

## Questions on Notice: Supplementary Budget Estimates 2008-2009

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Portfolio  
Monday 20 October 2008

QON no.	Date Asked	Hansard page reference/ Written	Senator	Question
MS 01	20/10/08	5	COLBECK	<p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Can I ask when the minister signed it off? Do you have that information?</p> <p><b>Mr Pahl</b>—Senator, I can get that information this morning for you, I just do not have it right at this moment. I will get someone to check and we will give you that information later on in the morning.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Thank you.</p>
MS 02	20/10/08	10	COLBECK	<p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—How many of your programs were under spec during the 2007-08 year?</p> <p><b>Mr Pahl</b>—I do not know that I have that. I will probably have to take that one on notice. Ms Berry might have it.</p> <p><b>Ms Berry</b>—I do not have the number as such, but we can take that on notice and actually get it back to you this morning.</p>
MS 03	20/10/08	13	ADAMS	<p><b>Senator ADAMS</b>—Thank you. Coming back to a question asked, Mr Pahl, about the frequent flyers and your efficiency dividend, you did say that you were going to go back and look at that when you were reviewing the travel areas. How many frequently flyer points have been used by your staff for government business since budget estimates in May?</p> <p><b>Mr Pahl</b>—I don't have that, but I can certainly get it for you.</p> <p><b>Senator ADAMS</b>—As pertaining to your efficiency dividend and the work you were going to do on travel?</p> <p><b>Mr Pahl</b>—Certainly we can get the number of points that have been used for official travel for you.</p> <p><b>Senator ADAMS</b>—And the number of people that have used them.</p> <p><b>Mr Pahl</b>—Okay, so the number of staff and the number of points?</p>
MS 04	20/10/08	17	HEFFERNAN	<p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b>—Senator Colbeck, would it not be an idea for you to ask perhaps for the 10-year snapshot of what is happening to the funding for research?</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—You can ask that question, Senator Heffernan, and I will read it on notice.</p> <p><b>CHAIR</b>—This really is like a scene from <i>The Muppets</i> with the two of you from the balcony. So, if we can get something going, if we can channel our questions to the officials, I am sure we can get away with the cross-banter and questions to each other's answers. Because, at a quarter to eleven tonight I am sure some of you will be sooking because you did not have enough time to ask all the questions. On that, Senator Heffernan, did you wish to ask the department a question on notice? Did you, Senator Colbert?</p> <p><b>Senator Sherry</b>—Are we taking a question on notice that goes to 10-year funding?</p> <p><b>CHAIR</b>—I am trying to try to find out.</p>

				<p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b>—A 10-year snapshot.</p> <p><b>Senator Sherry</b>—Okay, so will take that on notice.</p>
CPD 01	20/10/08	11	COLBECK	<p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—What are the current communications programs that you have got running and proposed?</p> <p><b>Ms Bie</b>—Senator, perhaps I could answer that. The communications programs are run by the various program areas. If you are referring to campaigns, there is a Quarantine Matters campaign that the department runs for AQIS, the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service, but we do not have any other campaigns as such at the moment.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Dr O’Connell, is it possible for you to get a compilation of those for me, please?</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—Yes.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Do you have them, Mr Williamson?</p> <p><b>Mr Williamson</b>—Do you mean a compilation of the communications activities under the various programs?</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Yes.</p> <p><b>Mr Williamson</b>—No, I do not have it with me, but we can get that.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Yes, I understand that you might need to do that.</p> <p><b>Mr Williamson</b>—We can do that, yes.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—All right.</p> <p><b>Mr Williamson</b>—Under the broader government guidelines, as Ms Bie said, the Quarantine Matters is the only capital C campaign at the moment.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—All right. Can you attach the values to each of those programs, please?</p>
CPD 02	20/10/08	12	COLBECK	<p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—So we will get the costs and all that sort of stuff of those when the international crew come on later in the morning. How many community cabinets have been held since May?</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—Since May? Four, I think.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Can you give us the details of the costs and how many ministerial staff and departmental officers travelled to each of those?</p> <p><b>Mr David Williamson</b>—Usually one departmental officer attends the community cabinets. I would have to take on notice the ministerial staff though, Senator.</p> <p>...</p> <p><b>Mr David Williamson</b>—The secretary has attended several, Mr Quinlivan has attended one and I think Mr Hunter has also attended one.</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—Either myself or deputy secretaries, one or the other.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Does it depend on the location and the issues that you might expect to crop up or is it basically who is available to go?</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—No, it is a priority. It depends on a range of other things but we would always keep it ideally at my level. It is appropriate for the secretary of the department to attend the community cabinet and I will do that when I can. If there are any reasons for which I cannot do it, then one of the deputy secretaries would attend.</p>

				<p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—That is good. Do you have information on the costs of the travel for those?</p> <p><b>Mr David Williamson</b>—No, I would have to take that on notice.</p>
CPD 03	20/10/08	12	COLBECK	<p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Do you have a list of reviews currently being undertaken in the portfolio?</p> <p><b>Mr David Williamson</b>—Not to hand, no.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—So you could not tell me how many there are, obviously?</p> <p><b>Mr David Williamson</b>—Not off the top of my head, no.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—How long would it take to compile that information?</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—It would not take too long but we could take that on notice. It would also, I guess, depend what sorts of reviews, whether they are normal program reviews or reviews of our broader policy scale such as quarantine and Biosecurity. There is quite a spread of reviews which happen from the normal program that are built into a program to the large scale policy review.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—I am really interested in the ones that are effectively the larger scale ones. I know that some of them have reported and are with the minister for comment and I would like to be able, if I can, to find out where they are and when we are likely to see either the report or some response.</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—We could take on notice what are the policy reviews and what is the state of play with each of those.</p>
AP 01	20/10/08	14	MCGAURAN	<p><b>Senator McGAURAN</b>—I have one on CSIRO but I think it is a corporate issue. In the last budget announcement there was some \$20 million worth of research taken out of agricultural production— agricultural research science, field work, farm gate work. That was good farm work that CSIRO built their reputation upon. It is what they are known for worldwide. It is their logo, their icon. Typically when Labor come into government, I should add, they shift and tilt the weight out of the farm and rural sector research and science into other probably more spurious and esoteric areas, certainly not of the value that CSIRO has given over its time to the rural sector. The questions are: what projects have been not commenced, what projects that were in the pipeline have been halted, what is the dollar value of the research being undertaken by CSIRO at the moment in the rural sector—farm sector research, agriculture—and what projects have survived? What projects are being undertaken?</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—Obviously that is a question that in order to answer we would have to get the information from CSIRO. It could be put to the other portfolio but I am happy to take that on notice and provide an answer on notice.</p>

AWI 01	20/10/08	28	HEFFERNAN	<p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b> – and how many expressions of interest did you get?</p> <p><b>Mr Targ</b> – For the clips? Not many.</p> <p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b> – How many?</p> <p><b>Mr Targ</b> – I cannot recall, Senator.</p> <p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b> – Well, could you present that information to this committee?</p> <p><b>Mr Targ</b> – We can.</p>
AWI 02	20/10/08	32	HEFFERNAN	<p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b>—So what about the Inall mob? Are they finished?</p> <p><b>Mr van Rooyen</b>—Well, obviously in respect of any roles in relation to the task force roles, yes, because we brought that in-house. I do not know if they perform any other functions for the company.</p> <p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b>—Mr Welsh, do they?</p> <p><b>Mr van Rooyen</b>—I would rather take that on notice, Senator.</p> <p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b>—Well, he could easily—</p> <p><b>Mr Targ</b>—I can clarify that, Senator. Just to clarify, Cox Inall did not play any role in the task force activities. They were retained for other activities.</p> <p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b>—But is it fair to say they are finished up?</p> <p><b>Mr van Rooyen</b>—I will take that on notice, Senator.</p>
AWI 03	20/10/08	33	HEFFERNAN	<p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b>—When was the income last at \$18 million?</p> <p><b>Mr Welsh</b>—I am guessing it is close to eight years ago.</p> <p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b>—And what is it now?</p> <p><b>Mr Welsh</b>—This year it is going to be \$10 million or \$11 million.</p> <p>...</p> <p><b>Mr van Rooyen</b>—Chairman, can I suggest that we take that on notice and provide the actual detail We are dealing with assumptions here.</p>
AWI 04	20/10/08	48	MILNE	<p><b>Senator MILNE</b>—How much of that 60 per cent are you spending on research and development? Can you give me a figure of how much you are spending on research and development and how much you are spending on promotion?</p> <p><b>Mr van Rooyen</b>—Can I take that on notice, Senator?</p>
AWI 05	20/10/08	49/50	MILNE	<p><b>Senator MILNE</b>—I understand that three million fine wool Merinos in New Zealand have been selectively bred to have bare breeches in an attempt for New Zealand to make way in the global markets on the mulesing issue. What are we doing in Australia in terms of that selective breeding? Are we part of that work in New Zealand or are we doing that as part of our effort as well?</p> <p><b>Mr van Rooyen</b>—There is significant work being undertaken within Australia. If you want some more details, I can ask Dr Bell to give you more information or would you like that provided out of session?</p> <p><b>Senator MILNE</b>—It is probably as well to table it if you might because we only have 10 minutes and Senator Colbeck wanted to ask some questions. But I would like to know what we are doing in terms of selective breeding.</p> <p><b>CHAIR</b>—You are taking it on notice?</p>

