

To: Minister for Agriculture
and Food Security

DEPARTMENT OF
PRIMARY INDUSTRIES



2012-13 BUDGET ESTIMATES FURTHER INFORMATION - AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY
PORTFOLIO WATER PORTFOLIO

Core message

The opposition requested further information on lapsing initiatives / savings and funding for the invasive pest "Black Slug".

The Department had four lapsing programs in 2011-12, one of which was replaced by the Growing Food and Fibre initiative.

It is not expected the majority of the savings will have a material impact on program or service delivery.

Black Slug is not a newly identified exotic species and is not under any state or national response provisions, no new funding has been allocated for management.

26/6

Timing

Required by **19 JUNE 2012**
Explanation Due 21 days after letter received (28 June).

Office of the Minister for
Agriculture & Food Security
19 JUN 2012

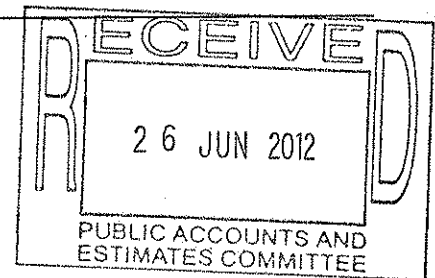
Recommendations

That you:

1. Approve the attached responses to the questions on notice from the 2012 Public Accounts and Estimates Committee Hearing.

Recommendation 1 Approved Not approved Returned for review

Approver's comments



Signed

Peter Walsh
Minister for Agriculture and Food Security

Date

20-6-2012

Brief details

Type Ministerial Correspondence Endorsed Electronically Endorsed By:
MW003235 Toniann Stitz/DPI - 18/06/12
For Decision
Prepared by James Brown, Senior Analyst - Strategy, Finance
Division, ☎ (03) 9658 4269.

James Flintoft, Deputy Secretary

18/6/12



Agriculture & Food Security

1. Please outline the programs that have lapsed or have their funding reduced for 2012-13 due to savings that are required by the portfolio.

A number of programs concluded in the Department of Primary Industries for the financial year ending June 2012, mainly due to them coming to a natural conclusion and achieving results. In some instances, programs were reinvigorated with a new focus.

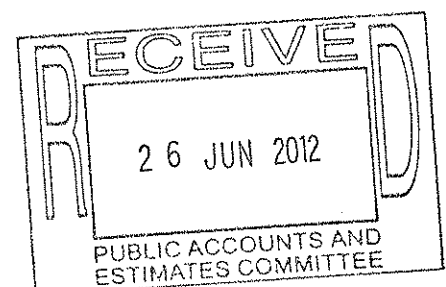
The *Future Farming Strategy* was completed, however key aspects of the program are being continued in a reinvigorated state through new funding provided for Growing Food and Fibre initiatives.

The work funded by national contributions as agreed by the National Management Group for *Red Imported Fire Ants* has been completed. Continued management programs are to be undertaken by Queensland, where the incursion is located.

The Commonwealth provided funding under the National CO2 Infrastructure Plan to accelerate the identification and development of suitable long term storage sites for CO2. This included offshore Victoria in the Gippsland Basin. This built on the work by Victoria through the *Gippsland CCS Dynamic modelling program*. Work completed will now provide information to support the CarbonNet initiative.

The drilling projects completed as a part of the *Rediscover Victoria* increased the State's geological knowledge base, demonstrated the potential for accelerating successful discoveries and supported the development of new 3D Geological Models. Conclusion of this initiative does not reduce the availability of the knowledge base, and continues to provide important pre-competitive data to support new exploration programs by industry in the future.

Savings have led to a review of strategic priorities, a further drive for efficiencies, and a consolidation of policy and corporate transactional services. It is expected that the majority of the reforms will have no material impact on program / service delivery. Savings will be achieved by sharing and modernising service delivery through investment in technology, scale specialisation and re-engineering processes.



2. What provisions are being made in the Budget, if any, to tackle the black slug?

The black slug has been present in the Otway and Dandenong Ranges in Victoria and several eastern Australian states since 2001 and is now regarded as being established. As it is not a newly identified exotic species to either Victoria or Australia, it does not fall under any state or national response provisions such as the national Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed.

As with other snail species, it is the responsibility of landholders and land managers to take appropriate control measures should the need arise. Normal control methods include baiting, soil cultivation to expose and dry out eggs and hand picking and immersion in salty water if the problem is on a small-scale garden level.

Consequently, no specific provision in the 2012/13 DPI budget has been allocated for managing the black slug.