ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2009

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: CPD 01

Division/Agency: Corporate Policy Division

Topic: Ministerial Christmas Cards

Hansard Page: 4-5 (19/10/09)

Senator Macdonald asked:

Senator IAN MACDONALD—To all the department: Merry Christmas. It is getting up close to Christmas

time. We are all looking forward to the end of the year. Tell me, Dr O'Connell, will the minister be sending out a Christmas card this year?

Dr O'Connell—I do not like to take the first question on notice, Senator, but I suspect I will have to do that and ask the minister. As a rule he does, but I do not—**Senator IAN MACDONALD**—Senator Sherry, will you be sending out a Christmas card this year?

Senator Sherry—Yes, I will.

Senator IAN MACDONALD—Would your Christmas card have on it: 'This card is paid for by taxpayer expense'?

Senator Sherry—I would have to take some advice on that. I have not yet got around to Christmas cards, I have to say.

Senator IAN MACDONALD—You are getting very late, Minister; you will never get them done.

Senator Sherry—Gosh, it is October—although I did notice when I went into Coles-Kmart on the weekend that the Christmas decorations were out, which did remind me, although I must confess I was a little surprised to see them out in mid-October. I am not aware of any details in terms of my own Christmas cards, personal or ministerial, as yet

Senator IAN MACDONALD—Dr O'Connell is going to take that on notice, and perhaps Senator Sherry could in his own area because there is a ruling out from the government that all Christmas cards or anything printed with taxpayer funds must have it on each page, so that would be four times on the Christmas card I would think: front page, middle page, third page and fourth page. They must have a statement that these cards are printed by taxpayer funds—unless, of course, the minister is actually paying for them out of his own pocket, in which case, of course, that will not be required.

Answer:

The Minister will be sending Christmas cards in 2009.

Consistent with the *Parliamentary Entitlements Amendment Regulations 2009 (No. 1)* and advice from the Department of Finance and Deregulation, printing completed prior to 1 October 2009 does not require the acknowledgement. The cards that will be sent were printed prior to 1 October 2009.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2009

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: CPD 02

Division/Agency: Corporate Policy Division

Topic: Breakdown of Ministerials Hansard Page: 14-15 (19/10/2009)

Senator Colbeck asked:

Senator COLBECK—Do they fall within similar categories? How many of the 1,672 are signed by the department, how many are signed by the minister and how many are just non-reply type correspondence?

Ms Bie—We had 437 signed by the minister and 814 have been signed by departmental officers.

Senator COLBECK—So 300- or 400-odd have not required responses? **Ms Bie**—That is to date. Some may still be within our systems being drafted. **Senator COLBECK**—Do you have any statistics on the breakdown of those by government members and senators, coalition or opposition members and senators or individuals and organisations?

Ms Bie—Not on me. I will have to take that on notice.

Answer:

Refer to the answer to CPD 07.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2009

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: CPD 03

Division/Agency: Corporate Policy Division **Topic: Advertising and marketing campaigns**

Hansard Page: 15 (19/10/2009)

Senator Colbeck asked:

Senator COLBECK—Quarantine Matters! Is a fairly long-running campaign, isn't it? **Mr Starr**—Yes, it is. It has been running for quite some period of time. **Senator COLBECK**—Do you have figures on expenditure going back, say, four or

Senator COLBECK—Do you have figures on expenditure going back, say, four or five years_I think it has been going that long—and can you give us a sense of projection?

Mr Starr—I could go back to the previous year. For 2007-08 it was \$5.3 million—\$2.7 of which was spent on television and cinema advertising. I do not think I have the figures for previous years. I will have to take that on notice.

Answer:

The cost of the "Quarantine Matters!" campaign for the past four years (GST inclusive) was:

\$4.3 million 2008-2009
\$5.3 million 2007-2008
\$4.8 million 2006-2007

\$4.1 million 2005-2006\$3.9 million 2004-2005

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2009

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: CPD 04

Division/Agency: Corporate Policy Division **Topic:** *Border Security* **TV program - filming**

Hansard Page: 16 (19/10/2009)

Senator Colbeck asked:

Senator COLBECK—Has the department made any assessment of the awareness it creates of issues that the department needs to deal with that might come up in the Quarantine Matters! Type scenario?

