now being delivered to that previously was not, and that is the sum extent of the information?

Mr Woods—Yes.

Senator NASH—Could you actually take on notice those tonnages for those new countries and the tonnages that have gone to them? I do not expect you to answer that now.

Mr Woods—We can.

Mr Woodley—We can give it to you in a minute.

Senator NASH—I am happy for you to take it on notice.

Answer:

The table below shows exports to certain countries in 2008-09 which have not received exports of Australian bulk wheat for at least seven years.

Table 1: Bulk wheat tonnage by country/year (1 October – 30 September)

Country	Year 2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
Algeria	-	25,652	-	-	-	-	-	-	39,052
Bahrain	21,224	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22,000
Israel	35,308	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20,900
Rwanda	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,550
Saudi Arabia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	55,000
Spain	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	93,200
Syrian Arab Republic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17,390

Note: 2008/09 figures are from 1 October to 31 May 2009
2000/01 to 2003/04 figures sourced from ABS foreign trade unpublished data
2004/05 to 2008/09 figures sourced from WEA data, Customs

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Question: WEA02

Division/Agency: Wheat Exports Australia

Topic: Wheat export volumes and destination

Hansard Page: 65 (25/05/2009)

Senator Nash asked:

Senator NASH—About the customers. Yes, I understand. Is it possible to provide the committee with the bulk amounts—the bulk tonnages to the countries?

Mr Woods—We will be publishing this sort of information as part of our growers' report on the scheme. Exporters need to provide to us, in October from memory, a compliance report and an export report and that will total up the countries, the tonnages that they have exported and where to, and that will be made public before Christmas.

Mr Grant—We can provide to you on notice the Customs information that is collected on an ongoing basis.

Senator NASH—Fine, but you would have an idea to this point now what is being exported, so if the committee was not prepared to wait until the end of the year, in the meantime I am sure you would be able to provide us with—

Mr Grant—On a country basis, yes.

Senator NASH—at least some indication on a country and tonnage basis.

Mr Grant—Yes, we can do that.

Senator NASH—That would be great. Thank you.

Answer:

Data collated by Wheat Exports Australia (WEA) indicates that since 1 October 2008, Australia has exported 7.83 million tonnes of bulk wheat to 40 countries. (1 October 2008 – 31 May 2009)

Country	Tonnage
1. IRAN	1405000
2. INDONESIA	1323000
3. KOREA, REPUBLIC OF	552000
4. YEMEN, REPUBLIC OF	494000
5. JAPAN	448000
6. SUDAN	350000
7. MALAYSIA	309000
8. IRAQ	284000
9. BANGLADESH	269000
10. ITALY	256000
11. EGYPT	254000
12. VIETNAM, SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF	227000
13. UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	167000
14. PHILIPPINES	144000
15. CHINA, PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF	142000

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16. KUWAIT	138000
17. THAILAND	135000
18. NEW ZEALAND	120000
19. SPAIN	93000
20. SOUTH AFRICA	75000
21. FIJI	64000
22. PAPUA NEW GUINEA	58000
23. SAUDI ARABIA	55000
24. TANZANIA, UNITED REPUBLIC OF	51000
25. SRI LANKA	47000
26. OMAN	42000
27. MAURITIUS	40000
28. QATAR	40000
29. ALGERIA	39000
30. MALAWI	36000
31. UNITED KINGDOM	35000
32. BAHRAIN	22000
33. ISRAEL	21000
34. SINGAPORE	20000
35. MOZAMBIQUE	18000
36. SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC	17000
37. TAIWAN PROVINCE	16000
38. KENYA	12000
39. LEBANON	9000
40. RWANDA	3000
TOTAL	7830000

Source: WEA data, Customs

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Question: WEA03

Division/Agency: Wheat Exports Australia

Topic: WEA Staff

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator Heffernan asked:

1. What is the remuneration of the CEO Peter Woods paid?
2. Is the CEO based in Canberra? (If not, how often does he commute to Canberra and what are his travelling expenses since 1 July 2008?)
3. What is the remuneration of the Chair and its 5 members since 1 July 2008?
4. How often does the Board meet, what expenses are involved here, TA, daily rate per member, etc?
5. What are the operating costs of the Secretariat (14 staff) in Canberra since 1 July 2008?
6. Do you still have 14 staff?
7. You say 23 companies have been accredited under the scheme, how many companies have been rejected, could we have a listing of companies with grounds of rejection?

Answer:

1. The total possible remuneration, including superannuation and potential bonus payments, is \$270,000/annum.
2. No. Commutes weekly to Canberra but is not paid associated travelling expenses.
3. As per s 44 of the *Wheat Export Marketing Act 2008*, costs associated with meetings are per Remuneration Tribunal Determinations 2008/07 (Remuneration and Allowances for Holders of part-Time Public Office) and 2004/03 (Official Travel by Office Holders)
Members are paid a daily rate as follows:
 - a. Chair \$880/day
 - b. Members \$572/dayRemuneration for the eleven months to 31 May 2009 totals:
 - c. Chair \$97,328.00
 - d. 5 Members \$225,139.20 (Average/Member \$45,027.84)
4. The Wheat Exports Australia (WEA) Board has met 18 times to 31 May 2009 (sometimes by teleconference).
Travel allowance rates vary for different locations in Australia. Members are entitled to Tier 1 travel.

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Question: WEA03 (continued)

5. The operating costs of WEA for the eleven months to 31 May 2009 (which are broader than just staffing costs and include Export Wheat Commission legacy obligation costs) total \$3.80m.
6. As at 31 May 2009, WEA staffing totalled 14.5 full time equivalents.
7. No applications have been rejected.

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Question: WEA04

Division/Agency: Wheat Exports Australia

Topic: Will Wheat Exports Australia be placing any caveats on the (ABB-Viterra) sale?

Hansard Page: Written question

Senator Nash asked:

Will Wheat Exports Australia be placing any caveats on the sale?

Answer:

Wheat Exports Australia has no role or powers in relation to the sale of ABB.

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Question: WEA05

Division/Agency: Wheat Exports Australia

Topic: **Company breakdown of wheat exported from Australia**

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

Please provide a company by company breakdown in terms of tonnage of the wheat exported from Australia this year?

Answer:

This information is commercial-in-confidence and cannot be released.

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Question: WEA06

Division/Agency: Wheat Exports Australia

Topic: Threats to Australian wheat exports by overseas buyers

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

Is Wheat Export Australia concerned about threats to Australian wheat exports by overseas buyers to purchase grain from our competitors because of issues surrounding getting the grain to market on time? In particular, concerns raised by Korean and Indonesian buyers?

Answer:

More than 1.8 million tonnes of bulk wheat has been exported from Australia to Indonesia and Korea from 1 October 2008 to 31 May 2009.

In the same period last year, data compiled by Wheat Exports Australia indicates that 1 million tonnes of bulk wheat was exported to Indonesia and Korea.

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Question: WEA07

Division/Agency: Wheat Exports Australia

Topic: Audits

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator Nash asked:

Have you audited any of the export grain marketers since they have been licensed?

Answer:

Wheat Exports Australia has conducted 24 audits as detailed in the table below:

Type of audit completed	No. of audits undertaken
Financial	6
Risk management	9
Policies, systems & procedures	4
Conditions of accreditation	5
TOTAL audits completed	24

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Question: WEA08

Division/Agency: Wheat Exports Australia

Topic: Accreditation reviews

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator NASH asked:

Have any of the licensed grain exporters had their accreditation reviewed or revoked?

Answer:

No.