



Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
Budget Estimates 2018-19
Thursday, 24 May 2018
Daily summary

Here is the summary of today's proceedings in the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee estimates hearing.

The committee met from 9.00am until 10.36pm.

The committee called:

- agencies of the Agriculture and Water Resources portfolio, including Animal Health Australia and Australian Livestock Export Corporation, and outcome one and two of the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources.

Topics discussed by the committee included:

- departmental support to the newly established Regional Investment Corporation Board;
- concerns raised by stakeholders in the review of the Intergovernmental Agreement on National Drought Program Reform;
- extension of Regional Forest Agreements;
- funding model and staffing of Animal Health Australia;
- explanation of 'HotStuff', the Heat Stress Risk Assessment model for live exports, and proposed changes to the model;
- number of export permits granted since the 60 Minutes live export footage and the conditions applied to the permits, such as the presence of independent observers and reduced stocking densities;
- existing and proposed penalties for exporting without a permit or for violating conditions of a permit for live export;
- overview of the Moss review, including how Philip Moss was selected to lead the review, the scope of the review and the reporting date of the review;
- progress and cost of the eradication of red imported fire ants;
- pet food, including the department's input into reviews of voluntary pet food standards;
- overview of the changes to import conditions for cut flowers;
- work conducted by the department on the Sustainability Development Goals for which the portfolio has primary responsibility, particularly food security and water; and
- efforts to deal with prickly acacia in Queensland.

The Committee will next meet at 9.00am on Friday 25 May in Committee Room 2R1.