



The Hon. Adam Marshall MP
Minister for Agriculture
Minister for Western New South Wales

Budget Estimates 2019-20 – Tuesday 10 September 2019

Portfolio Committee No. 4 – Industry

Agriculture and Western New South Wales

Questions Taken on Notice

Question 1 (Page 14 of transcript)

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Is the dominant purpose of this to preserve the species for alpha repopulation? Is that what we are talking about here?

Mr ADAM MARSHALL: That is right, yes. The idea is that those fish that are rescued will be taken back and put back in place where they were taken from. In the interim, we will be breeding from those fish so that at the end, when conditions return to normal, while we will be taking thousands out we will be putting millions back in. It is anticipated it will be the—

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Are you talking about Murray cod and golden perch?

Mr ADAM MARSHALL: I am talking about all the native fish species, but they are the big ones. They are the focus of Menindee but there are other species in various parts of the State.

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: On notice, can we get a list of what has been transported?

Mr ADAM MARSHALL: Rather than taking it on notice, it might be a case that we can actually grab—

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: No, it is okay; we can move on, Minister.

Mr ADAM MARSHALL: —that information and provide it in the afternoon session rather than waiting 21 days. We can get that information.

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Thank you, Minister; that would very useful. In case it is begun next week, when is the program finishing?

ANSWER:

DPI Fisheries staff have relocated Murray Cod, Golden Perch and Silver Perch as part of the current rescue operation on the Lower Darling River.

Question 2 - 4 (Page 15 - 17 of transcript)

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: Why did the New South Wales Government wait nearly six months to appoint its Fresh Milk and Dairy Advocate?

Mr ADAM MARSHALL: The appointment of that advocate is an election commitment and, like all election commitments, the Government will be delivering on those. There was a lot of consultation in relation to that specific election commitment and the appointment of Mr Zandstra. There was a lot of consultation with the industry and a lot of consultation with the Federal Government as well because after the State Government made its election commitment around appointing a Fresh Milk and Dairy Advocate, the Commonwealth Government announced that it would be appointing a fresh milk specialist to work within the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission [ACCC] to help the whole supply chain process and make sure that farmers got a fair share of the profits in that supply chain. Now that we understand what the Commonwealth Government is doing, we have appointed Mr Zandstra because there was a bit of confusion about how its fresh milk specialist would work and what role they would have in the ACCC. The State Government wanted to make sure that in making its appointment, it was not duplicating or cutting across what the Commonwealth Government was doing but was making an appointment that would complement that work. It is working very well and I am very confident—

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: Was there confusion from the State Government about what the role was?

Mr ADAM MARSHALL: No, about the—

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: You said there was confusion about the role.

Mr ADAM MARSHALL: Yes, about the Federal Government's—

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: Yes, that is right, about the new ACCC milk commissioner—

Mr ADAM MARSHALL: Correct, yes.

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: —or milk specialist, I should say.

Mr ADAM MARSHALL: A milk specialist to work within the ACCC.

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: That is right. So who was confused?

Mr ADAM MARSHALL: We just needed to seek some clarity from the Federal Government about the role and what that would be, what function that individual would have when appointed, and, as I said, we needed to do a lot of consultation with industry about the appointment.

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: Can you outline the consultation?

Mr ADAM MARSHALL: The consultation?

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: Yes. You said there was consultation with the industry. Why did the consultation happen after and not before the announcement?

Mr ADAM MARSHALL: I cannot speak to the consultation that was taken before the election in terms of the election commitment, although I understand the dairy industry knew about the commitment and was very supportive of it. The consultation that I undertook after the election was not about the position itself but about the individual who should occupy the position.

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: How was he selected?

Mr ADAM MARSHALL: A number of names were put forward by industry, a number of names were considered and put forward by the department and, in the end, Mr Zandstra was selected.

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: Was there a formal process to nominate someone? Was there an opening of nominations or was this an informal process?

Mr ADAM MARSHALL: There was a process as such in that industry was asked who would be ideal, who had the experience, who would industry be comfortable with. The department also weighed in on that.

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: Was that a formal process or was this just a series of conversations?

Mr ADAM MARSHALL: It was a series of conversations and meetings with industry.

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: How many other names were put forward?

Mr ADAM MARSHALL: I would have to take that on notice. I do not have that information to hand.

ANSWER:

Several candidates were considered informally based on numerous discussions with industry stakeholders.

Question 3 (Page 16 of transcript)

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: Is there anyone else who can tell us how many other names were there?

Mr ADAM MARSHALL: Mr Hansen? **Mr HANSEN:** No, we will have to take that on notice. I do not have it.

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: Minister, were you aware of any other names?

Mr ADAM MARSHALL: Yes, I was.

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: How many other names were you aware of?

Mr ADAM MARSHALL: I would have to take that on notice. I do not have that detail in front of me.

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: I have to say that this is the worst estimates.

Mr HANSEN: We will have to take on notice what that total number was.

ANSWER:

Five formal expressions of interest were received.

Question 4 (Page 17 of transcript)

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: Were any of the candidates interviewed?

Mr ADAM MARSHALL: They were not formally interviewed but discussions were had, yes.

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: I am sorry, what do you mean by "discussions were had"? There was either a formal interview process or there was not.

Mr ADAM MARSHALL: No, there was not. There were discussions held with industry about who should occupy that position. Mr Hansen may be able to provide some advice on that.

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: I have to say that this is the worst estimates.

Mr HANSEN: We will have to take on notice what that total number was.

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: Was there a formal beginning date to the selection process or did you just have a bit of a chat with the industry, they gave you some names, you had a bit of a think about it, the department put a few names in and somehow they came up with someone?

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: This is like the—

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: Catherine, if you want to ask questions you can take your own time.

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: I am not.

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: Minister?

Mr ADAM MARSHALL: I cannot remember the exact date but it was not long after my appointment. I asked: How do we advance the issue of appointing the advocate and delivering on those election commitments? There were, as Mr Hansen said, a number of names that were suggested both by industry and by the department, CVs were put forward—

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: Minister, I understood what you said earlier and I have limited time. Was the position advertised?

Mr ADAM MARSHALL: Not in terms of advertised as in a public advertising process.

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: Okay, that is fine; it was not advertised anywhere. Was there a formal selection panel?

Mr ADAM MARSHALL: No.

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: Were there any clear criteria? Was there a position description?

Mr ADAM MARSHALL: Yes. We can provide that on notice, for sure.

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: Okay. That would be great. How much will Mr Zandstra be paid?

Mr ADAM MARSHALL: Mr Hansen will have to answer that.

The Hon. TREVOR KHAN: Maybe on notice?

Mr ADAM MARSHALL: Yes, it might be a good one that we can provide in the afternoon session, if that is all right, rather than taking it on notice.

ANSWER:

The Advocate will gather industry input and feedback on the delivery of key NSW Government initiatives to support the dairy industry, including:

- Establishing a NSW DPI dairy business advisory unit
- A campaign to encourage consumption of local fresh milk
- Investment in research and development
- Extension support services
- The NSW Cattle Underpass Scheme

Collaborate with and support the NSW Agriculture Commissioner and ACCC Dairy Specialist to bring processors, retailers and farmers together to discuss the issues affecting the industry, and explore possible solutions.

Act as the chair of the NSW dairy industry advisory panel, to develop a NSW dairy industry action plan with recommendations for industry and government.

Support implementation of the mandatory dairy code and evaluate its effectiveness.

Gather information regarding dairy related matters and their impacts on NSW industry participants to inform decision making.

Represent the NSW Government at industry, regional and community meetings to provide information and identify issues to inform decision making.

Question 5 (Page 22 of transcript)

The CHAIR: Minister, with the commercial fishing reforms, who specifically—including names and roles within NSW DPI—were aware of how the \$16 million subsidy was to be divided across the share market?

Mr ADAM MARSHALL: I am not in a position to answer that, sorry. Mr Hansen?

The CHAIR: You may take that on notice.

Mr ADAM MARSHALL: I think that would be best.

The CHAIR: In taking that on notice, can you also find out who within your Government, including staff, was made aware?

Mr ADAM MARSHALL: Yes, I am happy to do that.

The CHAIR: Are you aware that some commercial fishermen were told by NSW DPI staff to put their best bid forward in the first round as there may not be a second round?

ANSWER:

The people aware of the subsidy budgets for each round of the subsidised share trading market were:

- The Evaluation Panel;
- Evaluation Panel observers; and
- contractors responsible for the algorithm.

Of those people, two were DPI staff, both of whom were on the evaluation panel.

The Director General of the Department of Primary Industries was also aware as a consequence of his role in deciding whether to close the market at the conclusion of each round of trading.

No Government members, Ministers or Ministerial staff were aware of how the subsidy was to be divided across the market.

Question 6 (Page 22 of transcript)

Mr ADAM MARSHALL: No. When was that GIPAA made?

The CHAIR: It would have been made somewhere between 2017 and 2019. I do not have the exact date in front of me.

Mr ADAM MARSHALL: I was just trying to clarify whether it was recently or historically.

The CHAIR: No. I think it might have been before your time. You are probably not aware that that document was not redacted properly and those fishermen now know exactly how the money was allocated.

Mr ADAM MARSHALL: As I said, I am not aware of that GIPAA or that document. Again, I am happy to help you either during or after the hearing.