				<p><b>Senator MILNE</b>—Yes.</p> <p><b>Mr Targ</b>—Just on that, Senator, there are quite a number of programs and we are making progress.</p> <p><b>Senator MILNE</b>—If we could have a written response, I would appreciate that, thank you.</p>
AWI 06	20/10/08	52	COLBECK	<p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—I would like to continue with questions I was asking before lunch. You might have to take this on notice. How much are you spending on extension as part of your R&amp;D?</p> <p><b>Mr van Rooyen</b>—I will have to take that on notice.</p>
AWI 07	20/10/08	53	COLBECK	<p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Would those documents demonstrate joint projects that you do with the likes of Land and Water Australia and some of those other RDCs or perhaps even with the MLA, so that you are combining issues of interest into joint funding? Can you give me an idea of how you are spending in that region as well?</p> <p><b>Mr van Rooyen</b>—Yes, I will do that. The documents do reflect that. We do a large number of joint projects with the likes of MLA and others as well.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Has it grown over recent years?</p> <p><b>Mr van Rooyen</b>—I would suggest that it has possibly reduced, because the focus of expenditure has now moved from a fifty-fifty split, which it was in the prior wool poll, to forty-sixty, so there is less money now being spent on farm. My intuition tells me that it has probably reduced, but I will take that on notice as well.</p>
AWI 08	20/10/08	54	COLBECK	<p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Mr van Rooyen, you said earlier that you considered all options for mulesing, which was articulated with questions from Senator Siewert and Senator Milne about the perception of the industry's decision. Effectively, whether the industry has made a decision to end mulesing by 2010 or not, everyone else thinks they have, so the argument is effectively gone. It is the perception versus reality thing, and everyone else out there thinks that you have made that decision, so that is what they are all saying. I am not sure where you sit with the argument, but that is one of the tensions within the board. You said that you considered all options for mulesing, but one of the initial issues that has brought us to where we are today with respect to the board is the fact that the board was not prepared to consider pain relief back in 2004-05 as an option at that point in time. I had the misfortune or displeasure to be at a board meeting and just wanting to ask some questions about that. I found that very difficult to deal with, because at the time, having responsibility for the operation of the organisations, I left it feeling quite jaded. To be frank, I am not sure whether I am asking a question or making a comment, but it is probably the latter.</p> <p>One of the questions that I was wanting to ask at that point in time was why the board would not consider the pain relief, because at that point in time 2010 was five or six years away. While it may well be an interim product to deal with the effects of mulesing during that period of time, it certainly was something that I felt was worth consideration at the time, but really did not get two bobs' worth when I went to the meeting with the board.</p> <p>...</p> <p><b>Mr van Rooyen</b>—I will take that on notice</p>

AWI 09	20/10/08	59	HEFFERNAN	<p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b>—I will put these on notice. I have a couple of questions that I want to ask about cheques... that were processed to Ian McLachlan and a couple of others in the amount of \$50,000. Also, what is the process for tabling minutes of meetings? Are they public documents?</p> <p><b>CHAIR</b>—You can take that on notice.</p>
AWI 10	20/10/08	59	ADAMS	<p><b>Senator ADAMS</b>—My last question, on notice, is in reference to this ad. Was it correct that there was \$120 million in funding for this?</p> <p><b>Mr van Rooyen</b>—The marketing program that has just been released is planned to be funded to the tune of \$120 million over the next three years.</p> <p><b>Senator ADAMS</b>—On notice, as to the statement ‘natural, biodegradable, sustainable, ethical, soft, luxurious and fashionable’, would you be able to give outline the process or the system behind that that is going to guarantee that people who buy that wool are getting a quality product?</p>
AQIS 01	20/10/08	64	BOSWELL	<p><b>Senator BOSWELL</b>—What role has AQIS got? I always acted under the assumption that AQIS were responsible for quarantine of imports of food in Australia.</p> <p>...</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—I think much of the issues that are being raised here really do revolve around the coordinating the central role of FSANZ in managing this issue, which is in the health portfolio. I would be happy to take on notice a more precise explanation about the role of FSANZ in this.</p>
AQIS 02	20/10/08	65/66	HEFFERNAN	<p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b>—If it comes in through New Zealand—and in our trade arrangements with New Zealand there is approval—do we retest it? The answer is no, I think.</p> <p><b>Ms Clegg</b>—I think it depends on what the food is.</p> <p><b>Mr Read</b>—It would depend on the food.</p> <p><b>Senator HEFFERNAN</b>—You might give us the details of that, on notice.</p> <p><b>Ms Clegg</b>—Yes.</p> <p>...</p>
AQIS 03	20/10/08	65/66	BOSWELL	<p><b>Senator BOSWELL</b>—Yes, I have other questions. Can you provide us with the names of any other agricultural food products that currently are being imported from China? That would be your bailiwick, wouldn’t it?</p> <p><b>Ms Clegg</b>—Yes. We could get you a list of those products; I do not have one with me. It would be a wide range of processed foods.</p>
AQIS 04	20/10/08	74-75	MCGAURAN	<p><b>Senator McGAURAN</b>—Then what emergency facility would you have offshore? Do you require one?</p> <p><b>Dr Samson</b>—For what purpose, Senator?</p> <p><b>Senator McGAURAN</b>—You tell me. The fact that Cocos was a facility that was used—</p> <p><b>Senator Sherry</b>—I remember your trip to Cocos.</p> <p><b>Senator McGAURAN</b>—I have seen the facility and you are right; it is in disrepair.</p> <p><b>Senator Sherry</b>—We can take that question on notice.</p> <p><b>CHAIR</b>—Senator McGauran’s question can be taken on notice.</p>

AP 02	20/10/08	76	COLBECK	<p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—FarmBis, Advancing Australia, AAA, Australia Industries, National Food Industry Strategy, innovation grants—have all of those programs been terminated?</p> <p><b>Mr Hunter</b>—Some of those programs are in wind-up phases. Others would be completed. They would be at different stages of closure depending on the program. We would need to take it on notice to give you an answer program by program.</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—We could give you a breakdown of each of them.</p>
AP 03	20/10/08	77	COLBECK	<p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—What consultation with industry has occurred in the development of the guidelines?</p> <p><b>Mr Ottesen</b>—We have had extensive consultation with industry organisations. I can list some of the organisations if you wish.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—That would be good.</p> <p><b>Mr Ottesen</b>—The National Aquaculture Council, Seafood Experience Australia, Australian Pork Ltd, Growcom, Horticulture Australia Council and the Australian Food and Grocery Council.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Are they the key—</p> <p><b>Mr Ottesen</b>—Yes.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Do you have a full list of the consultations that you could table for me? I do not necessarily need to have it right now. You can take it on notice.</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—We will take it on notice.</p>
APVMA 01	20/10/08	81	COLBECK	<p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—My information is that there are some permitted uses for products containing melamine in Victoria. Can you confirm whether that is the case?</p> <p><b>Dr Bennett-Jenkins</b>—Not that I am aware of. As I said, cyromazine, which is the main chemical that is of concern with regard to having melamine as a breakdown product, is not registered for horticultural uses. But perhaps I could take that question on notice to get back to you on whether there are other pesticides that may be permitted under permit that have a similar predisposition to break down into melamine.</p>
AP 04	20/10/08	83	STERLE	<p><b>CHAIR</b>—How far off are we before that information will be available on the website?</p> <p><b>Mr Woods</b>—I think DAFF is doing that.</p> <p><b>CHAIR</b>—Take it on notice, because it is of interest to this committee for obvious reasons.</p> <p><b>Mr Phillips</b>—It is likely to be another month away, because each of the state farmer organisations is compiling those questions. Then we have to put them together into a consolidated list. I am happy to provide it to the committee out of session once it is ready.</p>
GRDC 01	20/10/08	87/88	SIEWERT	<p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—Those farmers that you are talking to are the farmers that are growing the GE crops.</p> <p>In that survey are you also talking to their neighbours who are not growing it to see whether there are any issues there and, if so, what the issues are?</p> <p><b>Mr Reading</b>—I will check the detail of that. At this stage, though, it is primarily just concentrating on the growers that grew it. I will take that on notice.</p>
GRDC 02	20/10/08	88	SIEWERT	<p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—Can you provide details of those three projects—how much they are and how long they are for—and in particular the herbicide resistance one because that is a longer term project? You can take this on notice so I do not take up the committee’s time.</p>

				<b>Mr Reading</b> —Certainly.
AP 05	20/10/08	88	ADAMS	<p><b>Senator ADAMS</b>—Where are you at with GM cotton?</p> <p><b>Mr Perrett</b>—We do not deal with GM cotton. In fact, there is a Cotton Research and Development Corporation and that is predominantly their area. We have looked at it from the edges, but not specifically at GRDC. We are aware of the benefits that have flowed to the cotton industry from that technology.</p> <p><b>Senator ADAMS</b>—Senator Stephens, can you help me as to where GM cotton might arise?</p> <p><b>Senator Stephens</b>—I cannot, but we can endeavour to take that on notice and get back to you.</p>
AP 06	20/10/08	88/89	ADAMS	<p><b>Senator ADAMS</b> - ...Getting back to wheat, what have you heard from the new government about the trials for Western Australia?</p> <p><b>Mr Perrett</b>—I do not believe we have any trials in Western Australia.</p> <p><b>Senator Stephens</b>—In relation to your question, the officers have left who will be dealing with that, so we will take that question on notice and get back to you.</p> <p><b>Senator ADAMS</b>—Thank you.</p>
CC 01	20/10/08	105	MILNE	<p><b>Senator MILNE</b>—Can you confirm for me that where a native forest is cleared by clear felling and then replaced by regeneration or a plantation, because there is no change in land use it is deemed to be carbon neutral? Is that a fact?</p> <p><b>Mr Gibbs</b>—I would have to take that on notice. That would be something that DCC could answer.</p>
CC 02	20/10/08	108	MCGAURAN	<p><b>Senator BOSWELL</b> - Do you agree with the Garnaut review proposal to replace seven million cattle and 36 million sheep with 240 million kangaroos?</p> <p>....</p> <p><b>Mr Quinlivan</b>—I am quite confident in saying that Professor Garnaut did not propose this.</p> <p><b>Senator McGAURAN</b>—Can we get the words that he used?</p> <p><b>CHAIR</b>—Let Mr Quinlivan answer.</p> <p><b>Mr Quinlivan</b>—The precise words I will need to take on notice as I do not have them here in front of me.</p>
ABARE 02	20/10/08	115	BOWSELL	<p><b>Senator BOSWELL</b>—The Garnaut report states under key assumptions that with emission removal there is a potential for 143 million CO2 per year for 20 years using 9.1 million hectares of land. That is a lot of land.</p> <p>Let me put it in perspective. If we took every piece of land growing wheat in Victoria and South Australia— wheat, barley, canola, the lot—that is roughly about 9.1 million hectares. That is on table 22, page 543. Can you tell me where this 9.1 million hectares is located? Where are we going to find 9.1 million hectares and which areas of Australia are being talked about?</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—That is obviously a number out of the Garnaut report and as that is not our report the best thing for us is to take that on notice and try and discover where</p>
CC 03	20/10/08	117	COLBECK	<p><b>Senator COLBECK</b> – What I am after is what the individual annual targets are so that we can try and get an assessment of where the program might be going. So, I think it is easier if you take that on notice so we do not get a confusion of numbers.</p> <p><b>Mr Mortimer</b> – Yes. That might be a good idea.</p>



