

ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

FORMAT FOR QUESTIONS ON NOTICE AND ANSWERS TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia (DAFWA)

Hon Darren West asked:

1) *Regarding the Agricultural Ministers Forum:*

a) *Did Western Australia have representatives at both Agricultural Ministers Forum meetings?*

Answer: Yes

b) *What was discussed about biosecurity?*

Answer:

At the meeting in Brisbane in November 2015 the following biosecurity topics were discussed:

- Overview of National Biosecurity System
- Red Imported Fire Ants
- Fruit fly
- National Livestock Identification System for Sheep & Goats

At the meeting in Auckland in May 2016 the following biosecurity topics were discussed:

- Key biosecurity issues in New Zealand
- An Australian perspective on biosecurity opportunities and challenges
- Inter Government Agreement on Biosecurity (IGAB) progress report
- Biological control of carp and rabbits
- Red Imported Fire Ants (RIFA) independent review
- Preparedness for foot and mouth disease
- Exercise Odysseus final report



Hon Alanna Clohesy asked:

2) *Is there a shortage of free-range eggs in Western Australia?*

Answer:

There has been no reported impacts on supply following the announcement in March that Consumer Affairs Ministers have agreed to a new national standard for labelling “free range” eggs which will operate as an information standard under the Australian Consumer Law.



Hon Ken Travers asked:

3) *Based on the information in the accommodation business case:*

a) *What is the estimated cost of the new DAFWA headquarters?*

Answer: Approximately \$224 million.

b) *What are the key elements identified as part of that business case?*

Answer:

The business case developed by the Department of Finance focused on consideration of three options:

1. Existing South Perth Site refurbishment.
2. New build on the existing DAFWA site.
3. New build on the current DPaW site.

c) *What is the time frame for completing the project definition plan, starting construction of the building and the department actually moving in?*

Answer:

The Project Definition Plan (PDP) is due to be finalised by the end of this year.

Subject to the PDP and funding approval it could be possible to proceed to tender by mid-2017, with a planned building completion by mid-2019.



Hon Rick Mazza asked:

- 4) *On page 694, under “Significant Issues Impacting the Agency”, in the second dot point you talk about —*

Independent analysis has determined that doubling the value of the State’s agrifood sector is achievable.

How much did that independent analysis cost?

Answer: The contract was valued at \$59 875 including GST.



Hon Lynn MacLaren asked:

- 5) *Do you have any specific detail about Western Australia's efforts to expand the [live export industry] market into Vietnam?*

Answer:

Vietnam has been a rapidly developing market for Australian live cattle since 2011. DAFWA has engaged with Australian and Vietnamese companies to better understand the market opportunities for beef and live cattle in Vietnam including market specification, customer preferences and growing market segments.

DAFWA has also assisted WA companies to investigate alternative business models for the Vietnamese market which may have the potential to increase the value of the market to WA.



Hon Ken Travers asked:

- 6) *The client survey used to populate your effectiveness indicators asks respondents to rate the department's performance from 0 to 10. You have amended the related survey so as to now report scores of 5 or more, whereas you previously reported scores of 6 or more. Doesn't a score of 5 represent a 'neutral' rating?*

Answer:

No. Three survey questions ask respondents to rate the department's impact on the profitability, innovativeness and sustainability of their industry. The actual question asked of each respondent is:

"Using a scale from 0 to 10 where 0 is 'Had no impact at all' and 10 is 'had a very strong impact', how much impact would you say the Department has had over the last 12 months on..."

As such, a score of 5 represents a moderate level of impact rather than a neutral impact.

- 7) *Has the department changed its performance indicators as a result of changing and expanding its number of service delivery areas?*

Answer: No.

- a. *What is the department doing to get a standard set of service delivery and performance indicators which are independent of your service delivery areas?*

Answer:

Increasing the number Services and changing the scoring arrangement of our effectiveness indicators are the only changes we have made to our current suite of Outcomes, Services and Indicators since they was adopted in 2012.



Hon Peter Katsambanis, Deputy Chair asked:

- 8) *Why have you adjusted the budget target for your 2016-17 Effectiveness Indicators downwards compared to the budget target that you set in 2015-16?*

Answer:

The department has four effectiveness indicators: the first of these relates to co-investment by other parties in department-led initiatives; the other three stem from the annual client survey.

The co-investment target was reduced in response to the winding up of the Australian Government's Cooperative Research Centre program; a scheduled drop in co-investment by the Australian Export Grains Innovation Centre (AEGIC); and the possible transfer of some research to the proposed, collaborative grains research facility.

Survey targets were reduced to reflect changes necessitated by the loss of some 500 department staff since 2010. As reported in the department's 2015 Annual Report (page 130), this has required the curtailment of some longer-standing services that industry participants have come to expect; and to sharpen the department's focus on those businesses that aspire to grow rather than the sector as a whole. The department believes both of these changes have impacted the survey results. The department expects the situation will slowly improve over coming years as the value of the sector continues to increase.