The CHAIR: I am concerned about why NSW DPI staff would tell commercial fishermen to put their best bid forward in the first round because there may not be a second when it is clear that some people within NSW DPI knew that the majority of the subsidy was going to be withheld until the last round. Tuesday, 10 September 2019
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Mr ADAM MARSHALL: I will ask Mr Hansen to address that.

Mr HANSEN: I am happy to provide you with the list of who was involved from a staffing level on the program.

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 5.

Question 7 (Page 25 of transcript)

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: Is the dairy support unit currently operating?

Mr ADAM MARSHALL: No. One of the advocate's first duties will be to establish an industry advisory committee and then work with Mr Hansen and the NSW DPI to have that business unit established as quickly as possible.

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: How many full-time equivalents should there be in the unit?

Mr ADAM MARSHALL: I will ask Mr Hansen to cover that.

Mr HANSEN: Currently, we have four staff in our dairy unit. We are looking to add an additional two staff onto that. Parliamentary Budget Office costings for the dairy— **The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS:** Mr Hansen, I will stop you there. The Minister said that the unit is not operating. Is the unit operating?

Mr HANSEN: Currently, we have dairy officers operating in the field at the moment. Are they under Ian Zandstra and badged as a dairy business advisory unit? No. That is what they will be when they come together under Ian Zandstra to bring together all of their expertise and their activities. They will then be bolstered with additional staff numbers.

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: With two additional staff?

Mr HANSEN: That is right.

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: That is a rebadging of existing departmental resources.

Mr HANSEN: A reprioritisation, yes, with the exception of the additional two staff.

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: What are the duties of the additional two staff?

Mr HANSEN: I would have to take that on notice but, in essence, their job is to work with the existing staff and to take business extension activities out to the field to help individual dairy businesses identify where they need to be improving, whether in farm productivity, energy costs: What are the key facets for them in terms of business profitability and what paths might we have available, either within New South Wales or more broadly across Dairy Australia's research portfolios, to help them with their individual businesses?

ANSWER:

Additional staff include:

- Development Officer – responsible assisting with the delivering of the Government commitments to the dairy industry.
- Manager – responsible for strategic leadership for the Dairy team. This role will be key in liaising with the Fresh Milk and Dairy Advocate on industry matters.

Question 8 (Page 26 of transcript)

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Did they seek advice from either you or your departments in respect to the positions that they should be adopting at COAG?

Mr ADAM MARSHALL: We have discussions all the time, both as colleagues and around the Cabinet table, about the Government's position on all sorts of issues. I am not at liberty to disclose those.

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: I accept that, but that was not my question. My question was: Did they seek any advice from your department?

Mr ADAM MARSHALL: Yes. I cannot speak for the department. Mr Hansen?

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Mr Hansen, did the Deputy Premier or the water Minister seek any advice from the department before they made that statement?

Mr HANSEN: I would have to take that on notice because it is more likely that water agency sought advice from our departmental officers in providing the briefing up through to their Ministers.

ANSWER:

No.

Question 9 (Page 27 of transcript)

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: What advice have you provided in the past 12 months in respect to the Barwon-Darling Water Sharing Plan?

Mr HANSEN: None—actually, I would have to take that notice. I am not aware of what conversations might have occurred on that.

ANSWER:

A representative from DPI Fisheries participated in an Inter-Agency Working Group relating to the Barwon Darling Water Sharing Plan.

Question 10 (Page 28 of transcript)

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: How often do you meet with your Parliamentary Secretary?

Mr ADAM MARSHALL: Pretty regularly.

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: Do you have a regular meeting time or is it ad hoc?

Mr ADAM MARSHALL: No, it is ad hoc when Parliament is sitting. We chat on the phone or text or what have you. Michael is not just my Parliamentary Secretary, he is also a parliamentary colleague.

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: Mr Johnsen, how many briefings have you received from the department?

Mr MICHAEL JOHNSEN: I could not tell you that number off the top of my head.

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: Do you want to take it on notice?

Mr MICHAEL JOHNSEN: I am happy to do that

ANSWER:

Three.

Question 11 (Page 30 of transcript)

Ms CATE FAEHRMANN: I would like to ask a few questions in relation to the clean energy solutions plan on the Department of Primary Industries' website. Are you aware of that?

Mr ADAM MARSHALL: The department conducts many research activities—I think over 500 individual research activities and projects across the State at the moment—and a number of them are focused around the issue of climate change-related research.

Ms CATE FAEHRMANN: I am just wondering how something like this is reported. What is the progress of it, this year's Project 1: Clean energy solutions underneath your climate change research strategy.

Mr ADAM MARSHALL: I will ask Mr Hansen to talk about that.

Mr HANSEN: Maybe we can provide on notice the most current update in terms of progress on that individual project. It is action on an individual project, it is one of three portfolio programs and it is funded under the Climate Change Research Strategy. This one is looking particularly at energy projects to support clean energy and local energy solutions for primary producers in New South Wales. I do not have in front of me the progress on individual projects within that, but we can have that for this afternoon.

ANSWER:

The purpose of 'Project 1 - Clean Energy Solutions' is to fund innovative energy projects to support clean energy and local energy solutions for primary producers.

Project 1 and Project 2 (Energy Efficiency Solutions) are progressing together to demonstrate feasible solutions to address local energy supply needs.

Progress

- NSW DPI, in conjunction with various branches of government and industry have hosted a series of large rural community forums focusing on energy related opportunities for the agricultural sector in the 21st Century. The forums are organised and supported by project funds (project 1 - clean energy solutions, project 2 - energy efficiency solutions) and are tailored to meet regional interests and needs. They provide a comprehensive overview on farm energy use and highlight its impact on profitability both now and into the near future, with costs expected to rise.
- Minister Marshall launched a \$2.25 million program to fund assessment and piloting of energy optimisation options in NSW intensive industries on the 13th of Sep. The program combines funding from the energy efficiency solutions project (project 2) and the clean (project 1). Projects 1 and 2 are linked through pilots in order to capture synergies between improving energy use (demand side practices & technologies) on the one hand and introducing new sources of energy (supply side technologies) on the other. These pilots aim to accelerate investment supporting NSW transitioning to clean energy. Project 1

is also bridging the gap between current clean energy supply/storage options and energy usage patterns both in regions and on-farm.

- DPI is also finalising negotiations with a delivery partner to undertake a regional/industry case study to identifying long term energy efficiency, low emissions generation and supply stability solutions.

Reporting

- Details about the Energy forums and the recently announced pilot program can be found on NSW DPI's website under:
<https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/climate-and-emergencies/climate-change-research-strategy/energy-efficient-solutions>
- The Climate Change Research Strategy is funded under the NSW Governments Climate Change Fund (CCF). Monthly progress is reported to the CCF Implementation Committee which oversees progress across all projects.

Question 12 (Page 32 of transcript)

The Hon. EMMA HURST: Yes, of course. Thank you. My understanding is that around half of New South Wales agricultural income comes from plant agriculture. How much does the Government spend in assisting and promoting plant-based agriculture compared to the animal agriculture industry?

Mr ADAM MARSHALL: I probably would have to take that on notice or perhaps we can source that information ahead of this afternoon. I just do not have the detail in front of me, that is all.

The Hon. EMMA HURST: If you can take that on notice, that would be fantastic.

Mr ADAM MARSHALL: Yes, sure.

ANSWER:

This question was answered later during the hearing

Mr HANSEN: We are doing a lot to promote the growth of plant industries in New South Wales. I think a question we had before was around the amount of money we have invested in plant research versus animal research. We have got a portfolio of projects in the plant production research area of \$163 million. Our livestock productivity research portfolio is \$55 million.

Question 13 (Page 33 of transcript)

The CHAIR: Minister, are you aware that the Sydney Fish Market recently released a report where it specifically stated that the commercial fishing reforms had an impact on its annual revenue? It has also released figures that show that around 50 per cent of its seafood that it sells now at the Sydney Fish Market is imported, not caught in New South Wales waters.

Mr ADAM MARSHALL: I am not familiar with that report, but I have regular discussions and meetings with the outgoing General Manager of Sydney Fish Market, Bryan Skepper, and Grahame Turk, the Chairman of Sydney Fish Market. I also understand that the amount of seafood that is fished domestically versus imported from overseas does fluctuate from time to time. There is a number of commercial fishers who will choose to not market their catch domestically; they will choose to market it overseas because they can get a better price.

The CHAIR: The figures have been pretty steady around 51 per cent to 56 per cent over the past couple of years; that is not much of a fluctuation. Moving on to Aboriginal cultural fishing, there was legislation passed in 2009, which has section 21AA, which allows or supports Aboriginal cultural fishing. That was passed in 2009. We are now 10 years on. Can you give a commitment to the Aboriginal people that that will actually be enacted in your term of government because it sits there unacted upon?

Mr ADAM MARSHALL: Enacted?

The CHAIR: Yes.

Mr ADAM MARSHALL: I am not aware that it has not been enacted. I am happy to talk to you about that, but I am not familiar with it being not enacted. I do not know if anyone has got anything to add to that or I can just take it on notice and come back to you and the Committee?

The CHAIR: Yes.

Mr ADAM MARSHALL: That is fine. Mr McPherson or Mr Turnell?

Mr TURNELL: We have been doing a fair bit of work with some of the Aboriginal communities about trying to progress this. There has been a bit of difficulty engaging with some of the representative groups. At the moment we are progressing a trial, looking at—I am just trying to find my reference material.

The CHAIR: Ten years is a long engagement process. I would have hoped that you would have taken some steps before 10 years.