ABARE 04	20/10/08	122	WILLIAMS	<p><b>Senator WILLIAMS</b>—Mr O’Connell, you would be aware that a substantial amount of agriculture land is being planted down to trees either through MISs or carbon sinks. Has the department done any projections or estimations on the loss of agriculture production, food production, through increasing permanent plantings of agricultural land down to trees?</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—We might be able to help you in due course with the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics, I suspect. We could hold it for ABARE.</p> <p><b>Senator WILLIAMS</b>—Could you take that on notice and actually give us a reply? Likewise, with the increase in national parks. Toorale Station at Bourke is an example where 90,000 hectares, I think, used to run 30,000 sheep and irrigation, et cetera, but it will be made into a national park now that the New South Wales and federal governments have purchased it. What is the projection of the loss of agricultural production, food production, because of so much land over the last five, six or eight years being put down to national parks? The reason I ask this question is because Australia is a vital food producer, not only for Australia but for many parts around the world, and if we keep putting land down to trees, we cannot eat trees. How much production are we going to lose, how many exports, how much volume of actual gross agricultural production will be lost through carbon sinks and national parks? That is what I would like to know?</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—I will have to take the natural parks question on notice. I do not think we have any figures here that we could give you.</p>
CC 04	20/10/08	122	MACDONALD	<p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—This is in the agricultural field? I must confess I have not read the report.</p> <p><b>Mr Gibbs</b>—This is in the agriculture sphere. The other one would be pigs. There is a table in the back of the green paper that we can reproduce for you if you like. We can take that on notice. The secretary is correct that there has been some debate obviously through the green paper consultation process, and the Department of Climate Change are taking on board those comments and having consultations as we speak on the emissions intensive trade exposed nature and how they will treat them in the white paper.</p>
CC 05	20/10/08	124	MACDONALD	<p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—Finally, how far advanced are we on working out how much rural industries contribute to abatement of greenhouse gases, for example through lack of tree clearing, sugar cane growing, grass growing on the plains and prairies, tree planting and all those sort of things? Have we got an accurate way of determining what carbon abatement comes from rural industries?</p> <p><b>Mr Gibbs</b>—We have a relatively accurate assessment of tree growing across the nation.</p> <p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—All the others?</p> <p><b>Mr Gibbs</b>—No, that is developing.</p> <p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—You are developing that? Can you take the rest of my question on notice please.</p> <p><b>Mr Gibbs</b>—The development part of the question?</p> <p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—Well, what work you have got that we and the industries can</p>

				confidently use. My understanding is that here is not a way of calculating the abatement effect of grasses and things, but you tell me about it.
CC 06	20/10/08	128	ADAMS	<p><b>Senator ADAMS</b>—Thank you very much. Ms Kidman, I follow up on that rural counselling issue I asked you about at the last estimates. It was about a tender, pertaining to why the Western Australian rural counselling service were not the successful applicants. You told us at that estimates hearing that the North East Farming Futures were the successful tenderers. I would like to follow up on just where that program is and how that organisation is going. You did state at that stage that you were going to have ongoing negotiations with them.</p> <p><b>Ms Kidman</b>—Rural Financial Counselling Service program actually sits with the climate change division that was just on recently. I am not aware of the recent developments for that program.</p> <p><b>Senator ADAMS</b>—All right. Once again we get the—</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—Can we take that on notice?</p>
SRM 01	20/10/08	126	SIEWERT	<p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—How many projects did you get?</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—We received over 1,200 applications, Senator.</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—For how much?</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—They were worth over \$280 million.</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—And are we talking about a grants program of \$30 million?</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—\$25 million.</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—\$25 million. Who was on the panel?</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—I do not have the names of the people who were on there. We could take that on notice.</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—Could you provide that on notice?</p>
SRM 02	20/10/08	127	SIEWERT	<p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—The 15 per cent administration limit that was, as I recall, on all projects, has that been maintained?</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—I am not familiar with a 15 per cent administration limit. I would have to check whether there was or not.</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—Senator, I think that is for the regional projects but Mr Shaw might be able to answer.</p> <p><b>Mr Shaw</b>—Yes, Senator. I think you might be referring to the regional funding—the 60 per cent and the 15 per cent? I do not believe there is a 15 per cent administration on the open grants.</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—That is interesting because that is what I have been told very clearly.</p> <p><b>Mr Shaw</b>—I am not aware of it.</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—We will take that on notice and confirm that.</p>
SRM 03	20/10/08	128	MACDONALD	<p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—But just to follow on with Senator Siewert: it will be a matter for the committee, but I would be recommending that we get the department and the environment department back to go through these in some more issue. I see in the answer you gave me to questions at last estimates about the number of jobs lost. The thing that sticks out is you say you</p>

				<p>are not a job employment counter so you did not know. But, Mr Thompson, you would have heard or been made aware of the last person who gave evidence the other day who, of her knowledge down in the Gippsland, could name ten people who had lost their jobs in the NRM area in the last few months because of uncertainty of funding. I really ask, and put on notice because I do not think I asked this in the other one, if you can give us an indication of how many people you are aware of who have lost their jobs since 1 July 2008. I see you gave me some figures in answers previously which said there were more people employed on 7 May 2008 than there were on 20 November 2007. That just cannot be right. It just cannot be right.</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—Senator, those numbers that we provided you earlier this year were numbers provided to us by the regional bodies themselves or the state governments on behalf of the regional bodies. We do not employ these people, so we have to rely on the advice we receive from the bodies that employ them, and they were the numbers that they provided to us. We do not regularly update it, but if you want us to update those numbers we can.</p> <p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—I would. But could you please try to get a little more—and I am not suggesting you are being dishonest; I appreciate you are just repeating—but could you get from the people that are giving them to you some honesty in the figures? All of the anecdotal evidence shows that every NRM body, with the exception of those along the Barrier Reef, have been losing staff because of lack of guaranteed funding.</p>
SRM 04	20/10/08	128	MACDONALD	<p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b> - What I just want to ask this department is, what work are you doing as part of the Reef Rescue package, a Labor Party pre-election policy which they are implementing with \$200 million? A lot of that will involve interaction with the sugar industry, the banana industry, the cattle industry, grazing industry up along the Barrier Reef. Have you as a department done work on that? Having asked the question, I do not think I can allow the time for the answer, so perhaps you will just have to take that on notice and give it to me in writing.</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—We can take it on notice.</p>
SRM 05	20/10/08	130	COLBECK	<p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—The Torres Strait Commercial Line Fishery Reallocation, they are effectively buying out licences and reallocating them back to the Indigenous and moving them out further?</p> <p><b>Mr Hurry</b>—That has happened and they are now being moved back to the commercial sector for income.</p> <p>As far as I am aware, that process has been completed and leasing has now occurred in both the mackerel and the coral trout fisheries in the Torres Straits.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—So that \$7.5 million is expended, effectively?</p> <p><b>Mr Hurry</b>—That is my understanding unless the department has any difference. I do not know whether it took the full \$7.5 million for the purchase or not.</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—I do not have details of the funding but that is my understanding that—</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—We will take that on notice.</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—the buybacks on the Torres Strait were completed before the end of the financial year.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—Could you take on notice the final costs of that work?</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—We will.</p>

