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This report has been produced by the Strategic Planning and Performance Reporting (SPPR) Team, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry – Australia (AFFA), with the assistance of the nine output groups, Management Services and Governance.

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Senator the Hon Ian Macdonald
Minister for Forestry and Conservation

Senator the Hon Judith Troeth
Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ministers

I am pleased to present to you the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry – Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2002.

This report was prepared in accordance with the guidelines referred to in Section 63 of the Public Service Act 1999. It also conforms with other applicable legislation.

I am satisfied that the Department has prepared fraud risk assessments and fraud control plans, and has in place appropriate fraud prevention, detection, investigation, reporting and data collection procedures and processes that meet the specific needs of the Department and comply with the Commonwealth Fraud Control Guidelines.

Subsection 63(1) of the Public Service Act 1999 requires you to lay a copy of the report before each House of the Parliament on or before 31 October 2002.

Yours sincerely

Michael J Taylor
SECRETARY
8 October 2002
GUIDE TO THE REPORT

STRUCTURE OF THE REPORT

This Annual Report is structured around the Department’s nine Outputs. It provides an overview of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry - Australia (AFFA), its organisational structure and method of operation. It illustrates AFFA’s key achievements and corporate directions, and highlights the Department’s progress against the performance indicators listed in the 2001-02 Portfolio Budget Statements (PBS).

It also details AFFA’s performance relating to its nine Output objectives, management and accountability responsibilities.

The appendices to this report provide information relating to Discretionary Grants, Consultancy Services, Occupational Health and Safety, Freedom of Information, Advertising and Market Research, Ecologically Sustainable Development and Environmental Performance, the Natural Resource Management (Financial Assistance) Act 1992, the Commonwealth Disability Strategy, and the presentation of Financial Statements.

AIDS TO ACCESS

To help readers find specific information, the report includes:

- a table of contents;
- a subject index;
- a list of acronyms; and
- a compliance with guidelines index.

AFFA has a number of publications about its activities and functions and how it operates.

For information on particular publications and subjects, or to obtain a copy of this report contact:

Information Officer: (02) 6272 5120
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry – Australia
Internet homepage for the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry – Australia:
www.affa.gov.au

Internet address for the Annual Report:

READERS’ FEEDBACK

AFFA encourages readers to comment on the usefulness and content of this Annual Report. This will help the Department achieve higher standards in future reports.

To provide feedback, please:
Email: annual-report.contact@affa.gov.au
Telephone: 02 6272 4341
Fax: 02 6272 4906
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SECRETARY’S REVIEW

The 2001-02 financial year has been highly successful for the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry – Australia (AFFA) portfolio industries. This can be attributed in no small part to the dedication and efforts of our staff and the people they have worked with in government, industry and rural and regional communities.

We worked closely with our Ministers and the Parliamentary Secretary to maintain and enhance the competitiveness, sustainability and profitability of agricultural, food, fishing and forest industries. During the year we welcomed Senator the Hon Ian Macdonald to the portfolio as the new Minister for Forestry and Conservation.

Our industries

A major highlight has been the financial performance of the farm sector, which was the best in over two decades. High prices for most livestock products, a near record winter grain crop and favourable seasonal conditions saw the net value of farm production rise by 50 per cent to $9.7 billion. A fall in the Australian dollar against the US dollar and lower interest rates also helped producers. Overall, farm commodity export earnings rose by an estimated $30.5 billion, while exports from the fish and forestry sector rose by an estimated $3.9 billion. Unfortunately, due to less than favourable climatic conditions, this success is unlikely to carry over into 2002-03.

Significant work was undertaken on the adjustment of the sugar industry. In February, the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, the Hon Warren Truss MP announced an Independent Assessment of the Australian Sugar Industry by Mr Clive Hildebrand, chair of the Sugar Research and Development Corporation. Over 200 submissions were received and more than 1,000 people attended 100 public and private meetings in sugar regions. Mr Hildebrand submitted his report to the Minister in June. The assessment process aims to develop recommendations that if implemented would improve the industry’s long-term sustainability and profitability.

We consulted extensively with industry on the US beef tariff rate quota for Australian exports to the United States of 378,214 tonnes, firstly on whether to implement a quota allocation mechanism and secondly on how to allocate any quota to individual companies. On 15 May Minister Truss announced
that the government would implement a quota administration scheme for the rest of 2002 and 2003. A subsequent Senate Inquiry on the tariff rate quota recommended that 30,000 tonnes be set aside for discretionary allocation.

In August 2001 the Government announced a 40 per cent reduction of Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) export fees and charges that took effect from 1 November 2001. The reduction was achieved by eliminating some charges, adjusting others and leaving others unchanged. The variation in the mix of fees and charges was to drive further cost efficiencies and industry reform across AQIS’s seven export commodities; meat, grain, horticulture, seafood, dairy, organics and live animal exports. AQIS obtained agreement on the revised fees and their application from all export industry consultative committee groups before their implementation.

AFFA played a leading role in developing the Government’s National Food Industry Strategy (NFIS) by helping the National Food Industry Advisory Committee and coordinating a process of wide stakeholder consultation led by the Parliamentary Secretary, Senator the Hon Judith Troeth. This culminated in the Prime Minister and Minister Truss announcing the Government’s decision to implement the new strategy, and establish the new National Food Industry Council (NFIC) and outsourcing arrangements to implement the Strategy from 1 July 2002.

We made a significant effort during the year to improve the way we work with our clients. We researched our clients’ needs to learn how they like to be consulted and receive information from us. This research explored some of the myths about our client demographic and who makes decisions.

As a result of this, Minister Truss launched an important publication for AFFA staff this year; Guidelines for Reaching our Clients, Young People. This complements Guidelines for Reaching our Clients, Women, which was launched in 2000-01. This set of guidelines will help staff work more effectively with our clients by raising awareness of differing client groups and providing them with information about how to involve clients successfully in decision making processes.

A year of consolidation

The theme of consolidation strongly emerged during the past 12 months, particularly in our continued work on the National Action Plan for Salinity
and Water Quality (National Action Plan), the extension of the Natural Heritage Trust (the Trust), and the Increased Quarantine Intervention (IQI) programs.

Commonwealth, State and Territory governments have committed a total of $1.4 billion over seven years to fund projects in 21 priority regions across Australia under the National Action Plan. During 2001-02, the second year of the National Action Plan, there were a number of key achievements.

All States and Territories signed the Intergovernmental Agreement setting out the framework for implementing the National Action Plan. The Commonwealth also signed bilateral agreements, to implement arrangements with New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania and Queensland.

The development of integrated natural resource management plans made substantial progress in South Australia and Victoria, and evaluation of New South Wales catchment ‘blueprints’ for accreditation was also undertaken. Before the plans were accredited. Victoria, South Australia, Queensland and Tasmania agreed on foundation funding to support regional bodies to develop the plans, and for funding priority actions. The Commonwealth and State governments agreed on more than $48 million in joint funding. Progress was also made on a number of key strategies underpinning the National Action Plan, including strategies for monitoring and evaluation, standards and targets and accreditation and communications.

AFFA’s two specialist bureaus, the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics (ABARE) and the Bureau of Rural Sciences (BRS), played key support roles for the National Action Plan. ABARE completed socio-economic profiling and environmental management data of National Action Plan regions, while BRS provided expert scientific advice and services including salinity mapping of priority regions.

Along with the National Action Plan, the Trust extension is the Commonwealth’s main natural resource management vehicle. The Commonwealth Government announced in the May 2001 budget that it would provide $1 billion from 2002 to extend the Trust for a further five years, bringing its total investment to more than $2.5 billion since 1996. These activities set the background for major investment in implementing key actions under the plans over the next five years.

The Commonwealth and State and Territory governments established, and agreed to provide arrangements for a national approach to the extended Trust.
The Australian Government Envirofund was launched in April 2000 to address local natural resource management issues and $20 million has been allocated for Envirofund projects in the 2002-03 financial year. The Commonwealth, States and Territories have agreed on priority outcomes and delivery elements are being developed progressively.

Over the coming year our natural resource management priorities will be to fully implement the regional delivery approach to the National Action Plan and the Trust, further develop property rights arrangements to allocate water for productive and environmental uses, and promote the development and uptake of innovative commercial approaches to achieving natural resource outcomes by portfolio industries.

There were substantial developments in the fisheries and forestry industries with Minister Macdonald assuming responsibility for completing the Commonwealth fisheries policy review and an Aquaculture Action Agenda. The Government passed the Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) Act 2002, enshrining the RFA in legislation, and new tax legislation to support plantation development. Substantial work was undertaken on the Australian Forestry Standard and a review of the 2020 Plantation Strategy during 2001-02, with both projects nearing completion.

AQIS commenced implementation of a four-year $281 million program, the Increased Quarantine Intervention (IQI) program, to increase Australia’s protection against exotic pests and diseases. In 12 months, AQIS recruited, trained and deployed some 1,200 additional staff, 31 detector dog teams and almost 50 extra x-ray machines.

In March 2002 the Government and Livestock Industries Cost Sharing Deed in Respect of Emergency Animal Diseases responses was ratified. The new arrangements provide greater certainty in funding and will facilitate a rapid and effective response. For the first time livestock industries will be directly involved in the decision-making process and the sharing of eligible costs of an emergency animal disease response.

The international scene

AFFA continued to play a major role in the World Trade Organization (WTO) Doha round agriculture negotiations and in gaining, improving and maintaining access for exports of Australian plants, animals and their products through its Market Access and Biosecurity business group. Its work included implementation of a government/industry strategy to influence the outcome of the US Farm Bill and negotiations aimed at improving the trading
environment for Australian products all over the world. Through Biosecurity Australia (BA), AFFA has been involved in technical market access negotiations that have opened or improved access to 27 markets and averted threats to nine markets in the past year. Technical market access negotiations are fundamental to Australia’s increasing penetration of overseas markets.

BA also worked on a number of Import Risk Analyses (IRAs), which underpin Australia’s quarantine policies and procedures. Most notably BA finalised the IRA on Californian table grapes, completed a draft IRA on bananas from the Philippines and the final IRA on pineapples, and continued to work on IRAs for uncooked chicken meat and pig meat.

AFFA worked closely with a number of key markets including China, Indonesia and India utilising its international agricultural cooperation programs to complement market access efforts and to facilitate trade.

We continued our program of engaging in international fisheries forums to support industry interest and growth, with particular emphasis on our relationships with Indonesia and Papua New Guinea and in regional fisheries management organisations.

Internal management

There was a strong emphasis on recognising the diversity as well as the safety of our colleagues and clients. Our Northern Australia Quarantine Strategy (NAQS) received a commendation in the Australian Public Service Awards for Innovative Practice in Implementing Workplace Diversity. We were also recognised in the Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission’s Awards for our response to the potential threat of anthrax exposure to International Mail Centres’ staff. These awards reflect our commitment to our people and the community.

As outlined earlier, within a year of the Government’s decision in the 2001-02 Budget to increase quarantine intervention, AQIS had recruited about 1,200 new full-time and part-time staff. The large recruitment campaign had a positive impact on AFFA’s overall age profile, with a significant number of new recruits falling into the 21-25 and 26-30 years age categories.

As an organisation we have invested and will continue to invest significantly in people. There will be more emphasis on learning and development over the next 12 months, particularly the development of middle and senior managers, will create an opportunity to further integrate people management issues into planning the objectives of our businesses.
What can we look forward to in 2002-03?

Our new organisational and Output structure will come into effect on 1 July 2002. The changes centre on the Government’s decision to outsource the administration of the NFIS to a new company, National Food Industry Strategy Ltd. We will retain responsibility for food processing, relevant food regulation policy and supply chain policy development, and for implementing government-to-government programs.

Looking ahead, we are well placed to build on our successes of the past year and to tackle new challenges that arise, such as the threat of drought in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and Western Australia. A lack of winter rains is expected to have a significant negative impact on crop production and farm incomes in the coming year. During this testing time, AFFA will continue to support its portfolio industries and provide Exceptional Circumstances relief where necessary, as determined by the National Rural Advisory Council.

AFFA has strengthened its capacity over the year to address trade and market access issues that should make it well placed as the WTO Doha round negotiations intensify. Progress on trade-related biosecurity issues such as import risk analyses and technical market access negotiations will continue to be an important part of our work in the coming year.

In the coming year we will also have the exciting opportunity to coordinate an Australian-first initiative. In July 2001 the Council of Australian Governments agreed to hold a national simulation of a foot and mouth disease outbreak to test Australia’s whole-of-government framework of preparedness, response and recovery in the face of a major disease outbreak. AFFA has undertaken considerable work in the past 12 months to help prepare for the simulation, which will be held from 9–13 September 2002.

The simulation, called Exercise Minotaur, will test the capacity of Australia’s Commonwealth, State, Territory and local governments to work with industry to manage and contain a major disease outbreak, such as the foot and mouth disease outbreak in the United Kingdom in 2001. Exercise Minotaur, will be the largest and most complex exercise of its kind ever seen in Australia and will provide us with the opportunity to identify where we can improve our preparedness. It will also continue with the important job of training people who would have to deal with the real thing, should it occur.
Conclusion

In the coming year we will continue to provide quality advice and services to our Ministers, Parliamentary Secretary and stakeholders, contributing to our mission of more profitable, competitive and sustainable Australian agricultural, food, fisheries and forestry industries. Our ability to do this will depend greatly on our people, who I thank again for their continuing professionalism, dedication and hard work.

It also gives me pleasure to recognise the outstanding contributions of three of our senior staff, Mr Geoff Gorrie (Deputy Secretary), Dr Brian Fisher (Executive Director, ABARE) and Dr Gardner Murray (Chief Veterinary Officer), who were each awarded a Public Service Medal. I congratulate them again on their achievements within AFFA and the Australian Public Service.

The results of outstanding contributions from staff and stakeholders are illustrated in the achievements described in this report.

Michael J Taylor
SECRETARY
DEPARTMENTAL OVERVIEW

ROLE AND FUNCTIONS

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry - Australia (AFFA) is the Commonwealth Department responsible for agriculture, food, fisheries and forestry. Our mission is to increase the profitability, competitiveness and sustainability of these industries and enhance the natural resource base on which they rely. In doing so, the Department is also committed to working with industry, communities and individuals to ensure that rural and regional Australia’s enormous contribution to national economic and social wellbeing is recognised, developed and protected. To achieve our mission, we deliver scientific and economic research, policy advice, programs and services to help portfolio industries to deal with the challenges they face.

Our work covers the whole food and fibre chain, from enhancing and protecting Australia’s natural resource base, to improving market opportunities for portfolio industries. In 2001-02 we played a significant role all along this spectrum.

To deliver its outcomes, AFFA has worked closely with industry, rural and regional communities, as well as State and Territory Governments, which have responsibilities relating to many of the issues that are part of our business.

Our success would not be possible without the dedication and hard work of our people. As well as staff in Canberra, the Department has offices in Adelaide, Brisbane, Cairns, Darwin, Melbourne, Hobart, Perth, Sydney and other non-metropolitan locations across the country. We also had staff overseas and seconded to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Washington DC, Tokyo, Brussels, Rome and Seoul, and the Australian permanent delegation to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in Paris.
AFFA VALUES

Our people uphold and practice the Australian Public Service Values and Code of Conduct. To complement these, we also promote our own values:

*Professionalism*  
doing the best job we can; serving our clients in a practical, diligent, rigorous and outcome-focused way;

*Integrity*  
behaving ethically; acting with honesty, loyalty and courage;

*Openness*  
building trust; being frank, open to ideas, and accessible to staff and clients;

*Fairness*  
ensuring people get a fair go and that all are treated equally and justly; and

*Respect*  
respecting each other, our families, our clients, those with different ideas and from diverse backgrounds and other cultures.

By basing our work on these values, we provide high quality results that meet the expectations of the Government, our clients and stakeholders. More information about the service we aim to provide is outlined in our Client Service Charter ([www.affa.gov.au/service_charter](http://www.affa.gov.au/service_charter)). The Department has also developed guidelines for staff to assist in engaging with specific client groups (see [www.affa.gov.au](http://www.affa.gov.au)).

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

The Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, the Hon Warren Truss MP, the Minister for Forestry and Conservation, Senator the Hon Ian Macdonald and the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Senator the Hon Judith Troeth oversee the agriculture, fisheries and forestry portfolio. The portfolio comprises AFFA, two statutory marketing authorities, three regulatory authorities and 10 research and development corporations (see Figure 1).
Figure 1
Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry Portfolio Structure

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry - Australia
Secretary
Mr Michael J Taylor

Statutory Marketing Authorities
- Australian Dairy Corporation
- Australian Wine and Brandy Corporation

Regulatory Authorities
- Australian Fisheries Management Authority
- National Registration Authority for Agriculture and Veterinary Chemicals
  - Wheat Export Authority

Research and Development Corporations (RDCs)
- Cotton RDC
- Dairy RDC
- Fisheries RDC
- Forest and Wood Products RDC
- Grains RDC
- Grape and Wine RDC
- Land and Water Australia
- Rural Industries RDC
- Sugar RDC
- Tobacco RDC
AFFA consists of nine Business Groups, Management Services and Governance support (see Figure 2) that work together to deliver its Outputs.

**Figure 2**
Organisational Structure as at 30 June 2002
OUTCOME AND OUTPUT STRUCTURE

AFFA refined its Outcome/Output framework in 2001-02 to reflect more clearly the work it does and to better link its Outputs to its Outcome. This was done by adopting a new Outcome statement that will be more measurable and which incorporates new effectiveness indicators to measure the Outcome components.

AFFA’s performance framework is structured around achieving this Outcome.

“Australian agricultural, food, fisheries and forestry industries that are based on the sustainable management of and access to natural resources, are more competitive, self-reliant and innovative, have increased access to markets, are protected from diseases and are underpinned by scientific advice and economic research”.

The Department has nine interlinking Outputs to attain this Outcome. The Outputs describe the work that contributes to the Outcome, such as policy and technical advice, program administration and service delivery in the following areas:
1. natural resources access and management;
2. innovation and operating environment;
3. industry development and adjustment;
4. food processing and through chain development;
5. market access and biosecurity;
6. product integrity, animal (including aquatic animal) and plant health;
7. quarantine and export services;
8. scientific advice; and
9. economic research.

These Outputs can be considered from a market supply-chain perspective (see Figure 3).
The Department’s businesses focus on efficient management and implementation of budgets, people and project delivery. Wherever practical, AFFA has aligned its organisational structure and Outputs with some businesses, notably the Bureau of Rural Sciences (BRS) and the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics (ABARE), contributing expert advice to more than one Output.

The success of AFFA’s Outputs and their progress towards achieving the Outcome are measured through performance indicators set out in the Portfolio Budget Statements (PBS) at the beginning of the financial year. The Department’s success against each of these indicators is summarised in the ‘Report on Performance’ later in this report.

Further refinement in 2002-03

Following a decision by Government to outsource the administration of the National Food Industry Strategy (NFIS) to a new company, National Food Industry Strategy Ltd, (NFISL), AFFA will restructure its Outputs to reflect
this change and further refine the Output structure for 2002-03. AFFA will retain responsibility for food processing, relevant food regulation policy and supply chain policy development, and implementation of some government-to-government programs. Changes to the Output structure will come into effect on 1 July 2002.

AFFA’s remaining responsibility for the food processing industry and through-chain development will be delivered through the new Industry Development Output. The current Industry Development and Innovation and Operating Environment Outputs will be reorganised to accommodate the necessary changes.

The Department’s business group structure will be altered to reflect this change and to maintain a clear connection between AFFA’s work and Outputs.

The Output order will also change to reflect the market supply chain and to accommodate the new structure (see Figure 4).

Figure 4
AFFA’s Outputs for 2002-03 and the market supply chain context
## Report on Performance

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The following report on performance is based on the goals AFFA set in the 2001-02 Portfolio Budget Statements (PBS), to measure its performance against:

- Overall effectiveness indicators – AFFA’s success in achieving each individual element of its Outcome Statement;
- Departmental indicators – AFFA’s success in delivering each of its Outputs; and
- Administered item indicators – AFFA’s success in delivering specific Government programs and their subsequent contribution to the Department’s Outputs.

High quality policy advice
Departmental systems did not collate performance information by Output on the information provided to Ministers and the Parliamentary Secretary. Performance on the following indicators is reported below for AFFA as a whole.

Departmental Indicators
High quality policy advice as measured by:
- Meeting a standard agreed with Ministers. The target for this indicator is 90 per cent.
- Price:
  - price of ministerial correspondence;
  - price of Parliamentary Questions on Notice;
  - price of Question Time Briefs; and
  - price of ministerial requests for briefing.
A target will be set after the first quarter when consistent pricing information is available across AFFA.

External environment
The caretaker period began at noon on Monday 8 October 2001 with the dissolution of the House of Representatives in the lead up to the federal election on 10 November 2001. AFFA continued the business of government during the election period for routine administrative matters and provided guidelines and advice to all business groups on the application of caretaker conventions issued by the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.
After the election, Senator the Hon Ian Macdonald became the Minister for Forestry and Conservation. The Parliamentary Liaison Section supported a smooth transition for the new Minister and the establishment of his office.

Activity and performance

The key department-wide indicators relate to quality, quantity and timeliness of our policy advice. It was determined during the year that pricing targets for providing advice would not be progressed and instead, AFFA focused on implementing more rigorous performance information and targets relating to these key indicators. This was supported by the implementation of an electronic ministerial workflow system, which has been instrumental in enhancing AFFA’s effective, efficient and timely advice to the Ministers and Parliamentary Secretary. The system is fully compatible with AFFA’s electronic document management system.

AFFA’s Ministers and Parliamentary Secretary and their staff have expressed their satisfaction with the quality and timeliness of policy advice and program administration to the Department’s Executive through formal and informal feedback mechanisms. The Ministers and the Parliamentary Secretary regularly provide feedback through weekly portfolio business meetings with the Department’s Executive, who subsequently debrief Executive Business Managers, and also through their annotations on returned paperwork.

In 2001-02, AFFA staff provided the Ministers and Parliamentary Secretary with 2,616 briefs (including question time briefs) and 15 draft Cabinet submissions on a broad range of portfolio-related policy and program administration issues. The Department also prepared more than 150 draft speeches for the Ministers and Parliamentary Secretary and processed 5,524 items of correspondence.