Mr TURNELL: There are some very different expectations across some of the groups in the Aboriginal communities, so we are trying our local management plan approach to try to address some of the issues.

The CHAIR: Do you have a time frame?

Mr TURNELL: That is out of my hands, I am sorry.

Mr ADAM MARSHALL: I am happy to take it on notice and come back to you, Mr Chairman.

ANSWER:

Local Management Plans are currently being developed and trialled.

Question 14 (Page 35 of transcript)

Mr TURNELL: There are some very different expectations across some of the groups in the Aboriginal communities, so we are trying our local management plan approach to try to address some of the issues.

The CHAIR: Do you have a time frame?

Mr TURNELL: That is out of my hands, I am sorry.

Mr ADAM MARSHALL: I am happy to take it on notice and come back to you, Mr Chairman.

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 13.

Question 15 (Page 35-36 of transcript)

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Do you have data as to where geographically these ones are going?

Mr HANSEN: We do. We do have by postcode.

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: On notice can you provide that to us?

Mr HANSEN: Sure.

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: Including a year-by-year breakdown.

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: A year-by-year breakdown as well?

Mr HANSEN: Yes, okay.

ANSWER:

See below the number of FIF loans issued per financial year since 2017-18 (noting that the FIF began in February 2015), and the total value of loans:

- 2017-18: 418 loans approved worth a total of \$76,041,670
- 2018-19: 518 loans approved worth a total of \$97,719,072
- 2019-20: 96 loans approved worth a total of \$22,849,544.

Question 16 (Page 36 of transcript)

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Is the State taking any security from any of the farms that are involved?

Mr HANSEN: Yes.

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: How do we do that? What are we securing the loans against?

Mr HANSEN: Against farm assets, whether that be the property itself or against assets on the farm.

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Are we going on the second schedule? Are we mortgaged or—

Mr HANSEN: No. I will have to take it on notice and I will come back to you before the end of the session but I think we actually take the first.

ANSWER:

FIF loans are secured by way of Statutory First Charge over land offered by the farmer, supported by a caveat registered at the NSW Land Registry Services noting that the Rural Assistance Authority (RAA) has an interest in the land.

If the property is sold, by either the client or a mortgagee, the RAA would be repaid first as per the first charge.

Question 17 (Page 37 of transcript)

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: You pre-empted my next question. Are you engaging with private sector lenders on a formal basis? Is there a forum?

Mr HANSEN: If there is a formal forum, I am not aware of it. I am happy to take that on notice to see if there is one in which our lenders participate. We do get involved in an informal forum on a regular basis in terms of discussions with banks about what they are seeing out there, what trends they are noticing and any issues that they are hearing about from our lending programs.

ANSWER:

No.

Question 18 (Page 37 of transcript)

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Do you know how much principal has been repaid?

Mr HANSEN: No, I would have to take that on notice.

ANSWER:

A total of \$19.3 million in principal has been repaid on FIF loans.

Question 19 (Page 37 of transcript)

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: How many applications were rejected?

Mr HANSEN: So far we have had 186 refused; just under 10 per cent.

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Can you perhaps take on notice the reasons for refusal?

Mr HANSEN: Yes, sure.

ANSWER:

See below the number of refusals per reason:

- 23 for the applicant having unacceptable security
- 102 for the applicant receiving a majority of their income off-farm
- 3 for the application being for an ineligible purpose
- 53 for the applicant being unable to service the loan
- 2 for the value of the loan exceeding the value of the applicant's off-farm assets
- 3 due to the application being withdrawn.

Question 20 (Page 38 of transcript)

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: On notice, are you able to give us the same geographic description about the dispersals?

Mr HANSEN: Sure.

ANSWER:

See below the number of DAF loans issued per financial year, and the total value of loans:

- 2017-18: 109 DAF loans approved and \$1,416,671 disbursed
- 2018-19: 1313 DAF loans approved and \$64,410,343 disbursed
- 2019-20: 76 DAF loans approved and \$5,455,675 disbursed.

Question 21 (Page 38 of transcript)

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: Can you tell me, according to the Food Authority, how many dairy farms we have?

Mr HANSEN: I have taken it on notice. I know it has just completed the results. I think it has dropped just below 600. I think the Minister this morning spoke about 600 dairy farms, which is the last figure that we had, but I think we have just received new data from the Food Authority today, which indicates that it has dropped just below 600. But we can take that on notice."

ANSWER:

586.

There are 602 dairy farms in NSW on the most recent Food Authority Figures, of which 586 are bovine dairy facilities.

Question 22 (Page 39 of transcript)

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: I think the submissions that we received to the dairy inquiry last year said that there were 526. Would that figure have come from Dairy Australia or did that figure come from— would that match up with your figures?

Mr HANSEN: I would have to check the Hansard on that.

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: If you could provide us with the latest figures, what were the previous ones and when were they collected?

Mr HANSEN: Any trends.

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: And if you have any in November last year, that would be useful as well. Has your department undertaken any modelling on what price per litre of milk is sustainable for farmers or what the current production cost is per litre for farmers?

Mr HANSEN: We have looked, through our Farm Dairy Monitor Project, where we monitor input prices and prices received, how people are going in terms of cost reduction. We have not done any modelling about what is required—dollars per litre—to cover those costs, but it would be a simple equation that we could do off that, yes.

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: Is that information available publicly?

Mr HANSEN: Yes, it is. We will make sure you have a copy of it.

ANSWER:

NSW DPI manages the NSW Dairy Farm Monitor Project, analysing 32 farms annually across all dairying regions of NSW for profitability and productivity.

More information about the Dairy Farm Monitor Project is available on Dairy Australia's website: <https://www.dairyaustralia.com.au/farm/farm-business-management/dairy-farm-monitor-project>.

Question 23 (Page 39 of transcript)

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: When was the app launched?

Mr HANSEN: I would have to take that on notice, sorry.

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: Can you tell me how much it cost to develop it?

Mr HANSEN: I will take that on notice as well. That is just the development of the app, isn't it?

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: Yes

ANSWER:

The Drought Feed Calculator App was launched in 2014 and cost \$14,025 to develop. It has been downloaded 20,000 times.

Question 24 (Page 39 of transcript)

Mr HANSEN: Because there is about 100 years' worth of research into nutrition and so forth that has gone into the background of the app. We can certainly get you the number just for the development of the app.

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: If you would like to give us an estimate as to what you think that 100 years' worth of research cost, we will take it, but we will take the app development cost at this point.

Mr HANSEN: Perfect.

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: Can you tell me how many people have used it, downloaded it? Do you keep records?

Mr HANSEN: We do actually, yes.

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: Excellent.

Mr HANSEN: And not just records of Australian downloads; it is actually being downloaded internationally and therefore we have those figures and statistics as well.

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: That would be fantastic—anything you have on record on that.

I move to the Farm Tracker app. Can you tell me about the Farm Tracker app?

Mr HANSEN: I am not going to be able to tell you as much as I did about the drought feeding app so, no, I will have to take that one on notice.

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: That is fine. I am just seeking the same information—when was it launched, how many people have used it and how much did it cost?

Mr HANSEN: Cost of development, yes.

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: Beautiful, thank you very much.

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Any marketing costs incurred as well?

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: Yes, for both?

Mr HANSEN: Okay.

ANSWER:

The Farm Tracker app was launched in October 2018. It cost an estimated \$99,000 to develop, including staff time.

Question 25 (Pages 40-41 of transcript)

Mr JUSTIN FIELD: Do you know if your department was consulted or Primary Industries was consulted by WaterNSW about the decision to take additional water from the Shoalhaven and transfer it to Sydney?

Mr HANSEN: Not that I am aware of. I do not know whether at an officer level or at a lower level it was done.

Mr JUSTIN FIELD: Could you take on notice and provide the committee with a response as to whether or not there were any engagements between the two parts of the department?

Mr HANSEN: Sure

ANSWER:

The Department of Primary Industries was not consulted.

Question 26 (Page 41 of transcript)

Mr JUSTIN FIELD: You say you have consulted with the advisory committee. As I understand, the advisory committee does not exist anymore. Its term has expired and it has not been reappointed.

Mr HANSEN: Its term has expired. The expressions of interest are out at the moment to refill those.

Mr JUSTIN FIELD: When would you expect they would be refilled?

Mr HANSEN: I do have a time frame on that, if you will just bear with me. Before its time expired is when that consultation in stage one was conducted. As I said, I do have—

Mr JUSTIN FIELD: That is all right; I can put that question on notice.

ANSWER:

Nominations closed on Sunday 22 September 2019.

DPI Fisheries will undertake initial assessments and make recommendations for appointment to the Marine Estate Agency Steering Committee.

Question 27 (Page 41 of transcript)

Mr JUSTIN FIELD: Could you take on notice and provide the committee with a response as to whether or not there were any engagements between the two parts of the department?

Mr HANSEN: Sure.

ANSWER:

The rules under which the transfer was made were originally developed by the Metropolitan Regional Panel, of which the Department of Primary Industries is a member.

Question 28 (Page 41 of transcript)

The Hon. EMMA HURST: Mr Hansen, earlier today I think you mentioned that roughly about 95 per cent of slaughterhouses had voluntary CCTV cameras. Do you know much about the 5 per cent that are not using CCTV cameras? Which slaughterhouses are not and why are they not using CCTV?

Mr HANSEN: No, sorry, I do not have that. I will have to take that on notice.