AFMA 01	20/10/08	132	SIEWART	<p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—I would like to ask around changing basically the boundaries of the Western Trawl Fisheries. Who do I ask about that? I have got a letter here from the department of fisheries in WA that says AFMA have proposed new boundaries to the Commonwealth’s Western Deepwater Trawl Fishery and North West Slope Trawl Fishery.</p> <p><b>Mr Hurry</b>—That is correct, Senator. That happened probably seven or eight months ago.</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—Has it already been changed?</p> <p><b>Mr Hurry</b>—That was about a small area of water in the top of WA where there were some problems with a boat operating in there which should not have been operating in there, if I remember this one quite correctly.</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—Is it? Because I have a letter here from the WA department that says the consultation on the boundaries is happening until 1 November 2008.</p> <p><b>Mr Hurry</b>—Senator, I will take it on notice and follow it through for you. But my understanding is that we actually resolved that issue with WA fisheries and a letter came out later. But let me take it on notice and I will come back to you and confirm that.</p>
SRM 06	20/10/08	133/134	SIEWERT	<p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—All right. So who have you consulted with on the action plan: the industry?</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—Industry and the relevant climate change departments and the state jurisdictions.</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—Was it released as a draft for public comment?</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—Not to my knowledge.</p> <p><b>Mr Pittar</b>—My understanding, Senator, is that it was not released for public comment. It was essentially worked up through a broad range of stakeholders as Mr Thompson has outlined—the state fisheries agencies, the commercial sector and so on.</p> <p><b>Senator SIEWERT</b>—Were any NGOs or any non-government organisations, environmental organisations, marine organisations and recreational fishing organisations consulted?</p> <p>...</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—To my knowledge they were not consulted. We will have to take that on notice to see how widely it went. This is an action plan related to the industry. It fits within a broader climate change strategy which you may have spoken to others about relating to the marine environment. This is the industry component.</p> <p>...pg 137</p> <p><b>Dr O’Connell</b>—Chair, just while they are coming up, I might correct one piece of information. Senator Siewert was asking about National Climate Change and Fisheries Action Plan. Our answers at that stage suggested there had not been any consultation with environment NGOs. There was a forum in May, a stakeholders forum, which did include environment NGOs. We will get the details of who was there for you.</p>
SRM 07	20/10/08	134	FISHER	<p><b>Senator FISHER</b>—Thank you, Chair. Thank you, gentlemen. This may be a simple yes or no. In respect of the government’s proposal to buy appropriately sited properties in order to realise water, to bring water back into the system, an example that the government has given of that is the recent</p>

				<p>purchase of Toorale Station.</p> <p>But I do not want to ask about that specifically. Has the department provided the government with any advice as to a strategy for purchasing properties in order to realise water?</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—The operation of those water buyback programs and the reserves program are probably better asked of the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts. This department has not provided any advice on where they should be targeted.</p> <p><b>Senator FISHER</b>—You have not provided any advice as to that directly to government?</p> <p><b>Mr Thompson</b>—Not that I am aware of. I could take it on notice but I am not aware of any.</p>
SRM 08	20/10/08	135	FISHER	<p><b>Senator FISHER</b>—On targeting appropriately sited properties with significant water entitlement under the reserve scheme, I think you said.</p> <p>...</p> <p><b>Senator FISHER</b>—Yes, I just want to keep this particular line of questioning to the purchase of properties.</p> <p>I hear what you are saying, Dr O’Connell, in respect of commercial and in confidence, therefore unlikely to be specific advice in relation to specific properties. Therefore I would very much hope that there is generic advice being sought and provided as to an overall strategy to underpin the specific purchases. That is what I am trying to flesh out, the extent to which your agency may or may not have been involved in consultations leading to the provision of that advice or indeed in the provision of that advice directly.</p> <p><b>Mr Hunter</b>—Senator, we can take that on notice and provide you with an answer.</p> <p><b>Senator FISHER</b>—Thank you. And to the extent (a) whether you have been and (b) to the extent that you have been, details as to when, who and how and what, to the extent that you can. I know you cannot tell us about policy advice but you can indicate the topic.</p>
ABARE 01	20/10/08	114	MACDONALD	<p><b>Senator IAN MACDONALD</b>—You have agreed that you have been doing work as ABARE in your role as an adviser to rural industries in Australia through the department? What would be really useful to the committee is if we could have details of the work you have done and conclusions you have drawn if not from a whole-of government’s point of view on designing a policy then on how it might affect rural industries if—</p> <p><b>Mr Glyde</b>—We have publications on that and we would be more than happy to provide those publications to you.</p>
ABARE 03	20/10/08	118	COLBECK	<p><b>Mr Glyde</b>—Our model has the capacity to look at impacts right across the economy—different sectors throughout the economy—at the impacts on growth and employment and the like, but we have not done any of the modelling in recent times for the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme. The model is being used, along with other models, by the Treasury team that Mr Gibbs referred to.</p> <p><b>Senator COLBECK</b>—But did you not say earlier that you had done some work with respect to agriculture and that was feeding into the process. Has any of the work that you have done included the impact on the manufacturing portion of the agricultural sector?</p> <p><b>Mr Glyde</b>—I would have to take that on notice in terms of the extent to which we have broken out in the various models we have done, the manufacturing part as opposed to the growing part.</p>
ABARE 05	20/10/08	139	SIEWERT	<p><b>Mr Glyde</b>—We have provided a report to the Department of Climate Change. We have provided some information also to the Garnaut review but that information has not been published. In relation to the report to the Department of Climate Change, that has been</p>

				published? <b>Dr Gunasekera</b> —Yes. <b>Mr Glyde</b> —We are happy to provide that to you, Senator. <b>Senator SIEWERT</b> —Okay.
ABARE 06	20/10/08	139	SIEWERT	<b>Senator SIEWERT</b> —Okay. Have you looked at any of the relationships between the carbon sink tax deductions—and you have heard the discussion that we have been having on and off all day—and the price in promoting plantations? <b>Mr Glyde</b> —I am not quite sure about that. I do not think we have done specific work on that but I would have to just check in terms of some of the scenarios that we might have run for DCC, whether or not we have done that. So can I take that on notice? <b>Senator SIEWERT</b> —Yes, that would be appreciated.
SRM 31	n/a	Written	Abetz	<b>Natural heritage</b> 1. Why was funding for SeaNet officers discontinued? 2. Was the SeaNet project identified as “critical” by the Government or the Department? 3. If it was determined as “critical”, why was funding stopped?
CC 24	n/a	Written	Abetz	<b>Forestry</b> 1. Can I be provided with a full explanation as to Mr Tony Bartlett’s move from the Forestry section of the portfolio? 2. Was Mr Bartlett’s move anything to do with a letter dated 23rd June 2008 which was forwarded to the Executive Officers of the Private Forestry Development Committees? 3. Is it correct that notification of the outcome of the funding cuts to PFDCs came with very short notice before the existing funding expired? 4. How much warning/notification of the outcome of the funding situation was given to each of the PFDCs? 5. Did the Department do everything they could to push the decision process along and to support the need for funding as asserted in Mr Bartlett’s letter of 23/06/08? 6. If so, what was the delay in achieving a decision in this area? 7. Is it true there are many other bodies and programs previously funded by the National Heritage Trust that found themselves in the same position as the PFDCs?
SRM 32	n/a	Written	Abetz	<b>Fisheries</b> 1. Is it correct that the joint authority northern shark fishery has had its export permit lapse or discontinued? 2. If so, why has this occurred? 3. Is it correct that the relevant West Australian Departments failed to submit the

				<p>required documentation to the Federal Minister for Environment?</p> <p>4. Does this mean that the fisheries can still operate but they can't export their product?</p> <p>5. What happens with the product?</p>
AFMA 02	n/a	Written	Abetz	<p><b>AFMA</b></p> <p>1. When was the successful bid for the Taruman put in?</p> <p>2. Was it late?</p> <p>3. Was it sold to an international bidder?</p> <p>4. Was extra legal advice needed because of the international bidder?</p> <p>5. If the successful bidder was from another country how will the Taruman pass out of Australian waters?</p> <p>6. Under what flag?</p> <p>7. Under what insurance provisions in relation to its travel through Australian waters?</p> <p>8. How long has the delay been from the first tender process?</p> <p>9. What extra costs in wharfage, legal costs , re advertising, office time and effort have been spent in relation to the delay?</p> <p>10. For what price did the Taruman actually sell?</p>
CC 07	n/a	Written	Boswell	<p>1. What if any steps have been taken to estimate the costs of the government's response to climate change including the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme for every department, agency and program within this portfolio?</p> <p>2. What are the costs and estimated costs identified (reported separately)?</p> <p>3. Have any costs been included in forward estimates and if so where?</p>
AQIS 05	n/a	Written	Siewert	<p><b>AQIS - Live Exports</b></p> <p>1. How is it possible for AQIS to comply with Australian Standards for the export of Livestock when there is no independent monitoring of animals and their handling at the saleyards and feedlot points of the live export chain?</p> <p>2. I understand that WA currently only has one inspector in the Animal Welfare Unit enforcing state animal welfare legislation. How is this one inspector expected to enforce the ASEL?</p>

ABARE 07	n/a	Written	Siewert	<p><b>ABARE report</b> In relation to the ABARE Report Purchasing water in the Murray Darling Basin – October 2007</p> <p>The report recommends on page 1 that, ... "where environmental benefits are not independent of where water is purchased [1] <b>an environmental index will be needed</b> to compare the environmental benefits derived from purchasing water from different irrigation systems within a physically connected system, or across irrigation systems in physically disconnected systems"</p> <p>My understanding of this is that they are saying that to be able to evaluate whether a particular purchase provides value for money, we need a way to evaluate the value of a particular ecosystem (or the ecosystem services it delivers) and the benefits the water will deliver...</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Is this correct?</li> <li>2. What response have you had from DEWHA on this recommendation?</li> <li>3. In your analysis, is it possible for the government to conduct an effective water purchasing plan and demonstrate that it has made sensible purchasing decisions to meet its objectives of transparency, accountability and value for money ... if it does not develop an environmental index?</li> <li>4. Would you need an ongoing monitoring and evaluation program to properly develop this index?</li> </ol>
ABARE 08	n/a	Written	Siewert	<p>I note in a number of places you warn of the risk of 'strategic market behaviour' – by which I assume you mean collusion – in auctions and in targeted purchases...</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Can you explain how this is likely to take place and what are the most appropriate mechanisms to manage this risk?</li> <li>2. What consultations have you had with DEWHA on how to manage collusion risks?</li> <li>3. In your analysis, are the water purchase mechanisms and safeguards currently being deployed by the Commonwealth in the previous and current water purchase rounds sufficient to manage the risk of collusion?</li> </ol>
CPD 04	n/a	Written	Williams	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Why is the Minister's office so slow in responding to correspondence from members, constituents, and commodity groups and why it takes so long for any decisions to be made by the Minister's office?</li> </ol>



