

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON
ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS**



Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development Page Number 5

Hon Colin Tincknell asked:

A1) Who was the recipient of the \$500 000 grant for the Broome yards wash-down project?

Answer: Yeeda Pastoral Company

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Public / Internet

21/03/18

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Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development Page Number 9

Hon Jim Chown asked:

A2) Can the Minister provide a diagram of the new structure of the Department?

Answer:

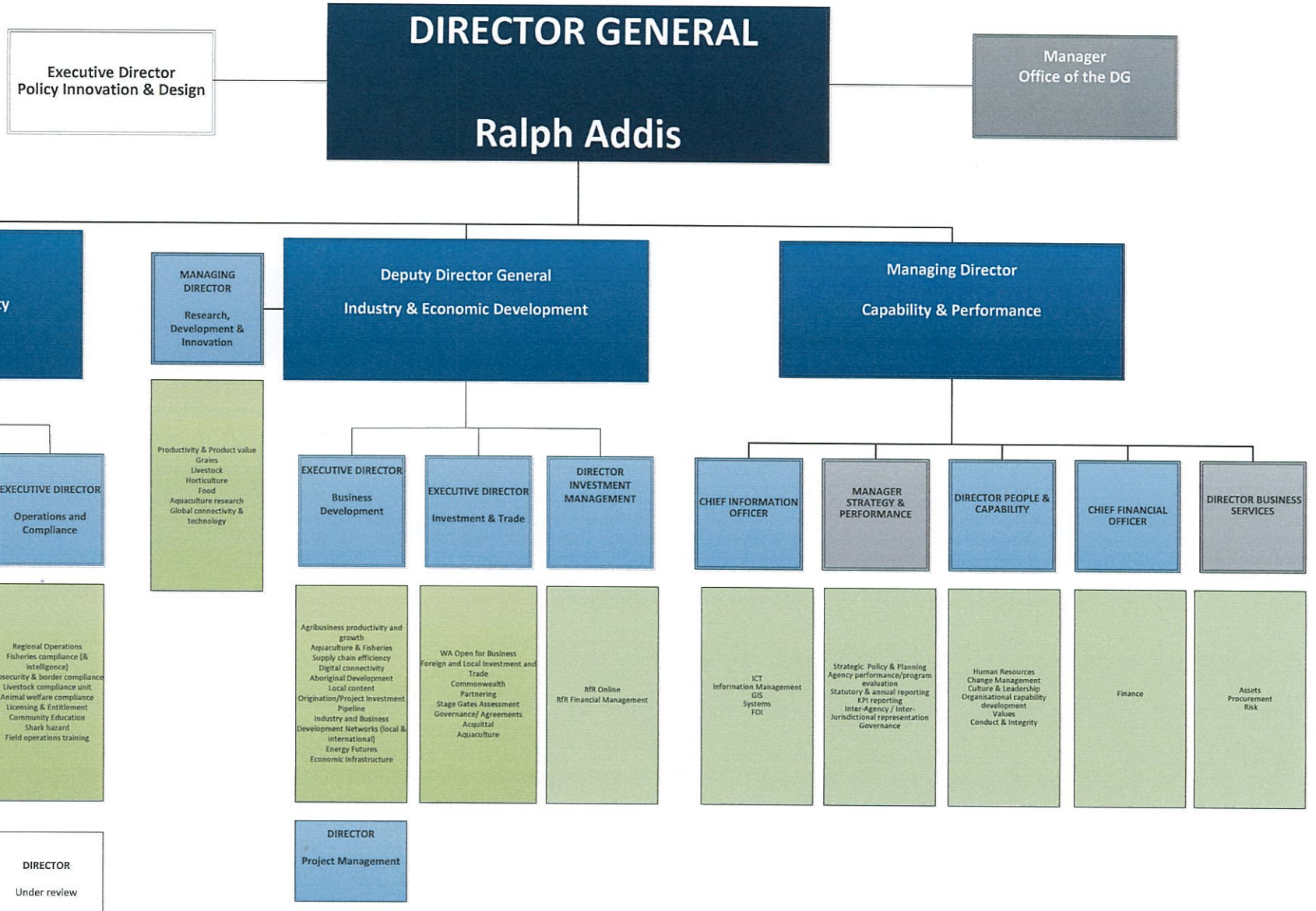
Yes, see tabled paper no.

DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT – NEW STRUCTURE

Updated 22 February 2018

Legend:

- SES position, filled
- SES position, not yet filled
- Non SES position



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Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development Page Number 10

Hon Dr Steve Thomas asked:

A3) Which fruit flies have been eradicated and when?

Answer:

Year detected	Year Eradicated	Fruit fly species	Area from where it was eradicated
1979	1981	Mediterranean fruit fly	Carnarvon – note that area was reinfested in 1985 as controls preventing fruit movement were not in place
1989	1991	Queensland fruit fly	Perth Metropolitan area (western suburbs)
1995	1996	Queensland fruit fly	Lathlain
1995	1996	Mediterranean fruit fly	Ord River Irrigation Area
1997	1998	Mediterranean fruit fly	Ord River Irrigation Area
2000	2001	Mediterranean fruit fly	Ord River Irrigation Area
2003	2003	Mediterranean fruit fly	Ord River Irrigation Area
2011	2011	Queensland fruit fly	Highgate
2015	2015	Mediterranean fruit fly	Ord River Irrigation Area
2015	2016	Queensland fruit fly	Perth Metropolitan area (Alfred Cove)



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Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development Page Number 11

Hon Dr Steve Thomas asked:

A4) In "Service 5 Biosecurity and product integrity", and in particular I am interested in the co-investment in the indicators on page 151.

How much is included in each indicator, whether it is levies or whatever, if that can be identified?

Answer:

No levies are included in the co-investment amount. The co-investment in Service 5 for 2016/17 was from the private sector (86%); Commonwealth sources (10%) and Co-operative Research Centres (4%).

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Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development Page Number 11

Hon Dr Steve Thomas asked:

- A5)** Provide the number of employees in the Department of Agriculture whose wages were actually funded by Royalties for Regions.

Answer:

As at the 30 June 2017, the Department of Agriculture and Food had 56 employees funded full time by Royalties for Regions programs. A further 114 staff had a proportion of their role funded from Royalties for Regions Program.

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Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development Page Number 12

Hon Aaron Stonehouse asked:

A6) What is the cost of the trial using thermal sensors attached to aircraft and drones to detect feral pigs?

Answer:

The trial cost \$235,200.

What component was funded by the state of Western Australia, if any?

Answer:

The trial (\$235,200) was funded from the State of Western Australia via the Royalties for Regions Boosting Biosecurity Defences Biosecurity Research and Development Fund.

What was the outcome of that trial?

Answer:

The trial demonstrated the proof of concept that feral pigs could be detected under forest canopy using aerial thermal imagery, warranting further investigation of the application of the technology.

How is the data being used to eradicate feral pig populations and what the Department's plan is to integrate that data into its approach to feral pigs?

Answer:

The Department used the data to successfully gain \$360,478 in federal grant funding under the Commonwealth's Control Tools and Technologies for Established Pest Animals and Weeds Program for expenditure on further development of the technology between July 2017–2019.

The Department is now using this Commonwealth funding to evaluate the sensitivity of aerial thermal imagery to quantify feral pig densities before and after control activities.

This work is being undertaken in conjunction with Recognised Biosecurity Groups and will potentially allow biosecurity groups to quantify feral pig populations and determine the effectiveness of control programs. Upon completion the findings will be promoted through the network of biosecurity groups so it can be adopted in their control programs.

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Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development Page Number 13

Hon Aaron Stonehouse asked:

- A7) On page 57, referring to the section entitled “Reducing red tape to increase competitiveness” and the Regulatory Burden Reduction project task force, can you give examples of red tape reductions and place a dollar figure on savings achieved.

Answer:

Red tape reduction initiative	Estimated annual savings achieved
Streamlining the cattle feedlot approval process (from 2 years to 6 weeks)	\$400,000 per proponent
Repeal of the <i>Marketing of Potatoes Act 1946</i> to deregulate the ware potato industry in Western Australia	\$2.2 million per annum
Introduction of the MyPestGuide app for reporting pest incidents by the community and industry	\$221,000 per annum
Introduction of Smarty Grant processing system for on-line assessment and payment of grants to eligible recipients.	50% time saving for the disbursement of grants to eligible recipients

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