ANSWER:

The 95 percent figure refers to domestic red-meat abattoirs.

There are 15 abattoirs with no CCTV systems in NSW. The individual details are not being provided to protect the privacy of the relevant businesses.

Export meat abattoirs are under the compliance control of the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture.

Question 29 (Page 42 of transcript)

The Hon. EMMA HURST: How many inspections of intensive animal agriculture facilities and how many inspections of slaughterhouses in New South Wales are announced and unannounced? Is there any kind of formulation that is used for random inspections?

Mr HANSEN: That is a good question. I know the total number of audits and inspections; I do not know the breakdown. I know that last year, for example, the Food Authority had over 11,000 inspections. I could not give you a breakdown, with what I have in front of me, of how many were unannounced versus how many were scheduled.

The Hon. EMMA HURST: Could you take that on notice?

Mr HANSEN: Sure.

ANSWER:

Inspections and audits of licensed businesses conducted by the Food Authority are conducted on an unannounced basis, unless there are specific reasons why prior notification needs to be provided.

Question 30 (Page 42 of transcript)

The CHAIR: Was one of those conditions that they had to waive their right to take legal action against the Government if there was an adverse outcome?

Mr HANSEN: I cannot recall that off the top of my head. I will have to take that question on notice."

ANSWER:

Yes, commercial fishers were required to agree to certain conditions before participating in the share trading scheme.

These conditions included acknowledgement that to the maximum extent permitted by law, participants waived any right to bring any action or to make any claim against the State arising (directly or indirectly) out of any negligence, misrepresentation, breach of this document or the Market Rules, or conduct which is likely to mislead, deceive or confuse on the part of the State in relation to the Market or the Transactions.

Question 31 (Page 43 of transcript)

The CHAIR: Would you agree that one of the premises of Mr Elliot's argument was that there were not any mud crab shares to purchase as they had all been bought and sold prior to the opening? Would you agree that that was the crux of his argument against the Government?

Mr HANSEN: I do not know enough of the detail of Mr Elliot's argument.

The Hon. LOU AMATO: You can take it on notice.

The CHAIR: Yes, you can take in on notice. Does anyone else know the crux of the argument?

Mr HANSEN: I am happy to take that on notice and come back to you

ANSWER:

The crux of the argument made by Mr Elliot is detailed in the judgment of the Supreme Court: *Elliott v Minister administering Fisheries Management Act 1994* [2018] NSWSC 117. In essence, Mr Elliott was challenging the legality of the government's reforms and specifically as they relate to the mud crab fishery. Mr Elliot also made a number of arguments about the number of mud crab shares allocated to him and the method in which they were allocated.

Note that the Supreme Court dismissed the case. An appeal made by Mr Elliot to the NSW Court of Appeal was also dismissed: *Elliott v Minister administering Fisheries Management Act 1994* [2018] NSWCA 123.

Question 32 (Page 43 of transcript)

The CHAIR: Does that extend to all classes?

Mr McPHERSON: I would have to take that on notice.

ANSWER:

The share limit for various fisheries are below:

- Lobster Fishery: 350 shares
- Abalone Fishery: 210 shares
- Estuary General, Ocean Hauling, Ocean Trap and Line, Ocean Trawl and Estuary Prawn Trawl fisheries: 40 percent.

Fishing Businesses can be owned by individuals, companies and partnerships. Fishing business owners may transfer shares in accordance with the relevant regulations. How business owners structure their business is a matter for the business owner.

Given the structure of how commercial fisheries management fees are determined, fishers are able to transfer shares between fishing businesses to minimise their fee liability.

Question 33 (Page 43 of transcript)

The CHAIR: You might need to take my next question on notice as well. Does that include all fishing businesses? I draw you back to the question I asked about fishermen having multiple fishing businesses and essentially shell companies. Could a fisherman who has shell companies spread those shares across their shell companies to hide the fact that they are essentially going above that cap or quota? Is that possible?

Mr McPHERSON: I understand what you are saying. I would have to take that on notice to make sure I give you a correct answer on that.

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 32.

Question 34 (Page 43 of transcript)

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: On notice, are you able to provide us where they are going and when they are going?

Mr McPHERSON: Absolutely.

ANSWER:

The Share Appeal Panel will hold hearings at the locations and on the dates below:

- Ballina – 22 and 23 October 2019
- Coffs Harbour – 25 October 2019
- Newcastle – 13, 14 and 15 November 2019
- Nowra – 26 November 2019

Question 35 (Page 46 of transcript)

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: That would be very useful. Are they subject to rules of evidence?

Are they applying the rules of evidence?

Mr McPHERSON: I would have to take that on notice.

ANSWER:

Section 86 (1) (c) of the *Fisheries Management Act 1994* spells out that the panel is not bound by the rules of evidence but may inform itself on any matter in any way it thinks appropriate.

Question 36 (Page 46 of transcript)

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: No, how did people know they could lodge an appeal?

Mr McPHERSON: All fishermen who were allocated shares in the process were notified of the fact that we were establishing the panel and of their rights to appeal.

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: I am told it is not listed on the website.

Mr McPHERSON: We will check that but I am pretty sure all the information is up on the website.

ANSWER:

Information about the Share Appeal Panel is available on the Frequently Asked Questions page for the Commercial Fishing Business Adjustment Program on the DPI website: <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/commercial/reform/share-appeals-frequently-asked-questions>

Question 37 (Page 48 of transcript)

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: When you modelled the \$386 fee what process did you use? Did you benchmark it to other appeal panels?

Mr McPHERSON: I would have to take that on notice.

ANSWER:

The \$386 fee was determined based on the application fee payable for share appeals in 2007 when the fisheries concerned first became share managed fisheries, and then adjusted for inflation.

The \$386 fee was not benchmarked to other appeal panels.

Question 38 (Page 48 of transcript)

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: I presume this is a no-cost jurisdiction?

Mr McPHERSON: I am not sure, sorry. I can take that on notice.

ANSWER:

Yes, NSW is a no-cost jurisdiction for the purposes of the Share Appeal Panel.

Question 39 (Page 49 of transcript)

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: I return to the Share Appeal Panel. Mr McPherson, you said that fishers who had eligible shares were notified. When did that take place?

Mr McPHERSON: I will have to take that on notice, the exact date."

ANSWER:

Letters dated 31 October 2018 were sent to all relevant fishing business owners notifying them of their ability to lodge an appeal to the Share Appeal Panel.

Question 40 (Page 49 of transcript)

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: To be fair, I am asking you about those you have sent.

Mr McPHERSON: We can take that on notice and get you a list of the records of notification.

ANSWER:

Letters dated 31 October 2018 were sent to all relevant fishing business owners notifying them of their rights to make an appeal to the Share Appeal Panel.

Information about the Share Appeal Panel is also available on the DPI website.

Question 41 (Page 50 of transcript)

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: Does the Minister have the capacity to waive the appeal fees?

Mr McPHERSON: Sorry, I will take that on notice and get back to you on that one.

ANSWER:

Yes.

Question 42 (Page 50 of transcript):

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: How much has been spent? How much was the budget for this?

Mr McPHERSON: Sorry, I will have to take the exact budget on notice. We can get back to you on that, hopefully.

ANSWER:

The total estimated cost is approximately \$160,000, including approximately \$20,600 this financial year.

Question 43 (Page 51 of transcript):

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Was any advice prepared as to whether there were perhaps structures that were more independent that could have been utilised in this respect?

Mr HANSEN: Not that I am aware of, but I am happy to see whether there were.

ANSWER:

No. The current Share Appeal Panel process is a structure that was used for the initial share allocation process for the five relevant share management fisheries in 2007.

Question 44 (Page 51 of transcript):

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Was the industry consulted in any way, shape or form as to the design of this particular panel and the appeal process?

Mr HANSEN: I will have to take it on notice.

ANSWER:

No. The structure that was used for the initial share allocation process had been used for the five relevant share management fisheries in 2007.

Question 45 (Page 52 of transcript)

Mr JUSTIN FIELD: Yes, but which of the two I just mentioned from the speech, "[One] will pilot development of a strategic land use map in one regional area of the State. The second pilot will involve development of two strategic biodiversity certification applications in the agricultural context." They are direct from the second reading speech which you mentioned before. This large area code that is being developed in a pilot, which of these two options that were raised in the Minister's speech does that relate to?

Mr WITHERDIN: I will take that one on notice and come back to you with further information.

Mr JUSTIN FIELD: That would be appreciated. The consultative group that you mentioned, who is on that?

ANSWER:

The focus, scope and approach for the pilots mentioned in this speech was subsequently refined and adapted by the former Minister's Office and Local Land Services (LLS) as follows:

- The Pilot run in the North West of the State was to focus on examining whether a strategic biodiversity certification approach to agricultural development was possible, including exploring whether the pathway to delivering strategic biodiversity assessment and the Biodiversity Offset Scheme was fit-for-purpose for agricultural development and use by the Native Vegetation Panel.
- The Pilot run in the Monaro Grassland Pilot to focus on examining whether it was possible to use remote sensing (satellite and aerial photography) to map high conservation grassland areas, and to test the Interim Grasslands and other Groundcover Assessment method. Both aspects would then inform the development of a strategic land use map in the future.

Question 46 (Page 52 of transcript)

Mr WITHERDIN: I do not have that list in front of me. I did see it earlier today but there is a range of landholders out around that Walgett region from probably Coonamble, south of there, and a similar radius right around there that are representative of a range of farmers and sort of farming practices there. But I will be happy to make that detailed list available to you.