				<p>2. What is the average turn around time in responding fully to correspondence?</p> <p>3. How many people work on answering correspondence on behalf of the Minister?</p>
CPD 05	n/a	Written	Williams	Is it a fact that all media releases and announcements (including the release of reports and reviews) have first to be checked by the Prime Minister's office or department before they can be released?
MS 05	n/a	Written	Williams	What programmes have been cut as a result of the 4% efficiency dividend which the government demanded the Department meet this year?
MS 06	n/a	Written	Williams	What is the current EFT for the department? (provide a yearly breakdown for 2005/06, 2006/07, 2007/08 and 2008/09)
CPD 06	n/a	Written	Williams	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How many reviews, committees, taskforces, and inquiries have been started or formed since 24 November 2008?</li> <li>2. What is the current status of each of these reviews, committees, taskforces and inquiries currently underway?</li> <li>3. Please indicate whether they will be released publicly and if so when.</li> <li>4. What is the purpose of each of these reviews, committees, taskforces and inquiries?</li> <li>5. Who is undertaking each of these reviews, committees, taskforces and inquiries?</li> <li>6. Provide a list of Members, their qualifications and remuneration (including daily fees, Travel Allowance).</li> <li>7. How much is each of these reviews, committees, taskforces and inquiries costing?</li> <li>8. Provide a breakdown of the cost of each individual review, committee, taskforce and inquiry.</li> </ol>
CC 08	n/a	Written	Williams	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How many exceptional circumstances exit grants have been paid in the past 12 months?</li> <li>2. How many are outstanding or waiting to be approved?</li> <li>3. Please provide an electorate by electorate breakdown of successful applicants and the amount of each exit grant in that electorate.</li> </ol>
CC 09	n/a	Written	Williams	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How many applications were made for the exit grants?</li> <li>2. Please provide an electorate by electorate break down.</li> </ol>

CC 10	n/a	Written	Williams	Why were these exit grants unsuccessful?
CC 11	n/a	Written	Williams	Does the Government consider this grant program to have been a success?
CC 12	n/a	Written	Williams	Will the Government change the criteria for the exit grants to allow more people to be eligible?
CC 13	n/a	Written	Williams	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Are applicants who have been unsuccessful for the exit grants informed of the reasons their application has not been approved?</li> <li>2. If not, why not?</li> </ol>
CC 14	n/a	Written	Williams	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How many applicants for the exit grant who have been refused have appealed the decision?</li> <li>2. How many appeals avenues are available to them?</li> </ol>
CC 15	n/a	Written	Williams	Have any of the rejected applicants taken their appeal to the Ombudsman?
CC 16	n/a	Written	Williams	What were the grounds of their appeals? Were any of them successful?
CC 17	n/a	Written	Williams	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How many regions are currently receiving exceptional circumstances drought funding?</li> <li>2. What percentage of Australia's agriculture country is this?</li> </ol>
CC 18	n/a	Written	Williams	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How many farmers are receiving EC assistance?</li> <li>2. Please provide a region by region breakdown of how many farmers and the dollar amount are receiving the EC Interest Rate Subsidy and or the EC Household Support for the following years: 2006/07, 2007/8 and estimated for 2008/09.</li> </ol>
CC 19	n/a	Written	Williams	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Have any of the State Governments written to the Government asking for any regions which were removed from EC in the past twelve months to be either reviewed or made applications for the region to be returned to EC status?</li> <li>2. Which State Governments have made requests and for what regions?</li> <li>3. Has the NSW Government asked for the Brewarrina Rural Lands Protection Board to be reviewed or to be placed back into Drought EC status?</li> </ol>
AP 07	n/a	Written	Williams	What was the cost to the average dry land cereal operation per hectare to plant this year's crop?

CPD 07	n/a	Written	Williams	What was the average increase in main inputs such as fuel, fertiliser and chemical over the past five years?
ABARE 09	n/a	Written	Williams	What have the massive increases in inputs experienced by farmers done for farm profitability?
AP 08	n/a	Written	Williams	Is the Government concerned about these massive increases in the basic inputs needed by farmers to produce food?
AP 09	n/a	Written	Williams	What has the government done to reduce these massive cost burdens on our food producers?
ABARE 10	n/a	Written	Williams	What impact will the Government proposed emissions trading scheme have on input costs such as fuel, chemicals and fertilisers?
ABARE 11	n/a	Written	Williams	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What has been the economic impact of the drought on the Australian economy over the past five years?</li> <li>2. Please provide a yearly breakdown of the impact.</li> </ol>
ABARE 12	n/a	Written	Williams	Which regions have been hit the hardest?
ABARE 13	n/a	Written	Williams	Which regions have or will have their winter crops wiped out this year because of the drought?
AP 10	n/a	Written	Williams	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Please provide a breakdown of irrigation areas where permanent plants have had to be pulled and destroyed because of the drought.</li> <li>2. What has been the economic impact of pulling these permanent plantings?</li> <li>3. How long will it take these regions to reach full productivity again?</li> </ol>
ABARE 14	n/a	Written	Williams	What has been the impact of the drought on domestic food prices?
BRS 01	n/a	Written	Williams	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Has the department done any economic or social impact studies on what the impact of the drought has been on country communities?</li> <li>2. If not, why not?</li> </ol>
CC 20	n/a	Written	Williams	When will the Government be releasing the different components of the drought review it is currently undertaking?

CC 21	n/a	Written	Williams	How will the Government be devising new drought policy and when will this policy be released?
ABARE 15	n/a	Written	Williams	What is the current average debt for the average farm for each commodity group? ie dryland farming, beef, sheep, mixed farming, poultry, pork, citrus, horticulture, dairy?
ABARE 16	n/a	Written	Williams	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is the debt burden currently on agriculture according to the RBA?</li> <li>2. How much has it increased over the past 10 years?</li> <li>3. Please provide a region by region breakdown for each of the previous 10 years.</li> </ol>
CC 22	n/a	Written	Williams	How much money is currently held by farmers in FMDs?
ABARE 17	n/a	Written	Williams	Will the credit crisis impact on the ability of farmers to borrow money to fund next years winter crop, or replanting of permanent plantings or for restocking purposes devastated by the drought?
CPD 08	n/a	Written	Williams	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Have all of the recent interest rate cuts been passed on to farmers?</li> <li>2. If not how much has been passed on?</li> </ol>
CPD 09	n/a	Written	Williams	What is the average interest rate currently being paid by farmers?
CPD 10	n/a	Written	Williams	What guarantees did the Banks give the Minister last week in Sydney in relation to banks, credit and interest rates?
PIAPH 01	n/a	Written	Williams	<p>I refer you to the Document 'Labor's Plan for Primary Industries', Election 2007; Page 19 which states;  <i>'A Rudd Labor Government will simplify and strengthen food labelling laws. This will include;  A new 'Grown in Australia' label under the Trade Practices Act for products that are not only made in Australia, but also grown in Australia.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What work has been undertaken on developing a new 'Grown in Australia label?</li> <li>2. Who within the Department is undertaking the work?</li> <li>3. What consultations and with whom have they been held in relation to the Grown in Australia label?</li> <li>4. When will the label 'Grown in Australia' be introduced?</li> </ol>

				<p>5. What products will the label apply to?</p> <p>6. Will it be compulsory for all food retail and wholesale outlets to display the label?</p> <p>7. What is the expected cost to food manufacturers?</p>
PIAPH 02	n/a	Written	Williams	<p>I refer you to the Document ‘Labor’s Plan for Primary Industries’, Election 2007; Page 20 which states; <i>Consideration of amendments to the Food Standards Code to clarify county of origin labelling requirements.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What ‘Consideration’ has the department undertaken to clarify country of origin labelling requirements?</li> <li>2. What are the current requirements for the country of origin labelling on fresh food and on processed food?</li> <li>3. Is it currently possible of a consumer to find out where processed food which is labelled ‘packaged in Australia from import products’ comes from?</li> <li>4. How would the consumers find out where the imported products came from?</li> <li>5. Is it possible for the department to find out where the imported products came from?</li> <li>6. What trace back and trace forward mechanisms are in place to trace imported processed food particularly in light of the melamine in milk scandal in China?</li> <li>7. Has the department undertaken any work or training exercises on being able to trace back and trace forward ingredients used in processed food?</li> </ol>
PIAPH 03	n/a	Written	Williams	<p>I refer you to the Document ‘Labor’s Plan for Primary Industries’, Election 2007; Page 20 which states; <i>‘Strengthening compliance arrangements’</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What work has the Department undertaken to strengthen food labelling compliance arrangements?</li> <li>2. Has the department made any inspections of major retailers to ensure they are labelling country of origin the food properly?</li> </ol>
CPD 11	n/a	Written	Williams	<p><b>Quarantine Report</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. When will the Beale report into quarantine and bio-security be made public?</li> <li>2. What was the purpose of the review?</li> <li>3. How much did it cost?</li> <li>4. Who was consulted?</li> </ol>