Before 1 January 2002, the Department had a target of 12 working days to respond to correspondence from Commonwealth, State and Territory Ministers, members of Commonwealth, State and Territory Parliaments and any other urgent correspondence requested by the Ministers and Parliamentary Secretary. Since 1 January 2002, the target for responding to urgent correspondence has been reduced to five working days. AFFA has yet to adjust fully to the reduced target but is being helped by the new ministerial workflow system. The target for the Department to respond to all other types of ministerial correspondence has been reduced from 20 working days (from 1 January 2002) to 15 working days.
Statistics on AFFA’s response times have been collected from the electronic ministerial workflow system for the period from 1 January 2002 and will be used as a baseline to assess the Department’s performance in meeting the new target times in 2002-03. Processes to collect quantitative performance information on the quality of the draft responses have been put in place and will provide another mechanism to assess the level of satisfaction of the Ministers, the Parliamentary Secretary and their staff.

AFFA staff also prepared draft responses to 39 parliamentary Questions on Notice during 2001-02 for consideration by Ministers and the Parliamentary Secretary and tabled a further 188 responses to Questions on Notice at Senate Estimate hearings.
OUTPUT 1
NATURAL RESOURCES ACCESS AND MANAGEMENT

The objective of AFFA’s Natural Resources Access and Management Output is to advance the sustainable use and management of, and security of access to, Australia’s land and water resources, fisheries and forests. This is achieved by providing high quality and timely policy advice and services and efficiently delivering effective programs, and stakeholder consultation and collaboration.

Sustainable use and management of natural resources underpins Australia’s agricultural, food, fisheries and forestry industries. To be profitable and competitive these industries need known and secure access to natural resources. The long-term future of resource-reliant industries and the rural and regional communities that depend on them requires the resource base to be managed sustainably. Australia faces major challenges to the sustainability of its resource base from land and water degradation. However, these challenges also offer opportunities to provide innovative solutions through a range of biophysical, economic, legislative, institutional reform and market-driven tools.

Key areas of activity include:

• developing national policy frameworks, such as strategies and agreements, for achieving sustainable resource management and use;

• providing information products, tools and databases to enhance natural resource management and support Australian objectives in international climate change negotiations;

• building natural resources management information bases, particularly for products and processes that integrate economic, scientific, social and environmental information consistently and transparently, and which provide a sound, factual basis for communication among stakeholders;

• constructing policy frameworks for assessing and reconciling differences among competing resource users, including frameworks which promote better understanding of the costs and benefits of resource management options;

• ensuring portfolio and Commonwealth priorities and perspectives are taken into account in natural resources policies and strategies that are developed outside the Portfolio, domestically and internationally;

• promoting and helping the adoption of sustainable natural resources management by administering programs;
• developing initiatives, such as management arrangements defining property rights, to ensure reasonable and secure access to resources for resource-based industries, in particular forestry, fisheries and irrigated agriculture; and

• participating in regional and international bodies and management regimes to ensure secure access to migratory and shared fish stocks for the Australian fishing industry.

A key initiative under this Output is the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality (National Action Plan). The Prime Minister, State Premiers and Chief Ministers endorsed the National Action Plan at the Council of Australian Governments on 3 November 2000. The National Action Plan involves a $1.4 billion funding package from the Commonwealth, States and Territories, over a seven-year period, and complements the Commonwealth’s Natural Heritage Trust (the Trust). The Government is extending the Trust with more than $1 billion in extra funding from 2002-03 to 2006-07. This is in addition to the $1.5 billion already committed between 1996-97 and 2001-02 and will represent more than 11 years’ commitment to funding on-ground action for sustainable agriculture, natural resource management and conservation.

The National Action Plan is the first concerted and targeted national strategy to address salinity and water quality problems, two of the most significant issues confronting Australia’s rural industries, regional communities and environment.

**Performance indicators for Output 1 – Natural resources access and management**

**Overall effectiveness indicators**

Sustainable management of resources:

- increased awareness and understanding of natural resources issues;
- adoption of sustainable practices by land/fishery/forestry managers and the general community; and
- increased opportunities to secure and access resources with certainty and on a sustainable basis.
**Departmental indicators**

High quality policy advice on natural resources access and management as measured by:

- influence on national and international strategies and actions, measured by the extent to which decisions and actions of ministerial councils and other government and industry committees and agencies take account of Portfolio policies and priorities.

Effective natural resources access and management programs as measured by:

- continuing to meet program objectives for target groups, which results in increased capital investment by other public and private organisations; and
- delivery of financial support in accordance with government prudential requirements and within established timeframes.

Achieving measurable changes in the condition of natural resources is a long-term task. The key to achieving lasting change in management practices at the individual and community level lie in increasing activity support and promoting understanding of natural resource management issues.

**Overall effectiveness indicators for sustainable management of resources**

1. **Increased awareness and understanding of natural resource issues**

A major emphasis of the Government’s natural resources policy is to promote change at the regional level. A key strategy is to engage regional communities in developing an integrated natural resource management plan that will form the basis for investment from a range of sources, including governments. Meaningful information on the level of general community awareness of natural resource management issues is also important to developing and implementing policies and programs.

During 2001-02 AFFA made significant progress on developing resource base and integrated regional plans in priority regions in Victoria, South Australia and New South Wales. Over $24 million, including funding from the States, was provided for priority actions. These are intended to build capacity in regions to identify priority natural resource management issues and develop strategies to address them.

AFFA continued to support a network of 500 Landcare coordinators and facilitators dedicated to increasing awareness of natural resource issues and to ensuring the uptake of sustainable practices, mainly by Landcare and other
community groups. Outcomes were delivered by active participation in natural resource management projects, including 1,020 Landcare, Rivercare and Murray-Darling projects.

Ministers and senior Departmental officials helped maintain awareness of natural resource issues through a series of speeches and addresses on contemporary issues in resource management policy. AFFA contributed to the Murray-Darling Basin initiative paper, *The Living Murray*, to assist awareness and understanding within and outside the Basin community on the issues of environmental water allocation in the Murray River. AFFA coordinated the annual National Water Week, 15-21 October 2001, which promoted water management issues in regional areas.

AFFA worked through the then Standing Committee on Agriculture and Resource Management (SCARM) to raise awareness within the agricultural sector of the impact of farming practices on greenhouse performance by arranging workshops on climate change impacts and issues. The Department used the information from the workshops to work with the Australian Greenhouse Office (AGO) on an issues paper (*Developing a Strategic Framework for Greenhouse and Agriculture - An Issues Paper*, released in June) and an action plan for agriculture (due late 2002).

Information given to industries to help them improve natural resource management performance included:

- a paper *Towards a National Framework for Environmental Management Systems in Agriculture* to engage industry and other interest groups on sustainable farming systems;

- a resource kit for private forest growers to provide investors and growers with a broad understanding of the role of forests in greenhouse; and
• a draft *National Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks* for public comment, following the release of a comprehensive Shark Assessment Report in December 2001.

The National Land and Water Resources Audit (NLWRA), supported under the Trust, released reports on Australia’s vegetation and soils, and highlighted key resource management issues affecting agricultural production and productivity. Soil management issues included the causes and costs of acidification, salinisation and sodicity. A major improvement was achieved in access to data and in the quality and consistency of resource information through activities including the Australian Natural Resource Atlas and the Australian Natural Resource Data Library.

AFFA began a salinity hazard mapping program to provide information on salinity hazard for natural resource management planning; to identify critical areas for action, and for monitoring and evaluation. Commonwealth Ministers approved funding of over $7 million to start work in Queensland and South Australia.

2. **Adoption of sustainable practices by land, fishery and forestry managers and the general community**

It is critical that Australian industries and the community adopt sustainable practices to ensure the continued productive viability of our land, water and biodiversity resources. Evidence of moves towards sustainability and an increasing uptake of sustainable practices can influence community attitudes to, and support for, productive use of natural resources. AFFA had number of achievements in 2001-02 through a variety of policy and program mechanisms seeking to increase the adoption of sustainable practices.

AFFA conducted a rural Environmental Management Systems (EMS) Industry Forum in March 2002 aimed at fostering government and industry partnerships on EMS. This led to an industry/community EMS Steering Committee being established to guide the introduction of EMS.

To reduce the negative impacts of nutrients in waterways and estuaries, AFFA supported the Australian Fertiliser Services sector to implement guidelines and a Code of Conduct for spreading, storing and transporting fertilisers.

AFFA helped finalise the National Dairy Sustainability Strategy and Regional Action Plan to improve natural resource management performance in the Australian dairy industry.
Agreement was reached for the Australian Strategic Plan 2002-06 to guide the development of the National System for the Prevention and Management of Marine Pest Incursions. Further progress was made on developing a single national management system for managing marine pests through the Marine and Coastal Committee.

AFFA worked with the World Bank to complete a booklet summarising the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) proposals for action for sustainable forest management to help implement and prioritise proposals within national jurisdictions, including Australia.

3. **Opportunities to secure and access resources with certainty and on a sustainable basis**

Security of access to natural resources is fundamental for agricultural, food, fisheries and forestry enterprises raising capital and making business investments. The ability to plan and manage long-term also promotes a ‘custodian ethic’ into individuals and industries that use resources, so that sustainability becomes a high priority consideration. In some cases, the ‘certainty’ of the access arrangements is a major consideration rather than absolute security of supply. Security of access for other community purposes, such as environmental flows is also an integral part of access and allocation arrangements.

In 2001-02 AFFA worked with other Commonwealth departments and with the States to develop a national commitment to improved property rights in natural resources, including for water. This was achieved through AFFA managing the operation of the Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council’s (NRMMC) CEO Group on Water, and by contributing resources to a Commonwealth Task Force on Property Rights in Natural Resources.

AFFA contributed to the Murray-Darling Basin Salinity Management Strategy released in 2001-02. The strategy set the target for salinity at Morgan, South Australia over the next 15 years and established end-of-valley salinity targets for the tributaries of the Murray Darling system. The strategy and these targets are to guide Ministerial Council investments in salinity management localised and catchment investments for salinity management, including those in the National Action Plan.

AFFA contributed to Australia’s success at the seventh Conference of Parties for the Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change in securing outcomes that better
reflect Australia’s situation. The Protocol ensured recognition of Australia’s actions in increasing the area of plantations and reducing emissions from land use change.

The Department opened discussions with stakeholders on the most appropriate legislative arrangements for Christmas and Cocos Island Fisheries, and amendments to the *Torres Strait Act 1984* to appoint the Chairman of the Torres Strait Regional Authority to the Protected Zone Joint Authority were submitted for Parliament’s consideration.

During the year AFFA also:

- Developed a Government strategy to combat illegal fishing in Australian sub-Antarctic waters. This led to increased enforcement activity, and will see further investment in the future in protecting Australia’s sovereign territory in the Southern Ocean.

- Held bilateral discussions with Indonesia on management arrangements for the MOU Box area off northwest Australia, Southern Bluefin Tuna (SBT) and the inaugural meeting of the Australian Indonesian Ministerial Forum (AIMF) Fisheries Working Group.

- Developed administrative arrangements for the interim Secretariat and preparations for Preparatory Conference Three for the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission.

- Secured funding for the Scientific Research Program of the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) and finalised arrangements for an East Coast SBT tagging program.

- Held negotiations with Japan over their catch level of SBT in an attempt to finalise the Commission catch levels for 2002.

- Contributed to the development of Australia’s Oceans Policy, Coastal Policy and the regional marine planning process and helped develop a national ESD assessment and reporting framework for all fisheries.

- Provided support for a review of Regional Plantation Committees to ensure their potential to contribute to regional action on natural resource management issues is recognised.

- Achieved a key decision to further explore market approaches to forest products certification from sustainably managed forests through the 32nd Council Session of the International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO) in May 2002.
The five-yearly review of progress of the implementation of the Tasmanian Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) began with the public release of the Tasmania RFA performance report for independent review by Tasmania’s Resource Planning and Development Commission (RPDC).

The above activities, strategies and actions were supported by scientific and economic advice from the Bureau of Rural Science (BRS) and the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics (ABARE). For example:

- NLWRA published a report, *Australia’s Native Vegetation Assessment 2001*, following the completion of the final phase of the National Vegetation Information System.

- BRS published an *Assessment of Groundwater Quality and Origin of Saline Groundwaters in the Coastal Aquifers of Bowen area, North Queensland* in collaboration with State agencies investigating key groundwater management issues in coastal aquifers. This was to extend the knowledge base for water resource managers as part of the implementation of the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) water reform agenda.

- BRS published, in March 2002, a report on *The Role of Marine Reserves in Fisheries Management*, to address the issue of natural resource conservation in the fishing industry. The report reviews international scientific knowledge of the impact of marine sanctuaries and analyses them as a management option.

- BRS developed a number of salinity hazard mapping case study analyses in several key catchments and published a report, *Framework for Assessment of Dryland Salinity*. The Bureau continued to develop mapping technology through the Cooperative Research Centre on Landscape, Environment and Mineral Exploration.

- BRS published *Catchment Scale Land-use Mapping: Principles and Procedures* to enhance catchment management in regions within the Murray-Darling Basin, the Lachlan and Snowy River catchments.

- As custodians of the NLWRA Data Library, BRS made significant progress in making it more accessible and useful for natural resource management, with data sets covering soils, native vegetation and land use. BRS collaborated with EA to develop an Australian-protected areas database covering land and marine reserves based on data from State and Territory agencies.

- Environmental flows, water property rights and salinity control options were at the heart of ABARE’s work in natural resource management.
ABARE has continued to provide economic advice, often based on integrated economic-biophysical models, to underpin AFFA policy development in these areas.

- ABARE did a survey of natural resource management on Australian farms to assess natural resource management program performance in achieving sustainable land management.

- ABARE also significantly contributed to the analysis of the opportunity cost of environmental flows in the Murray River. ABARE was commissioned by the Murray-Darling Basin Commission (MDBC), through the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), to estimate the opportunity cost of environmental flows in the Murray River. The analysis used ABARE’s integrated economic-hydrological model of land use and salinity processes in the Murray-Darling Basin, called SALSA.

- ABARE provided a direct injection into the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) negotiations at the resumed Sixth Conference of the Parties in Bonn in July. It also continued to play an important role in Australia’s contribution to the Umbrella Group providing analysis of the agreements reached at the Seventh Conference of the Parties at Marrakech and international climate change response policy using ABARE’s Global Trade and Environment Model (GTEM). The analysis, reflecting the Marrakech agreements, was published in the ABARE paper for the international climate change session at ABARE’s OUTLOOK 2002 conference in March.

**Departmental indicators**

1. **High quality policy advice on natural resources access and management**

   During 2001-02 the Institutional framework for the Trust extension and the Australian Government Envirofund has been established and agreed by all jurisdictions. This has been achieved by: endorsement of the Trust Extension Framework by the NRMMC; launch of the Australian Government Envirofund; and development and agreement by Ministers to priority outcomes and delivery elements.

   A Draft National Capacity Building Framework was developed through the NRMMC and will be used as a basis to provide a national approach to capacity building.
All States and Territories signed the Intergovernmental Agreement that sets out the broad framework for implementing the National Action Plan. The Bilateral Agreements, that set out more detailed implementation arrangements for each State, were signed by the Prime Minister and the Premiers of New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania and Queensland.

As a result of the National Action Plan and the Trust extension, the NRMMC endorsed key approaches to provide a clear framework and direction for major national natural resource management policy elements, including:

- National Action Plan Framework and Strategic Directions;
- National Framework for Standards and Targets;
- catchment/regional plan accreditation criteria finalisation;
- an action Plan on indigenous engagement; and
- roll-out plans for implementing a national program of market based instrument pilots, including the proposed national funding mechanism.

Agreement was reached at the NRMMC on a program to spend up to $10m on market-based instrument pilots. These pilots will help to close current gaps in knowledge and identify the impediments that currently limit the use of Market-based instruments (MBI).

AFFA input to the MDBC and Ministerial Council saw key decisions reflect AFFA objectives, in particular comprehensive engagement of communities, industries and governments in developing the environmental flows options, protecting irrigation interests in the Snowy Corporatisation and accelerating the arrangements for increased interstate water trading within the Basin.

Agreement has been reached to work jointly with South Africa at the World Summit on Sustainable Development to showcase the effectiveness of Australian Landcare and our community-based approach to natural resource management.

A National Monitoring and Evaluation Framework has been developed to assess the efficiency of management investments and action to improve land management interventions. The framework applies to the National Action Plan, the Trust and future natural resource programs.
2. Effective natural resources access and management programs

Programs such as the Trust, the National Action Plan and Great Artesian Basin Initiative provide catalytic funding by the Commonwealth to accelerate action and change at the individual, regional and State levels, and to facilitate coordination and cooperative development of actions at the national level. Leveraging additional investment and effort by landholders, the private sector and local and State governments is an important outcome, in addition to achieving specific objectives of the activities supported.

Funding under natural resource management programs was applied to raising awareness and building the capacity of people and institutions; developing and managing information; planning and on ground activities at a range of scales:

- AFFA assessed and approved 1,287 Natural Heritage Trust projects under AFFA programs. These were worth $133 million for 2001-02, resulting in further investment of $143 million from State agencies and a further $910 million from local government, catchment, community and other bodies during the same period. Support for Landcare Australia Limited resulted in the leverage of $16.1 million last year, made up of $1.9 million cash, $5.9 million in-kind and $8.3 million of ‘free media’.

- as a result of signing Bilateral Agreements, extra state funding has been committed to match the Commonwealth contribution: South Australia – $93 million, Victoria – $152 million, Queensland – $81 million, NSW – $198 million and Tasmania – up to $12 million. Both South Australia and Victoria have made provision for additional funding ($7 million and $5 million respectively).

Stakeholders were engaged in a forum to provide input to the Trust delivery arrangements. Arrangements for the Trust extension continue to be developed, in consultation with the States and Territories and EA. Guidelines, an application form and communication arrangements for the Australia Government Envirofund were prepared.

AFFA provided input to a review on investment priorities and resource management issues in the Murray-Darling Basin. The review will assist in delivering strategies and activities that are complementary to other State and Commonwealth initiatives.

The Great Artesian Basin Sustainability Initiative (GABSI) funds were fully committed for 2001-02 and payments to the States were made on time, and
within budget. This investment continues to reduce water wastage and pressure loss as well as stimulate a positive approach to the ongoing management of the Basin.

Coordination between the N LWRA and the Australian and New Zealand Land Information Council (ANZLIC) ensured that consistent data standards and access protocols were established. National natural resource data and information is freely available via the Internet.

**Administered Items for Output 1 – Natural Resources Access and Management**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Administered Item Indicators</th>
<th>Approp. Source</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contribution to Salinity Mitigation</td>
<td>Bill 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Performance of salinity schemes to remove salt and meet river salinity targets.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Great Artesian Basin Sustainability Initiative</td>
<td>Bill 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• National component projects that provide social and economic data that contribute to the assessment and promotion of the Initiative.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Murray-Darling Basin Commission</td>
<td>Bill 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Funding to the MDB Commission results in improved natural resource management in the Basin as measured by the elements of Commission initiated catchment plans and strategies being adopted.</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality</td>
<td>Bill 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Salinity mapping, capacity building and other activities commenced under the National Action Plan. Integrated regional natural resource management catchment plans address salinity and deteriorating water quality being developed or refined, with a number being accredited for ‘block’ funding by the government that will enable on-ground works to get underway. Partnership agreements completed with the 21 priority regions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Landcare Program (NLP) (for payment to Natural Resources Management Reserve)</td>
<td>Bill 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Project outcomes in priority national areas underpinning and complementing activities under the NLP that contribute to a Commonwealth policy response as measured by project assessment.</td>
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</table>
Water Resources Assessment and Research – Grants

- Grants are made for consultancies and projects, which promote the sustainable use and management of water resources.

Great Artesian Basin Sustainability Initiative – States

- Bore capping and bore drain replacement increasing artesian water pressure in the GAB as measured by progress towards target pressures in priority areas.

National Landcare Program (NLP) – Payments to the States

- Payments made to the States/Territories for activities funded through the Natural Heritage Trust One Stop Shop within two weeks of signed financial agreements.
- NLP projects that result in sustainable natural resource management through enhanced community and landholder capacity, and institutional change as measured by individual project assessment and program activity evaluations.

Contribution to Salinity Mitigation

Salinity mitigation continued as a major focus of the Department’s contribution to the Murray-Darling Basin Ministerial Council target to keep salinity below 800ec (a measure of salts in water) for more than 90 per cent of the time, as measured at Morgan, South Australia. The completion during the year of Stage two of the Waikerie Salt Interception Scheme has provided a 55ec benefit to the Murray. River Work continued on the investigation and feasibility of new salinity interception schemes to give effect to the Ministerial Council commitment for a $60 million program of salinity mitigation schemes over seven year to gain salinity credits for implementing the Basin Salinity Management Strategy.

A high-level working group on salt interception established principles for assessing potential joint salinity mitigation schemes and ranking nominated schemes in order of investment priority. The item also contributed to the remedial works at Yarrawonga Weir.

Great Artesian Basin Sustainability Initiative

The capital investment through the GABSI continues to reduce water wastage and pressure loss as well as stimulate a positive approach to the ongoing management of the Basin. Bore capping and bore drain replacement to increase artesian water pressure in the Great Artesian Basin has been proceeding successfully through the States’ works programs, and works
implemented by the States appear to be targeting priority areas. Preliminary indications are that the pressure recovery is occurring as expected.

A review of governance and funding issues within the Great Artesian Basin Consultative Council was undertaken to evaluate its efficiency and effectiveness and provide options for the Minister’s consideration by Commonwealth and State Ministers on future Council arrangements.

**Murray-Darling Basin Commission**

The MDBC continues to provide the Basin with action to promote, co-ordinate and plan sustainable development and management of the Basin’s natural resources. The Murray-Darling Basin Salinity Management Strategy was agreed in September 2001 to help communities and governments control salinity, protect natural resource values and increase acceptance of sustainable practices. The Strategy will enable governments and communities to agree on investments relating to sustainable farming systems, targeted reforestation, salt interception schemes and river flow management.

