

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates October/November 2005

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: BA 01

Division/Agency: Biosecurity Australia

Topic: Importation of prawns

Hansard Page: 68

Senator Heffernan asked:

CHAIR—What work has Biosecurity done on the importation of prawns?

Mr Cahill—We do have an import risk analysis underway on prawns which is incomplete.

CHAIR—When did that start, given that we are now importing 18,000 tons of prawns per year?

Answer:

A review of the quarantine policy for the importation of prawn and prawn based products was announced in September 1996. The review was to address animal quarantine issues including consideration of potential exposure factors such as the use of prawns for bait. The formation of an import risk analysis (IRA) panel to conduct the review was announced in September 1997. A draft IRA report was released in August 2000; the recommended risk management measures form the basis of the current interim quarantine requirements.

Question: BA 02

Division/Agency: Biosecurity Australia

Topic: Importation of prawns

Hansard Page: 69

Senator Heffernan asked:

I have one final question on prawns. When did you decide to do the import risk analysis on waterways and animal health – how long ago?

Answer:

See answer to BA 01.