				5. Will all of the recommendations be implemented and when will the Government begin implementing those recommendations?
AQIS 06	n/a	Written	Williams	<p><b>Cocos Island</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Can the Minister confirm that, despite the findings of the Callinan Inquiry into horse flu, the Government is in the process of selling Australia's only Government owned off-shore quarantine station at Cocos Islands in the Indian Ocean, to developers?</li> <li>2. Considering that privately owned off shore quarantine stations have not proved entirely satisfactory in the past for a number of reasons, what plans does the Government have to replace this essential facility for importation of animals into Australia from countries likely to have contagious diseases such as foot-and-mouth disease?"</li> </ol>
PIAPH 04	n/a	Written	Williams	<p><b>Foot and Mouth Disease</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What are the current Foot and Mouth Disease serotypes and topotypes circulating in South-east Asia?</li> <li>2. How endemic is FMD in South East Asia?</li> <li>3. Which Countries are FMD free without vaccination to OIE standards?</li> <li>4. In which Southeast Asian countries is FMD endemic?</li> <li>5. Given the increasing number of Australian visitors to Southeast Asia what quarantine measures have been put in place to stop the spread of FMD from Southeast Asia?</li> <li>6. Is it a fact that serotype type A has again been found in South East Asia and believed to have originated from Burma?</li> <li>7. How widespread is serotype A?</li> <li>8. What agreements does Australia have in place to provide vaccine in the case of a major FMD incursion in Australia?</li> <li>9. Does this agreement cover all FMD strains currently circulating</li> <li>10. Has Australia donated FMD vaccine to any Southeast Asia countries to combat major outbreaks, in particular Cambodia?</li> <li>11. If not why not?</li> <li>12. Does Australia have a partnership with the Regional FMD Reference Laboratory in Pakchung, Thailand?</li> <li>13. What does this involve?</li> <li>14. What laboratories does Australia have partnerships with in Southeast Asia?</li> <li>15. Is Australia currently funding any FMD control and eradication programmes in Southeast Asia? If not, why not?</li> </ol>

				<p>16. Does the Department still support the work of the OIE Southeast Asia Foot and Mouth Disease Regional Campaign based in Bangkok which has previously been funded by AusAid and received extensive technical support from the Department?</p> <p>17. What sort of support is being provided by the Department and will it continue to be funded by the Australian Government?</p> <p>18. If not why not?</p> <p>19. Isn't it a fact that the only way Australia can guarantee to remain free of an FMD outbreak is to globally eradicate the disease?</p> <p>20. How much would it cost to eradicate FMD globally?</p> <p>21. How much would an extensive outbreak of FMD cost the Australia?</p>
PIAPH 05	n/a	Written	Williams	<p><b>Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) virus</b></p> <p>1. How many cases of the highly pathogenic avian influenza strain H5N1 have been reported in the Asian region this year?</p> <p>2. What is the global distribution of H5N1 and are cases increasing or decreasing?</p> <p>3. Does H5N1 tend to be more prevalent in the northern hemisphere winter when human influenza is also at its peak?</p> <p>4. Is H5N1 or a mutation of it the greatest biosecurity threat to Australia?</p> <p>5. Is the Government confident that all nations are reporting avian influenza outbreaks following the initial cover ups?</p> <p>6. Has there been any more cases of humans contracting H5N1 in the past twelve months?</p> <p>7. What is the mortality rate amongst humans who have contract H5N1?</p> <p>8. What is the mortality rate amongst poultry which contract H5N1?</p> <p>9. What is the mortality rate amongst wild bird populations?</p> <p>10. Are Australia's native bird populations (including emus) carriers of H5N1 and are they at risk of mass mortalities if there was a H5N1, or other strain of highly pathogenic avian influenza outbreak in Australia?</p> <p>11. How does Australia contribute to the control of H5N1 within the animal population in the Asian region?</p> <p>12. Are veterinary services in Southeast Asia able to cope with outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza, and do they have the facilities to undertake testing in the event of a large scale outbreak?</p> <p>13. What is the status of an effective vaccination for H5N1? Have concerns been raised with inferior vaccines being used in the region which may increase the chance of a dangerous mutation of highly pathogenic avian influenza?</p> <p>14. What quarantine measures are in place to deal with H5N1 and the onset of the</p>

				<p>northern hemisphere winter where flu strains in humans are circulating and mutating at a rapid rate?</p> <p>15. What measures are in place to combat an outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza with in our poultry industry?</p>
PIAPH 06	n/a	Written	Williams	<p><b>Australian Animal Health Laboratory (AAHL)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How is the Australian Animal Health Laboratory at Geelong funded?</li> <li>2. How much of its funding comes from the Commonwealth Government, industry, or State Governments?</li> <li>3. Provide a breakdown of individual funding in 2006/07, 2007/08, 2008/09</li> <li>4. Was AAHL exempt from the Governments 4 percent efficiency dividend?</li> <li>5. If not why not?</li> <li>6. What type of work is undertaken at AAHL?</li> <li>7. What research is being undertaken at AAHL?</li> <li>8. Is it a fact that work by AAHL scientist and staff result in a new test for influenza being discovered and taken to the commercial stage?</li> <li>9. Is it a fact that this new influenza test developed by AAHL to be used for Avian Influenza was instrumental in the control of the equine influenza outbreak?</li> <li>10. When will this excellent work by AAHL be publically recognised?</li> </ol>
PIAPH 07	n/a	Written	Williams	<p><b>Equine Influenza</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What advice has the Government received in relation to vaccinating Australian horses against equine influenza?</li> <li>2. Has anyone in the industry been lobbying the Government to vaccinate horses against equine influenza?</li> <li>3. How many meetings and with whom has the Minister or Department had with members of the equine industry in relation to vaccinating against equine influenza in Australia</li> <li>4. How much would it cost to vaccinate the entire Australian equine population?</li> <li>5. Who would pay?</li> <li>6. Is vaccinating a viable option – what are the pros and cons of vaccinating?</li> <li>7. What is the efficacy of equine influenza vaccinations?</li> </ol>
AQIS 07	n/a	Written	Williams	<p><b>Biosecurity Australia/Quarantine/Food Safety</b>  <b>Melamine Milk Scandal in China/Food Chain Safety</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Is the department aware of the Melamine milk scandal in china?</li> <li>2. As a result of the scandal what measures has the department taken to guarantee the safety of Australia’s food supply chain?</li> </ol>



				<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. What Import Risk Assessments IRA's on Chinese products are currently under way?</li> <li>4. Can the department provide a list of all new and existing import applications for food and agriculture/fisheries/forestry products from China?</li> <li>5. What agriculture/food products are currently imported from China?</li> <li>6. Please provide a list of all imported food and agriculture products.</li> <li>7. What Australian agricultural/fisheries/forestry products are currently seeking permission from the Chinese Government to import permits into China?</li> <li>8. What is the expected market value of these products?</li> <li>9. How much funding is being made available to industry to help under take all aspects of accessing the Chinese markets?</li> <li>10. Please provide a breakdown of which industries/commodities are receiving funding and how much funding they are receiving.</li> <li>11. Other than melamine what else does Australia routinely test for in food products (fresh and manufactured) coming into Australia from China?</li> <li>12. Please provide in percentage terms and the number of tests conducted on food products (fresh and manufactured) being imported into Australia from China.</li> </ol>
TMA 01	n/a	Written	Williams	<p><b>Chile Free Trade Agreement</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What preliminary work has been undertaken by the department into disease risks, opportunities and risks to Australian agriculture with the proposed Free Trade Agreement with Chile?</li> <li>2. What are the disease and quarantine risks with an FTA with Chile, i.e what are the main disease and pest threats to Australian agriculture? (please list)</li> </ol>
PIAPH 08	n/a	Written	Williams	<p><b>Abalone</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What action is and has the Government taken since the Abalone Viral Ganglioneuritis (AVG) was confirmed in tissue taken from abalone in a live holding tank at a southern Tasmanian?</li> <li>2. What is the impact of this virus on the abalone industry?</li> <li>3. What support is being provided to the abalone industry in Tasmanian?</li> </ol>
SRM 09	n/a	Written	Williams	<p><b>Natural Resources</b>  <b>Toorale – Caring for Country</b></p> <p>I refer you to the Australian Government website <a href="http://www.nrm.gov.au">www.nrm.gov.au</a> which states 'Australian Government Land and Coasts (AG Land and Coasts) is a unique cross-departmental team, comprising staff from the Australian Government departments of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts and Agriculture, Fisheries and</p>

				<p>Forestry. Staff from both departments work side by side to jointly manage delivery of Caring for our Country and develop and implement environment and resource management policies of joint interest.’</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Is this a correct statement about the role of the Department in the delivery of the Caring for Our Country programme?</li> <li>2. What advice did the department provide prior to the purchase of Toorale Station near Bourke by the Commonwealth and NSW Government’s?</li> </ol>
SRM 10	n/a	Written	Williams	What role does the Department have in administering the Caring for Country programme?
SRM 12	n/a	Written	Williams	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. When was this program open for funding and what date did it close? (latest round, name of program)?</li> <li>2. Please provide a list of all the criteria and amounts of funding that can be sought under this program, including what organisations or individuals can apply and how much funding is available in the current round of funding and when other successful applicants will be named?</li> </ol>
SRM 12	n/a	Written	Williams	What is the process for funding to be provided under this programme?
SRM 13	n/a	Written	Williams	Does the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry have to sign off on any funding/grants made under the Caring for our Country programme?
SRM 14	n/a	Written	Williams	Was the Department informed prior to the funding being approved?
SRM 15	n/a	Written	Williams	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Did the department receive any advice or instructions from the Prime Minister, his department, or the Minister for Climate Change and Water or her department?</li> <li>2. What was the nature of this advice?</li> </ol>
SRM 16	n/a	Written	Williams	Has the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry signed off on the funding yet?
SRM 17	n/a	Written	Williams	Given that the Department jointly administers the Caring for our Country programme why were you not informed of the purchase of Toorale Station prior to the Government making the announcement it had purchased Toorale Station?