AFFA provided input to reviews on the strategic direction and investment priorities of the MDBC to better focus investment and identify emerging issues and enhance natural resources in the Basin. The review will assist Commission Strategies and activities to complement and enhance other State and Commonwealth initiatives such as the National Action Plan and the Trust.

Water-sharing was also progressed by the corporatisation of Snowy Hydro Ltd. The associated amendments to the Murray-Darling Basin Agreement were agreed by the Prime Ministers and relevant Premiers just before corporatisation. The new arrangements will provide for the acquisition and management of environmental flows for the Murray River and the Snowy River.
The Murray-Darling Basin Ministerial Council, which includes AFFA, agreed on a number of significant issues to progress the consideration of the Murray River environmental flows and water quality.

**National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality**

In 2001-02, the first full year of the National Action Plan:

- all States and Territories have now signed to the Intergovernmental agreement that sets the framework for broad implementation of the National Action Plan;

- Bilateral Agreements, that set out the implementation arrangements for the National Action Plan, were signed by New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria, Tasmania and negotiations on Bilateral Agreements with the Northern Territory and Australian Capital Territory were advanced.

- foundation funding and priority action proposals were approved in South Australia, Victoria, Queensland and Tasmania, with over $48 million in joint funding agreed between the Commonwealth and the States. The funding will support the development of integrated natural resource management plans and Investment Strategies, as well as critical actions in advance of plan accreditation, including salinity mapping; and

- natural resource management plans for South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales reached the stage where they will form the basis for major investment proposals to be developed by regional communities during 2002-03.

**National Landcare Programme (NLP)**

**Payments to Natural Resources Management Reserve**

Commonwealth investment in the Australian Collaborative Land Evaluation Program played a crucial role in developing consistent and improved standards, methods and integration of national data on soils.

The National Landcare Facilitator project 1999-2002 successfully concluded, having achieved its main objective of providing national leadership and a communication hub for over 500 community based Landcare facilitators and co-ordinators.

Landcare Australia Ltd. is supported by AFFA as a key component in the Commonwealth's approach to raising awareness about resource degradation
and sustainability issues, promoting adoption of sustainable agricultural practices, and encouraging participation in Landcare activities in both rural and urban environments. The Landcare logo is recognised by 84 per cent of Australians.

Payments to the States

Minister Truss approved payments for 2001-02 projects and payments to the States and Territories for activities funded through the Trust One-Stop Shop were made within two weeks of signed financial agreements and were on budget.

Water Resources Assessment and Research – Grants

Land and Water Australia was contracted to undertake water-use efficiency projects to provide input for the development of water policy. These are aimed at maximising water use efficiency to support on going sustainability of irrigated agriculture.

Evaluations

Natural Heritage Trust

In June 2002, the Natural Heritage Trust Ministerial Board agreed to a final evaluation of the Trust Phase One. This evaluation will focus on the achievements of the Trust and on lessons learnt and is being undertaken from July 2002 to March 2003. This final evaluation could have implications for program delivery strategies under the Trust extension and the National Action Plan and includes:

- aggregated outputs across all Trust programs;
- assessment against key intermediate outcome indicators; and
- a whole-of-Trust evaluation focused on the three overarching Trust objectives, to provide information about the net impact and overall effectiveness of the Trust.

Major themes to be covered in the final evaluation of the Trust include community capacity building, institutional reform, on-ground change, coordinator and facilitator networks and interdependencies and synergies of Trust strategies and actions.
Aggregation of on-ground outputs will provide data for analysis in the final evaluation. Aggregation of data from project final reports has proceeded during 2001-02 and will continue in 2002-03.

**Regional Forest Agreements**

**Objectives**

A review of the performance of each Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) is to be undertaken within five years of its signing. Each review will be undertaken jointly with the relevant State, will assess progress of the RFA against the established milestones, and will involve public consultation. The process will not open the RFAs to renegotiation.

**Start date**

East Gippsland – February 2002
Central Highlands – February 2002

**End date**

East Gippsland – March 2002
Central Highlands – March 2002

**Intended audience for findings**

Commonwealth and State/Territory Governments and relevant Departments.

**Result**

The five-yearly review of progress with implementation of the East Gippsland and Central Highlands Regions Forest Agreements has not commenced. The Commonwealth and Victorian Governments agreed the review for East Gippsland should be undertaken concurrently with the review for the Central Highlands RFA, due for completion in March 2003 (incorrectly reported in the Portfolio Budget Statement as March 2002). Preliminary discussions have been undertaken with Victorian officials to commence the reviews.
OUTPUT 2
INNOVATION AND OPERATING ENVIRONMENT

The objective of the Innovation and Operating Environment Output is to ensure Portfolio industries have access to, and high adoption levels of, world-class innovations as well as an operating environment that facilitates increased profitability, competitiveness and sustainability.

In the face of continuing challenges from highly competitive international markets and the pressures to maintain sustainability of the resource base and ongoing microeconomic reforms, portfolio industries must rely on world-class innovation to remain profitable, competitive and sustainable. The adoption of research and development (R&D) is essential if portfolio industries and rural and regional Australia are to prosper. It is also critical that the interests of these industries are factored into the development of future microeconomic reforms and regulatory arrangements.

Key areas of activity include:

- ensuring that R&D funding through the rural Research and Development Corporations (RDC) and related companies continues to promote the competitiveness and sustainability of portfolio industries and rural and regional Australia;
- participating in the development of national and international approaches to biotechnology and its applications to ensure that portfolio industries have access to world class technologies and markets;
- ensuring portfolio industry perspectives are taken into account in developing domestic innovation, science and technology strategies and programs;
- providing advice and information to ensure effective corporate governance for portfolio agencies, RDCs and related companies;
- supporting Commonwealth and State/Territory councils and committees in their discussions and decisions on key Portfolio issues;
- ensuring the development of national approaches on a range of economic, taxation, biological resource access, and operating environment issues support continuing profitability, competitiveness and sustainability of portfolio industries;
- promoting innovative approaches to management of risk, industry production and sustainability through effective program delivery;
encouraging development and commercialisation of new plant varieties through the granting of intellectual property rights; and

Regional and national Outlook conferences focusing on commodity forecasts and policy issues.

Performance Indicators for Output 2 – Innovation and Operating Environment

Overall Effectiveness Indicators

Competitive Portfolio industries:
• industries with improved commercial focus;
• industries responsive to market conditions; and
• increased research productivity and adoption by industry of innovative technologies.

Innovative Portfolio industries:
• increased industry access to research and development.

Departmental Indicators

Effective innovation programs measured by:

• Biotechnology
  - timely and relevant policy briefing and advice and scientific information on biotechnology issues, as measured by stakeholder feedback;
  - recognition by stakeholders that the Segregation Project’s analysis is assisting decisions on adoption of biotechnology by Portfolio sectors as measured by feedback, correspondence, etc; and
  - establishment of an agrifood cross-industry advisory committee.

• Innovation
  - inclusion of Portfolio interests in implementation of Backing Australia’s Ability programs and outcomes of science and technology forums;
  - timely and relevant policy briefing and advice on innovation, R&D and science and technology issues, as measured by stakeholder feedback; and
  - AAA - Farm Innovation Program administered in accordance with program administration principles.
• Governance of Portfolio Agencies
  - timely and relevant policy briefing and advice on RDC policy as measured by stakeholder feedback; and
  - governance of portfolio agencies is appropriate as measured by appointments made at the appropriate time, planning documents presented on time and annual reports tabled within the required timeframe.

• Plant Breeders Rights
  - granting of intellectual property rights to owners of new varieties under the Plant Breeders Rights Scheme; and
  - improved access by stakeholders to the internationally harmonised system of plant variety protection (UPOV).

Effective operating environment programs measured by:

• Economic and Operating Environment
  - timely and relevant policy briefing and advice on economic (including tax) reforms and the operating environment, as measured by stakeholder feedback;
  - programs (AAA–Climate Variability in Agriculture Program and AAA–Farm Management Deposits Scheme) administered in accordance with program administration principles or contracts, as appropriate; and
  - timely and relevant social sciences information and advice to support decision makers, as measured by stakeholder feedback.

• Commonwealth/State Relations
  - provide support to ministerial councils each year; and
  - meeting agenda papers, associated briefing material and records of meetings prepared to a high standard and in a timely fashion.

• Outlook Conference and Forecasting
  - forecasts released to pre-arranged schedule;
  - National and Regional Conferences held;
  - widespread media coverage; and
  - demand for ABARE participation in industry events.
Competitive and Innovative Portfolio industries

Biotechnology

During 2001-02 AFFA continued to assist industry to evaluate the requirements relating to the introduction of genetically modified (GM) crops in Australia. Four consultancies supporting industry consideration of appropriate options for the coexistence of GM and non-GM crops and food were developed and implemented in consultation with industry and government. These will help industry respond to changing market demands in relation to GM and non-GM products.

As a part of AFFA’s biotechnology work, the Bureau of Rural Sciences (BRS) undertook a literature review on gene flow, which explores local and international literature and research on unintentional gene flow. To enhance awareness of new biotechnology and increase community understanding, BRS is providing high quality reports on gene technology in aquaculture and on herbicide tolerant crops. The Bureau produced a pamphlet outlining developments in gene technology, which is being circulated extensively among industry clients and stakeholders. BRS is also developing a database of supply chain management activities for genetically modified products.

Biotechnology papers on GM-free zones and GM crop-risk management were also prepared in conjunction with Western Australia, for the Primary Industries Standing Committee. The Primary Industries Ministerial Council registered its interest in the issue of GM-free zones with the Gene Technology Ministerial Council.

Intellectual property protection through patenting is an issue that AFFA examined during the year. The Department participated in an inter-departmental committee that drafted a scoping paper on the patentability of genetic material and genetic technologies, and draft Terms of Reference for a possible inquiry into this topic.

AFFA has continued to advise the Office of the Gene Technology Regulator on GM crop releases, from the perspective of agricultural systems, and encouraged the development of appropriate State government involvement in supporting industry self-regulation of risks of genetic modification in agricultural systems and trade.

To enhance Australian agricultural interests internationally, briefing on many aspects of international biotechnology regulations, trade flows affected by
biotechnology, labelling requirements and market access issues, was provided to Ministers and AFFA senior staff for negotiations in Europe and the United States.

Potential trade disruptions, which might have arisen because of proposed market access requirements of certain countries in Asia and the Middle East (in relation to GM products), were avoided by successful negotiations. In cooperation with other countries, Australia helped develop workable solutions for market access and certification requirements which were accepted by the importing countries.

Positions were developed for AFFA participation in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) high-level policy dialogue on agricultural biotechnology and the APEC Business Advisory Council meeting on biotechnology.

Fostered by AFFA, in conjunction with the Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade (DFAT), negotiations on the Cartagena Protocol of the Convention on Biological Diversity have led to a dialogue with like-minded countries. Australian positions have also been developed for the Biosafety Protocol going forward from the Third Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee (the so-called ICCP3).

Innovation

The application processes for Agriculture – Advancing Australia (AAA) Farm Innovation program rounds three and four were completed successfully during the financial year, with a total of 68 projects approved to receive funding. The funding allocation of $10 million was fully committed by the end of round four.

A total of 97 businesses from rounds one to four had projects approved for funding, and a total of 443 applications were received for the four rounds over the two-year pilot program. Three projects have already been successfully
completed, and the rest will be completed during the 2002-03 financial year. The successful completion of projects and dissemination of results is expected to provide a significant boost to innovation.

The Government Response to the House of Representatives Standing Committee Report *Bioprospecting – Discoveries changing the future* was prepared during the year and submitted to the Prime Minister.


**Governance of portfolio agencies**

The first edition of the Research and Development Corporation (RDC) Outcomes Report, *Innovating Rural Australia*, was published. The report highlights the collective benefits of RDC investments to portfolio industries and the wider Australian community, particularly regional and rural Australia.

Mallesons Stephen Jaques were engaged to review the corporate governance arrangements of portfolio agencies. The consultancy found that awareness, and general administration of corporate governance across AFFA and its portfolio agencies were essentially very sound. The review’s recommendations emphasise the need for a clear understanding of the division of responsibilities for corporate governance, a commitment to best practice in corporate governance across the portfolio, a systematic approach to compliance issues and Board appointments, and clarification of the role and responsibilities of the Government Director.

Accountability and reporting processes were finalised for the use of wool levy funds and claims for matching Commonwealth R&D grants. Amendments were made to the *Wool Services Privatisation Act 2001* to allow for limited rollover of Commonwealth matching R&D funding by the wool R&D body.

**Economic and Operating Environment**

AFFA continued to work with Government and external clients, including the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) and the Australian Competition and
Consumer Commission (ACCC), to assist tax reform. Issues covered included addressing the cash flow implications of the Goods and Services Tax (GST), application of the tax value method, consolidation of wholly owned groups and the Simplified Taxation System.

AFFA’s major work on tax reform included: participation in the ATO’s Primary Production Consultative Committee and Non-Commercial Losses sub-group; providing input and briefing on tax matters such as addressing the cash flow implications of the GST, applying the tax-value method consolidation of wholly owned groups; briefing on tax issues for the Agricultural Finance Forum (AFF); attending and meeting accountant members of the AFF with the Assistant Treasurer to further discuss particular tax matters, including the Simplified Taxation System.

AFFA continued its work on applying competition policy principles, including coordinating a meeting with the ACCC; preparing and coordinating input to a review of the Trade Practices Act 1974; and responding to National Competition Council concerns about the conduct of legislative reviews under National Competition Policy. The Department also played a key role in co-ordinating internal information and providing external contacts, for the Productivity Commission’s (PC) review of the Impacts of a Foot and Mouth Disease Outbreak in Australia.

Submissions were prepared on Inquiries into Cost Recovery by Commonwealth Agencies; and Early Access to Superannuation; and input was provided into the Government’s response to the House of Representatives report Getting a better return: Inquiry into increasing value-adding to Australian raw materials.

The Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC) and AFFA jointly funded a pilot project, Volunteer Farm Retirement Helper Program, to assist retirement and succession planning in the farming sector. One strategy was to trial the benefits of a mentoring system. The pilot will end in December 2002.

A review of the AAA-Farm Management Deposits Scheme by Rural Economic Services found the scheme is operating as intended, and recommended only two minor administrative changes. Holdings at 30 June 2002 exceeded $2.07 billion from more than 43,000 depositors. Improved service delivery of the scheme to clients was negotiated with the ATO.

Speeches were prepared for Ministers Truss and Macdonald for the national ABARE Outlook 2002 conference and regional Outlook conference program for 2001-02.
New ministerial councils

In June 2001 the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) created a number of new ministerial councils by amalgamating and redirecting the work of several existing councils. The Agriculture and Resource Management Council of Australia and New Zealand (ARMCANZ), the Ministerial Council for Forestry, Fisheries and Aquaculture (MCFFA) and the Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council (ANZECC) were replaced by the Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council (NRMMC) and the Primary Industries Ministerial Council (PIMC).

The new NRMMC brings together for the first time Commonwealth, State, Territory and New Zealand ministers responsible for primary industries, natural resources and environment. Minister Truss and the Minister for Environment and Heritage, the Hon Dr David Kemp MP, jointly chair the council.

The principal focus of the NRMMC meetings on 31 August 2001 and 3 May 2002 was the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality; extension of the Trust; a national framework for natural resource management (NRM) standards; NRM information, monitoring and evaluation; coastal management planning; action plans for indigenous engagement; and water reform.

The new PIMC chaired by Minister Truss maintains a forum for Commonwealth, State and Territory primary industries ministers. The Council’s inaugural meeting on 2 May 2002 focused on strategies to address foot and mouth disease (FMD) and bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE); drought assistance; trade policy developments; an action plan for advancing indigenous reconciliation for primary industries; forestry management issues; genetically modified crops; and enhancing the partnership between the Commonwealth and States/Territories on quarantine policy.

Plant Breeders Rights

The Plant Breeders Rights (PBR) Amendment Bill was introduced into the Senate in March 2002, and is awaiting passage.

The production of a draft report clarifying breeding issues will promote better understanding of the eligibility requirements for PBR registration. PBR registered four new varieties of major export crops and took significant initiatives of benefit to Australia in the multilateral plant intellectual property organisation (UPOV).
Effective innovation and operating environment programs

Biotechnology

AFFA received more than 50 proposals relating to supply chain management for GM products, an indication that stakeholders recognise that the Department’s biotechnology work is addressing their needs. Stakeholders’ feedback in June 2002, as part of the mid-term review of the National Biotechnology Strategy, attested to the usefulness of projects, even at this early stage of the project.

Innovation

The AAA-Farm Innovation Program is a two-year pilot that has encouraged rural businesses to take up innovative practices, systems and technologies, and demonstrate these innovations to give others tangible proof of the advantages of innovation and show how it works in the real world. In less than 18 months, the Program has delivered over $10 million to almost 100 Australian rural innovators, covering the spectrum of Australian rural enterprises, including aquaculture, dairy, grazing, horticulture, viticulture, grains, forestry, waste management, specialist food production and precision farming industries.

The application processes of rounds three and four were completed during the financial year. Demonstrations of the project activities from the four rounds are now occurring regularly in all states, and the ministers have accepted a number of invitations to attend these promotional activities.

Briefing and policy advice on a wide range of biotechnology, science and innovation issues was provided to the portfolio Ministers and their staff, AFFA senior management, and other agencies such as the Office of the Gene Technology Regulator (OGTR), Food Standards Australia and New Zealand (FSANZ), and Biotechnology Australia.

Sizer technology adapted for oysters; Gary Seidl of West Eyre Shellfish, Ceduna, South Australia, a recipient of AAA-Farm Innovation Program funding.
Support was provided for Australia’s participation in several international forums, including Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and the Biosafety Protocol and Codex Alimentarius Commission. Support has also been given to Australia’s efforts in the OECD and the World Trade Organisation (WTO) Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) and Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committees.

The Ministers and Parliamentary Secretary were satisfied with briefings on RDC policy issues and the handling of appointments. Annual reports were tabled within the required legislative timeframe, and all corporate and annual operating plans met the required standards.

**Economic and Operating Environment**

Advice on operating environment issues was provided to the portfolio Ministers and the Parliamentary Secretary over the year. AFFA also provided input to external agencies on general operating environment issues and their potential impact on portfolio industries.

AFFA’s Economic and Operating Environment section supported Minister Truss in his role as a Cabinet minister by providing briefing on non-portfolio matters considered by Cabinet. The section also coordinated comments on non-portfolio Cabinet submissions of broader relevance to the Department, and received favourable feedback from the Minister and the Secretary on its Cabinet-related work.

The section, coordinated and provided AFFA-wide inputs to a number of Parliamentary and PC inquiries and received, positive feedback from the PC for its role in a review of the impacts of a foot and mouth disease outbreak.

AFFA received positive feedback from Senator Troeth’s office for the secretariat support, briefing and representation it provided for the two Agricultural Finance Forum meetings held during the year.

In 2000, AFFA commissioned an independent review of indigenous access to departmental programs. A cross-departmental Indigenous Strategy Steering Committee was established in 2001 to oversee recommendations arising from the Review. The Committee has developed and implemented an action plan to address the review findings and increase indigenous involvement with the Department.

The AAA-Climate Variability in Agriculture Program (CVAP) and AAA-Farm Management Deposits scheme were managed in accordance with sound
program administration principles or contracts, as appropriate. AFFA successfully negotiated with the ATO, to refine administrative arrangements for the scheme. Bank representatives and primary producers provided positive feedback through the scheme’s hotline. Land and Water Australia and the Minister’s Office also provided positive feedback on the administration of the CVAP.

**Ministerial Councils – Secretariat**

The Secretariat supported the implementation of the COAG decision in June 2001 to restructure existing Ministerial Councils covering primary industries, environment and conservation and natural resource management.

The newly formed NRMMC and PIMC and their standing committees are essential for effective communication and coordination across the States, Territories and the Commonwealth. As well as the final meeting of ARMCANZ in August 2001, the NRMMC met in August 2001 and May 2002, and the PIMC met once in May 2002.

Identifying the main issues and priorities, such as natural resource management, exceptional circumstances and water reform, and the establishment of appropriate committee structures were important agenda items for these meetings.

Agenda papers and associated material were prepared for all meetings on time and to acceptable standards. Meeting records and resolutions were finalised within two weeks of the meetings and distributed with minimal changes.

**Administered Items for Output 2 – Innovation and Operating Environment**

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<tr>
<th>Administered Item Indicators</th>
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<td>Research and Development Corporations</td>
<td>Bill 1</td>
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- The Department is working with the Research and Development Corporations and companies to develop performance information on which to report collectively on their performance. While RDCs have reported individually in the past, and will continue to do so, there has been limited measurement across the RDCs. It was agreed that the measures should be in terms of the triple bottom line of Economic, Environment and Social.
This process is being coordinated by the Chairs of the RDCs. A consultant has been engaged to work with the individual RDCs to determine how to aggregate their performance information. It is expected that the Chairs will report to the Department in August with a view to providing the first report in the first quarter of 2001-02.

**Australian Wine and Brandy Corporation Act 1980**
- Promote and control export of Australian wine.
- Promote the sale of Australian wine domestically.

**Dairy Produce Act 1986**
- Enhancing the profitable production and marketing of Australian dairy produce.

**Farm Innovation – The Key to Success**
- At least 60 per cent of the funded projects gained improvements in the quality of products, profitability and competitiveness.
- At least 85 per cent of the funded projects (that are successful in improving profitability of the businesses) meet the requirement to demonstrate the benefits of their project.
- There is an increase in awareness of the program among the Australian agricultural, fishing and forestry and food enterprises.
- Surveys and case studies show that some non-funded rural businesses have been influenced by the program to adopt similar related innovative practices, processes and products.
- Administration of steps in process complies with specified timeframe.
- Grant payments made based on agreed contract milestones.
- Fifty businesses supported.
- *Rural Vision* magazine published.

**Research and Development Corporations**

The Department has been working with the RDCs to improve performance reporting, particularly collective reporting. The Chairs of the RDCs agreed to use the ‘triple bottom line’ (ie economic, social and environmental) for performance information. Several workshops were held for the RDCs to improve performance information by sharing methods and experiences.