Mr JUSTIN FIELD: I would appreciate it if you could take that on notice. When was the consultative group established?

ANSWER:

Landholders participated on condition that it was confidential. Releasing the names of landholders that participated in the study would therefore be prejudicial to privacy and may breach commercial confidentiality.

Question 47 (Page 52 of transcript)

Mr WITHERDIN: My understanding is that was established—I would need to confirm the detail, but it would have been early in 2018, I expect.

Mr JUSTIN FIELD: Do you know if any of the members of that consultative group have been beneficiaries of the amnesty that was recently announced by the Ministers?

Mr WITHERDIN: I do not know that, no.

Mr JUSTIN FIELD: Would you be able to take that on notice as well?

Mr WITHERDIN: I am very happy to take it on notice.

ANSWER:

There has been no amnesty announced.

Question 48 (Page 53 of transcript):

Mr JUSTIN FIELD: Is there a sort of terms of reference that were developed to guide the work on the development of this code or this pilot process?

Mr WITHERDIN: Of the pilot process? I would need to take that on notice, but I certainly understand there is and I am happy to provide that. We are just working through the early stages at the moment of what a new code will look like. I understand there were eight individual landholders involved with the Walgett pilot and we can provide the details of those to you.

ANSWER:

There were no formal terms of reference

Question 49 (Page 53 of transcript):

Mr JUSTIN FIELD: Could you also provide on notice how landholders were informed about the opportunity to come to that presentation?

Mr WITHERDIN: Yes, sure. I am happy to do that.

ANSWER:

LLS staff invited the existing study participants to attend the final presentation.

Question 50 (Page 54 of transcript)

The Hon. EMMA HURST: You mentioned that there was one dog in a high-impact research project. Do you have any details of that high-impact research and whether there was death as an end point in that research project?

Dr FILMER: No, I do not.

The Hon. EMMA HURST: Can you take that on notice?

Dr FILMER: Yes.

ANSWER:

For the 2017-18 reporting year, one domestic dog was reported as being used in the high impact category of “major surgery with recovery” (where pain is controlled by the use of anaesthetics and analgesics). Further information specific to individual research projects and animals is not collected by NSW DPI.

Question 51 (Page 54 of transcript)

The Hon. EMMA HURST: I am wondering about the use of primates bred and held for research in New South Wales. Do you know what number of baboons are currently being held for medical research in New South Wales?

Dr FILMER: Yes, I can give you those details. There are three accredited establishments but only two have baboons. There are 38 in total being held at the moment.

The Hon. EMMA HURST: Are other monkeys being used as well?

Dr FILMER: No, baboons. There are some marmosets, sorry.

The Hon. EMMA HURST: How many marmosets?

Dr FILMER: I do not have the details of the marmosets.

The Hon. EMMA HURST: Can I get that on notice, please.

Dr FILMER: Yes.

ANSWER:

There are no marmosets currently held for medical research purposes in NSW.

Question 52 (Page 55 of transcript):

The Hon. EMMA HURST: In regard to exhibited animals, NSW DPI is the enforcement agency for the Exhibited Animals Protection Act. How many zoos, circuses and other animal exhibits are licensed under the Act across New South Wales?

Dr FILMER: There are nine circuses across New South Wales. I do not have the numbers for the zoos. Sorry, I will have to take that on notice.

ANSWER:

For the purposes of licencing under the Exhibited Animals Protection Act 1986, zoos are included under the 'fixed establishment licence' category. There are 62 licensed fixed establishments in NSW.

Off-display establishments are also licensed under the Act. There are 51 licensed off-display establishments in NSW.

Question 53 (Page 55 of transcript):

The CHAIR: Is there any advice given to fishermen before they go forward in this appeal process that spells that out quite clearly? Is there something that comes before that letter after they have essentially paid their money that pretty much tells them that they have Buckley's chance of winning an appeal?

Mr McPHERSON: I will take it on notice exactly but I am pretty sure the grounds for appeal was spelled out.

ANSWER:

The Department sent a letter on 31 October 2018 notifying eligible shareholders that they had been issued quota shares and an information sheet explaining how the number of new quota shares had been calculated was also provided.

In the letter, the Department also notified shareholders that they had a right to make an appeal to the Share Appeal Panel and the date by which applications must be made as prescribed by the relevant regulations.

Eligible shareholders were also provided with an application form and notified of the fee, and that a separate fee applied to each class of quota share that they sought to appeal.

At this time, the Department had also published on its website further information outlining the process for making appeals, the fees applicable and the grounds for making appeals. The website information also provided links to the relevant legislation and regulations that prescribe the grounds for appeals.

The Share Appeal Panel has also since written to appellants regarding the grounds for appeal and its procedures in determining appeals.

Question 54 (Page 57 of transcript):

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: When did the period for applications for appeals close?

Mr McPHERSON: We will have to take that on notice. We can give you the list of dates of the various actions.

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Was it November last year?

Mr McPHERSON: As I said, I would have to take that on notice.

ANSWER:

The closing date for appeals to the Share Appeal Panel was 28 November 2018.

Question 55 (Page 57 of transcript):

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Did any of them trade?

Mr McPHERSON: We would have to take that on notice, but I do not think they did, from memory.

ANSWER:

No shares subject to appeal have been traded.

Question 56 (Page 58 of transcript):

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Is there anything that can be done to accelerate this process that the department is aware of? Is it possible to provide more resources, given that we have people waiting for at least a year in order for their appeals to be resolved and they have effectively a frozen asset?

Mr HANSEN: We will take on notice what can we do to assist the panel in fast-tracking it or not fast-tracking, but making sure there are no further delays in that process.

ANSWER:

The Share Appeal Panel have scheduled their meetings and hearing schedules to ensure that the process is done as expeditiously as possible.

The Share Appeal Panel has afforded eligible shareholders the option of electing to have their appeal heard in person or in writing as a way to reduce the time and cost imposed on the shareholders.

Note that the procedure of the Share Appeal Panel is, subject to the Fisheries Management Act 1994 and the regulations under that Act, determined by the Panel.

Question 57 (Pages 58-59 of transcript)

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: What is the full-time equivalent of the Food Authority right now?

Mr HANSEN: Eighty-six.

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: How many of them are inspectors?

Mr HANSEN: Actually 102 total staff; Food Safety officers are 86.

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Do you have trend numbers on that for the past few years?

Mr HANSEN: The year before was 83 Food Safety officers; the year before that was 83 and the year before that was 91.

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Are there any vacancies currently?

Mr HANSEN: I would have to take that on notice. I do not know whether there is or not.

ANSWER:
Yes. Three

Question 58 (Page 59 of transcript)

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: It is close to—I would not dare say a third, but it is not far from it—a quarter drop in the number of inspections being undertaken. Any insight as to why that potentially could be the case?

Mr HANSEN: Obviously, we also utilise local government officers in terms of inspections in a number of facilities. I do not know whether they picked up more in that space. I would have to take that on notice.

ANSWER:

There was a spike in inspections of food transport vehicles and retail meat premises inspections in 2015/16. This coincided with an increase in licenses issued for these licence categories in that financial year. Over time licence numbers for these two categories have significantly dropped, hence there has been a drop in inspections, based on each category receiving at least one inspection/audit per year.

With regard to inspections done by agencies other than the Food Authority, the Food Authority has appointed 128 councils (in respect of their own local government area), the Office of Environment and Heritage (in respect of Kosciusko National Park), and the Lord Howe Island Board (in respect of Lord Howe Island) as enforcement agencies under the Food Act 2003. Activities relate to the food retail sector (e.g. restaurants and cafes). These agencies have the power to issue improvement notices.

Question 59 (Page 59 of transcript):

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: I presume that you were utilising those same inspectors in the year 2016-2017 as well?

Mr HANSEN: It might well be we are using them in a different way. I would have to take it on notice.

ANSWER:

Refer to Question on Notice #58 response.

Question 60 (Page 59 of transcript):

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: On notice can we get an explanation. It could be innocent, but if we can have precisely what it was. How many fines did they issue? Actually, let us step this through: In terms of their powers, do they have the ability to issue improvement notices?

Mr HANSEN: Yes.

ANSWER:

Across NSW in the food retail sector in FY 2016-17*:

Warning letters - 11,962

Improvement notices - 1836

Penalty notices - 1839

Seizures - 46

Prohibition orders - 202

Prosecutions - 18

Inspections - 62,571

* includes Food Authority in respect of Sydney Harbour Federation Trust and the unincorporated far west

Question 61 (Page 59 of transcript)

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: On notice, can you give us the figures for the number of warning letters that have been issued in the last three years? Can I ask specifically about the other categories now? How many prohibition orders were issued in the last year?

Mr HANSEN: The number of prohibition orders issued by the Food Authority was 16 last year, 19 the year before and 29 the year before that.

ANSWER:

Warning letters issued by the Food Authority over the last three years:

2018/19 = 48

2017/18 = 54

2016/17 = 86

Question 62 (Pages 59-60 of transcript)

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: How much money was collected in fines through the issuing of infringement notices? Could you get that for us?

Mr HANSEN: I am sure I can, yes.

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: That would be great. You can provide it on notice or later in the day. It is up to you. Does the authority operate on a risk-based approach?

Mr HANSEN: Yes.