SRM 18	n/a	Written	Williams	When was the Department informed that funding from the Caring for our Country programme had been used to purchase Toorale Station?
SRM 19	n/a	Written	Williams	What due diligence has the Department undertaken since the purchase of Toorale Station was announced by the Government in light of funding being sought from the Department?
SRM 20	n/a	Written	Williams	Why has the funding being made available under Caring for our Country not been included on the website <a href="http://www.nrm.gov.au/projects/nsw/west/index.html">http://www.nrm.gov.au/projects/nsw/west/index.html</a> ?
SRM 21	n/a	Written	Williams	Is the department embarrassed about the purchase of Toorale Station and the lack of consultation with affected communities?
SRM 22	n/a	Written	Williams	Does the Department believe the purchase of Toorale Station represented value for money?
SRM 23	n/a	Written	Williams	<p><b>National Parks – Reserves increase</b></p> <p>I refer you to a Joint Media Release from the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, and the Minister for the Environment which states:</p> <p>Specific five-year outcomes have been identified across the six national priority areas for the program including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- increase the size of the protected-area estate under the National Reserve System to 125 million hectares – a 25% increase;</li> <li>- increase the area of native habitat and vegetation managed to reduce critical threats to biodiversity by at least one million hectares;</li> <li>- reduce the impact of invasive species including rabbits and rodents on Macquarie Island, Tasmania and cane toads; and maintain viable Tasmanian Devil populations;</li> <li>- assist at least 30% of Australian farmers to adopt sustainable land management practices; and</li> <li>- contribute to at least 30 partnerships with Indigenous groups and at least five major regional partnerships.</li> </ul> <p>What are the names of the individual programmes in place and how much funding has been allocated to each programme to achieve each of the six national priority areas under the Caring for our Country programme?</p>

SRM 24	n/a	Written	Williams	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How will each of these individual programmes be work?</li> <li>2. Will there be rounds of funding if so when or will these rounds be opened?</li> <li>3. Have any already been open?</li> <li>4. Which ones, when were they opened, when did/will they close?</li> <li>5. How much funding was available and what was the assessment criteria for each one?</li> </ol>
BRS 02	n/a	Written	Williams	What will be the socio-economic impact of taking an additional 25 million hectares out of agriculture land out of production?
BRS 03	n/a	Written	Williams	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What modelling has been done on the socio-economic impact of increasing the National Reserve System by 25 %?</li> <li>2. If none, when will it be done and why wasn't it done prior to announcing the policy objectives?</li> </ol>
SRM 25	n/a	Written	Williams	How will the policy objective of increasing the national reserve system by 25% be achieved?
SRM 26	n/a	Written	Williams	What funding is available for each of those components?
SRM 27	n/a	Written	Williams	Will state governments be eligible for funding?
SRM 28	n/a	Written	Williams	Is it the Government's intention to continue to buy prime agriculture land and convert it into national parks?
AP 11	n/a	Written	Williams	What impact will this have on the nations food security – has any modelling been done on this? If not, why not?
ABARE 18	n/a	Written	Williams	<p><b>Emissions Trading Scheme</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What will be the impact on the average Australian farm of the Government's proposed emissions trading scheme if agriculture is not included in the initial emissions trading scheme?</li> <li>2. Please provide a breakdown of the cost per commodity (based on average farm size of each commodity group; ie wheat/winter cereals/dryland, irrigated cereals/cotton, beef, dairy, horticulture, wool, fat lamb, citrus, stone fruit, fishing and forestry)?</li> </ol>

ABARE 19	n/a	Written	Williams	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Has the Government done any economic modelling to provide the cost of an emissions trading scheme for each commodity group whether agriculture is in the ETS or not?</li> <li>2. What was the result of that modelling and at what price was a tonne of carbon priced?</li> </ol>
CC 23	n/a	Written	Williams	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Given the food manufacturing sector is vital to agriculture, whether it be abattoirs or milk processing plants, will food manufactures such as abattoirs be allowed under an ETS to pass their increased costs back on to farmers?</li> <li>2. For example will dairy farmers be forced to take a farm gate cut to the price they receive for milk to pay for the energy intensive manufacturing of cheese, milk powder and pasteurising milk?</li> </ol>
AP 12	n/a	Written	Williams	<p><b>Water</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What advice has the department provided and to who on the Government's \$3.6 billion water buy back programme?</li> <li>2. Has the department done any socio-economic impact studies on the buy back program? If not why not?</li> <li>3. What will be the impact on Australia's agricultural production of the water buy backs?</li> <li>4. What sort of increases in food production capacity will Australia need to sustain into the future?</li> <li>5. Will the \$3.6 billion water buy backs have any impact on Australia's food production capacity? If so, how much? If not, how not?</li> </ol>
AP 13	n/a	Written	Williams and Nash	<p><b>Food Security</b></p> <p>I refer you to a joint media release from the Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and the Minister for Foreign Affairs which states:</p> <p>‘The Rudd Government believes it is essential to tackle the impact of rising food prices and shortages by addressing the root causes of global food security.’</p> <p>Foreign Minister Stephen Smith said “there are already 925 million people around the world who are malnourished and for the first time since 1973 the world is facing the combined impact of record oil and food prices.”</p> <p>“One hundred million of the world's most poor and disadvantaged risk being driven deeper into poverty by the recent escalation in food prices.”</p>

				<p>“The Rudd Government is acting now to be part of the solution, by boosting research and development; helping to remove barriers to global trade; and driving productivity along the food production chain.”</p> <p>Which countries in our immediate region (Pacific/South East Asia) are experiencing food shortages and are no longer produce enough food to feed their populations?</p>
ABARE 20	n/a	Written	Williams and Nash	What impact are and will Australian Government policies such as the \$3.6 billion water buy backs have on increasing the cost of food and exacerbating the current global food security situation?
AP 14	n/a	Written	Williams and Nash	What work is the government undertaking to ensure that Australia’s agriculture productivity increases to ensure that we are in a position to feed as many people around the world as we can?
AP 15	n/a	Written	Williams and Nash	<p>I refer to the paragraph in the media release which states; “The Rudd Government is acting now to be part of the solution, by boosting research and development; helping to remove barriers to global trade; and driving productivity along the food production chain.”</p> <p>How does cutting \$60 million from the CSIRO and closing down research centres help boost ‘research and development’?</p>
MS 07	n/a	Written	Williams	<p><b>Research and Development</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What has been the impact of the Drought and reduced production on levies collected by various commodity groups?</li> <li>2. Please provide a breakdown for each commodity group for the past five years and the estimate levy collection for 2008/09?</li> </ol>
MS 08	n/a	Written	Williams	Please provide the correlating government expenditure and funding for Research and Development Corporations for each of the previous five years and the estimated expenditure of 2008/09?
AP 16	n/a	Written	Williams	Has the government in any of the previous five years or in 2008/09 increased the funding for RDCs to make up the shortfall of funding in levies because of the drought?

AP 17	n/a	Written	Williams	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How much funding has been provided by the RDCs to State Government Departments or institutions in the previous five years and in the 2008/09 financial year?</li> <li>2. Please provide a list of State Government Department projects funded by the RDCs, including dollar terms and a short project description?</li> </ol>
AP 18	n/a	Written	Williams	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Do the State Governments match the funding dollar for dollar or with in kind support?</li> <li>2. Provide a list of projects over the past five years where the State Government has provided in kind and/or dollar for dollar funding for RDCs research projects, include the level or kind of support provided by the State Government?</li> </ol>
AP 19	n/a	Written	Williams	What research is being under taken into increasing on farm productivity?
SRM 29	n/a	Written	Williams	<p>The previous Government had a community grants programme which funded different projects throughout NSW for around \$10 million. This has been discontinued by this Government. This Government has announced the Minister is to set up a team of 8 to 10 people to advise him on behalf of Australian recreational anglers.</p> <p>Rec Fish is a national body representing many groups:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Will the Community grants be reinstated.</li> <li>2. If not, why not.</li> <li>3. What programme will replace the Community Grants programme to ensure the rights of recreational anglers are maintained, and the educational aspects are maintained.</li> </ol>
AP 20	n/a	Written	Williams	Does the Government/Department has any information on how our Port facilities will cope with the new wheat export arrangements in relation to Storage and Loading?
PIAPH 09	n/a	Written	Williams	<p>The proposed EI levy, to be imposed in the event of another outbreak, is anticipated to be imposed on all animals including eventing, recreational and farming.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Has there been a study undertaken to determine in dollar terms what effect exempting horses/owners other than those in the professional racing industries from the levy?</li> <li>2. If there is to be another outbreak, it is unlikely it will be as a result of actions of</li> </ol>

				those in these non professional areas, so why should they pay for the bad management of others?
AQIS 08	n/a	Written	Williams	At present the thoroughbred racing industry doesn't recognise AI from overseas sires as a legitimate reproduction technique for their industry. 1. Has AQIS developed a strategy to encourage the Thoroughbred Racing Industry to use AI involving semen from overseas sires instead of importing the live horse as a means of reducing the risk of another EI outbreak”?
AP 21	n/a	Written	Williams	What effect will the Government's recent changes to wheat exporting arrangements, i.e. the dismantling of the Single Desk and issuing of multiple licenses, have on the price of the current wheat crop in light of the downturn in Global Economic Conditions?
AP 22	n/a	Written	Williams	1. Is the department satisfied that all companies licensed to export wheat are financially sound in light of the current economic turmoil? 2. Are wheat exporters able to raise capital and credit to pay for this year's wheat crop in light of the global credit crisis? 3. Will the ability to raise a line of credit in the current global credit crisis put downward pressure on wheat prices paid at the farm gate? 4. What is the current situation with grain transport facilities in particular NSW where there was concern about rail rolling stock being sold off and the main rail transporter pulling out of the grain transport business earlier this year? 5. Has this issue been resolved?
SRM 30	n/a	Written	Williams	1. Why has the Minister not met with the peak national representative organisation for recreational fishing despite repeated requests for the past 12 months? 2. What is the Minister doing to ensure that his gazetted representative organisation for recreational fishing does not collapse in the next 12 months? 3. What is the Minister doing to address the growing loss of access to recreational fishing opportunities for Australian families brought about by closures to fishing in both the marine and freshwater environment?
AP 23	n/a	Written	Williams	Why is it that with cattle prices having declined over the last 4 years, the MLA Chairman receives a salary in excess of that of the Prime Minister and cattle producers pay levies of \$5 per head for each sale of a beast, which could be as much as \$20 in total, when in New Zealand the levy is a one only charge of \$3.60 at the point of slaughter?