Mr Starr—No formal research, but certainly it adds to the whole picture for us. It is a very successful

program that has a very high audience reach and very high ratings. From our point of view, any message to the community that demonstrates good behaviours and not-so-good behaviours is a good thing. To answer your question specifically: no, we have not made an assessment of the effectiveness of that campaign.

Senator COLBECK—You say that there is no financial contribution. Does the program have any impact on the operations at the border?

Mr Starr—I am not an expert on the operations, but really the show follows people doing their work, so the impact is minimal. The benefits would far outweigh the cost of staff time.

Dr O'Connell—When the Biosecurity people come on later, they could let you know if there is any

difference. I have seen the filming happening at the airport and it is pretty straightforward. As Mr Starr says, it follows a standard pattern of work and does not appear to distract or interfere as far as I could see.

Mr Starr—No.

Dr O'Connell—Certainly our import people could give you any other information later today.

Mr Starr—The other important factor is that our staff are very happy to participate in that because it

demonstrates the important work they do.

Senator COLBECK—Do you have a process of staff signing off to agree to involvement?

Mr Starr—I will have to check on that. I do not think we have a formal process, but certainly we ask staff if they are prepared to participate. For most of the communication things we do we have a talent release form. I suspect that we do not have it in this case, but we do ask staff if they are happy to participate.

Answer:

Staff who agree to be involved in filming or photography, including for the TV program *Border Security*, at an airport or other location sign the production company's standard talent release form to authorise the use of their image.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2009

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: CPD 05

Division/Agency: Corporate Policy Division

Topic: Advertising and marketing since November 2007

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Nash asked:

How much has the Department spent on advertising and marketing since November 2007?

Answer:

Please see response to CPD 15.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2009

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: CPD 06

Division/Agency: Corporate Policy Division

Topic: Division 7A Hansard Page: Written

Senator Heffernan asked:

- 1. In your answer to Budget Question CPD 03, you state DAFF was not consulted in relation to the Division 7A measure prior to the Budget but now state they are in consultation with Treasury. Why now and not before? Is this an oversight, I would have thought it only makes sense to receive feedback from a department that has responsibility for agricultural issues, please explain why you're liaising with DAFF now and not before Budget?
- 2. From the Treasury discussion paper that was released and closing date for submissions was 3 July 2009, why didn't DAFF make a submission on behalf of the rural sector/agriculture?

- 1. This appears to be a question to Treasury and we understand that department will respond.
- 2. While the department did not make a formal submission, the views of portfolio stakeholders were conveyed to the Treasury.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2009

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: CPD 07

Division/Agency: Corporate Policy Division

Topic: Breakdown of Ministerials received by the Department in 08-09

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Colbeck asked:

- 1. How many Ministerials were received by the Department from the Minister's office in the 2008-2009 financial year? And from 1 July 2009 to now?
- 2. How many Ministerials were processed by the Department in this period?
- 3. What is the breakdown of senders of these Ministerials by:
 - a. a/ Government Members or Senators
 - b. b/ Coalition Members or Senators
 - c. c/ Individuals and/or organisations
- 4. What was the average time for the processing of a Ministerial (i.e. the period between being received by the Minister's office and being sent by the Minister's office) in 2008-2009? What was the average time for 2007-2008? And from 1 July 2009 to now?
- 5. What was the average time for the processing of a Ministerial from a Government Member or Senator? And for a Coalition Member or Senator?
- 6. What is the breakdown of Ministerials by Departmental division/agency in the period 2008-2009?
- 7. How many Ministerials in the period 2008-2009 were sent back from the Minister's office to the Department for amendment?
- 8. How many briefs (or similar) were provided to the Minister in the period 2008-2009? How many were agreed to or approved? How many were not agreed to or approved?

- 1 In 2008-09, 13 304 ministerials were received in the department from the minister's office. From 1 July to 19 October 2009, 2284 ministerials were received.
- 2 All ministerials received in the department from the minister's office in this period were processed through the department's ministerial workflow system, with appropriate action taken on a case by case basis.
- 3. The department does not maintain statistics that categorise ministerials by these sender groups.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2009

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: CPD 07 (continued)

4. The department does not maintain processing statistics based on these parameters.

The department has target turnaround times for providing draft responses to the minister for his consideration. In 2007-08, 53 draft responses sent to the minister were recorded as overdue. In 2008-09, 87 draft responses sent to the minister were recorded as overdue. From 1 July to 19 October 2009, 15 draft responses sent to the minister were recorded as overdue.