ANSWER:

Penalty Notice fines (Infringement notices) issued by the Food Authority over the last three years:

2018/19 = \$102,190

2017/18 = \$122,540

2016/17 = \$150,040

Question 63 (Page 60 of transcript):

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: It is up to you whether you would like to take this question on notice or provide us with a brief answer now. Do you have the categories?

Mr HANSEN: No, I would have to take that on notice.

ANSWER:

Licence categories:

- Animal food field depot
- Animal food field harvesting
- Animal food processing plants
- Animal food processing and rendering plant
- Abattoir - poultry
- Abattoir - poultry & game meat processing
- Abattoir - poultry & poultry primary production
- Abattoir - poultry & red meat
- Abattoir - red meat
- Rendering
- Knackery
- Game meat primary processing plants
- Game meat field depot
- Game meat field harvesting Meat retail
- Meat processing plants
- Meat & seafood processing plants
- Meat & dairy processing plants
- Meat, dairy & seafood processing plants
- Meat, dairy & plant product processing plants
- Meat, seafood & egg product processing plants
- Meat, seafood & plant product processing plants
- Meat & plant product processing plants
- Meat, dairy, seafood & plant processing plants
- Meat, dairy, seafood, plant & egg product processing plants
- Dairy processing plants
- Dairy & seafood processing plants
- Dairy & plant product processing plants
- Dairy & egg product processing plants
- Plant Product processing plants
- Seafood processing plants
- Seafood & plant product processing plants
- Oyster farmers
- Oyster farmers & seafood processing
- Shellfish wild harvest
- Handling wild caught seafood
- Egg Processing plants
- Egg primary production
- Egg & poultry primary production
- Egg & dairy primary production
- Poultry primary production
- Poultry & dairy primary production

- Dairy primary production
- Dairy primary production and processing plants
- Farm milk collectors (raw milk transport)
- Food transport vehicles
- Food storage not requiring temp control (dairy)
- Cold food storage (meat, dairy, seafood, plant & egg products)
- Food service to vulnerable persons

Question 64 (Page 60 of transcript):

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Has the authority undertaken any targeted inspections of hospitals in the past 12 months or 36 months?

Mr HANSEN: I would have to take that on notice.

ANSWER:

Hospitals are audited/inspected under the Vulnerable Persons Food Safety Scheme.

Audits/inspections conducted over the past 36 months are as follows:

- 2018/19 = 303
- 2017/18 = 334
- 2016/17 = 341

Question 65 (Page 60 of transcript):

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: What about aged care facilities?

Mr HANSEN: I would have to take that on notice and come back to you.

ANSWER:

Aged care facilities are audited/inspected under the Vulnerable Persons Food Safety Scheme.

Audits/inspections conducted over the past 36 months are as follows:

- 2018/19 = 964
- 2017/18 = 1077
- 2016/17 = 1164

Question 66 (Page 60 of transcript):

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Can you also take on notice information on same-day aged care services, respite services, delivered meal organisations and prisons?

Mr HANSEN: Yes.

ANSWER:

Same-day aged care services, respite services, delivered meal organisations and prisons are audited/inspected under the Vulnerable Persons Food Safety Scheme.

Audits/inspections conducted over the past 36 months are as follows:

- 2018/19 = 93
- 2017/18 = 111
- 2016/17 = 1108.

Question 67 (Page 60 of transcript):

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Does the authority have the power to shut down a venue?

Mr HANSEN: Do you mean does it have the power to shut down the venue or to stop the venue from serving food?

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Either.

Mr HANSEN: It can definitely shut down the service of food. I would have to take on notice whether it can shut the broader venue down.

ANSWER:

The Food Authority has the power to issue Prohibition Orders under Section 60 of the Food Act 2003. The Prohibition Order can prevent the sale of food by the food business. Preventing the sale of food in effect causes the food business to cease trading but does not impact on other activities a venue may undertake. The Prohibition Order can only be lifted once the food business complies with the requirements in the Prohibition Order and a Certificate of Clearance is issued by the Food Authority.

Question 68 (Page 60 of transcript):

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Can you take on notice how many venues it has shut down in the last three years?

Mr HANSEN: Yes.

ANSWER:

Prohibition orders issued (preventing the sale of food) over past three years:

- 2018/19 = 5
- 2017/18 = 13
- 2017/16 = 9

Question 69 (Page 61 of transcript)

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: Absolutely. That is the crux of my questioning. When did you give up the lease?

Dr MOLTSCHANIWSKYJ: I would have to take that on notice. It would be before 2017. It would be before they took it up.

ANSWER:

The NSW Department of Primary Industries ceased to have the lease in July 2012.

Question 70 (Page 62 of transcript)

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: I am happy for you to provide this on notice but could you tell me of the hatcheries, what proportion do they provide in terms of the spat for New South Wales? That would be useful. Could you also tell me what their capability is to upscale if required?

Dr MOLTSCHANIWSKYJ: Is that for both species?

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: Yes, please.

ANSWER:

Answer provided later in the hearing (page 69-70):

Dr MOLTSCHANIWSKYJ: And the oyster questions: 80 per cent of oyster spat in New South Wales is wild caught, 20 per cent is hatchery, Southern Cross—

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: So 80 per cent is wild caught and 20 per cent is hatchery?

Dr MOLTSCHANIWSKYJ: Southern Cross produces around 10 million southern rock oysters, Camden Haven produces one million to two million, the Moruya hatchery is yet to come online, Victoria is coming back online, Queensland does a large number of runs of southern rock oysters and Pacific's are all imported from Tasmania. We think we have roundabout five million to 10 million come in in the past 18 months.

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: The vast majority of the southern rock oysters comes from—

Dr MOLTSCHANIWSKYJ: Wild caught.

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: The vast majority that come from hatcheries is that there are 10 million that come from Tomaree and there are only one million that come from elsewhere. We are looking at a pretty significant hit if we do not resolve the problem. Thank you very much

Question 71 (Page 62 of transcript)

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Are seven of them currently vacant?

Mr McPHERSON: I would have to take that on notice to check. I think that is right.

ANSWER:

There are currently seven Commercial Fishing NSW Advisory Council member positions vacant.

The expression of interest period ends on 29 September 2019.

Question 72 (Page 62 of transcript)

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Of course. I am not disputing that there is a two-year period. How long have the positions been vacant for?

Mr McPHERSON: I would have to take that on notice. I do not have the exact date that they expired.

ANSWER:

The Commercial Fishing NSW Advisory Council positions became vacant in May 2019.

Question 73 (Page 62 of transcript)

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: You said that the terms expire every two years and that half the board expires every two years. Is that at the start of the financial year?

Mr McPHERSON: Sorry, I would have to take the exact date on notice for you.

ANSWER:

The terms of appointment for any given member of the Commercial Fishing NSW Advisory Council are for up to three years from the date of appointment.

Question 74 (Page 63 of transcript)

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Have you received any applications so far?

Mr McPHERSON: I will take that on notice, but I imagine there would be some."

ANSWER:

Yes

Question 75 (Page 65 of transcript)

The Hon. EMMA HURST: Do you think it will be, or will it only go to those stakeholders for feedback do you think?

Dr FILMER: I am not sure. I can take that on notice.

ANSWER:

The rehoming guidelines are a set of voluntary guidelines for use by animal research establishments.

The rehoming guidelines were released for targeted consultation on 6 September 2019.

Over 400 stakeholder groups, representing animal welfare groups, research establishments, rehoming organisations and veterinary groups, have been invited to provide feedback on the guidelines before 1 November.

Question 76 (Page 66 of transcript)

The Hon. EMMA HURST: I am curious. How many full-time equivalent employees within the DPI are responsible for enforcing the Exhibited Animals Protection Act and its succession of regulations and standards?

Mr HANSEN: We might need to take that one on notice. We will get the number for you while we are here.

ANSWER:

Answered subsequently during the hearing (page 74)

There are 65 Biosecurity and Food Safety inspectors that are authorised under the Exhibited Animals Protection Act. Of those, 11 handle the majority of exhibited animal compliance and enforcement activities due to the small number of licensees within these sectors.

Question 77 (Page 66 of transcript)

The Hon. EMMA HURST: The DPI website also states that your inspectors regularly visit the animal exhibitions in New South Wales to make sure that they are doing the right thing. On average—and I am happy again for you to take this question on notice—how many audits are conducted by the DPI in respect to a single facility such as the zoo, circus or mobile animal exhibition each year?

Mr HANSEN: We will have to take that on notice.

ANSWER:

One audit per year, per licensed exhibited animal establishment.

Question 78 (Page 66 of transcript)

The Hon. EMMA HURST: How many audits are planned versus unannounced audits? How many inspections has the DPI conducted in the past 12 months?

Mr HANSEN: Yes, I will take that on notice.

ANSWER:

Compliance audits are announced. Inspections are carried out during audits. In 2018/19, 92 audits of exhibited animal establishments were conducted.

Question 79 (Page 66 of transcript)

The Hon. EMMA HURST: How often would an animal exhibitor receive an unacceptable audit result? What would need to have happened for an exhibitor to fall into that category?

Dr FILMER: An exhibitor would obviously have to not be complying with the licence requirements to fall into that category. As to the frequency, I cannot give you a number. I will have to take that on notice.

ANSWER:

In 2017/18, there were no unacceptable results (0%).

In 2018/19, 2 out of 92 audits were unacceptable (2.17%).

Question 80 (Page 66 of transcript)

The Hon. EMMA HURST: Is it an automatic unacceptable audit result if they breach their licence?