AWI 11	n/a	Written	Williams	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What will be the effect of the Emissions Trading Scheme on the Wool Industry and what will be the impact of getting rid of a third of the sheep flock and replacing them with kangaroos?</li> <li>2. Have they done any research into shearing kangaroos?</li> </ol>
AWI 12	n/a	Written	Williams	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is the board's opinion about the recent purchase of Toorale Station and the impact of purchasing iconic properties like this would have on the wool industry?</li> <li>2. Does the board approve of buying properties like this?</li> </ol>
AWI 13	n/a	Written	Williams	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What do they think about increasing the National Park Reserve by 25% or 25 million hectares by the Rudd Government?</li> <li>2. What impact will this have on the wool industry?</li> </ol>
AWI 14	n/a	Written	Williams	What is the wool industry worth?
AWI 15	n/a	Written	Williams	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Is the board aware about the new wool suit that you can wash in the shower and will be dry the next day?</li> <li>2. When will the fabric be available in Australia?</li> </ol>
CPD 12	n/a	Written	Williams	<p>It was reported in The Land Newspaper on 16 October that Minister Burke had been talking to the Prime Minister about what possibilities there were to elevate Agriculture into the top echelon of career options for young people.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Does the Government/Department have a Plan to help encourage young people into the farming industry, with for example assistance to families with succession planning and grants to 'first farm buyers'?</li> </ol>
CPD 13	n/a	Written	Williams	Does the Government have a plan to stop the flow of our rural youth from the farming sector to mining?
BRS 04	n/a	Written	Williams	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In light of the current focus of Governments and others on Climate Change and Emissions Trading has the Bureau of Rural Science done any research into the potential for agricultural soil to sequester significant quantities of carbon, and the impact that sequestration would have on Australia's carbon footprint?</li> <li>2. Given that soil organic matter is 60% carbon has the Bureau considered recommending to Government the provision of financial incentives to farmers to improve soil organic matter, and thus soil carbon levels to enhance soil health thereby having the combined effect of increasing Agricultural</li> </ol>

				Productivity and reducing our overall Carbon Footprint?
BRS 05	n/a	Written	Williams	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Has the Bureau taken into account the effect that not providing a period of recovery in relation to drought funding would have on the economy of Rural Australia?</li> <li>2. Has the Bureau advised the Government to provide to the Nations cash strapped farmers and small business operators funding for a period of recovery to assist them to return their businesses to full operating capacity?</li> </ol>
AWI 16	n/a	Written	Heffernan	<p><b>AWI - Board members and Board expenses</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Could AWI detail the cheques (name of Board recipient and amount) that have been made to Board Directors and/or their legal entities over the last 3 years?</li> <li>2. Were these payments made with the authority of the Board?</li> <li>3. If so, please list the payments known to Board Directors.</li> <li>4. Were these payments made with the delegated authority of the CEO and the Deputy CEO?</li> <li>5. If so, please list the payments made solely by CEO and Deputy CEO.</li> <li>6. Which payments were made with the authority of the Board and which payments were made without the authority of the Board?</li> </ol>
AWI 17	n/a	Written	Heffernan	<p><b>AWI - Experimentation on dead sheep</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Can AWI explain how this new development came about?</li> <li>2. Who were the people (names please)involved in the development of this project?</li> <li>3. Who was aware of this development?, ie. Board?</li> <li>4. How was this development funded?</li> <li>5. How much did the development cost?</li> <li>6. How was the cost determined?</li> <li>7. Who approved the payment of the funds and did it go though the usual procedures of management working up a project plan, management looking at the processes, the strict assessment of funding under the SFA as we were told about in 2003 by Mr Targ? Please detail who AWI went through this process for the two new products.</li> <li>8. How much has it cost up until last month, which would no doubt be covered in AWI board meeting last week for the development of FST1 and FST2?</li> <li>9. It has been covered in the media that Dr Abel said the trials of these new chemicals have been done on dead sheep. Is that the case?</li> </ol>

				<p>10. Can AWI explain to me the process for obtaining the dead sheep?</p> <p>11. Where did they come from? Who supplied them?</p> <p>12. Where were the tests done?</p> <p>13. How long were the sheep dead before the tests were done?</p> <p>14. How did AWI store the dead sheep so AWI could measure the test effects over 1 week, 2 weeks, 4 weeks, 6 weeks?</p> <p>15. How did AWI differentiate between the effects of rigor mortis and the effects of FST 1 &amp; 2?</p> <p>16. How did AWI establish the baseline for the dead sheep?</p> <p>17. How many dead sheep did AWI need to use to establish the baseline?</p> <p>18. How did AWI select the sheep to be killed and tested, how did AWI establish the parameters for consistency in the sheep AWI killed?</p> <p>19. How were the sheep killed? Were they all killed the same way?</p> <p>20. Did AWI know it is a criminal offence to do tests on sheep without the appropriate permits?</p> <p>21. Did AWI know it is a criminal offence to supply sheep to be tested without permits? How many woolgrowers supplied sheep for these tests, I believe there were hundreds of sheep tested? Is this true?</p> <p>22. Jack Coffee, he helped with the \$9m on clips, how is he involved with the new products?</p>
AWI 18	n/a	Written	Heffernan	<p><b>AWI - Legal Settlement with PETA:</b></p> <p>1. As I understand, AWI didn't need to bring a court case against PETA, why did they?</p> <p>2. On who's advice?</p> <p>3. Is this all recorded in Board minutes?</p> <p>4. How can AWI state in its Media Release dated 30 June 2007, "<i>This is a great win for Australian woolgrowers and for international retailers</i>"? - this was a great victory for lawyers NOT woolgrowers.</p> <p>5. How can woolgrowers be convinced and assured that their funds will be spent wisely and cautiously in the future?</p>
AWI 19	n/a	Written	Heffernan	<p><b>AWI - SFA and re-election of Directors:</b></p> <p>1. The SFA says that funds must be spent by AWI efficiently, effectively and ethically. Is testing on dead and live sheep without the permits ethical and within the AWI's charter?</p> <p>2. I understand the Chairman is planning to meet the McBride family in South Australia before the AGM. Who will paying for his trip - is it AWI or will it be</p>

				<p>paid for personally by the Chair?</p> <p>3. What is the purpose of this trip?</p> <p>4. I understand AWI has spent considerable funds for the Chair and other directors to meet and fly around the country meeting woolgrowers prior to the re-election of directors for the forthcoming AGM. Could AWI supply a list of names of directors as well as list of travel and accommodation costs for the last 3 months? (August, September and October 2008)</p>
AWI 20	n/a	Written	Heffernan	<p><b>AWI - Clips and R&amp;D:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How much funding has been spent on the clips during the last 3 years?</li> <li>2. Who (name of company) has received payment for the clips research?</li> <li>3. How much funding has been spent on overall research &amp; development during the last 3 years?</li> <li>4. Please detail the recipients of the R&amp;D funding during the last 3 years.</li> <li>5. How many growers (and please provide names/details) have received payment for research on their properties during the last 3 years?</li> <li>6. How much has Dr Abell or any other directors received for research carried out on their property/properties in way of compensation payments?</li> <li>7. Who is the recipient of this payment?</li> <li>8. AWI is undertaking large scale trials of the new FSP technologies in South Australia through South Australian Research &amp; Development Institute (SARDI) and expects to undertake similar trials across other states in the next few months. Could AWI outline these trials with names &amp; locations?</li> <li>9. How much money has been spent on the recently announced these two new chemical alternatives to mulesing, known as FSP-1 and FSP-2?</li> <li>10. When do AWI expect to see some results of this test (time line)?</li> </ol>
AWI 21	n/a	Written	Heffernan	<p><b>AWI - Taskforce meeting - 8 November 2004</b></p> <p>The Taskforce meeting summary concludes with "the meeting agreed in principle that the Australian sheep and wool industry is committed to ending the current practice of mulesing by 2010."</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Did someone propose a motion?</li> <li>2. Was there a seconder?</li> <li>3. If not, why not?</li> <li>4. It appears that this meeting was a talkfest - surely if an important decision like the ending of mulesing by 2010, a motion and seconder should have been noted as well as record of the vote?</li> <li>5. Would AWI agree this "summary" and decision/outcome breaches meeting and</li> </ol>

				corporate governance procedures?
AP 24	n/a	Written	BOSWELL	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Does the department keep any statistics on the increase or decrease of specific industries?</li> <li>2. What has been the increase or decrease in the processed fruit and vegetable industry?</li> <li>3. Has there been any research done on the effects of imported processed fruit and vegetable imports on the local industry?</li> <li>4. What have been the results of this research?</li> <li>5. Is there any linear connection between the growth in imports and the decline in the processed fruit and vegetable market?</li> <li>6. Is this research publicly available? If not, would you be able to table this information or make it available to this committee?</li> <li>7. Has the department done any research on the subsidy levels on processed fruit and vegetables imported from countries that have a subsidy regime and the effects of these on Australian industry?</li> <li>8. Could you make this data publicly available?</li> </ol>