AFFA also produced the first edition of the RDC outcomes report, *Innovating Rural Australia*, to highlight the collective benefits of the RDCs. The report is
framed on the four objects of the Primary Industries and Energy Research and Development Act 1989, ie economic, environmental, social and accountability; and provides performance information against each of the objects and case. Senator Troeth tabled the report in Parliament on 20 March 2002.

**Australian Wine and Brandy Corporation Act 1980**

See the Annual Report of the Australian Wine and Brandy Corporation for details.

**Dairy Produce Act 1986**

See the Annual Report of the Australian Dairy Corporation for details.

**AAA–Farm Innovation – The Key to Success**

Ninety-seven businesses were supported under the four rounds of the pilot program, with grant payments being made on completion of agreed milestones.

Hassall and Associates completed a review of the program during the year and found there was a continuing need for innovation in the program’s target industries. The review also expressed strong support for the role of government in supporting a program that fosters the adoption of innovation.

The AAA–Farm Innovation Program will be used as a case study for the 2002 Solutions Survey of Australian rural businesses to determine how well the program is proceeding against its objectives. This will also offer an opportunity to measure the effect of project demonstrations and the adoption of innovation on factors such as quality, profitability, competitiveness and flow-on benefit on the four target industries – fishing, farming, food and forestry.

The increase in enquiries about the program and the increased number of applications over the life of the program – from 71 applications in round one to 177 in round four highlighted the increasing awareness of the program among target industries.

Regular demonstrations of project activities are occurring in all states, and the Ministers have accepted a number of invitations to attend these promotional activities. Three projects have been finalised to date.
The publication of the final edition of *Rural Vision* magazine was deferred until June 2002 to allow the inclusion of case studies of round one to three projects and successful round four applicants.

**Evaluations**

**Review of AAA–Farm Management Deposits**

**Objectives**

The evaluation measured the effectiveness of the program elements of AAA–Farm Management Deposits (including quantitative benchmarks and limits). Rural Economic Services undertook the evaluation.

Start date: April 2002.
End date: June 2002.

**Intended audience for findings**

The final evaluation report was submitted to the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

**Result**

A response to the findings of the evaluation will be developed, particularly in relation to possible amendments to the program to improve its effectiveness in achieving program objectives and outcomes. This process will be undertaken in conjunction with the Australian Taxation Office, which has legislative responsibility for the administration of the scheme.

**Preliminary Program Review of AAA–Farm Innovation Program**

**Objectives**

The evaluation measured the progress against meeting the program’s objectives and effectiveness in raising awareness of innovation and helping businesses in general to achieve improved profitability and competitiveness. The review identified possible improvements to the program, in terms of its scope and operation, especially should it be appropriate to continue the program.
Start date: July 2001
End date: November 2001

**Intended audience for findings**

The preliminary program evaluation was submitted to the Executive Manager of the Innovation and Operating Environment Group as part of an ongoing process.

**Result**

A key response to the findings of the evaluation found there was a continuing need for innovation in the target industries and the program has a place in the continuum between research and development, commercialisation and adoption.
OUTPUT 3
INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND ADJUSTMENT

The Industry Development and Adjustment Output aims to assist Australia’s agriculture, fisheries and forestry industries become more competitive and self-reliant through policy advice to the Government and program administration that improves commercial performance and responsiveness to market conditions.

Portfolio industries are facing a range of challenges including:

• changing terms of trade for agricultural, fisheries and forestry commodities and products;
• increased domestic and international competition;
• the need to balance economic and commercial decisions with changing social and consumer requirements, including pressures on access to resources; and
• changing environmental conditions relating to soils, biodiversity, water availability and temperature.

This Output aims to address relevant industry development and adjustment issues in a proactive and planned way and contributes to the achievement of the AFFA Outcome by:

• providing policy advice and support for the Government;
• improving the commercial focus of Portfolio industries by transferring ownership and responsibility for industry activity to industry control;
• removing barriers to competition;
• improving integration and strategic alliances within various industry sectors;
• providing support, adjustment and reform programs; and
• providing programs to improve business management and leadership skills in the rural sector.

Key areas of activity are:

Agricultural industry development, adjustment and reform: involvement in the review and reform of various agricultural industries and the development and implementation of industry-specific assistance and development programs. This includes involvement in initiatives to increase the capacity for women and young farmers to contribute to national and industry agendas.
Forest industry development and adjustment: promoting the development and adjustment of competitive (and sustainable) forest industries through the Forest and Wood Products Action Agenda (FWPAA), removing investment barriers, the Forest Industries Structural Adjustment Program (FISAP), and forest management certification and labelling.

Fish and aquaculture industry development: promoting the national interest in fisheries management and commissioning and implementing programs that address existing and emerging industry needs. This includes delivering the Commonwealth Fisheries Policy Statement and the Action Agenda for Aquaculture.

Rural industry support and adjustment: developing, implementing and promoting strategies, policies and funding programs to build agricultural business capacity and self-reliance. This is achieved through tailored regional measures and national support programs such as Agriculture – Advancing Australia (AAA)–FarmBis and AAA–Farm Help.

Performance Indicators for Output 3 – Industry Development and Adjustment

Overall Effectiveness Indicators

Competitive Portfolio industries:
• change and adjustment strategies and programs implemented effectively.

Self-reliant Portfolio industries:
• profitable, commercially sustainable industries;
• increased industry leadership and responsibility for industry activity; and
• an increase in the knowledge and use of management skills by target clients.

Departmental Indicators

Effective program administration as measured by:
• programs that are effectively communicated and readily accessible for target clients; and
• administration that is in accordance with program guidelines.
Competitive and self-reliant Portfolio industries

Dairy
The implementation of $1.94 billion dairy industry adjustment measures has led to farm level adjustment. The success of the program is indicated by positive feedback to the Government, and the number of farm exits and farmers taking up industry finance options. Adjustment will result in a more profitable, commercially sustainable and export-focused dairy industry.

Options for reform of dairy industry statutory authority service delivery arrangements were well advanced during 2001-02. An industry proposal to form a Corporations Act levy payer – owned company to deliver research and development and other services is under consideration. Reforms will increase service delivery efficiency, better meet industry priorities, and provide greater control and direction by milk producers of industry service arrangements.

Wool
The National Wool Alliance made further progress with improved transparency and streamlining of State and Commonwealth-funded wool programs and initiatives. The wool privatisation process was completed with the de-merger in April 2002 of Australian Wool Services and Australian Wool Innovation, allowing for increased control of wool industry affairs, including research and development priorities, by wool levy payer shareholders. The Government announced its decision on the outcome of the Wool Levy Review in May 2002.

Meat and Livestock
The Government has agreed that legislation be prepared for the egg industry to establish a new statutory promotion levy and industry corporation to manage promotion and research and development.

Australia’s annual beef quota of 378,214 tonnes into the United States was reached in December 2001 for the first time since the Uruguay Round set that quota in 1995. There was industry/Government consultation regarding the appropriateness of a managed quota system for 2002 and beyond. On 15 May 2002, the Minister announced the controls that would be implemented for the balance of 2002 and 2003. Controls were implemented on 1 July 2002 for the balance of 2002.
Field Crops

On 15 February 2002 Minister Truss announced an Independent Assessment of the Sugar Industry was to be conducted by Mr Clive Hildebrand, Chair of the Sugar Research and Development Corporation. The assessment examined the industry’s key economic, social and environmental drivers. The assessment received about 200 public submissions, and consulted extensively with key stakeholders throughout Australia in over 100 public and private meetings. On 28 June, the Minister released the Hildebrand report. The Government is now considering its response and is expected to make an announcement later in 2002.

The Wheat Export Authority (WEA) revised export consent system providing for longer-term consents, greater transparency and reduced administrative burden, commenced from 1 January 2002. AFFA is a member of the WEA Consultative Group, with Australian Wheat Board International Limited and the Grain Council of Australia.

On 17 December 2001 the Minister formally announced the intention to establish the Australian Seeds Authority (ASA). Stakeholders agreed to the new ASA constitution and a deed of grant between AFFA and the ASA in April 2002. The ASA was formally established in mid June 2002. The Commonwealth has provided funding to help establish the authority and has secured financial commitments from the States. This represents a significant milestone for the seeds industry.

Following the Government’s decision not to implement a specific ‘buy out’ package for tobacco growers in either Victoria or Queensland, both growing cooperatives finalised contracts with the manufacturers.

Forest Industries

Support was provided for a review of Regional Plantation Committees and a revision of the Vision 2020 Statement to promote a continuing contribution to plantation development.

Development of the Australian Forestry Standard continued with the Technical Reference Committee finalising the draft Standard and agreeing to begin the final approvals process.

The Joint State/Commonwealth Forest Industry Structural Adjustment Program (FISAP) is being implemented effectively in Victoria and New South Wales.
Regional Forest Agreements Act 2002

The Regional Forest Agreements Act 2002 came into effect on 3 May 2002, bringing to conclusion several years work.

The legislation was first proposed in December 1997 in a paper circulated to state and territory governments, industry and conservation interests. Following a public consultation process, a draft Bill was prepared and presented to the Parliament in mid 1998. That Bill evolved into the current Act through Parliamentary debate over four years, including two Senate Inquiries.

The Act provides legislative commitment and support for Commonwealth obligations under ten Regional Forest Agreements (RFAs) negotiated between the Commonwealth and four State Governments, and for ongoing action to implement the Forest and Wood Products Action Agenda through the Forest and Wood Products Council.

Its main provisions are:

- RFA forestry operations are excluded from Commonwealth legislation relating to export controls, the environment and heritage;
- the Commonwealth is bound to the termination and compensation provisions of RFAs;
- information about RFAs is published;
- RFAs and related reports and reviews are tabled in the Commonwealth Parliament;
- there is a comprehensive and publicly available source of information in relation to Australia’s forests;
- the Forest and Wood Products Council continues as an industry consultation forum, to be reviewed in 2004; and
- the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) is amended so that both Acts have identical provisions relating to the application of the EPBC Act on RFA forestry operations.

Passage of the Regional Forest Agreements Act 2002 means that forest industries and communities, who had faced uncertainty for so long, could now be assured of the Commonwealth Government honouring its commitments in the RFAs. Forestry companies have the guarantee that they will be fairly compensated if they suffer any loss through the actions of a future Commonwealth Government that are inconsistent with the RFAs.
In Victoria, five Industry Development Assistance (IDA) round two applications (involving total investment of $10.5 million) have been approved and the assessment process on the balance is nearly complete.

In April 2002, the Commonwealth and State Ministers approved 13 round one IDA projects in New South Wales involving a total investment of $26.4 million. Assessment of remaining round one applications is continuing. Applications for funding under round two were sought in June 2002.

All 12 funding agreements for FISAP in Queensland have been signed for a total of $4.2 million of grants. Private investment to 30 June 2002 has been $1.7 million, leveraged by $0.9m of grants.

A Commonwealth-specific IDA program was announced for Western Australia in September 2001, but delays to State determinations of resource supply prevented further progress. Discussions were held between Commonwealth and State ministers with a view to reactivating a joint State/Commonwealth FISAP in WA.

Under the Eden Region Adjustment Program (ERAP) in New South Wales, 11 out of 14 projects have been completed, and the remainder should be finished by the end of 2002.

**Fisheries and Aquaculture**

AFFA continued to provide assistance to the National Aquaculture Development Committee in its consultations with industry and governments on developing an Aquaculture Industry Action Agenda. The Agenda recommendations will guide government and industry in removing impediments to the growth of aquaculture in Australia.

AFFA provided input into a report and presentation to a meeting of the Prime Minister’s Science, Engineering and Innovation Council on 31 May 2002 on sustainable aquaculture. The report made recommendations aimed at using Australia’s science, engineering and technology base to improve the profitability of the aquaculture industry and increase industry leadership and responsibility for industry direction.
Rural

Four full assessments of Exceptional Circumstances (EC) applications were completed during the year. The National Rural Advisory Council (NRAC) recommended that one full application region and three portions of two other applications be declared. Minister Truss agreed with these recommendations.

Discussions were held with each State and the Northern Territory concerning the Agricultural Development Partnership program and the development of the guidelines as a framework for project proposals to be developed. The development of community-based project proposals by the States/Territory has taken longer than anticipated.

The AAA–Rural Financial Counselling Service (RFCS) program provided more targeted and effective adjustment support as a result of a program of reform successfully undertaken in 2000-01 and 2001-02, building on recommendations of the 2000 report of the Evaluation of the Rural Communities Program.

Following extensive consultations with communities, state agencies and industry stakeholders early in 2001, principles for reform were widely agreed and goals and objectives for the revised program established. Guidelines were developed for a program that would be more flexible and responsive to changing needs, while maintaining the principle of community ownership and delivery. The new model for program delivery was endorsed by Cabinet and applications were called for grant funding for 2002-2004.

The AAA–Farm Business Improvement (AAA–FarmBis) program provided for about 35,000 training activities during 2001-02. A survey of participants found that 51 per cent expected training activities to have significant benefits in terms of profitability, 44 per cent in productivity and 38 per cent in the sustainability of their farming operations. More than half of those that expected benefits of some type, thought the benefits would become evident almost immediately and be sustained over time.

The Minister approved 12 projects (totalling $2 million) under AAA–FarmBis – Australia to develop training activities, including value chains, environmental management, grower direct learning, supply chain, human resources, assessing future options, risk management, marketing, non English speaking background (NESB), and health and safety.

The Show Skills training program has developed a business training course for Country Show committees and begun delivery of training activities.
Industry Leadership

Women and Young People in Rural Industries are two programs aimed at increasing the representation of and participation by women and young people in industry and government consultation and decision-making processes.

The programs work toward this by keeping clients informed of, and engaged in, departmental developments and consultations through several mechanisms:

• The Rural Women’s Advisory Group (RWAG) meetings. RWAG membership includes the presidents, chairs and executive officers of important non-government and industry organisations.

• An e-newsletter has been distributed fortnightly since December 2001 to all rural networks covering new relevant information from the Commonwealth Government and from the sector generally.

• Working with ABARE, innovative and entrepreneurial women have been encouraged to speak at ABARE Outlook conferences around Australia.

• Two Working Groups have been coordinated under the auspices of the Rural Affairs Committee of the Primary Industries Standing Committee (PISC) – Rural Women’s Working Group and Young People in Rural Industries Working Group – ensuring a uniform Commonwealth and State and Territory approach to fostering leadership and participation of women and young people.

• Guidelines for Reaching our Clients - Young People to help departmental staff recognise opportunities to include young people and then to engage them in the work of AFFA. The guidelines were prepared following research profiling 18 to 35 year olds in rural industries and benchmarking staff and client attitudes.

Bureau of Rural Sciences (BRS)

To enhance investment and management decisions in the Australian forest industry, BRS manages the National Forest Inventory, which collects and manages forestry information from all states and regions. From this, BRS has produced the Plantations of Australia 2001 Report, a summary pamphlet and internet site as well as a tabular report of plantation statistics in March 2002.

BRS has continued to support domestic and high seas fisheries by protecting Australian interests in fisheries resources through involvement in national and international forums. For example, a BRS scientist leads the delegation to the
Scientific Committee of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, reviewing stock assessments of tuna and billfish and determining management requirements for coastal-state and high-seas fisheries that exploit them.

BRS has developed a Mapping Tool for the dairy industry that enables access to the latest natural resource data produced by the National Land and Water Resources Audit and other sources. This will assist the dairy industry in strategic decision-making, particularly regarding environmental performance and planning for future sustainability of the industry.

BRS has provided scientific advice to assess exceptional circumstances to the NRAC and policy clients, satisfying their expectations of timeliness and high quality. BRS has also worked with the NRAC towards adopting predictive modelling in exceptional circumstances assessments and provided a rainfall reliability wizard on its website to allow rainfall seasonal reliability to be assessed for regions and locations based on over a century of data.

BRS scientists have been heavily engaged on preparing for the five-year reviews of Regional Forest Agreements. Policy staff and the Minister’s office have provided good feedback on timeliness and quality of the input and advice received and the responsiveness of BRS scientists. BRS also produced a Summary of Regional Forest Agreement Social Assessments, a widely circulated report within industry and government.

Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics (ABARE)

Communication of farm sector information to a wide population was advanced by ABARE’s release at the National Outlook 2002 conference in March of detailed farm financial performance estimates for 2000-01 to 2001-02. Release of the data generated a high level of interest from researchers, industry and the media.

Effective program administration

Wool and Dairy

AFFA provided oversight and support to the Dairy Adjustment Authority’s administration of the Dairy Structural Adjustment Program, the Additional Market Milk Payments Program and the Discretionary Payments Program and to Centrelink’s contribution to the effective administration of the Dairy Exit Program. The Dairy Structural Adjustment Program and the Additional
Market Milk Payments Program saw close to 100 per cent and 98 per cent of farmers notified of entitlements – with over 98 per cent and 89 per cent receiving payments respectively.

**Meat and Livestock**

Under the Pork Program Package final payments were made under the Pig Meat Processing Grants Program; completion of the PorkBiz business skills training program for pork producers; 49 on-farm consultations (105 in total over the life of PorkBiz) and workshops for 23 pork farming businesses (221 in total) throughout Australia during 2001-02.

**Field Crops**

Payments totalling $3.9 million were made to the Sugar Research and Development Corporation (SRDC) under the Sugar Industry Assistance Package (Research), within agreed timeframes. The SRDC 2002-03 Annual Operational Plan was also approved. Agreement was reached between the Commonwealth and Queensland governments to extend the Queensland sugar industry infrastructure program until 30 June 2004. Payments totalling $1.2 million under the Tasmanian Wheat Freight Scheme were made to the Tasmanian Government.

**Forest Industries**

The FISAP had a satisfactory internal audit conducted over the program in March 2002 as part of the 2001-02 Strategic Audit Plan. All grant milestone payments have been paid within agreed, and or, revised timeframes.

The ongoing Joint State/Commonwealth FISAP programs have been effectively communicated to the target clients resulting in applications for funding that exceeded the funds available. In New South Wales, 13 grants totalling over $6 million and supporting investment of over $26 million were approved in April. Round Two was advertised in rural and metropolitan press in June 2002. Delays in program delivery are currently being encountered in Victoria due to the State resource review.

The Commonwealth-administered FISAP program in Queensland has also been effectively communicated to the target clients, with grants being announced ahead of schedule and all funding agreements signed. Delays in the commencement of projects were experienced and the program has been carried forward into 2002-03.
In Western Australia, expressions of interest were called for from the target clients, however progress has been delayed pending State determination of resource supply.

The Eden Region Adjustment Program, a highly effective specific program aimed at Eden in New South Wales, has had funding carried forward into 2002-03, however, it is anticipated that all projects will be completed by December 2002.

**Fisheries and Aquaculture**

Under the Fisheries Action Program (FAP), $2.8 million was provided for 59 projects in 2001-02. The FAP gives priority to funding practical projects in freshwater, estuarine and marine environments to address the causes of the degradation of fisheries resources. These causes include recreational and commercial fishing practices, upstream factors such as nutrients, pollutants and poor planning, loss of marine and estuarine habitat, and related coastal development.

**Rural**

The 18 month Agriculture – Advancing Australia (AAA) communication campaign concluded in December 2001. The campaign was effective in raising awareness of AFFA programs in the AAA Package, with close to 150,000 producers in forest, fishing and farming industries receiving program information. Over 11,000 enterprises directly contacted the Department to follow up on program information. By the end of the campaign, awareness of AAA programs had trebled (up from 22 per cent to 62 per cent). However, evaluation of the campaign showed that increases in producers’ participation in AAA programs did not match the increase in awareness, and communication activities would need to be maintained over a longer term to achieve this goal.

The AAA-Rural Financial Counselling Service continued to be delivered in accordance with program guidelines. Significant tightening of grant management was achieved through an increase in the frequency of grant payments, linked to mandatory quarterly reporting on performance, and through new grant contracts with strengthened provisions for audit and review. Reviews of two services were conducted in 2001-02. Increasing collaboration between State associations, State agencies and the Department led to agreement on the need for regular and structured service audit on a State-by-State basis, with a pilot model for audit initiated in South Australia.
in mid 2002. The developing model for audit will be linked to professional review and peer support processes also gaining momentum as part of the program reform agenda. A new rationalised database for reporting was introduced, with training provided to counsellors and assistants, to ensure that statistical reporting on service performance is more coherent and consistent.

The EC assessment process was communicated and discussed at specific meetings and general meetings with State and industry representatives. The goal was to communicate the requirements of the EC application process more effectively so that State/Territory applications are more soundly based. This approach has already experienced a degree of success, with several areas reconsidering the lodging of EC applications.

During 2001-02, communication materials were developed and distributed to targeted organisations to encourage involvement of wild-catch fishing and indigenous communities in AAA-FarmBis. AAA-FarmBis websites (www.affa.gov.au/farmbis and www.affa.gov.au/farmbis/australia) were maintained and email communications sent to AAA-FarmBis subscribers. In addition, Commonwealth officers ensured that all States/Territory Planning Groups developed communication strategies for AAA-FarmBis in their State/Territory. Awareness of the AAA-FarmBis program was last measured in the 2000 AAA survey where 62 per cent of eligible participants were aware of the program.

All first, second and third quarter financial and expenditure statements received from the States and Northern Territory for AAA-FarmBis were processed and acquitted. Payments were made in accordance with Commonwealth/State AAA-FarmBis Agreements. Fourth quarter payments will be processed during the following quarter. States/Territory submitted reports detailing implementation strategies for 2001-02, and a national Monitoring and Evaluation strategy. Commonwealth officers also participated in State Planning Groups. Under the AAA-FarmBis Australia program, payments were made in accordance with program guidelines and individual Grant Deeds, based on the satisfactory completion of milestones.
Industry Leadership

The Rural Women’s Working Group successfully delivered the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation Rural Women’s Award.

The meeting of the Rural Women’s Advisory Group held in May 2002 was evaluated by members as the most valuable to date. An independent evaluation of the four-year grants program for national rural women’s non-government organisations was completed in November 2001 and highlighted effective administration of the initiative.

The launch of an e-Newsletter in December 2001 fulfilled an increasing demand for wide-ranging information to be pulled together into one easily accessible vehicle, and moreover one that can be easily on-sent to the many other networks and contacts of the original recipients.