Dr FILMER: I have to take that on notice.

ANSWER:

It is possible to record an unacceptable audit outcome if a licensee does not comply with legislative or licence conditions.

Question 81 (Page 67 of transcript)

The CHAIR: Will you confirm the total budget allocated to research at DPI Fisheries, including moneys that have been used from recreational fishing trusts? I am happy if you need to take that on notice.

Mr HANSEN: I will quickly see if I have got it here or if anyone can help, otherwise we will have to take that on notice. Sorry, I will have to take that on notice.

ANSWER:

Answered later in the hearing:

Mr HANSEN: Before we leave that topic, you asked a question before about how much money goes to fisheries research?

The CHAIR: Yes.

Mr HANSEN: The amount is \$45 million.

Question 82 (Page 72 of transcript)

Mr WITHERDIN: We have had interactions with local government on weeds. The model of delivery of the Weeds Action Program is we devolve the funding through to local government to deliver this.

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: How much funding is there?

Mr WITHERDIN: In 2018-19 under that program there was \$12.5 million.

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Was that all acquitted?

Mr WITHERDIN: That is my understanding.

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Is it the same budget for next year? **Mr WITHERDIN:** I do not have that information at my fingertips unfortunately for 2019-20. I do not know whether Mr Hansen does?

Mr HANSEN: No. We will take it on notice

ANSWER:

Funding is currently under consideration.

The final allocation to State and Regional projects is yet to be confirmed.

Question 83 (Page 74 of transcript)

The Hon. EMMA HURST: Is the DPI routinely notified of animal cruelty convictions and is there a system in place so that they are notified if an employee or a director of an exhibited animal facility is charged with or convicted of animal cruelty?

Dr FILMER: I will have to take that on notice, in terms of the actual mechanism of that happening. The compliance part of biosecurity and food security administers that licensing system. It would have a better knowledge of that than I do.

ANSWER:

DPI has been informed of such matters when they have occurred.

Question 84 (Page 74 of transcript)

The Hon. EMMA HURST: Thank you. Going back to issues around licences for animal exhibitors, are you aware that Shoalhaven Zoo in Nowra currently offers a "Zoo to You" service, which, according to its website, allows you to add a wombat to your guest list for your next big event?

Mr HANSEN: No, sorry. That is the first I have heard of that.

The Hon. EMMA HURST: You have not heard of that? Can you explain what kind of licence or permit would have been required to offer that kind of service and how it would have been determined that a sensitive native animal such as a wombat would be suitable to be transported between venues for contact visits with children?

Mr HANSEN: I must admit, that is rather unique. I will have to take that one on notice. I am not sure.

ANSWER:

Fixed-display establishments can apply for the temporary removal of animals for display. Before an approval for temporary removal is granted, the applicant must satisfy transport and display requirements against the Standards for exhibiting animals during temporary removals in NSW.

Question 85 (Page 74-75 of transcript)

The Hon. EMMA HURST: You might need to take this question on notice as well. Wombats can be quite aggressive when they are handled because they are easily frightened, and they are known to bite people quite hard—

The Hon. TREVOR KHAN: Are you stereotyping all wombats?

The Hon. EMMA HURST: Yes, they are a bit aggressive, Trevor. Don't mess around with them. Can you could provide on notice any information about whether the wombat has been surgically altered in any way for this particular purpose.

Mr HANSEN: Certainly. What was the detail of that facility again?

ANSWER:

The Department is not aware of any surgically altered wombats.

Question 86 (Page 76 of transcript)

The CHAIR: The wording of it just seemed a little bit strange. The Hawkesbury bioregion has a sewage input that exceeds 1.3 million litres per day, primarily from the Sydney deep ocean outfalls. There is equal concern from recreational and commercial fishers that there is a significant detrimental influence on all stages of the fish population from that, particularly within that plume area from the deep ocean outfalls. Can you advise us as to whether there has been any level of testing done on our fish stocks around those sewage outfalls and whether there has been any results from that testing?

Mr TURNELL: I am not aware of the issue, I am sorry.

Mr HANSEN: We would have to take on notice whether there has been any testing of those stocks.

ANSWER:

The Department, including the Food Authority, has not undertaken any fish stock testing.

Question 87 (Page 77 of transcript)

The CHAIR: Is the Recreational Fishing Trust Executive Officer paid out of that?

Mr TURNELL: Yes, he is as well. That is a different part.

The CHAIR: Is he classed as an administration cost?

Mr TURNELL: We do for the purpose of our platforms, yes.

The CHAIR: Is that a full-time salary package?

Mr TURNELL: It is a full-time position in DPI, yes. **The CHAIR:** Is he responsible for the overall coordination and financial management of the trust? Is that part of his role?

Mr TURNELL: Pretty much, yes. And for also coordinating, I think, it is 168 active projects that we have on the go.

Mr HANSEN: It is 186.

The CHAIR: Is that Mr Bryan van der Walt? Is that correct?

Mr TURNELL: That is correct. **The CHAIR:** How is the trust fund audited?

Mr TURNELL: There are audits each year by the government auditing service. I think we have also probably had two external audits in the past five or six years that I can recall, at least.

The CHAIR: Are you confident that all the DPI projects are running on track to deliver what they are funded for?

Mr TURNELL: There might be some that are running a bit behind time, but they are all achievable and recoverable if any are behind time

The CHAIR: Are you able to take on notice which ones are running behind and which ones are not?

Mr TURNELL: Absolutely.

ANSWER:

Table 2. DPI projects from the Recreational Fishing Trust underway and on track

Project title
Aquatic habitat protection and fish conservation - Greater Murray NSW
Aquatic habitat protection and fish conservation - South Coast NSW
Assessing population status of native fish, trout and threatened frogs in the Central Tablelands of NSW
Bait Security – building on a solid foundation. To improve access and availability of beachworms to NSW recreational fishers
Boosting our fisheries: stocking NSW estuaries with popular species to enhance recreational fishing opportunities
Building a stronger more sustainable freshwater recreational fishery in NSW
Coastal fisheries officers
Coastal recreational mobile squads
Development of a NSW trout strategy
Dollar for dollar native fish stocking program

Eco fishing huts * Program focus has shifted to NPWS eco hut network, which has recently been expanded
Enhanced Fish Production
Fish Aggregation Devices (FADs) – more places for people to fish
Fishcare – Additional Education Officer, North Western NSW
Fishcare – Volunteers and Education Officers proactively undertaking face to face education of anglers across NSW
Fisheries Enhancement Research and Monitoring Program – Marine Stocking
Fisheries Enhancement Research and Monitoring Program - Regional plan to monitor NSW offshore artificial reefs
Fisheries Management Officer (Inland Angler Access)
Fisheries Management Officer (inland recreational fisheries)
Fisheries Manager (Inland Angler Access)
Fisheries Manager (inland recreational fisheries)
Fishing lures for responsible fisho's
Flagship Habitat Action
Gaden trout hatchery, operational expenditure
Get Hooked...it's fun to fish – providing a fun, interactive recreational fishing program for school students to learn about sustainable fishing
Habitat Action Program - making more fish... naturally
Infrastructure redevelopment at Narrandera Fisheries Centre
Inland fisheries officers
Integrated Angler Monitoring Program: Comprehensive ongoing assessment of recreational fishing in NSW to get better angler catch information quicker and more reliably.
Integrated Monitoring Program (IMP): Comprehensive ongoing assessment of recreational fishing in NSW – 2019/2021 – using state-wide diary surveys and biological sampling from the charter boat fishery
Integrating recreational fishing information into harvest strategies for multi-sector fisheries in NSW
Investigations of nodavirus infection in aquaculture reared Australian bass – dollar for dollar (\$ 4 \$) hatcheries
NSW Fishing Workshops – Fostering new and existing fishers to be the guardians of tomorrow
NSW Fishway Strategy for Fish Passage Remediation at Priority Barriers
NSW Game Fish Tagging Program
NSW Gone Fishing Day 2019 – promoting fishing as a healthy, fun, outdoors activity
NSW Saltwater and Freshwater Recreational Fishing Guides - One stop shop for essential fishing info
Open top pyramid / opera house yabby trap replacement scheme to protect platypus and other wildlife from incidental capture
Recreational Fisher Research Database
Recreational Fisheries Enhancement Co-ordination: Making Reefs and FADs happen
Recreational Fishing Access, Saltwater – maintaining and enhancing land and boat access for fishers along the NSW coast
Recreational Fishing fee awareness program
Recreational Fishing Fee Renewal Notice System
Recreational fishing information – enhancing information to fishers
Recreational Fishing Infrastructure Co-ordination – Enhancing The Shore-based Fishing Experience For Coastal and Inland Fishers
Recreational Fishing NSW Advisory Council (RFNSW) consultation and meeting expenses
Recreational Fishing Trust Executive Officer
RFFTEC meeting expenses
RFSTEC meeting expenses
Servicing our fishers to help ensure our fishing future: Responsible recreational fishing and effective management of fishing competitions

Small grants program freshwater
Small grants program saltwater
Supporting fish hatchery trainees
The Great Swordfish Race - Learning about NSW swordfish: Availability, movement, behaviour and post-release survival of angler caught swordfish off NSW
The New South Wales Research Angler Program
Understanding the variable nature of Blue Swimmer Crab populations in NSW estuaries

Question 88 (Page 77 of transcript)

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: On notice, are you able to provide the committee with the amount of cattle with Q fever, and sheep, goats and wild birds and any other category you keep that we have an interest in?

