

Division 63: Agriculture and Food —

[Supplementary Information No B16.]

Question: Mr C.J. Tallentire asked: How many of the 50 full-time equivalent employees who were sacked from 2014–15 to 2015–16 were in biosecurity-related jobs?

Answer: 16 of the 50 FTE were directly engaged in biosecurity activities. The remaining 34 FTE are derived from broader organisational activities, where some part of the FTE has been attributed to biosecurity.

[Supplementary Information No B17.]

Question: Ms S.F. McGurk asked: What work that the department does is particular to assisting organic and biodynamic growers, and could the minister detail where the figure of \$10 million spent per annum on non-GM activities comes from?

Answer:

The Department of Agriculture and Food has several initiatives with direct relevance to organic and biodynamic growers including:

- Introduction of a Korean buyer of organic wheat and other organic grain buyers to Western Australian growers;
- Assisting Harvey Beef with organic certification of its abattoir;
- Supporting a Meat and Livestock Australia project to develop organic meat exports; and
- Working with horticultural growers on export development for their organic produce.
- The Premium Food Centre initiative, which is a component of the \$4.5 million Food Industry Innovation project. This initiative will identify market driven opportunities to expand the growth and production of organic and biodynamic products across the State.
- Grains projects and activities which include, but are not limited to, pasture and lupin breeding, participation in the national field pea and oat breeding trials, soil amelioration, integrated weed treatment, post-harvest treatments, farming systems development and weather station operation.
- Livestock activities including organic production as part of the Northern Beef Futures, Sheep Industry Business Innovation projects and the stable fly program; and
- Horticulture based activities which are relevant to organic and biodynamic growers include irrigation efficiency programs, Mediterranean fruit fly and Queensland fruit fly trapping and baiting programs.

[Supplementary Information No B18.]

Question: Ms S.F. McGurk asked: What initiatives are in place and have been in place that the current growers have been benefiting from, particularly organic and biodynamic growers, through utilising the \$10 million in the past 12 months?

Answer: Please see the response for Supplementary Information, No. B17.

[Supplementary Information No B19.]

Question: Mr C.J. Tallentire asked: What is the department's estimate of the impact of climate change on our agricultural sector, segmented through grains, livestock and horticulture?

Answer:

The following provides a summary of the impact of climate change on segments of the agricultural sector:

- Grains industries –The WA wheatbelt has had a 20% decline in rainfall, mostly since the mid-1970s.
- Livestock industries – modelling indicates that in the higher rainfall areas of the South-west, increased temperature in winter and early spring and reduced waterlogging could benefit livestock production by; increasing forage production; reducing livestock feed requirements from lower energy maintenance costs; increasing survival of young animals or shorn sheep during cold and wet periods.
- Horticultural industries - The South-west region will remain ideally suited for producing high quality grapes and wine.

Extract from *Hansard*

[ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES A AND B SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION — Thursday, 26 May 2016]

p687a-687a

Mr Chris Tallentire; Ms Simone McGurk

- In northern regions, modelling indicates that banana production at Carnarvon is likely to be relatively unaffected by increased temperature at least until 2030, but production may be negatively affected at Kununurra.