- 5. See answer 3.
- 6. The table below provides a breakdown of the percentage of draft ministerial responses provided to the minister for consideration in 2008-09, for each division of the department:

Division	Percentage of draft ministerial responses provided to the minister for consideration in 2008-09
Australian Bureau of	
Agricultural and Resource	
Economics	0.2%
Agricultural Productivity	18.2%
Australian Quarantine and	
Inspection Service	9.1%
Biosecurity Australia	1.4%
Bureau of Rural Sciences	0.5%
Climate Change	34.2%
Corporate Finance	0%
Corporate Policy	9.3%
Corporate Services	0.4%
Product Integrity Animal and	
Plant Health	11.4%
Sustainable Resource	
Management	12.1%
Trade and Market Access	3.3%

- 7. 527.
- 8. The department provided 1626 briefs (not including question time briefs) to the minister in 2008-09. Of these, 898 were agreed to, approved or noted and nine were not agreed. The remaining items were one or more of: "for information" briefs or meeting and event briefs not requiring decision; briefs returned to the department seeking further information or discussion; briefs superseded by events; or briefs not returned as of 30 June 2009.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2009

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: CPD 08

Division/Agency: Corporate Policy Division

Topic: Departmental Resources for the Minister's Office

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Colbeck asked:

- 1. What Departmental resources (e.g. human, multimedia, stationery, other) are currently assigned within the minister's office?
- 2. What is the financial value of these resources?
- 3. Are there any changes expected to this during 2009-2010?

- 1. The department assigns resources to the minister's office in accordance with the guidance issued by the Department of Finance and Deregulation in the Australian Public Service Commission's publication *Supporting Ministers*, *Upholding the Values*. This includes covering costs such as human resources (two departmental liaison officers), supply of vehicles for the minister, information technology (eg computers and printers), communications (eg telephones and facsimiles), office equipment, purchase of periodicals (eg newspapers) and general office supplies.
- 2. The budgeted value of the departmental human resources assigned to the minister's office for 2009-2010 is \$262,840. The overall departmental budget for the minister's office in 2009-2010, inclusive of human resources, is \$944,652.
- 3. No.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2009

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: CPD 09

Division/Agency: Corporate Policy Division

Topic: Departmental employees in Minister's office

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Colbeck asked:

- 1. How many Departmental employees were assigned to the Minister's office on a casual or temporary basis in the period 2008-2009?
- 2. And for what lengths of time?
- 3. And for what purpose?
- 4. Who pays for these staff, the Department or the Department of Finance & Deregulation?
- 5. Have any staff left the Department to work for the Minister's office on a permanent basis since the start of 2008?

- 1. The department maintains two departmental liaison officers working in Minister Burke's office. In 2008-2009, 31 departmental officers worked in the minister's office in a temporary capacity during staff leave or absences, including early 2008 before most ministerial staff had been appointed following the election of a new government.
- 2. Departmental liaison officers are generally appointed for a period of around 12 months. The tenure of departmental officers who have worked in a relief role varies from a half day up to 12 weeks in duration.
- 3. To fill relief roles when advisors, departmental liaison officers and administrative staff have been on leave or are absent.
- 4. In accordance with the guidance issued by the Department of Finance and Deregulation in the Australian Public Service Commission's publication *Supporting Ministers, Upholding the Values*, the department is responsible for meeting the salaries of the departmental liaison officers and for 'relief arrangements for personal staff of the minister, where the period of a staff absence is less than 12 weeks'.
- 5. Two departmental officers on leave without pay have or are working in the minister's office under the *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1982*.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2009

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: CPD 10

Division/Agency: Corporate Policy Division

Topic: Departmental employees work in the Ministerial and Parliamentary and

Corporate Communication Branch

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Colbeck asked:

1. How many Departmental employees work in the Ministerial and Parliamentary Branch? How does this compare to 2007-2008 and 2008-2009?

- 2. How many media and/or communications staff are there in the Department?
- 3. How does this compare to 2007-2008 and 2008-2009?