Mr HANSEN: Our testing facilities at Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute conduct Q fever testing for producers who send in samples for us to test for Q fever. We can give you that data. I am not sure that we will get anywhere near having data about how many animals might be infected by including native animals, but we can see what we can find.

ANSWER:

DPI only has data on numbers of samples submitted for suspected Q fever and whether testing was positive or negative.

Regarding testing of blood for Q fever in the last 12 months EMAI has received the following number of sample submissions of suspected Q fever:

Of 1698 submissions for CFT testing there were positive results in 78 cattle, 23 sheep, 5 deer, 9 dogs and 2 other mammals.

Out of 1269 submissions for Eliza testing 31 cattle and 6 sheep were positive.

A survey was also conducted on Q fever in wildlife as part of a research project. The project involved 255 samples from wild animals which were tested. ELIZA positives were detected in 2 x Eastern Grey kangaroos, 2 x Spotted tail Quolls, 1 x Rabbit, 2 x Wild Dogs.

Question 89 (Page 78 of transcript)

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Are you able to briefly expand on what they have done in the past 12 months and where they are finding this?

Mr WITHERDIN: Specifically, in terms of Q fever or our vets? We have 54 district vets.

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Q fever.

Mr WITHERDIN: We would need to take that on notice. We are happy to do that and provide specific details around it.

ANSWER:

Refer to response to Question on Notice #89.

Question 90 (Page 78 of transcript)

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: Mr Hansen, how often have officers of the NSW Food Authority met with the Macleay River Shellfish Committee [MRSC] since 2016?

Mr HANSEN: I will have to take that on notice.

ANSWER:

Two face to face meetings have occurred. The Food Authority is in regular telephone contact with members of the Macleay River Shellfish Committee to discuss operational issues.

Question 91 (Page 78 of transcript)

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: Okay. I am interested also in the growers' contributions each financial year since 2016. I am also interested to know about the testing that has been conducted in the Macleay River associated with it. Are you aware of any of these issues?

Mr HANSEN: No, sorry.

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: Will you take them on notice and disaggregate the testing by zone and by date? That would be useful.

Mr HANSEN: Okay.

ANSWER:

Annual contributions by the Government to the Macleay River Shellfish Program since 2016 are:

- 2016/17 - \$9,056.05
- 2017/18 - \$9,208.85
- 2018/19 - \$8,820.52

Annual contributions per grower for the Macleay River Shellfish Program since 2016 are:

- 2016/17 - \$400
- 2017/18 - \$1200
- 2018/19 - \$900

Testing dates since 2016 by Zone:

New Entrance Harvest Area

Phytoplankton - 4/01/16, ,19/01/16, 1/2/16, 14/2/16, 29/2/16, 15/3/16, 29/3/16, 13/4/16, 2/5/16, 16/5/16, 29/6/16, 14/7/16, 15/8/16, 6/9/16, 24/9/16, 7/10/16, 26/10/16, 8/11/16, 22/11/16, 5/12/16, 20/12/16, 3/01/17, 18/1/17, 6/2/17, 20/2/17, 8/3/17, 7/4/17, 21/4/17, 7/5/17, 22/5/17, 6/8/17, 20/8/17, 3/9/17, 17/9/17, 2/10/17, 16/10/17, 1/11/17, 20/11/17, 11/12/17, 18/12/17, 3/1/18, 15/1/18, 28/1/18, 11/2/18, 26/2/18, 12/3/18, 30/4/18, 14/5/18, 7/8/18, 20/8/18, 3/9/18, 17/9/18, 1/10/18, 15/10/18, 29/10/18, 12/11/18, 26/11/18, 10/12/18, 17/12/18, 1/1/19, 14/1/19, 28/1/19, 11/2/19, 25/2/19, 11/3/19, 25/3/19, 8/4/19, 22/4/19, 6/5/19, 20/5/19, 3/6/19, 17/6/19, 29/7/19, 12/8/19, 26/8/19, 9/9/19.

Biotoxin - 4/1/16, 20/2/16, 15/3/16, 13/4/16, 16/5/16, 29/6/16, 15/8/16, 12/9/16, 18/10/16, 9/11/16, 6/12/16,9/1/17, 6/2/17, 25/4/17, 15/5/17, 6/8/17, 18/9/17, 16/10/17, 20/11/17, 11/12/17, 1/1/18, 31/1/18, 11/2/18, 23/4/18, 22/5/18, 7/8/18, 3/9/18, 1/10/18, 21/11/18, 10/12/18, 28/1/19, 25/2/19, 11/3/19, 22/4/19, 27/5/19, 23/6/19, 9, 2/9/19.

Microbiological - 4/1/16, 27/1/16, 1/2/16, 4/7/16, 15/8/16, 28/9/16, 10/11/16, 13/11/16, 9/1/17, 16/1/17, 6/2/17, 28/2/17, 8/3/17, 25/4/17, 1/5/17, 7/5/17, 15/5/17, 22/5/17, 6/8/17, 1/1/18, 8/1/18, 15/1/18, 21/1/18, 30/1/18, 5/2/18, 11/2/18, 12/3/18, 20/3/18, 23/4/18, 30/4/18, 7/5/18, 6/6/18, 7/8/18, 13/8/18, 20/8/18, 15/10/18, 29/10/18, 31/10/18, 4/11/18, 18/12/18, 20/12/18, 28/1/19, 11/3/19, 19/3/19, 25/3/19, 3/4/19, 25/6/19, 27/6/19, 14/7/19, 5/8/19.

Fishermans Reach

Microbiological - 4/1/16, 27/1/16, 1/2/16, 28/9/16, 16/1/17, 6/2/17, 28/2/17, 8/3/17, 25/4/17, 1/5/17, 7/5/17, 15/5/17, 22/5/17, 6/8/17, 1/1/18, 8/1/18, 12/3/18, 23/4/18, 30/4/18, 7/5/18, 28/1/19, 7/3/19, 17/3/19, 3/4/19, 27/6/19, 14/7/19, 9/9/19.

Clybucca Creek

Phytoplankton - 26/9/16, 9/10/16, 26/10/16, 8/11/16, 22/11/16, 6/12/16, 20/12/16, 3/1/17, 18/1/17, 6/2/17, 20/2/17, 18/9/17, 2/10/17, 16/10/17, 1/11/17, 20/11/17, 11/12/17, 18/12/17, 29/1/18, 11/2/18, 19/09/18, 1/10/18, 15/10/18, 29/10/18, 12/11/18, 26/11/18, 10/12/18.

Biotoxin - 26/9/16, 17/10/16, 22/11/16, 6/12/16 9/1/17, 6/2/17, 18/9/17, 16/10/17, 20/11/17, 11/12/17, 31/1/18, 24/9/18, 1/10/18, 21/11/18, 10/12/18.

Microbiological - 27/1/16, 26/9/16, 26/10/16, 9/11/16, 10/11/16, 13/11/16, 6/12/16, 15/12/16, 9/1/17, 16/1/17, 6/2/17, 28/2/17, 18/9/17, 1/1/18, 8/1/18, 22/1/18, 30/1/18, 5/2/18, 11/2/18, 12/3/18, 22/4/18, 24/9/18, 15/10/18, 29/10/18, 25/11/18, 18/12/18, 28/1/19, 25/6/19.

Question 92 (Page 80 of transcript)

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Is it possible on notice you can come back to whether SLS has made a funding request to be able to operate the drones? I understand it has an issue about whether it can fund the acquisitions, particularly, of the drones.

ANSWER:

DPI and SLS NSW commenced a third collaborative trial which provided funds to SLS for drones in the current financial year.

No other request for funds for drones has been made to DPI.

Question 93 (Page 80 of transcript)

The Hon. EMMA HURST: Do you have the people who were involved in the consultation?

Mr HANSEN: Sure.

The Hon. EMMA HURST: On notice if it is a long list.

Mr HANSEN: Once that code was out we then conducted a targeted New South Wales consultation that was led by the previous Chief Veterinary Officer of the State, Dr Ian Roth. I might again come back on notice about who was consulted. The consultation at the start was actually a national consultation. I am not sure I have everyone who was participating because that was conducted under the national guise. The targeted New South Wales one, we definitely can give you a list of who was involved in that consultation. The feedback from that consultation when people were out, when we were doing the targeted one in New South Wales, it was also happening nationally. The consultant's report into that consultation on behalf of the national management group for that—Animal Health Australia—is now publicly available on its web site, documenting the outcomes from that consultation period and who they spoke to.

ANSWER:

The targeted NSW consultation on the Poultry S&Gs was led by Dr Ian Roth and undertaken by an independent consultant. The consultation involved three stakeholder consultation meetings, four community consultation meetings, and three focus groups.

Participants at the stakeholder meetings included key industry representatives (egg and poultry meat producers, farmers, industry representative groups, agricultural consultants, etc.), animal welfare groups (RSPCA NSW, RSPCA Australia, Animals Australia, etc.) and academic experts (university, veterinary scientists, etc.).

The community meetings were open to the general public and attendees included a wider group of industry stakeholders, animal welfare groups and academics, as well as interested members of the community.

Participants in the focus groups were randomly selected from the Wagga Wagga and Greater Sydney regions by a market research firm.

Further information regarding the consultation is available on the DPI website:

https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0019/822403/Report-to-NSW-DPI-on-poultry-welfare-standards-and-guidelines.pdf

Adam Marshall MP

Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales