

**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:** RPI 01

**Division/Agency:** Rural Policy and Innovation

**Topic:** Drought Expenditure

**Hansard Page:** 99

**Senator McEwen asked:**

**Senator McEWEN**—We can just hope that we do not have to test them too soon. I would like to ask a few questions about funding. Can someone provide the committee with an update on the actual expenditure on drought against the amounts budgeted in the 2004-05 PBS?

**Mr Koval**—Certainly, Senator. In terms of item by item, starting with the interest rate relief, we have expended \$2.277 million.

**Senator McEWEN**—Just before you go on, have you got the information on a state by state basis as well?

**Mr Koval**—No. I could provide it on notice if that is of interest...

**Senator McEWEN**—I asked a question about getting the information on a state by state basis. Would you be able to provide that?

**Mr Koval**—I can on notice

**Answer:**

**Breakdown of actual expenditure on drought assistance for 2004/05 by State**

	Prima Facie Income Support \$m		Exceptional Circumstances Interest Rate Subsidy \$m		Exceptional Circumstances Relief Payment \$m		Interest Rate Relief \$m		Total Expenditure \$m	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
NSW		0.790		57.760		64.370		0.010		0.01
Qld		0.100		32.478		26.625		1.617		1.617
WA		0.055		4.279		2.190		0.098		0.098
Vic		0.780		9.863		22.470		0.020		0.02
SA		0.140		0.761		1.410		0.532		0.532
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4.209</b>	<b>\$1.865</b>	<b>\$131.985</b>	<b>\$105.141</b>	<b>\$124.403</b>	<b>117.065</b>	<b>\$3.158</b>	<b>\$2.277</b>	<b>\$263.755</b>	<b>\$753.858</b>

**Question:** RPI 02

**Division/Agency:** Rural Policy and Innovation

**Topic:** Administration of Australian Wool Innovation Limited

**Hansard Page:** 100

**Senator McEwen asked:**

So it is a partial implementation of the recommendation by the government? Do you know what portion of its income that is?

**Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Supplementary Budget Estimates October/November 2005

**Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry**

**Answer:**

The Government accepted that Statutory Funding Agreements (SFAs) between the Commonwealth and industry-owned companies should cover all expenditure from statutory levies and Commonwealth matching payments, and monies derived from those funds (such as interest and royalties). The Government did not consider that the SFA should cover expenditure from funds that an industry-owned company obtains from other sources.

Australian Wool Innovation did not receive any money during 2004-05 which was not covered by its SFA with the Commonwealth.

**Question:** RPI 03

**Division/Agency:** Rural Policy and Innovation

**Topic:** Audit of Australian Wool Innovation Limited

**Hansard Page:** 101

**Senator McEwen asked:**

Are those requirements you talk about—the audit, the report and the review—looking at all of the company's income or only that portion that comes from the government? You talked about there being private and public funding?

**Answer:**

Australian Wool Innovation's (AWI's) funds for 2004-05 comprised statutory levies, Commonwealth matching payments and monies derived from those funds. All AWI's funds are subject to audit, reporting and review processes under the Statutory Funding Agreement. Corporations law also requires an annual audit of the company's accounts as well as an annual report prepared for shareholders.

**Question:** RPI 04

**Division/Agency:** Rural Policy and Innovation

**Topic:** Statutory Funding Agreement covering Australian Wool Innovation Limited's funding

**Hansard Page:** 102

**Senator McEwen:**

Have you provided a copy of the Statutory Funding Agreement to the committee previously?

**Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Supplementary Budget Estimates October/November 2005

**Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry**

**Answer:**

No. The new Statutory Funding Agreement between the Commonwealth and Australia Wool Innovation commenced on 1 September 2004 and is publicly available through the Australian Wool Innovation Web Site.

**Question:** RPI 05

**Division/Agency:** Rural Policy and Innovation

**Topic:** Australian Wool Innovation Limited's Legal Proceedings Against the People for Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA).

**Hansard Page:** 102

**Senator O'Brien:**

Has the department taken legal advice?

What advice has the department taken? You have referred to advice. You said, "We've taken advice". What do you mean?

**Answer:**

Yes. The Department obtained legal advice from the Australian Government Solicitor (AGS).

**Question:** RPI 06

**Division/Agency:** Rural Policy and Innovation

**Topic:** Annual General Meetings of Dairy Australia Limited

**Hansard Page:** 103

**Senator McEwen:**

When would the AGM normally be held?

**Answer:**

Dairy Australia Limited has previously held its Annual General Meetings in November. The 2005 Dairy Australia Limited Annual General Meeting is scheduled for 25 November 2005.