- 1. At 19 October 2009 there were approximately 30.06 full time equivalent (FTE) staff working in the department's Ministerial and Parliamentary Branch. In the equivalent period in 2007-08 approximately 27 FTEs worked on similar functions, and in 2008-09 approximately 28 FTEs worked on similar functions.
- 2. At 19 October 2009 there were approximately 39.65 FTE staff working in the department's Corporate Communications branch.
- 3. In the equivalent period in 2007-08 approximately 54.5 FTEs performed similar media and/or communications functions across the department, and in 2008-09 approximately 49 FTEs performed these functions across the department.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2009

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: CPD 11

Division/Agency: Corporate Policy Division **Topic:** Ministerial media releases and speeches

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Colbeck asked:

- 1. How many requests for media releases from the Minister's office were there in the period 2008-2009?
- 2. And from 1 July 2009 to now?
- 3. How many requests for speeches from the Minister's office were there in the period 2008-2009?
- 4. And from 1 July 2009 to now?
- 5. How many media releases were provided to the Minister's office in the period 2008-2009?
- 6. And from 1 July 2009 to now?
- 7. How many speeches were provided to the Minister's office in the period 2008-2009?
- 8. And from 1 July 2009 to now?

- 1. This information was not recorded.
- 2. This information was not recorded.
- 3. There were 60 requests for speeches from the Minister's office in the period 2008–09.
- 4. There were 28 requests for speeches from 1 July to 31 October 2009.
- 5. There were draft 236 media releases provided to the Minister's office in the period 2008–09.
- 6. There were 41 draft media releases provided from 1 July to 31 October 2009.
- 7. There were 60 draft speeches provided to the Minister's office in the period 2008–09.
- 8. There were 28 draft speeches provided from 1 July to 31 October 2009.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2009

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: CPD 12

Division/Agency: Corporate Policy Division

Topic: Media monitoring Hansard Page: Written

Senator Colbeck asked:

- 9. How much was spent on media monitoring services by the department in the period 2008-2009?
- 10. And from 1 July 2009 to now?
- 11. How many requests for media monitoring services were received from the minister's office in the period 2008-2009?
- 12. And from 1 July 2009 to now? What was the cost of this media monitoring?

- 1. Media monitoring expenditure for 2008 2009 was \$263 032.
- 2. Media monitoring expenditure from 1 July 2009 to 31 October 2009 was \$103 436 (inclusive of GST).
- 3. Media monitoring is a regular service provided across the department and the minister's office on a daily basis. There is the facility for additional specific items to be ordered as needed, which both the department and minister's office use from time to time. The department does not maintain statistics on the requests specifically received from the minister's office.
- 4. See question (3). The expenditure provided in (1) and (2) includes all media monitoring costs for the periods in question.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2009

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: CPD 13

Division/Agency: Corporate Policy Division

Topic: Departmental media releases

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Colbeck asked:

- 1. How many media releases were issued by the Department (or its agencies) during the period 2008-2009?
- 2. And from 1 July 2009 to now?

- 1. During the period 2008-2009, 134 media releases were issued by the department and its four prescribed agencies.
- 2. From 1 July 2009, 26 media releases were issued across the department and its four prescribed agencies.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2009

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: CPD 14

Division/Agency: Corporate Policy Division

Topic: Actual spend of the Corporate Policy Division

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Colbeck asked:

1. What was the actual spend of the Corporate Policy Division, broken down by each of its branches for the period 2008-2009; and from 1 July to now; and the projected figure for 2009-2010.

Answer:

The expenditure by each of Corporate Policy Division's (CPD) branches in 2008-09 was:

- Policy Development (Strategy and Support): \$2,297,825.63
- Policy Development (Economic and Cross-portfolio): \$2,106,046.56
- Ministerial and Parliamentary: \$3,522,755.80
- Corporate Communications: \$3,245,472

The expenditure by each of CPD's branches in the period of 1 July 2009 to 31 October 2009 was:

- Policy Development (Strategy and Support): \$613,000
- Policy Development (Economic and Cross-portfolio): \$539,000
- Ministerial and Parliamentary: \$1,688,000
- Corporate Communications: \$1,641,000

As at 1 November 2009 the current projected expenditure for each of CPD's branches in 2009-10 is approximately:

- Policy Development (Strategy and Support): \$2,228,000
- Policy Development (Economic and Cross-portfolio): \$2,114,000
- Ministerial and Parliamentary: \$4,244,000¹
- Corporate Communications: \$6,655,000²

¹ This includes costs of a new departmental ministerial and secretarial workflow system that is being introduced this financial year.

² As noted in the DAFF Annual Report 2008-09, the department has consolidated its support services: human resources, finance and communications. As such, this includes costs previously attributed across the department and does not represent a net increase in communications-related expenditure.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2009

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: CPD 15

Division/Agency: Corporate Policy Division **Topic: Advertising and marketing campaigns**

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Colbeck asked:

- 1. What was the cost of all advertising and marketing conducted by the Department in 2008-2009 broken down by Division/Agency and by campaign?
- 2. What is the projected cost of all advertising and marketing to be conducted by the Department in 2009-2010 broken down by Division/Agency and by campaign?

- 1. The department conducted one campaign in 2008-2009, "Quarantine Matters!", which cost \$4.3 million (GST inclusive).
- 2. The department is not currently conducting a campaign in 2009-2010. However, some print, internet and radio advertisements continued until 4 July 2009 due to media buying schedules (paid for in the 2008-09 budget) that carried into the first week of July.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2009

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: CPD 16

Division/Agency: Corporate Policy Division

Topic: Election commitments

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Colbeck asked:

1. What is the current status of each Government 2007 election commitment within the portfolio?

2. What has been the financial spend of each commitment?

Answer:

1. The Australian Government's election commitments in this portfolio were outlined in the pre-election documents *Labor's Plan for Primary Industries*, *Labor's Plan for Sustainable Fisheries* and *Securing the Future of Tasmania's Forestry Industry*, and also reflected in the 2008–09 budget statement: *Strengthening Rural and Regional Australia*

These commitments are being, or have been, met through the range of policies, programs and activities as outlined, for example, in the department's 2007–08 and 2008–09 annual reports and the 2007–08 and 2008–09 portfolio budget statements and related material.

For example, initiatives such as Australia's Farming Future and Reef Rescue are being implemented to assist farmers, foresters and fishers prepare for climate change and encourage the use of management practices that improve on-farm productivity while also improving environmental outcomes.

The Australia's Farming Future initiative includes a number of elements: funding for research projects and on-farm demonstration activities; skills and strategy development; assistance to farmers in financial difficulty; professional advice and training; short-term income support and advice; and increasing the leadership and representative capacity of target groups.

New wheat marketing arrangements commenced on 1 July 2008. At 16 November 2009, 26 companies have been accredited by Wheat Exports Australia to export bulk wheat. The Productivity Commission has commenced an independent review into the Wheat Export Marketing Arrangements.

Drought policy reforms are being progressed based on the outcomes of the National Review of Drought Policy to ensure the best possible framework to support farmers facing hardship as a result of reduced rainfall. This is while maintaining the current Exceptional Circumstances assistance for drought affected farmers.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2009

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: CPD 16 (continued)

Rural research and development (R&D) has been strengthened through an increased focus on targeted, high priority R&D, the establishment of the new Rural R&D Council and an increase in ABARE's capacity to provide routine monitoring and reporting of productivity performance in primary industries.

The government commissioned, received and issued a preliminary response to the Independent Review of Australia's Quarantine and Biosecurity Arrangements. A number of interim arrangements took effect on 1 July 2009, including the appointment of an Interim Inspector General of Biosecurity and the consolidation of the department's biosecurity functions into a new Biosecurity Services Group. Scoping work has also commenced on information and communications technology upgrades and on future arrangements for postentry quarantine facilities. New biosecurity legislation is also being developed.

Three new food programs have been implemented—including the \$35 million Regional Food Producers Innovation and Productivity Program to improve the productivity and competitiveness of food industries.

The government has introduced a number of initiatives to help Australia's forest industries to prepare for the future and continue their contribution to regional economies and jobs. These include the Forest Industries Development Fund competitive grants program for value adding initiatives, and the National Climate Change and Commercial Forestry Action Plan, recently endorsed by ministerial councils, to identify and address major knowledge gaps about the impact of climate change on our forest systems and industries.

The government is progressing a comprehensive climate change action plan for fisheries and aquaculture to assist the sector prepare for climate change.

2. The department does not maintain budgetary or expenditure statistics against specific election commitments, unless a commitment directly relates to a particular program. Budgetary and expenditure information on portfolio programs is detailed in the above publications, and has also been provided in response to a number of other questions (for example, APD13, APD15, APD16, APD17, CSD23, CC30 and CC31).

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2009

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: CPD 17

Division/Agency: Corporate Policy Division

Topic: Election commitments

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Nash asked:

What is the status of each election commitment within the portfolio?

Answer:

Please see response to CPD 16.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2009

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: CPD 18

Division/Agency: Corporate Policy Division

Topic: Election commitments

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Nash asked:

- 1. Which election commitments are experiencing slippages?
- 2. Why?
- 3. Where relevant, what are the revised implementation dates?
- 4. What are the implications of this slippage?

Answer:

1-4. Please see response to CPD 16.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2009

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: CPD 19

Division/Agency: Corporate Policy Division

Topic: Electoral Reports Hansard Page: Written

Senator Nash asked:

- 1. Are there plans to publish a full suite of electoral reports on the Department's website?
- 2. If not, why not?
- 3. If so, when?
- 4. What data will be included?

- 1. No.
- 2. The departmental website provides a range of information designed to be of most use to stakeholders.
- 3. Not applicable.
- 4. Not applicable.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2009

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: CPD 20

Division/Agency: Corporate Policy Division

Topic: Electoral reports Hansard Page: Written

Senator Nash asked:

- 1. Does the Department prepare electorate level reports for Ministers?
- 2. What data is included in these reports?
- 3. How often is this updated?
- 4. Why is this material not publicly available?
- 5. If such reports exist, please provide a copy of latest reports?

- 1. The department has not prepared specific electorate level reports for the minister. The department has prepared profiles for the minister's industry visits, which usually include some electorate information. From time to time the department provides other briefing to the minister's office which includes electorate information—for example under the *Commonwealth Grant Guidelines*, the minister is required to advise the Minister for Finance and Deregulation if he approves a grant in his own electorate and as such the department is required to advise if a recommended application falls within his electorate.
- 2. Departmental briefing for the minister's industry visits include a basic profile of the region to be visited (i.e. rainfall, agricultural production, land use, Australian Bureau of Statistic demographic information, Federal and State members of parliament, and whether any areas within electorates are Exceptional Circumstances (EC) declared) as well as information on recipients of portfolio grants in those electorates.
- 3. These briefings are provided on an as-needs basis.
- 4. The information provided in these briefings is drawn from publicly available material (e.g. EC declarations, ABS statistics, industry profiles and grant recipients including location).
- 5. The department has not provided electorate level reports for ministers.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2009

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: CPD 21

Division/Agency: Corporate Policy Division

Topic: Reviews

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Colbeck asked:

- 1. How many reviews (or similar) did the Department conduct in the period 2008-2009?
- 2. And currently? Broken down by review title and dates of start and end (if any).
- 3. What was the total cost of each of these reviews?
- 4. What is the budgeted cost for any incomplete or ongoing reviews?

Answer:

The following major policy reviews were conducted (commenced, completed or underway) in the period 2008-2009 financial year:

Review title	1994 National Recreational Fishing Policy Review
Start date	May 2008
Anticipated	30 June 2011
end date	
Budgeted	\$2 million
cost	

Review title	2008 Dairy Quota Review
Start date	April 2008
End date	8 October 2009
Cost	\$420,000

Review title	Drought Policy Review
Start date	23 April 2008
End date	May 2009
Budgeted	\$3.877 million
cost	

Review title	Feasibility of alternatives to the cancellation provisions under the
	Fisheries Management Act 1991
Start date	June 2008
Anticipated	30 June 2010
end date	
Budgeted	Approximately \$132,500
cost	

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2009

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: CPD 21 (continued)

Review title	Internal government review of biofuels policy
Start date	Announced May 2008
End date	Under consideration by government
Cost	\$62,891

Review title	Primary Industries Ministerial Council Equine Influenza Expert
	Review Panel (PIMC EI)
Start date	Review commissioned by PIMC in November 2008 and commenced
	January 2009
End date	Report received in October 2009 and remains under PIMC
	consideration
Budgeted	Total budgeted cost of \$330,500. Of this, an estimated \$315,000 will
cost	be shared by the Commonwealth and states in accordance with an
	agreed ministerial council formula

Review title	Review of Quarantine and Biosecurity Arrangements (Beale Review)
Start date	February 2008
End date	30 September 2008
Cost	\$1,743,213

Review title	Review of the Sugar Industry Reform Program (SIRP) 2004 to 2008
Start date	April 2008
Anticipated	December 2009
end date	
Budgeted	\$320,000
cost	

Review title	Review of testing protocols of imported seafood
Start date	May 2009
Anticipated	9 December 2009
end date	
Budgeted	\$57,860
cost	