Minister Truss launched *Guidelines for Reaching our Clients – Young People* on 30 May 2002.

Administered Items for Output 3 – Industry Development and Adjustment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Administered Item Indicators</th>
<th>Approp. Source</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eden Regional Adjustment Package</td>
<td>Bill 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Number of new jobs created and the amount of private sector investment leveraged in the Eden region as direct result of ERAP.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flood Assistance Package</td>
<td>Bill 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Level of uptake of assistance by crop farmers.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Level crop performance.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Exceptional Circumstances</td>
<td>Bill 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Farm Household Support Act 1992</em> (exceptional circumstances relief payment)</td>
<td>Bill 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Rural Adjustment under the States Grants (Rural Adjustment) Act 1988</em> and the <em>Rural Adjustment Act 1992</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Payment for the delivery of exceptional circumstances relief payments</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payments to State Rural Assistance Authorities for administration costs associated with exceptional circumstances</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
- Viable farmers assisted to remain in agriculture.
- Services provided as specified in the service level agreement.
- Applications processed in accordance with guidelines.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bill 1</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Farm Help (Farm Help Program, Payment to Centrelink for delivery)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Welfare support and access to professional advice provided as decision support mechanisms while families actively take steps to improve their long term financial prospects.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of families assisted.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Bill 1</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fisheries Resources Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appropriate utilisation of FRRF funds to progress policy through research into fisheries and aquaculture.</td>
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<th>Bill 1</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>For Expenditure under the Fisheries Admin Act 1991</td>
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<tr>
<td>Support the efficient operation of the Australian Fisheries Management Authority in the stewardship of Commonwealth Fisheries resources.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Bill 1</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Forest Industry Structural Adjustment Package</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of businesses and employees assisted and extent of new investment in forest industries.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistance given within agreed timeframes.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Bill 1</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Inland Marketing Corporation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quarterly payments are made in accordance with project agreement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenditure of funds in accordance with project agreement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evidence of promotion of export and marketing opportunities for non-metropolitan regions of New South Wales.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evidence of a communications strategy to promote quality and grading protocols for regional products.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Bill 1</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>International Organisations – Contributions (SBT)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work programs which further the achievement of Australia’s international fisheries policy objectives.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industry preparedness to support ongoing government involvement.</td>
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<th>Bill 1</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>International Organisations – Contributions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work programs which further the achievement of Australia’s international agricultural trade policy objectives.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level of industry support for government involvement.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### Report on Performance

#### Lamb Industry Development Program
- The Australian lamb industry placed in a comparatively stronger position in 2002 than it had enjoyed prior to the United States decision.

#### Pig Meat Processing
- Improved processor capital infrastructure of the Australian pork industry.

#### Rural Financial Counselling Service
- Service audits – number of clients serviced, number of referrals made to other services and actual contact hours.

#### Skilling Farmers for the Future
- Commonwealth/State program satisfied with level and type of training courses being developed.
- Industry bodies and eligible organisations aware of program. Level of uptake of newly developed courses by Commonwealth/State programs, providers and industry organisations. Targeted areas addressed.

#### Sugar Industry Assistance Package – Research
- Performance of this program is measured through the Sugar Research and Development Corporation.

#### Sugar Industry Assistance Package – Cane Growers
- Level of uptake of assistance by canegrowers.
- Level of replanting of cane.

#### Farm Assistance Program
- Long term viability and sustainability of farming in region enhanced.

#### Forest Industry Structural Adjustment Package – States
- Industry development funds leveraged from the private sector.

#### Regional Adjustment and Assistance:
- *Rural Adjustment under the States Grants (Rural Adjustment) Act 1988* and the *Rural Adjustment Act 1992*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Payments to State Authorities in Connection with War Service Land Settlements</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Prospects for long term viability and sustainability of regional farming communities enhanced.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Timely Commonwealth payments.</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Skilling Farmers for the Future – States</th>
<th>Bill 2</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Number of recipients by category (industry, State and equity group).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Participants satisfied with level of service by administrators, coordinators, training providers and overall.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Eligible participants aware of program, have information needs satisfied, and incorporate outcomes of education and training activities into their NRM and business management practices.</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tasmanian Wheat Freight – Shipping</th>
<th>Bill 2</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Payments made to Tasmanian Government accurately and on time within terms of agreement.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• The proportion of the shipping costs for wheat which are met by the program, which in turn impacts on the economic adjustment and sustainability and of cereal processors, users and consumers of wheat products in Tasmania.</td>
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<tr>
<th>West 2000</th>
<th>Bill 2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Number of recipients on the program.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Long term viability of farmers in the Western Division of New South Wales.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Support is provided to enhance business management skills, develop alternative industries and boost regional sustainability.</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dairy Industry Restructure Package</th>
<th>Special Approps</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Level of uptake of assistance by farmers.</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lamb Industry Development Program – Levy Alleviation</th>
<th>Special Approps</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Offsetting half of the lamb levy to lamb producers as a direct result of the restrictions in the US market are offset through levy relief.</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wool International Act 1993</th>
<th>Special Approps</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Collections of old wool realisation levy payments are disbursed to WoolStock Australia as appropriate.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Exceptional circumstances drought assistance to Western Australia and Queensland</td>
<td>Bill 4 Special Approps</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Viable farmers are assisted to remain in agriculture.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Services provided as specified in the memorandum of understanding and in accordance with the relevant guidelines.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Ex-gratia emergency income support to farmers in Western Australia and Queensland</th>
<th>Bill 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Assistance equivalent to the ECRP is provided to meet the immediate welfare needs of eligible farm families in regions under consideration for EC declaration.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Services provided as specified in the memorandum of understanding and in accordance with the relevant guidelines.</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Extension of Lamb Industry Development Program – Levy alleviation</th>
<th>Bill 4 Special Approps</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Extent to which the levy alleviation provides direct financial assistance to Australian lamb producers.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Extent to which levy alleviation contributes to lamb producers’ decisions to continue in the lamb industry.</td>
<td></td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agricultural Development Partnerships</th>
<th>Bill 1</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Industry development funds leveraged from the private sector.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Prospects for a long term viability and sustainability of regional farming communities enhanced.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Industry Leadership – Women and Young People in Rural Industries</th>
<th>Bill 1</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Increased representation of and participation by women and young people involved in rural industries in government consultation and decision-making process.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Research and data identified and analysed to support evidence-based policy advice.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Increased awareness of AFFA’s role, policies and programs amongst target client groups.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Four PISC (Primary Industries Standing Committee) Working Groups held (Women and Young People in Rural Industries) and members satisfied with information exchanged and opportunities for policy input</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Eden Regional Adjustment Package**

About $5 million (65 jobs) of private sector investment has been leveraged with $2.6 million of grant money in 2001-02. The final grant was approved in August 2001, and 11 out of 14 projects have already been completed.

**Flood Assistance Package**

The Flood Assistance Package was completed in December 2001. Almost 9,000 claims (covering various categories of assistance) were granted against some 10,600 lodged. Total program expenditure is likely to be around $227.5 million (some $73.6 million in 2001-02), covering Income Support, Interest Rate Subsidy, Replanting Grant and Fodder/Pasture Grants and Contract Grain Harvester Interest Rate Subsidy.

Centrelink has completed post-implementation reviews for the administrative delivery of this assistance package.

**Farm Household Support Act 1992 (Exceptional Circumstances Relief Payment)**

To assist farmers affected by exceptional circumstances (EC) events during 2001-02, EC declarations were made in the eastern Darling Downs of Queensland (August 2001), areas of the southeast Wheatbelt of Western Australia (August 2001) and the northern Wheatbelt of Western Australia (March 2002). EC assistance concluded during 2001-02 in areas of Victoria, New South Wales and Tasmania.

In relation to the Exceptional Circumstances Relief Payment (ECRP), the outcome of EC declarations operating during 2001-02 was that fortnightly income support was being paid to about 1,373 farm families as at 30 June 2002. ECRP helps meet day-to-day family needs and assists farm families to remain in agriculture.

**Payment for the delivery of Exceptional Circumstances Relief Payments**

Centrelink have delivered exceptional circumstances relief payments as specified in the current memorandum of understanding.
Rural Adjustment under the States Grants (Rural Adjustment) Act 1988 and the Rural Adjustment Act 1992

Due to the long-term nature of the performance indicators for regional programs, their impact can only be measured by evaluations carried out towards the end of each program.

During the 2001-02 financial year the Loddon Murray and South West Queensland Rural Partnership Programs concluded. The final evaluations of these programs found that they made a contribution to increases in the region’s economic activity while enhancing the long-term economic viability and natural resource sustainability of participating primary producers.

EC interest rate subsidies are provided only to farm businesses that are assessed as viable in the long term but have been affected by the EC event and are in need of short-term assistance. Assistance to eligible farm businesses is provided in the form of EC interest rate subsidies. During 2001-02, about 403 EC interest rate subsidy applications were approved to farmers in the Queensland EC area and approximately 215 applications were approved in the Western Australian EC areas.

Farm Help (Payment to Centrelink for delivery)

Centrelink has delivered AAA-Farm Help as specified in the current memorandum of understanding.

As at 30 June 2002, there were 994 farm families in receipt of AAA-Farm Help income support. During 2001-02, 161 re-establishment grants were paid and 965 farmers used the professional advice funded by AAA-Farm Help. A total of 41 farmers (or their spouses) have taken up Retraining Grants during 2001-02.

Fisheries Resources Research

Fisheries Resources Research Funds (FRRF) contributed to the development of policy in the areas of fisheries industry development and resource sustainability. Major FRRF projects for 2001-02 included the production of the Fishery Status Reports, economic surveys of fisheries, and providing scientific support for international fisheries policy development. These projects have assisted strategic policy development for international fisheries, environmental issues, and the development and growth of fisheries and aquaculture industries.
**Fisheries Administration Act 1991**

See the Annual Report for the Australian Fisheries Management Authority.

**Forest Industry Structural Adjustment Package**

Funding agreements were signed for all 12 Industry Development Assistance grants (11 companies) announced in Queensland. Grants worth $4.2 million will leverage $16.753 million of investment, resulting in 61 extra jobs.

**Inland Marketing Corporation (IMC)**

IMC has fulfilled all reporting obligations, including the submissions of its latest Activity Report and Financial Report in April 2002.

IMC submitted a regional marketing strategy, which included quality and grading protocols used in the marketing of agricultural produce. It continued to develop the Parkes Freight Hub and has been focusing on developing markets in Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore, Malaysia and the European Union.

**International Organisations – Contributions (SBT)**

Active engagement in Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) and Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)-related activities was maintained, including participation in the Commissions’ annual meetings. For CCSBT, Australia was involved in implementing the CCSBT’s Scientific Research Program, developing a management procedure, and establishing an East Coast tagging program. Funding for Australia’s contribution to the CCSBT’s Scientific Research Program was secured. The Indonesian Tuna catch monitoring program was referred to the CCSBT for review, and options for participation by Indonesia in the CCSBT were pursued. There were ongoing negotiations with Japan over the level of their SBT catch.

In the IOTC Australia’s efforts were directed at improving management arrangements for tuna stocks and setting in place effective management mechanisms. Preparations were commenced for the next annual meeting in December 2002.
In 1990, many firms in the Australian southern bluefin tuna (SBT) industry were in receivership and the catch quota had been cut by 67 per cent because of concerns about stock levels.

Driven by the dramatic reduction in SBT quotas, an experimental farm for the fattening of wild-caught tuna was set up near Port Lincoln, South Australia, supported by the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC) and the Japanese Overseas Fishery Cooperation Foundation (OFCF) in collaboration with the South Australian Government and the Tuna Boat Owners of Australia Association (TBOAA).

The experiment was an astounding success. Today, the quota limit for Australia’s SBT catch is 5,265 tonnes, 98 per cent of which is caught and fattened in cages near Port Lincoln. The value adding process results in over 8,000 tonnes of high-grade sushi tuna being exported to the Japanese market. The industry is now the most valuable aquaculture sector in Australia and has increased in value from $6 million in 1992 to over $300 million in exports in 2001.

SBT farming has also created spin-off benefits for the South Australia Eyre Peninsula region including 3,000 new jobs, a new tertiary education and research institute, tourism and new transport systems for other products.

The Commonwealth Government supports the SBT farmed tuna industry through several initiatives including the FRDC SBT subprogram and the Cooperative Research Centre for Sustainable Aquaculture of Finfish.
Consultations were undertaken regularly with industry and NGOs in preparation for the annual CCSBT and IOTC meetings, and industry participated in these meetings as part of the Australian delegations. Informal feedback from industry is supportive of Australia’s involvement in both bodies.

AFFA maintained its membership to the Network of Aquaculture Centre in Asia/Pacific (NACA). Membership of this organisation is important for monitoring fish health and disease in Asia and for promoting all aspects of Australian aquaculture in the region.

**International Organisations – Contributions**

Australia was chair of the International Grain Council (IGC) until June 2002. Australian representatives participated in the IGC Council Meeting in London in June 2002. Australia attended the International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC) 60th Plenary Meeting in September 2001 (Zimbabwe). AFFA helped prepare a paper submitted to the ICAC Working Group on Government Measures, documenting impacts on the world cotton market. Australia was also represented at the International Sugar Organisation Council and associated meetings in November 2001 (London) and May 2002 (Durban).

**Lamb Industry Development Program**

The $6m Lamb Industry Development Program assisted the industry to develop a changed focus from traditional markets to becoming more innovative and targeting market opportunities. Exports have diversified to a number of new markets and in new product categories. The program concluded on 30 June 2002.

**Pig Meat Processing**

The Pigmeat Processing Grants Program (PPGP) stimulated more than $100 million of investment in pork processing capital infrastructure improvements through 11 projects across Australia. The projects have successfully increased the Australian pork industry’s slaughter capacity, boning capacity, and several plants have been upgraded to international standards. This included construction of a new export-accredited specific pork abattoir and boning room at Big River Pork, Murray Bridge, that has the capacity to process 10,000 pigs a week.
Rural Financial Counselling Service

The program currently provides funding to 67 community groups to employ 89 rural financial counsellors. A number of additional payments were made to counselling services in the final quarter. This supplementary funding round allowed services in financial difficulty to apply for additional funds to meet budget shortfalls caused by rising costs. These payments were made subject to variations to the Deed of Grant being completed by services.

FarmBis – Skilling Farmers for the Future – National Component

Round one projects are being undertaken and contracts managed against key milestones/deliverables. Round two was called in July 2001 and round three in January 2002. Grant Deeds have been negotiated and signed with most round two projects. Awareness of the program is high with a good response to the call for round three. Expressions of interest demonstrated good coverage of industry groups and states.

Sugar Industry Assistance Package (SIAP) – Research

Payments totalling $3.9 million were made to the Sugar Research and Development Corporation under the Sugar Industry Assistance Package (Research), within agreed timeframes during 2001-02.

Sugar Industry Assistance Package (SIAP) – Cane Growers

Delivery of the SIAP was completed in a timely fashion. Total funding assistance under the SIAP in 2001-02 was $24 million, which includes income support, general and replanting interest rate subsidies and professional advice. Over the two years of the program, total expenditure was $60.3 million (excluding Centrelink administration costs) and provided assistance as follows:

- 4,254 farmers received income support assistance;
- 1,754 farmers received replanting interest rate subsidy loans;
- 1,912 farmers received general interest rate subsidy loans; and
- overall 5,247 farmers received some type of assistance (comprising one or more of the above entitlements).
Farm Assistance Program

The Central North East of South Australia Farm Assistance Program Management Committee has reported that a change of thinking is occurring within the region, with farmers investigating and initiating diversification projects outside their traditional farming practices:

- 98 Business Planning Grants totalling $294,000 have been approved;
- 50 Productivity Improvement Grants totalling $500,000 have been approved;
- 49 Infrastructure Grants totalling $245,000 have been approved; and
- 10 Research and Development projects are being developed.

Forest Industry Structural Adjustment Package – States

In New South Wales, 13 Industry Development Assistance grants totalling $6.1 million were announced. The grants will support investment of $26.4 million. In Victoria 18 Industry Development Assistance grants totalling $12.4 million have been announced. The grants will support investment of $68.5 million.

Regional Adjustment and Assistance

Payments to State Authorities in Connection with War Service Land Settlements were made in a timely manner. The final financial year payment was made on time.

FarmBis – Skilling Farmers for the Future – States

About 35,000 Skilling Farmers for the Future training activities were undertaken during 2001-02.

The 2001-02 Annual Follow-up Survey of AAA-FarmBis participants indicated that:

- 81 per cent of participants were satisfied with the knowledge and helpfulness of FarmBis staff;
- 69 per cent were very satisfied and 27 per cent somewhat satisfied with the training provider;
• 79 per cent state that information about the course was provided without any unreasonable delay;
• 92 per cent believed the learning activities had met their needs;
• 91 per cent were satisfied with the course content;
• 91 per cent had gained new skills and knowledge; and
• 92 per cent of those that gained new skills had been able to incorporate what they learnt into their farm business practices.

Tasmanian Wheat Freight – Shipping

Payments were made in four instalments to the Tasmanian Government within the terms of the agreement. In 2000-01, 70 per cent of eligible shipping costs were met by the grant. Similar data for 2001-02 is not available until September 2002 when the Tasmanian Government is required to report on the grant for the previous financial year.

West 2000

In 2001-02, 665 projects valued at $5.1 million have been approved to receive assistance from the WEST 2000 Plus program. It is too early in the program to assess the impact of the program on farm viability.

Dairy Industry Restructure Package

The Dairy Structural Adjustment Program is almost fully implemented with close to 100 per cent advised of entitlements and 98 per cent receiving payments. Adjustments are continuing as measured by farm exits and uptake of industry finance arrangements.

Under the Supplementary Dairy Assistance measures, 98 per cent of eligible farmers have been advised of payments under the Additional Market Milk Payments program to a total value of $90.4 million as at 30 June 2002. In relation to the discretionary Payments Program, 502 cases were found to be eligible. Of these, 86 per cent received payments totalling $12.2 million.

Under the Dairy Exit Program, 51 farmers received $2.1 million in 2001-02.
Lamb Industry Development Program – Levy Alleviation

In accordance with the Government’s decision, $6.7 million was paid to offset lamb industry levy arrangements to lamb producers in 2001-02.

Wool International Act 1993

The wool stockpile was disposed of during the year and the residual levy arrears collection is nearing completion.

Exceptional circumstances drought assistance to Western Australia and Queensland

See the performance information provided under Farm Household Support Act 1992 (Exceptional Circumstances Relief Payment) and Rural Adjustment under the States Grants (Rural Adjustment) Act 1988 and the Rural Adjustment Act 1992.

Ex-gratia emergency income support to farmers in Western Australia and Queensland

Assistance equivalent to the Exceptional Circumstances Relief Payment was delivered by Centrelink to approximately 90 farm families in Western Australia. This payment was only utilised once in Queensland as exceptional circumstances assistance replacing the ex-gratia support was made available in August 2001 within a few weeks of the commencement of the announcement of ex-gratia payments.

Agricultural Development Partnerships

No project contracts for the program have been concluded to date.

Industry Leadership: Women and Young People in Rural Industries

There has been an increased representation of and participation by women and young people involved in rural industries in government consultation and decision-making processes:

• nine organisations were awarded grants under the Young People’s Rural Networks grants element to use for operational purposes or a specific project;
• 40 young women and men participated in the second Young Rural Leaders Course in October 2002 and participants rated the course highly;

• 14 young women and men attended the Australian Institute of Company Directors, Company Directors Course in April and June 2002. Participant feedback has been extremely positive with learning immediately applied to current board positions held;

• 12 young women and men received Study Awards to attend courses or conferences to advance their knowledge and skills to enable them to contribute further to their chosen industries;

• the Mentoring Young Leaders initiative was launched in partnership with the Australian Rural Leadership Network. Participants from all the elements of the Young People in Rural Industries Program are eligible and encouraged to participate in the initiative; and

• three national rural women’s non-government organisations were awarded grants for operational funding to further their capacity building.

Research and data was identified to support evidence-based policy advice:

• research on young people (18-35 years olds) in rural industries was conducted and used to refine elements of the Young People in Rural Industries Program, and to inform an internal publication forming a part of the department’s client strategy. Guidelines for Reaching our Clients - Young People was launched by Minister Truss in May 2002.

There was an increased awareness of AFFA’s role, policies and programs amongst target client groups:

• awareness was raised of the young people’s and women’s programs amongst stakeholders and client groups through advertising, the e-newsletter, and networks as demonstrated by increased response to advertised programs and media coverage of winners of various elements of the programs. Further submissions received to several consultations included an increased number from the women and young people clients groups.
Evaluations

Review of AAA–Farm Help – Supporting Families Through Change

Objectives

The evaluation will measure the effectiveness of the new program elements of AAA-Farm Help (the activity plan, case management and retraining). The South Australian Centre for Economic Research undertook the evaluation.

End date (approximately): October/November 2001.

Intended audience for findings

The final evaluation report will be submitted to the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

Result

A response to the findings of the evaluation will be developed, particularly in relation to possible amendments to the program to improve its effectiveness in achieving program objectives and outcomes.

Interest Rate Subsidy Review

Objectives

The Review will examine the efficiency of interest rate subsidies as a form of farm business assistance although the final form of the review has yet to be determined by the Minister.

Start date (approximately): January 2002
End date (approximately): April 2002

Intended audience for findings

The Review’s report will be released to Ministers, other Commonwealth agencies and State Governments.
Result

The review has not been initiated because its focus will be impacted by the outcome of the EC reform process which is still in progress.

FarmBis Program – Final Impact Assessment
(Incorporating the Annual Review of State’s Performance)

Objectives

The final impact assessment of the AAA-FarmBis program will report on its performance in meeting its objectives, and will incorporate the final annual review of States’ performance for the program. The Annual Review of States’ Performance will report on each States’ progress and performance in delivering the FarmBis program against predetermined outcomes and performance indicators, which have been agreed between the Commonwealth and the States. The annual follow-up survey of participants and industry representatives will be used to inform this assessment.

External service providers will be engaged to conduct the evaluation.

Start date (approximately): March 2002
End date (approximately): June 2002

Intended audience for findings

Information from the final impact study and annual review of States’ Performance will be submitted to the Commonwealth Minister responsible for the AAA-FarmBis program (Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry). It will also be submitted to the State Planning Groups (SPGs), which operate within each State and the Northern Territory. The SPGs provide advice to the States and Territory on the operation of the program in their State, including priorities, strategies, delivery mechanisms, funding and administrative arrangements of the program. Overall evaluation results may be used by each State and Territory to refocus or adjust the operation of the program within the overall framework as agreed under the Commonwealth/State Agreement.
Result

The annual follow up survey conducted by Roy Morgan Research provides strong evidence that the AAA-FarmBis program is achieving short and intermediate outcomes, with:

- 92 per cent of respondents indicating that the learning activities suited their needs;
- 47 per cent of respondents stating they were more interested in future farm and business management training since undertaking the AAA-FarmBis activity; and
- 92 per cent of those that had gained new skills stated they had already incorporated the skills they learnt into their farm business practices.

The economic evaluation undertaken by ABARE shows that when expressed over a 10-year period, it cost approximately $260 in program costs for each person who adopted what they learnt in a course. The long term benefits of AAA-FarmBis therefore did not have to be large to exceed the costs of the program. For example, a potential one per cent increase in adjusted farm profit at full equity would equate to $643. It should also be noted that total program costs include costs participants themselves incurred in attending the training. Over its three-year term, AAA-FarmBis leveraged 1.3 times as much in participant’s costs as was spent by government.

Commonwealth Fisheries Policy Review

Objectives

The Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry announced a review of Commonwealth Fisheries Policy in June 2000. The review will consider the adequacy of the current policy framework to deliver ecologically sustainable development and efficiency in Commonwealth fisheries across the major catching sectors of commercial, recreational and traditional fisheries.

The terms of reference for the review are:

1. To identify the key trends and issues affecting the future viability and sustainability of the Commonwealth fishing industry operating in a global environment.

2. To review the effectiveness of current policy arrangements to deliver outcomes that will provide for economically efficient and ecologically sustainable Commonwealth fishing industries in the future.
3. To recommend to the Government the future arrangements for the delivery of Commonwealth fisheries policy to achieve these outcomes.

Start date: November 2000
End date (approximately): August 2001

Intended audience for findings
Fishing industry and Government.

Result
Following further consultation with stakeholders, the review is scheduled to be completed by December 2002.

Fisheries Resources Research Fund (FRRF)
Objectives
To conduct an internal performance audit of FRRF, reviewing its operations and processes in line with those established during the creation of FRRF in 1991 following the release of the New Directions (December 1991), and those recommendations of the Task Force on Review of Rural Research report. The audit will also review the processes and controls in place within the operation and management of the FRRF, review processes and controls underpinning the selection of appropriate research proposals and make recommendations to improve FRRF performance.

Start date: April 2001
End date (approximately): July 2001

Intended audience for findings
General Manager, Fisheries and Aquaculture within AFFA, Executive Officers of the Australian Fisheries Management Authority and other stakeholders interested in the independent assessment of Commonwealth-managed fisheries.

Result
The internal performance audit made a number of recommendations concerning administrative matters, to improve the accountability mechanisms for the management of the FRRF. The majority of these recommendations has now been implemented with further implementation to occur following the finalisation of the Commonwealth Fisheries Policy Review.
OUTPUT 4
FOOD PROCESSING AND THROUGH CHAIN DEVELOPMENT

The objective of AFFA’s Food Processing and Through Chain Development Output is to influence the business environment and help the development and adoption of innovation along the value chain in order to promote globally competitive food industries.

Responsibility for the processed food and beverage industry policy was transferred from the then Department of Industry Science and Resources to AFFA in 1998, with the intention that this would enable a through-chain approach to food policy, including food regulation. This includes building links and changing cultures, promoting greater responsiveness and awareness of market and consumer requirements and improving quality assurance and integration along supply chains. Responsibility for horticulture and wine industries competitiveness was transferred from the Industry Development and Adjustment Output at the start of the financial year.

AFFA priorities have been to:

• strengthen the Department’s leadership on food and beverage issues;
• develop a credible food and beverage industry policy agenda;
• improve food quality and safety outcomes through reform of standards and regulations;
• assist uptake of competitive food and fibre supply chain management strategies; and
• promote adoption of best practice food safety and quality management systems.

Performance Indicators for Output 4 – Food Processing and Through Chain Development

Overall Effectiveness Indicators
Competitive food industries:

• the extent to which AFFA influences the business environment and contributes to increased food industry competitiveness; and
• the extent to which AFFA contributes to increased adoption of innovation along the value chain.
Departmental Indicators

Efficient, practical and effective program delivery as measured by:

- the number of New Industries Development Program (NIDP) grant inquiries and proportion of these converted to grant applications which meet program criteria;
- the percentage of NIDP project applications submitted to Working Group within approved timeframes;
- satisfaction of successful NIDP applicants with AFFA program delivery;
- number of NIDP projects for which expenditure targets are achieved;
- number of NIDP case studies completed and disseminated;
- effective management of AFFA contractual obligations with the outsourced provider to deliver the Food and Fibre Chains program, as measured by payments of financial support and provision of responses to company reports within agreed timeframes and government prudential requirements, number and frequency of reports provided by the company and provision of project assessments within agreed timeframes; and
- food industry communications and information dissemination undertaken with positive feedback from stakeholders, including publication of “Food Statistics 2002”.

Competitive food industries

AFFA influenced the food business environment and contributed to increased food industry competitiveness through:

- development of the Government’s National Food Industry Strategy (NFIS) through a process of wide stakeholder consultation and establishment of arrangements to enable the Strategy to be implemented from 1 July 2002;
- activities relating to the Primary Industry Standing Committee (PISC), including an organics workshop in conjunction with the Industries Competitiveness Committee, to explain the policy and regulatory frameworks, and contribution to the first formal meeting of the PISC Food Committee, which is working to develop a work program on a national policy agenda for the processed food industry;
- publication of Australian Food Statistics 2002, which has been well received by industry;
- development of a web-enabled database on food safety and quality assurance to assist food businesses access Australian food safety and quality assurance information;
- Guidelines for On-Farm Food Safety Fresh Produce was developed to provide the horticulture industry greater consistency in implementing on-farm food safety programs;
- publication of Safety on the Shelf, a report detailing the impact of global retailers’ safety and quality assurance requirements on Australian food exporters;
- a working group chaired by AFFA finalised the Primary Production and Processing Ministerial Guideline, which was agreed by the Food Regulation Standing Committee and the Australia New Zealand Food Regulation Ministerial Council;
- AFFA’s lead role in implementing and operating the Council’s Food Regulation Standing Committee and the Development and Implementation Sub-Committee;
- AFFA’s significant role in finalising the Australia-New Zealand Food Regulation Treaty as the final step in formally establishing the new agency Food Standards Australia New Zealand;
- AFFA’s significant role in Australia’s successful hosting of an International Office of Wine and Vine (OIV) General Assembly in October 2001;
- AFFA’s major role in the signing of the Mutual Acceptance Agreement on Oenological Practices on 18 December 2001 by five members of the World Wine Trade Group (Australia, Canada, Chile, New Zealand, and the US). Argentina and South Africa are expected to sign in 2002-03. The Treaty provides for signatory countries to accept each other’s wine-making practices, subject to health and safety considerations, and will provide additional insurance for our growing export trade in wine. The group is currently developing a multilateral wine labelling agreement that should also help facilitate international trade;
- endorsement by PISC of the next stage work program of the Tri State Fruit Fly Strategy;
- passing by Parliament of amendments to horticultural export control legislation;
- AFFA’s convening of an interdepartmental committee to advise the government on its response to the Productivity Commission’s report on the citrus industry;
- the Government agreement to introduce new levies for the mushroom, onion and table grape industries; and
- AFFA’s contribution to the Australia-Indonesia Horticulture and Agribusiness Support Systems Task Force meetings held in March 2002.
AFFA contributed to increased adoption of innovation along the value chain by:

- establishing of the EUREPGAP Compliance Sub-Committee and commencing gap analysis and planning for an environmental assurance workshop in July 2002;

- managing contractual arrangements with the outsourced service providers to deliver the Food and Fibre Chains program and support for the Supermarket To Asia Council;

- involvement in the new Food Industry Supply Chain program (part of the NFIS) to support the building and strengthening of chain management capabilities and disseminate chain knowledge and experience within the Australian food industry; and

- evaluating the New Industries Development Program (NIDP) Mark I and the Food and Fibre Chains program, finding positive outcomes for industry had been achieved by both programs.

BRS provided support for AFFA's national through-chain approach to the food industry and for improved understanding of decision-makers with ongoing, high quality advice on eco-labelling and other value added concepts. BRS also produced reports on *Mapping for Success in Agrifood Supply Chain Management* and *Risk Assessment in Food Safety Policy and Practice*.

To improve understanding of the wine industry and its dependent communities, BRS published *Social Profiles of Australian Winegrowing Regions* that combined an Atlas of social profiles of wine growing regions with a case study approach to examine in more detail the importance of the winegrowing industry to a particular region and industry linkages to local communities.

**Efficient, practical and effective program delivery**

Effective, practical and efficient program delivery was achieved by:

- executing contracts for 56 Pilot Commercialisation Projects (PCP) approved under NIDP Mark II, with a total value of $4.57 million, almost double the annual target;

- awarding 12 NIDP scholarships;

- making pilot on-line business readiness diagnostic tools available to all NIDP clients via the internet;

- completing the first stage of *Stepping Stones to Capital* workshops was completed;
• managing contractual arrangements with the outsourced provider to deliver the Food and Fibre Chains program – payments were made in accordance with the contract and ongoing performance monitoring was undertaken, as well as liaison regarding dissemination of program lessons to industry;
• undertaking food industry communications and dissemination through a number of vehicles, including an extensive consultation and communication process for the NFIS, the Food News Bulletin, the FoodInfo Website, and publication of Food Statistics 2002, which was well received by industry.

Administered Items for Output 4 – Food Processing and Through Chain Development

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Administered Item Indicators</th>
<th>Appropr. Source</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Citrus Industry Market Diversification Grant*</td>
<td>Bill 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Assist in move towards a greater focus on the production, consumption and export of fresh fruit and juice products.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Increased industry focus on quality control for citrus exports.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Facilitate greater market access for citrus products.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Organisations – Contributions (Horticulture and Wine Component)*</td>
<td>Bill 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Work programs which further the achievement of Australia’s international agricultural trade policy objectives.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Level of industry support for government involvement.</td>
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New Industries Development Program Mark II

- Australian agribusiness enterprises gain the business skills and resources required to successfully commercialise new agribusiness products, technologies and services, as measured through:
  - a minimum of 30 Pilot Commercialisation Projects are approved;
  - a minimum of 15 scholarships are awarded; and
  - extensive national and regional exposure to financial and management issues is achieved through mainstream media coverage.

* Citrus Industry Market Diversification Grant and International Organisations Contributions (Horticulture and Wine Component) were transferred from Output 3 to Output 4 during the year, as noted in the 2001-02 Portfolio Additional Estimates Statements

Citrus Industry Market Diversification Grant

The Citrus Market Diversification Program (CMDP) has contributed towards a number of valuable achievements for the citrus industry. There has been a sustained increase in the value of citrus exports. Since 1994 total exports have increased from $121 million to $176 million in 1999-2000; market access for Australian easy peel varieties to Japan was achieved in April 1999; and market access for Australian oranges and lemons to Korea was achieved in May 2000. The quantity of oranges destined for processing has decreased from 60 per cent of total production in 1990-91 to 47 per cent of total production in 1999-2000, while exports of oranges have risen from 11 per cent to 21 per cent over the same period. The gross value of production for citrus has risen from $225 million in 1990-91 to just over $413 million in 1999.

International Organisations – Contributions – International Office of Wine and Vine (OIV)

Australia hosted a successful meeting of the World Congress and General Assembly of the OIV in Adelaide in October 2001. Australian representatives also attended the 2002 General Assembly in Bratislava in June 2002. During the year Australia also played an active role in the ongoing review of the internal rules of procedure of the OIV. The new 2001 OIV Treaty was tabled in Federal Parliament on 18 June and is likely to be ratified by the end of 2002.
New Industries Development Program Mark II

Three Advisory Committee Meetings were held in July, November and March. On two occasions the meetings were used as an opportunity for Advisory Committee members to meet grant recipients and view projects.

The approval of 56 PCP was undertaken and contracts put in place for the pilot commercialisation of new agribusiness products, technologies and services. This is almost double the proposed target of 30 new projects. Project proponents expect to realise significant medium-term economic outcomes and it is also expected that an average of ten new jobs will be created per project.

Twelve scholarships were awarded with at least one being awarded to each state and one to the Northern Territory for entrepreneurs to upgrade their skills and knowledge and better understand factors involved in the commercialisation phase and marketing of their product.

By June 30 2002 the ‘On The Land’ television show aired throughout rural and regional Australia had featured 12 NIDP grant recipients, with programming in place to feature a further 10 projects and shows airing until September. Two shows featured highlights of the NIDP Agribusiness Innovators On-Line Seminar. NIDP grant recipients and their projects are used as demonstration models to develop approaches that may be adopted more widely for other new niche agribusiness ventures.

A series of workshops focusing on capital raising, marketing and supply chain management was held in five state capitals. Workshops highlighted the degree of unpreparedness of organisations seeking capital. This finding applied equally to sole proprietors and spin-offs from Cooperative Research Centres.

National Food Industry Advisory Committee; Back row: John Doumani, Jim Kennedy, Michael Eyles, Iain McGregor, Phil Naylor, Malcolm Irving, Barry Watts. Second row: Michael Taylor, Mitch Hooke, Reg Clairs, Ian Donges. Front row: Barbara Isaacson, the Hon Warren Truss MP, Senator the Hon Judith Troeth, Andrew Reeves.

Members not present: Joe de Bruyn, Dianne Davidson, William Duncan, Mike Ginnivan, Paul Little, Ray O’Dell.
Processed sea cucumber (or trepang) is a favoured ingredient in Asian cuisine. In some markets tropical sea cucumber species are sought after as medicine and as an aphrodisiac. There is commercial potential in sea cucumber products – but in tropical Australia wildcatch commercial sea cucumber species have become increasingly hard to get.

Now with AFFA New Industries Development Program (NIDP) support West Australian firm Oceanwest Fisheries Pty Ltd will make innovative, quality assured commercial products from farmed sea cucumber. Oceanwest Fisheries Pty Ltd will work in partnership with the Maningrida (Northern Territory) based Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation. Oceanwest will supply juvenile sea cucumbers to coastal communities, creating a new Australian tropical industry. Project spin-offs include a boost to regional employment and the creation of a pool of labour with new and potentially marketable skills in what is called “sea-ranching”.

The NIDP provided $88,660 to Oceanwest Pty Ltd and its partners to develop infrastructure for a pilot scale hatchery for the production of sea cucumber juveniles. The NIDP project supports staff development, supply chain development and awareness raising.
(CRCs) and universities and confirmed that management deficiencies are a significant problem requiring solutions. In response to this, an on-line, self-paced business-readiness diagnostic tool has been developed. This provides immediate feedback on key aspects of a business, relevant to the stages of growth and benchmarked against key attributes used by professional investment managers to discriminate between investment opportunities.

Evaluations

Evaluation of the New Industries Development Program

Objectives:
The objective of the evaluation was to test the:

1. program’s effectiveness in achieving its objective to help Australian agribusiness improve its capacity to develop successful new high-value products and services that will generate further medium term commercial outcomes for Australia;

2. efficiency and effectiveness of program delivery and administration; and

3. value, relevance and appropriateness of similar initiatives in the future to develop new agricultural industries and business proposals.

Timing

The NIDP Evaluation began in February 2002 with the final written evaluation report submitted to AFFA on 14 May 2002.

Results

Key findings of the evaluation in relation to the above three objectives include:

1. the review noted it was not possible to make unequivocal conclusions about the indicators, as the program had not yet run its full course and impacts may take several more years to be fully measurable. However, it also noted that the program is likely to contribute positively to the medium to long term commercial outcomes for Australia, as measured by standards agreed against performance indicators;
2. the overall conclusion is that the business processes are sound and represent a firm basis for expanding the program, as supported under the Government’s Backing Australia’s Ability initiative; and

3. the evaluation reported that the business processes also provide a model to apply to other grant and funding programs that target commercialisation of science and new and emerging technologies.

Other findings include:

• the program provided the stimulus for entrepreneurial people to begin the path to commercialisation of a project they had been contemplating but was still too uncertain or costly for them to start immediately;

• the program enabled the projects, in most cases, to progress significantly faster than they would otherwise have done;

• recipients often commented on the change in attitude of people they work and collaborate with (particularly suppliers) towards meeting customer demands – demonstrating that the program was instrumental in nurturing a culture of entrepreneurship and innovation; and

• the NIDP helped strengthen links between businesses, universities and research organisations.

Evaluation of the Food and Fibre Chains Program

Objectives:

The evaluation’s first objective was to investigate and report on the program’s performance to date in achieving its objectives of:

• wider knowledge of supply-chain management practices and improved supply chain skills and knowledge in Australian agribusinesses;

• improved competitiveness of Australian agribusiness through the adoption of effective chain practices, the development of new chains and/or increasing chain efficiency; and

• development and dissemination of successful chain models.

The second objective was to assess the effectiveness and efficiency of the program, including the management processes.
Timing

The evaluation commenced in February 2002, with the final written evaluation report submitted to AFFA in May 2002.

Results

The main findings were:

- the keys success of the program has been the establishment of new demand chains for recipients and their chain partners;
- the program has had a significant and positive impact on most recipient businesses in fostering a chain/customer focus;
- the program has accelerated projects that may have not developed in the same time frame, or may not have occurred at all;
- the intended project outcomes (project diversity) have provided a broad platform for further dissemination of learning as projects mature;
- the program has re-affirmed that low ‘chain awareness’ within the targeted industry sectors continues to be a key barrier to the development of more competitive demand and supply chains. This in part has also contributed to the low uptake of the program at inception;
- the promotion of commercial clusters within recipient businesses has met with some initial success but is still in the early stages of maturity; and
- the ‘honest broker’ and mentoring approach had a positive impact on those businesses involved, but came at the expense of efficiency and effectiveness in some areas of program delivery.
OUTPUT 5
MARKET ACCESS AND BIOSECURITY

AFFA’s Market Access and Biosecurity Output aims to enhance the competitiveness of Australia’s agricultural and food industries by:

• maintaining and improving market opportunities through policy and technical advice and participation in negotiations for market access and trade agreements and in international forums; and

• permitting safe trade while protecting Australia’s plant, animal and human health and the environment through scientifically based biosecurity policy.

Market Access and Biosecurity (MAB) continues to address its core business requirements of enhancing market opportunities and ensuring safe trade. Its priorities evolve to meet the challenges confronting Australian industry and the community through changes to the world trading environment, bilateral and regional agricultural relationships, technology advances and emerging pest and disease issues both in Australia and internationally.

MAB develops strategies and priorities to increase Australia’s access to export markets by addressing policy and technical barriers to trade through negotiating more effective international rules and disciplines that impact on Australia’s agricultural trading interests. This includes:

• maximising trade opportunities arising from Australia’s rights and obligations under relevant World Trade Organisation (WTO) agreements, including the Agriculture Agreement, Agreement on Application of the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures and the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade;

• working with stakeholders to identify and target market access priorities where AFFA can contribute to removing technical and other barriers to trade;

• playing a leadership role in international standard setting and policy development activities through strategic involvement in and research of the work of relevant international organisations including the OECD, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the Office International des Epizooties (OIE) (World Organisation for Animal Health), the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex) and the bodies established under the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC);

• contributing to the implementation of technical market access for the Government’s Supermarket to Asia strategy (now National Food Industry Strategy); and

• pursuing trade facilitation activities through enhancing agricultural cooperation with key trading partners.
Performance Indicators for Output 5 – Market Access and Biosecurity

Overall Effectiveness Indicators

Access to markets:
- maintaining existing markets and creating new trade opportunities for portfolio industries; and
- increased trade opportunities for portfolio industries.

Pest and disease protection:
Scientific and technical advice is integrated in national policy decisions for pest and disease protection.

Departmental Indicators

Effective participation in market access negotiations that are responsive to national priorities as measured by:
- adoption or acknowledgment of Australian positions by overseas agencies and international organisations;
- adoption by international organisations of policies/positions that reflect Australia’s interest;
- number of market access achievements (maintained, improved, gained);
- number of consultations with clients on priorities and performance; and
- number of meetings with portfolio participation.

Development of scientifically-based biosecurity policy, in line with Government policy, the Quarantine Act and international obligations as measured by:
- number of successful appeals compared to opportunities to appeal;
- annual survey of registered stakeholders;
- acceptance by appointed scientific reviewers that policy is based on scientific principles;
- incursions attributable to biosecurity policy; and
- number of IRAs completed and/or progressed.

Evaluation of the effectiveness of biosecurity policy development and implementation as measured by:
- proportion of evaluation recommendations accepted; and
- number of evaluations undertaken.
Access to markets

Promotion of policy reform

AFFA contributed to the development of Australia’s policy positions for the WTO Doha round of multilateral trade negotiations to reduce market access barriers and other market distortions, including domestic and export subsidies facing portfolio industries.

During the year, AFFA also developed and implemented a joint Government/industry strategy to influence the development of the new US Farm Bill. This strategy included a December 2001 Government/industry delegation visit to Washington DC, led by Minister Truss, to lobby the US Congress.

Minister Truss’s visit to Japan, Korea and the Philippines in January/February 2002 provided the opportunity to engage counterparts on their respective policy approaches to agricultural reform and on bilateral market access issues.

The March 2002 visit of the European Commission Director-General for Agriculture, Mr Silva Rodriguez, was used to highlight Australia’s non-interventionist approach to agriculture and rural development, including how non-trade concerns (eg. the environment) can be addressed through targeted and decoupled measures. Similarly, visits from the Director-General of the Swedish Agriculture Ministry and the Budget Committee of the German Federal Agriculture Ministry helped promote Australia’s policy approaches and strengthened ties with these countries.

Minister Truss’ visit to Sweden and Denmark in June 2002 provided the opportunity to engage their agriculture Ministers on European Union (EU) policies such as the Mid-Term Review of the Common Agricultural Policy Agenda 2000 program, EU enlargement and animal welfare. A better understanding of the stance to be taken by these countries in upcoming negotiations within the EU was gained.

US agreement to remove its lamb safeguard action by 15 November 2001 was attained following Australia’s successful WTO challenge.
During 2001-02, ABARE’s agricultural trade reform program continued to deliver world-class research on WTO and other trade-related issues, including major research reports on export support measures, the US Farm Bill, world dairy product markets and world grains markets. The research helps to keep Australian policy makers, trade negotiators and Cairns Group members abreast of developments in trade policy and critical negotiations at the WTO. Important briefing was also provided on the impact of a free trade agreement between Australia and the US.

Other significant outputs during the year included a study on trade preference agreements and the first of two reports into the impact of special provisions for developing countries under the WTO agreement on agriculture. The latter reports provide further evidence of ABARE’s commitment to improving understanding of the interests and needs of developing countries with respect to the WTO and economic development more generally.

**Technical market access negotiations**

In relation to animals and their products, the major achievements were progress on arrangements for live cattle exports to the USA, Japan’s removal of restrictive requirements on Bovine Johne’s Disease, and access to Poland for dairy cattle and their genetic material.

Memoranda of understanding on veterinary health and/or phytosanitary matters were under negotiation with Russia, Bulgaria, Croatia and the former Republic of Yugoslavia. Agreement was also obtained from the European Commission for discussions to resume on bluetongue regionalisation. These actions, in concert with AQIS, assisted in maintaining existing markets and created new trade opportunities.

Achievements in relation to plants and their products included New Zealand’s acceptance of a systems approach for the control of Queensland fruit fly (after many years of negotiations) enabling exports of all varieties of Australian tomatoes and provision of a Fruit Fly Area Freedom Submission for the Australian mainland areas of the Sunraysia and Riverland to a number of North Asian countries. Market access for oranges, mandarins and lemons to Japan has improved following approval by Japan of in-transit cold disinestation treatment. This enables quicker delivery of fruit to markets and ensures better quality for consumers.
The Grains Research and Development Corporation has agreed to fund a cooperative research program on the fungus *Pyrenophora semeniperda*. This is a major step in the overall work program to obtain agreement by China to remove this fungus from China’s quarantine list.

Several technical market access negotiations were progressed across numerous countries. Bilateral discussions between Korean and Australian quarantine agencies in Seoul in April 2002 should lead to enhanced market access for plant products in both countries. The negotiations covered area freedom from fruit fly, improved access for Australian citrus and table grapes and inspection arrangements for Australian cottonseed. Australia argued for improved access for live cattle, deer and goats, as well as for bees, horses and game meat. Korea is reviewing its import protocol for Australian citrus.

Representations to several overseas countries were successfully made in respect of GM market access issues that threatened to disrupt traditional trade.

Following testing of Australian rice bags, the Japanese Food Agency lifted its temporary ban on the import and distribution of Australian rice. The resin bags used for Australian rice satisfied the new Japanese standards for the transportation of food.
Cooperation activities in support of market access

A meeting of the bilateral Working Group on Meat, Dairy and Livestock was held in the Philippines in April 2002 to explore the scope for enhanced cooperation in the these sectors. The Philippines is a major market for Australian beef, live cattle and skimmed milk powder. The meeting re-established contacts between the two countries after a number of years break and provided an opportunity to focus on issues of common interest, including improving breeding and genetics, progress towards clarifying quarantine and opportunities for developing contacts between the two countries. A key outcome was the acceptance of an AFFA-funded dairy technical cooperation project with the Philippines.

The bilateral Working Group on Agriculture and Food Cooperation with Indonesia met in Perth in March 2002 to review cooperative activities in the meat, dairy, livestock and horticulture sectors and to explore opportunities for collaboration in food and agribusiness. Quarantine discussions were an integral part of the meeting. Agreement was reached on a range of cooperative projects in the SPS and horticulture areas.

Bilateral economic consultations with Taiwan in May 2002 included negotiations on improved access conditions for a range of agricultural products including live cattle, poultry products, fermented milk and game meat.

Throughout the year, several new International Agricultural Cooperation projects were funded via the Agriculture - Advancing Australia program. This included a research project on agricultural trade policy capacity-building in developing countries to support agricultural trade liberalisation, a project to maintain wheat access to China, and a quarantine-related project with Thailand on Rapiscan x-ray technology. Agricultural cooperation projects on wool exports to India and Vietnam and fumigation accreditation with Indonesia were also successfully completed during the year.

The Australia-China Agricultural Cooperation Agreement (ACACA) has been promoting agricultural cooperation between both countries since 1984. It is administered by AFFA and the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture, and funds agricultural oriented exchange projects. After a very competitive selection process, six Australian project teams visited China and six Chinese project teams visited Australia during the year to strengthen bilateral agribusiness cooperation.
AFFA participated in a range of activities under the auspices of the APEC Agricultural Technical Cooperation Working Group.

Development of a wool Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Vietnam is being pursued with Australian Wool Innovation (AWI).

Development of an MOU on a Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) with China on wool testing aimed at improving trade certainty and reducing contract disputes continues to be pursued jointly with AWI.

Trade and technical cooperation initiatives were progressed in the lead-up to the second meeting of the Australia-India Joint Business Group on Natural Fibres and Textiles in July 2002, including a joint Australia/India supply chain project, a wool blends project, a study of the future skills requirements of the Indian wool textile sector, a carpet wools project and a study into the impact of lower Indian wool tariffs.

Market development facilitation to the pork industry continued, including through the Singapore Market Alliance Program. Farmed pork exports reached almost $250 million this year, a 50 per cent increase on the previous 12 months and five times greater than three years ago. Much of this growth was in Singapore, a market now valued at more than $120 million, and increasing for Australian pork.

Preparation of the US Beef Quota Order for 2002 to produce certification in relation to exports of beef to the US was completed.

A two-year Market Access and Trade Strategy project was commissioned to highlight seafood market access opportunities and impediments. The Strategy will result in the development of a number of export market guides aimed at diversifying Australian seafood industry export destinations and assist in developing the Australian negotiating position for the WTO Doha round.
Biosecurity Australia aiding market access

Biosecurity Australia has been involved in technical market access negotiations that have opened and improved access to more than 40 markets in 30 countries and averted threats to 25 different markets over the past two years.

For example, Biosecurity Australia staff have played an important role in negotiating market access for dairy cattle to Poland, Mexico, Egypt, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Turkey.

There is considerable international interest in acquiring Australian dairy cattle. Sometimes importing countries require testing or certification for diseases not found in Australia. This can reduce access to the Australian herd, increase costs and complicate preparation of cattle for export, without increasing biosecurity for the importing country.

Resolution of importing countries’ animal health requirements can be complex and costly, but thanks to the work of Biosecurity Australia, negotiations have resulted in thousands of Australian dairy heifers being shipped around the world.

Australian producers can be confident that their interests are being well served with existing and potential trading partners by Biosecurity Australia’s highly qualified and experienced team.
Pest and disease protection

Biosecurity Australia (BA) continued to develop and review biosecurity policy based on a published, structured and transparent process designed to protect Australia’s favourable animal and plant health status.

Interim measures on pilchards, mackerel and closely related species were introduced in May 2002 following the detection of Viral Haemorrhagic Septicaemia Virus (VHSV) in fish caught in waters off southern California.

A review of post-entry quarantine (PEQ) conditions for alternative hosts of *Xylella fastidiosa* (Pierce’s disease) was completed. The review led to tightened quarantine testing procedures for plants that are potential hosts of Pierce’s disease.

The final review paper for PEQ protocols for the importation of apple and pear budwood was completed. The new protocols provide Australia’s pome fruit industry with access to new varieties in a minimum of fifteen months instead of the previous post-entry quarantine period of four years.

Meetings with Environment Australia (EA) on protecting the environment have made substantial progress toward an MOU on consideration of environment issues in import risk analyses.

Effective participation in market access negotiations that are responsive to national priorities

Effective high level engagement with trading partners on multilateral agricultural trade and bilateral market access issues was pursued through visits by Ministers and senior officials to and from Australia, including the visit by Minister Truss to Japan, Korea and the Philippines in January/February 2002 and visits to Australia by the Agriculture Ministers of Turkey and Croatia, Taiwan’s Chairman of the Council of Agriculture and Chinese Vice Minister for Quarantine.

AFFA participated in the Australian delegation and contributed to development of the Australian position on agriculture and related issues for the WTO fifth Ministerial meeting at Doha. This meeting successfully launched the new WTO Doha round of multilateral trade negotiations.
Agreement was reached at the March Special Sessions of the WTO agriculture negotiations on a work plan and meeting process leading up to the March 2003 deadline for an agreement on the framework for further agricultural trade liberalisation. AFFA has participated in the Australian delegation to all agriculture negotiating sessions under the Doha round.

Biosecurity Australia participated in four meetings of the WTO Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures (WTO SPS Committee). Australia made an active contribution to the Committee outcomes, including on the implementation of equivalence. In achieving its objectives, Australia worked closely with likeminded countries, including the US and members of the Cairns Group.

AFFA successfully promoted the Australian position on a range of agricultural, SPS, Codex and trade-related issues during the FAO’s 31st Ministerial Conference in November 2001 and at the *FAO World Food Summit: five years later* event in June 2002 where Minister Truss delivered the Australian Country Statement as well as held bilateral meetings with Agriculture Ministers from a number of countries.

AFFA continued to develop positions to support Australia’s trade interests, particularly in OECD and Codex meetings. These involved responses that limited efforts to expand the definitions of food safety or to undermine science-based standard setting.

Efforts were made to ensure that OECD Agriculture Committee work program items were focused on issues that could have trade-distorting impacts, and pressure was continued against attempts to increase the legitimacy of multifunctionality. The OECD work on multifunctionality has continued to strongly support Australia’s position.

AFFA led and participated in a number of meetings with international delegations on field crop-related market access and trade issues and conducted ongoing liaison with crop industry bodies to match importers with exporters. AFFA liaised with industry on a range of field crop-related market access and trade issues including Indonesian wheat flour anti-dumping.

In the technical market access area, 15 new markets were opened as a result of technical access work and access to 12 existing markets was improved. Access was also maintained to nine markets where actions by trading partners threatened to disrupt existing trade.
AFFA participated in the Australian delegation negotiating the Australia-Singapore Free Trade Agreement and contributed to the scoping study examining the potential benefits of strengthening the trade and economic relationship with Thailand. AFFA also contributed to the development of Australia’s preliminary positions on possible Australia-Thailand and US-Australia Free Trade Agreements.

**Development of scientifically-based biosecurity policy, in line with Government policy, the Quarantine Act and international obligations**

During the year, BA worked on 50 Import Risk Analyses (IRAs). Twenty seven of these involved animals (including aquatic animals) or their products, and 23 involved plants or plant products. Two new animal biosecurity IRAs were commenced. Four IRAs were completed. These were on non-domesticated cats, table grapes from California (US), Sweetcorn Seed for Sowing from Idaho (US), and pineapples (the pineapple IRA was released on 1 July). Several IRAs reached important milestones, including completion of the draft IRA on bananas from the Philippines.

The IRA process includes provision for appeal by stakeholders. A total of six appeal opportunities arose during 2001-02 and of these one (relating to membership of the Risk Analysis Panel (RAP) on apples from New Zealand) resulted in an appeal being upheld in part. Further information about appeals is provided in the section of this Report on Internal and External Scrutiny.

In developing general guidelines on risk analysis methodology and in conducting specific import risk analyses, BA sought peer review and technical input from a wide range of external scientific experts.

There are over 2,700 stakeholders on the BA Stakeholder Register. A survey undertaken in September 2001 revealed a high level of stakeholder satisfaction with the quality, timeliness and quantity of BA consultations. BA continued its efforts to strengthen communication with stakeholders about IRAs and market access issues, and about biosecurity policy and processes in general. Stakeholders were provided with many opportunities to express their views through calls for comment and submissions as well as workshops and public meetings convened around Australia.
Fifty-six animal biosecurity policy memoranda and 52 plant biosecurity policy memoranda were issued to registered stakeholders according to their specified interests. Stakeholders were also consulted on the draft revised administrative framework and draft guidelines for import risk analysis. Information on BA activities was provided to a broad range of stakeholders through BA publications. During 2001-02, BA produced five editions of *Biosecurity Australia News* and a pamphlet on the WTO’s Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement, as well as the publications referred to below, i.e. *Guidelines for Import Risk Analysis* and *Draft Administrative Framework for Import Risk Analysis*.

BA continued to give a high priority to work aimed at enhancing the development of transparent science-based biosecurity policy.

Revisions to the 1998 *Handbook on the Import Risk Analysis Process* were almost completed, after taking into account comments by stakeholders on the draft document circulated in September 2001. It is expected that the new *Administrative Framework for Import Risk Analysis* will be published in late 2002. *Guidelines for Import Risk Analysis*, covering the technical methodology for risk analysis, will complement the administrative framework. Draft *Guidelines for Import Risk Analysis* were released in late 2001 for external comment and critique, and are already being used by BA to promote consistency in undertaking import risk analyses.

BA provided strategic policy input into the consideration of national biosecurity policy issues by the PISC. It also contributed to several AFFA initiatives on quarantine, including a review of cargo quarantine management and the development of quarantine risk indicators.

BA contributed to preparing the submission to the Joint Committee on Public Accounts and Audit (JCPAA) Review of Quarantine, as well as participating in the Working Groups set up by AQIS to address quarantine policy and operations in line with ANAO Report 47 of 2000-01 on managing quarantine.

**Evaluation of the effectiveness of biosecurity policy development and implementation**

There were no planned evaluations in 2001-02.
Administered Items for Output 5 – Market Access and Biosecurity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Administered Item Indicators</th>
<th>Source</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) Contribution</td>
<td>Bill 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Work programs which further the achievement of Australia’s national and international agricultural, fisheries, forestry and trade interests.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) contribution**

The Australian position was successfully promoted on a range of agricultural trade, SPS, Codex and trade related capacity building issues during the FAO Asia Pacific Regional Conference in Nepal in May 2002, the *World Food Summit: five years later* event in Rome in June 2002 and associated FAO Committee and technical meetings and governing bodies’ sessions.

Australia’s position was successfully promoted on:

• the role of economic growth and trade liberalisation in food security;
• participation in the current Doha round of trade negotiations;
• technical assistance and capacity building for developing countries; and
• the importance of Codex and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC).
OUTPUT 6
PRODUCT INTEGRITY, ANIMAL (INCLUDING AQUATIC ANIMAL) AND PLANT HEALTH

The objective of the Product Integrity, Animal and Plant Health Output is to maintain and improve domestic and international market and consumer confidence in the integrity of Australian agricultural, fisheries and forestry products. This is achieved by optimising the beneficial effects of agricultural and veterinary chemicals and minimising the impact of pests, diseases and contaminants on production, trade, human health and the environment.

The Product Integrity, Animal and Plant Health Business Group (PIAPH), working closely with other AFFA business groups, has a critical role to play in providing a coordinated national and international approach to issues related to animal (including aquatic animal) health and welfare, plant health and protection, residues, food safety and agricultural and veterinary (agvet) chemicals. PIAPH also provides national coordination for managing of incursions or outbreaks of pests and diseases of national significance, and on-farm food safety and residue emergencies.

Australia currently enjoys a highly favourable pest and disease-free status, but faces a number of potentially disastrous threats, including Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE). Australia’s pest and disease status underwrites agriculture and fishery exports expected to reach $23.7 billion in 2002-03. Should FMD, for example, be detected in Australia, there would be an immediate loss of markets for wool, meat, dairy and live exports in the order of $13 billion. This would also have a significant adverse socio-economic impact in those areas of rural and regional Australia heavily dependent on Australia’s industries.

Core activities for the Output include:

• developing and implementing national policies and programs to maintain our freedom from exotic pests and diseases, such as FMD, BSE and exotic fruit fly, and underpin the integrity of our production systems;

• coordinating national programs dealing with major endemic pests and diseases, such as Ovine Johnes Disease (OJD) and plague locusts;

• advancing Australia’s interest in international forums dealing with animal health, plant health, food safety and agvet chemicals policy and standards;

• leading the national response to emergencies arising from exotic pest and disease incursions and food safety/residue contamination incidents;
• governance of national legislation underpinning agricultural and veterinary chemicals registration and residue monitoring and surveillance; and
• providing high level technical and scientific support in the areas of animal health and welfare, plant health, on-farm food safety, residue management and agvet chemicals.

Performance Indicators for Output 6 – Product Integrity, Animal (including Aquatic Animal) and Plant Health

Overall Effectiveness Indicators

Pest and disease protection:
• the extent to which the adverse effects of pests, diseases or product contamination and their consequential impacts on production, trade, the environment and consumer confidence are minimised.

Departmental Indicators

Effective plant health, animal health, animal welfare, and food safety program delivery measured by:
• delivery of support in accordance with government prudential requirements and within established timeframes and resource allocations;
• programs that are readily accessible for portfolio industries; and
• delivery of agreed outcomes.

Effective emergency response program delivery as measured by:
• cost effectiveness;
• appropriateness for the specific emergency situation;
• the delivery of the best possible outcomes; and
• response programs that are built on professional contingency planning.

Effective leadership and coordination of Australia’s contribution to international policy and standards setting for animal health, plant health and product integrity as measured by:
• influence in international arena to advance Australia’s interests.
Pest and disease protection

In response to a request by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) in June 2001, AFFA led the development of a national whole-of-government framework for managing a national animal disease emergency on the scale of an outbreak of FMD. In the process, national and jurisdictional plans have been reviewed and improved.

In March 2002 the Government and Livestock Industries Cost Sharing Deed in Respect of Emergency Animal Diseases responses was ratified. The new arrangements provide greater certainty in funding and will facilitate a rapid and effective response. Development of a similar cost sharing agreement for the plant sector has commenced.

The development of a whole of government framework for animal emergencies has culminated in the preparation of a major national simulation exercise, Exercise Minotaur, which will be held in September 2002. Exercise Minotaur will aim to validate these national frameworks, and associated plans and procedures. The Exercise will be the largest of its kind ever held. During the year, a series of mini-simulations have been held to test components of response arrangements, such as legislation, relief and recovery capability, and various jurisdictional plans.

AFFA has also made a significant contribution to managing Australia’s response to the global spread of BSE, with particular emphasis on strengthening domestic surveillance and risk prevention programs.

A major government-industry review of preparedness measures for FMD held during the year led to substantial progress on a number of issues, including the use of vaccine, zoning, livestock movement standstill, livestock identification and tracing, swill feeding, carcass disposal, monitoring and surveillance, feral animal risk, laboratory capacity, national information needs, and epidemiology and economic modelling. Important progress was also made in maintaining and building epidemiological and diagnostic capability and its support infrastructure. Included in this is the development of robotic diagnostic capability at the Australian Animal Health Laboratory at Geelong, Victoria.

The Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer (OCVO) made a major contribution to the management of the AFFA Emergency Plan (AFFAEMPLAN) responses to anthrax and Newcastle disease outbreaks.
OCVO also organised a major International Symposium of Screwworm Fly preparedness, including aspects relating to sterile insect technique control methods.

During the year AFFA completed a national survey for White Spot Syndrome Virus (WSSV), analysed results, and secured national endorsement of the findings. Monitoring and surveillance of all potential locust outbreaks also continued throughout the Australian Plague Locust Commission’s (APLC) area of responsibility - one localised outbreak in Quilpie Queensland required control.

The Office of the Chief Plant Protection Officer (OCPPO) coordinated nationally agreed responses to 20 plant pest emergencies and ongoing eradication programs, including Red Imported Fire Ant, Branched Broomrape, Siam Weed, Bursaphalenchus nematode and Potato Spindle Tuber Viroid.

Improvements were made in the efficiency and effectiveness of the National Registration Scheme for agricultural and veterinary (agvet) chemicals following enactment of further changes to Commonwealth legislation for agvet chemicals and completion of policy development work that will promulgate further changes to the legislation in 2002-03.

Residue risk analysis programs conducted on bioresmethrin, endosulfan and cadmium (and preparations for dioxins testing) demonstrated the ability of the National Residue Survey (NRS) to respond to emergencies, areas of continuing concern, and emerging issues, to the satisfaction of stakeholders within AFFA and industry. NRS survey programs also continued to facilitate market access for Australian produce both overseas and domestically. The random monitoring programs for meat, in particular, continue to satisfy requirements of both European Union (EU) and United States of America (USA) markets.
**Effective plant health, animal health, animal welfare, and food safety program delivery**

Through Commonwealth funding to Plant Health Australia (PHA), OCPPO has developed and is managing three major national projects to enhance plant health capacity:

- a national distributed plant pest database to effectively identify the plant health status of Australia to assist in market access considerations and appropriate pest response among others;

- a national diagnostic network as a framework to enhance plant health diagnostic capacity in general and to specifically develop national and internationally recognised diagnostic standards for key exotic pests; and

- a national pest awareness and notification system to streamline and potentially increase the effectiveness of detecting exotic pests across a wide range of plant health stakeholders.

OCVO has given strong emphasis to scientific advice relating to FMD and BSE, including aspects relating to zoning and vaccination policies for FMD, and the major, national simulation, Exercise Minotaur. OCVO has also made detailed contributions on animal Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSE) policy advice, including input to the work of the Special Expert Committee on TSE’s (SECTSE). Detailed submissions have been made to scientific panels assessing Australia’s BSE risk.

During the year, governments and the private sector reached agreement on a model for a future joint industry-government body for aquatic animal health. A major overhaul to the Commonwealth/State/Territory government arrangements for formulating national agvet policy, and development of a new work plan focused on key strategic priorities, were also completed.

Under the auspices of the National Consultative Committee on Animal Welfare (NCCAW) considerable progress was made on the development of a National Animal Welfare Strategy (NAWS). NAWS will cover the care and all uses of all types of animals and will facilitate a national approach to animal welfare.

An internal review conducted in the last quarter of 2001-02, found that the NRS was performing well, and was valued by industry. The review also recommended that the relationship with industry needed to be more clearly articulated and that a clearer demarcation was needed between NRS policy and residue management policy. Work to implement these recommendations has begun.
Effective leadership and coordination of Australia’s contribution to international policy and standards setting for animal health, plant health and product integrity

Through OCPPO, AFFA built a collaborative program in plant health with countries to Australia’s near north, particularly with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). The purpose of this program is to expand Australia’s network of collaborating agencies in the region, exchange information on plant pests of mutual concern and strengthen plant health infrastructure in these countries. Initial projects are being run to assess and recommend actions to maintain and enable better use of regional pest collections and information. OCPPO continues to provide input and leadership into international plant health policy and standards including Biosafety Protocol, Convention on Biodiversity and specific bilateral and multilateral areas of cooperation, including cooperative biosecurity science programs.

AFFA made a strong contribution to the Veterinary Committee (VETCOM) process for developing national standards. These include ruminant feed bans for BSE risk minimisation and standards for Newcastle Disease surveillance and vaccination. The Department also contributed to international standards development for FMD zoning, disease surveillance and related aspects.

In the field of aquatic animal health, Australian submissions led to the revision of the Office International des Epizooties (World Organisation For Animal Health) (OIE) scheme for categorising of aquatic animal diseases. The year also saw the publication of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)/Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia Pacific’s (NACA) Guide to Aquatic and Animal Disease, with relevant Australian contributions.

AFFA led and contributed to outcomes from international policy and standards-setting bodies (Codex, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals & Pesticides in International Trade (PIC) convention, Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)) that are consistent with Australia’s trade and agricultural policies.

Through the efforts of AFFA, the development of animal welfare principles has been included in the forward work program of the OIE. AFFA’s interest in the development of international standards flows from Australia’s position as a major exporter of animal products and live animals.
Effective emergency response program delivery

OCPPO began developing specific pest-response planning in conjunction with a range of stakeholders for the citrus and grape, sugarcane, mangoes, banana, and forestry industries among others.

AFFA published the AQUAVETPLAN (Control Centres) manual in March 2002 and the AQUAVETPLAN Destruction and Disposal manuals in June 2002.

Considerable progress was made in assessing the environmental impact of control operations through a research program to assess impact on invertebrates (industry-funded), vertebrates (collaboration with Wollongong University) and aquatic fauna (Griffith University).

In collaboration with Australian Seed Inoculants Ltd and CSIRO, the APLC coordinated the development of a dossier on the *Metarhizium* biopesticide for consideration by a FAO Expert Consultation. The dossier was also used for submitting to the National Registration Authority (NRA) for registration through the Australian Plague Locust Commission’s (APLC) involvement. As a result, a water-based formulation will be registered for use against locusts and grasshoppers.

APLC international activities saw involvement in the FAO’s Desert Locust Control Committee, Expert Consultation on Biopesticides and review of the Emergency Prevention System for Transboundary Animal and Plant Pests and Diseases (EMPRES)-Desert Locust; collaborative research trials using *Metarhizium* in China and Indonesia; and emergency technical assistance to Tanzania.

A MOU between the Commonwealth and Member States to replace the existing exchange of letters was agreed by APLC Commissioners and now awaits endorsement by CEOs.

Work on FMD preparedness can be assessed in terms of the ‘premium’ payable for risk mitigation. The Productivity Commission has estimated an FMD outbreak of medium duration would cost the Australian economy around $13 billion to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) over a 10 year period. Through AFFA, Australia is putting in place a world-class emergency response capability for an FMD outbreak. The capability covers all emergency animal disease circumstances.
Administered Items for Output 6 – Product Integrity, Animal (including Aquatic Animal) and Plant Health

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Administered Item Indicators</th>
<th>Approp. Source</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Building a National Approach to Animal and Plant Health</td>
<td>Bill 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Improved national and plant health infrastructure and emergency animal disease preparedness and response capacity as measured by the completion of agreed program activities.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Clean Food Production Program</td>
<td>Bill 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• A coordinated approach to national animal health programs and systems as measured by the completion by Animal Health Australia of agreed milestones in its program activities.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenditure under the <em>Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Act 1992</em></td>
<td>Bill 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Delivery of a timely and acceptable report from the NRA in respect of its Office of Minor Use.</td>
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<tr>
<td>International Organisations – Contributions (part Item)</td>
<td>Bill 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 500,000 doses of Foot and Mouth Disease vaccine available for all seven strains.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• OIE codes accepted by WTO and member countries.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Exotic Disease Preparedness Program</td>
<td>Bill 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Emergency Management response which is in line with specified performance levels.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Preparedness strategy for Screw Worm Fly in place.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Veterinary training program implemented in line with schedule.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ovine Johnes Disease Control and Evaluation Program</td>
<td>Bill 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Funding of the NOJDP results in collection of sufficient information to allow an informed decision on the future management of OJD as measured by project outcomes in agreed priority research areas.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Control of OJD during the research and evaluation period as measured by the delivery by State agencies of agreed priority activities for surveillance and disease control.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Payment for Community Service Obligations</td>
<td>Bill 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Provision of quality policy and technical advice to Ministers and other stakeholders relating to residues and contaminants in Australian food, feed and fibre products.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Effective participation in, and contribution to, Codex and related national and international forums.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Productive communications with Commonwealth, State and Territory agencies in relation to residue and contaminant issues.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Efficient management of legislation, and other government business as required.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Payment to CSIRO – Contribution to the Operating Costs of the AAHL</th>
<th>Bill 1</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Provision of a national centre for animal health research and emergency disease diagnosis as measured by delivery by AAHL of its national responsibilities in agreed emergency disease projects.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Wildlife and Exotic Disease Preparedness Program</th>
<th>Bill 2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Completion of research by due date or adequate reporting of natural events, such as weather, that prevented completion.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Research undertaken to a professional and peer-acceptable standard. Information passed to stakeholders. Research results evaluated as relevant to the preparedness and management of disease in wild animals that may have an impact on farm livestock.</td>
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</table>

| Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Administration) Special Aprops Act 1992 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| • Collection of charges disbursed to the National Registration Authority as appropriate. |

| Australian Animal Health Council (Livestock Industry) Special Aprops Funding Act 1996 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| • Collection of animal health levies disbursed to Animal Health Australia as appropriate. |

| National Cattle Disease Eradication Trust Account Act 1991 Special Aprops |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| • Payments of the industry contribution to agreed endemic disease eradication programs as required. |
**National Residue Survey Admin Act 1992**

- Effective management of monitoring, targeted-testing and prevention for residues and contaminants in Australian food, feed and fibre products.
- Effective communication with governments, industry and overseas agencies on the results of NRS residues and contaminant related programs.
- Financial management of NRS levies and the NRS Reserve in accordance with relevant legislation and good administrative practice.

**Eradication of the red imported fire ant**

- All national consultative arrangements in place including a national Consultative Committee, Scientific Advisory Panel and a national Monitoring Group to provide an appropriate framework for information gathering and exchange, consultation and discussion, and mechanism for the cooperative delivery of the Red Imported Fire Ant eradication program.
- Continuation of the national agreement to support and maintain the eradication program.
- Eradication campaign commences, including establishment of a Fire Ant Control Centre, development of operational plan, delivery of ground and aerial treatments to known infested areas, and commencement of programs to monitor effectiveness and environmental safety.

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**Building a National Approach to Animal and Plant Health**

Under the Building a National Approach to Animal and Plant Health initiative, announced by the Government in the 2000-01 budget, the Commonwealth is playing a lead role in helping to improve Australia’s animal and plant health infrastructure and its pest and disease prevention and emergency response capacities. Animal Health Australia (AHA), Plant Health Australia (PHA) and the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC) are helping implement the program.

Plans have been developed and agreed with these agencies and are being implemented for projects under the broad headings of preparedness, prevention and emergency management.
Clean Food Production Program

AFFA has representatives on each of AHA’s three major Program Advisory Committees as well as a number of subcommittees, contributing to program planning. During the year, three meetings were held between AFFA and AHA. The Commonwealth was represented also at AHA’s Annual General Meeting in November 2001 and its Special General Meeting in May 2002.

Key activities undertaken in this area include:

• refinement of performance standards for the national animal health system;
• an industry/government BSE/FMD Policy Forum in November 2001 and contribution to actions arising from that forum;
• finalisation of the new emergency animal disease (EAD) cost sharing arrangements – the EAD Response Agreement; and
• training of industry and government personnel for EAD response.

Expenditure under the Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Act 1992

This item is reported in the NRA Annual Report.

International Organisations – Contributions (part Item)

During the year AFFA maintained Australia’s membership of the International FMD Vaccine Bank (IVB) in the UK pending resolution of its adequacy to meet Australia’s needs. Negotiations were continued with an in-principle agreement to gain access to the European Commission FMD Vaccine Bank. Further to this AFFA helped an Animal Health Australia consultancy develop a business case for an alternative commercial supply of FMD vaccine.

Other Exotic Disease Preparedness Program

To further Australia’s preparedness to the threat of exotic diseases, AFFA ran an international symposium on screw-worm fly and implemented a program of devolvement of screw-worm fly activities to AHA.
The Department also funded workshop training courses for practitioners in exotic disease recognition and response plans in Victoria and Launceston. With the assistance of AHA a workshop was held for non-government veterinarians regarding their roles in an exotic disease incursion.

Ovine Johnes Disease Control and Evaluation Program

Payments were made to States and Territories against invoices certified by AHA and the National OJD program managers as per the National OJD Program Deed of Agreement.

Surveillance Information gained to date has described the prevalence and distribution of OJD, meeting a major program objective. The program has been modified to effect a transition to control, based on management, post 2004.

Research and development outcomes proved significant in determining the future management of OJD especially in relation to destocking and vaccination.

Payment for community service obligations

NRS community service obligations were met through the timely provision of technical and policy advice to Ministers, attendance at several international forums, liaison with State and Territory agencies and timely amendment to relevant legislation.

Payment to CSIRO – contribution to the operating costs of the Australian Animal Health Laboratory (AAHL)

AFFA participated in AAHL Advisory Council meetings in November 2001 and March 2002 with an AAHL/AFFA MOU signed in December 2001. The annual AFFA-AAHL review of AFFA-funded projects at AAHL was completed in March 2002 to link with AAHL’s detailed budget and work plans for 2002-03.

AFFA completed a national trial to validate a new generation immunological test (Prionics®) to test suitability for incorporation into Australia’s TSE surveillance program. AAHL continued to provide exotic animal disease diagnoses and undertake related research as per the agreed work program for AFFA-funded projects at AAHL.
In July 2001, $500,000 was made available to enhance AAHL’s FMD diagnostic capability. Technology transfer and diagnostic capability have been a major feature of AAHL’s work this year. In June 2002, AAHL was provided with a $1 million funding boost to automate its sample tracking, testing and reporting systems.

**Wildlife and Exotic Disease Preparedness Program**

Seven projects were assessed and funded with progress reports received throughout the year. Projects examined key risk areas with feral animals, control strategies for handling feral animals, surveillance for lyssavirus and examination of viral behaviour of lyssavirus in bats.

Substantial progress was also made on the establishment of an Australian Wildlife health network with approval gained through SCARM and by the Minister. A rigorous process was undertaken to select the host agency.

**Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Administration) Act 1992**

Industry funds were disbursed as required.

**Australian Animal Health Council (Livestock Industry) Funding Act 1996**

Industry funds were disbursed as required.

**National Cattle Disease Eradication Trust Account Act 1991**

Payments were made to States and Territories against invoices certified by AHA and Tuberculosis Freedom Assurance Program (TFAP) managers, as per the TFAP Deed of Agreement.

**National Residue Survey Admin Act 1992**

This item is a funding mechanism for AFFA and is reported in the NRS Annual Report.
Eradication of the red imported fire ant

Payments were made quarterly on receipt of an invoice from the Queensland Department of Primary Industries (QDPI).

Plant disease and eradication

The program was not included in the AFFA 2001-02 Portfolio Budget Statements as there were no predicted emergencies. Expenditures were made as part of the arrangements with States and Territories contributions to meet the costs of emergencies.
OUTPUT 7
QUARANTINE AND EXPORT SERVICES

The objective of AFFA’s Quarantine and Export Services Output is to protect Australia’s animal, plant and human health status and maintain market access through the delivery of quarantine and export services.

The Quarantine and Export Services Output contributes to the achievement of the AFFA Outcome, and in particular, the protection of Australia’s animal, plant and human health status and maintenance of market access in the following ways:

• maintaining Australia’s quarantine integrity through appropriate border protection arrangements in relation to international passengers, cargo, mail, aircraft and other vessels entering Australia and through post entry plant and animal quarantine arrangements;

• facilitating Australian exports by providing export inspection, auditing and certification services to the meat, horticulture, grain, fish, dairy, live animal exports and organic industries to ensure compliance with importing country requirements;

• developing and implementing communications that raise awareness of quarantine and promote compliance with quarantine requirements, with individuals or businesses within Australia and among overseas residents who may travel to or trade with Australia;

• developing and maintaining a partnership approach with stakeholders; and

• delivering a high level of service to industry and other external clients.

The Quarantine and Export Services Output includes inspection, certification and food safety standards activities, as delivered by the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS). These activities are essential to maintaining Australia’s highly favourable animal, plant and human health status and are important elements in the international regulatory framework that governs trade between nations.

The Output has a vital role in implementing and administering strict quarantine controls at Australia’s borders, to minimise the risk of exotic pests and disease incursions. With support from industry and the community, the Output will continue to respond to potential quarantine threats to maintain freedom from disease and protect Australia’s agricultural industries.
Maintaining access for Australian agricultural and food products to markets around the world is essential, as AQIS export inspection, auditing and certification services contribute to the generation of $14 billion in exports by the meat, horticulture, grain, fish, dairy, organic and live animal export industries.

**Performance Indicators for Output 7 – Quarantine and Export Services**

**Overall Effectiveness Indicators**

Access to markets and pest and disease protection:

- maintaining the integrity and delivery of inspection and certification services, standards setting, technical market maintenance and public awareness.

**Departmental Indicators**

Delivery of effective quarantine services as measured by:

- quarantine intervention levels at the border;
- quarantine risk effectiveness at the border; and
- the level of awareness of AQIS quarantine services.

Provision of effective export services as measured by:

- number of consignments in export markets where facilitation of release of cargoes is attributable to AQIS involvement;
- rate of rejections of export consignments; and
- the level of awareness of AQIS export services.

**Quarantine**

**Increased Quarantine Intervention**

The Government announced an additional $596.4 million over four years from 2001-02 to substantially increase the capacity of AFFA and the Australian Customs Service (Customs) to respond to the threat of foot and mouth disease (FMD) and other quarantine risks. The decision required that quarantine border intervention levels be increased to at least 81 per cent at airports (up from approximately 35 per cent in February 2001) and to 100 per cent at other border entry points. Intervention is defined as the application of quarantine measures to identify and manage items of quarantine interest, e.g. screening by dogs or x-ray or visual examination of opened passenger bags.
Effectiveness is the likelihood that these measures will intercept items of quarantine interest.

Most funding was directed towards increased border protection activities. It provides $281.4 million over four years to AFFA for AQIS, $238.8 million for Customs and provisional amounts of $49.4 million for modifications to international mail centres and $19.4 million for modifications to international airports. An additional $1.7 million was also provided to AFFA to strengthen risk management and preparedness arrangements and to provide for rapid FMD testing.


The implementation of this decision has been a major undertaking within a very short period of time. The initiatives are on track to achieve the Government’s targets.

Resources

Twelve months after decisions were announced in the 2001-02 Budget AQIS has recruited, trained and deployed most of the additional full time equivalent (FTE) staff envisaged (906 FTEs or more than 1,200 additional actual staff, some of whom are employed part-time).
AQIS has also deployed 48 of the expected 53 X-ray machines and 31 of 65 extra detector dog teams with more detector dogs currently in training.

**Airports**

National intervention and effectiveness levels have reached over 80 per cent and 70 per cent respectively compared with approximately 35 per cent intervention and effectiveness of around 39 per cent early in 2001. In 2001-02 there was a total of 469,662 seizures of items of quarantine concern at Australia’s international airports, up 62 per cent on the previous year. The Government decisions set goals of at least 81 per cent for intervention and at least 87 per cent for effectiveness within 12 months of decisions being implemented.

**International Mail**

Intervention levels have increased for the various classes of mail and are currently running at 100 per cent. Initial tentative effectiveness data has shown an increase from approximately 11 per cent (as identified in the ANAO report) to around 90 per cent for higher risk material for parcels, registered and electronically monitored mail. Effectiveness levels cannot increase substantially beyond this until infrastructure changes being developed for international mail centres have been completed.

**Cargo**

Intervention levels climbed significantly during 2001 for inspections of cargo, including sea and air containers and high volume low value (HVLV) airfreight documents. Intervention levels are currently running at over 90 per cent. Interventions for personal effects and non-containerised cargo have also been substantially increased consistent with Government decisions. Initial data for sea and air containers and HVLV indicate effectiveness levels of over 80 per cent for sea container inspections and over 90 per cent for air containers and HVLV. Ongoing consultations with industry continue to refine the integration of increased quarantine intervention requirements and Australia’s cargo facilitation practices.

**Shipping**

The intervention level has reached 100 per cent for both international vessels arriving at Australian ports and disembarking passengers. The initial preliminary effectiveness assessment for ship inspections indicates that around
90 per cent of vessels for which there is quarantine interest are detected and dealt with appropriately by AQIS at their first port of call.

**Northern Australia Quarantine Strategy**

The Northern Australia Quarantine Strategy (NAQS) has continued its work in identifying quarantine risks to northern Australia and providing early warning of quarantine pests through a program of monitoring, surveillance, inspection and quarantine awareness across northern Australia and neighbouring countries. The Commonwealth Government announced this year continuation of funding of $16.9 million over four years to allow NAQS to continue to operate at current activity levels.

The international military and humanitarian activities in East Timor continue to pose a particular risk to Australia. As a consequence, AQIS staff inspect Australian Defence Force equipment and personnel in East Timor prior to them returning to Australia, carry out enhanced border controls in Darwin and other Australian ports, and undertake comprehensive post-border surveys at all Australian military bases where equipment has been returned. East Timor and NAQS staff continue to conduct regular surveys in East Timor to identify changes in the country’s animal and plant pest and disease status.

**Impact on Clients and Industry**

AQIS has put significant effort into developing an understanding by industry and individual clients of the Government’s decisions on increased quarantine intervention. Major changes to inspection methods and practices have required close consultation with industry bodies. AQIS continues to involve industry in decisions about cost recovery arrangements.

Major infrastructure work has been completed at Sydney and Brisbane airports to enhance quarantine intervention. Developments and consultations continue with other major international airports to also achieve essential infrastructure changes. AQIS and Customs also continue to work closely with Australia Post on the work required to be undertaken at international mail centres.

**Compliance and Investigations**

Stronger border control and shared community and industry responsibilities for quarantine requires strong compliance and enforcement functions to enable AQIS to be assured of the ongoing integrity of quarantine systems and
operations. Where efforts to achieve border protection fail because of ignorance or criminal intent, a firm compliance response is required.

The planks of the compliance strategy include Quarantine Infringement Notices (QINs) at airports, referral for possible prosecution of breaches (both border and post border) across the full range of quarantine operations, a strong compliance and investigation capability within AQIS, and working closely with Customs.

In February 2002, penalties for quarantine infringement notices at airports were doubled from $110 to $220. For the financial year 2001-02, 12,595 on-the-spot fines were issued, an increase of 52 per cent over the previous year.

In May 2002 amendments to the Quarantine Act 1908 introduced a maximum penalty of $1.1 million and/or 10 years imprisonment for commercially motivated illegal importations. For the six months to March 2002, international air travellers who ignored quarantine requirements have been fined almost $130,000 by the courts for illegally importing prohibited items such as meat, sausages, pork, live bees, fresh dates, sunflower seeds, plant cuttings and tobacco leaves.

Since February 2001 referrals to the Australian Government Solicitor of possible quarantine infringements at airports have increased and currently number about 20 per month nationally. Over the same period AQIS action to investigate quarantine detections in mail and cargo have increased by 40 per cent overall. Referrals of detections at international mail centres have increased in Queensland and New South Wales by 150 per cent and 200 per cent respectively and by 100 per cent in other States and the Northern Territory.

During the year AQIS investigated 879 incidents of suspected/alleged breaches of AQIS legislation resulting in 26 letters of warning being issued and ten successful prosecutions. There are six other matters before the courts. Two Search and Seizure Warrants were executed under the Quarantine Act 1908 and two Search and Seizure Warrants executed under the fitness of persons in management and control of export-registered establishments under the Export Control Act 1982.
Exports

Significant benefits have been delivered to Australian exporters of primary produce and its producers across all of the AQIS export programs. A particular highlight was the implementation of the Government’s 40 per cent assistance program to exporters on 1 November 2001. The resulting mix of fees and charges across the export program, as agreed through industry consultative committees, has continued to drive enhanced efficiencies through the uptake of industry Quality Assurance (QA) programs and co-regulation arrangements.

Meat Exports

Over the course of 2001-02 the Meat Program continued to ensure market access for the export of product, highlighted by the successful review of the Australian inspection and certification system by the United States. The Red Meat Advisory Council (RMAC) Verification Sub-Committee meeting of 1 February 2002 agreed to develop general verification principles acceptable to the Minister, RMAC and the States as a basis for developing detailed implementation plans for a national verification framework. Food Inspection Operations have begun a trial implementation of a Verification unit within the Meat Program consistent with the principles of the national verification framework. To further strengthen Australia’s capacity to respond to an emergency disease outbreak, all AQIS plant veterinarians have participated in an emergency animal disease preparatory training program.

Grain Exports

The Grain Export Program has continued to assist market access by providing electronic certification to meet importing countries requirements and by cost-effective inspection options to the grain industry. The key achievements for 2001-02 were the acceptance of a trial pre-clearance program for the export of oats to the United States, the agreement of the Chinese quarantine authorities to a protocol for in-transit fumigation of logs, the development of generic certification assurance arrangements for cotton lint and macadamia nut exporters and the acceptance of Australian pulse standards by Egypt. The Program has also progressed a review of the Export Control (Mung Bean) Orders, with the main recommendation of the final report to increase hygiene control.
Fish Exports
The Fish Exports Program has had significant success in encouraging clients to use EXDOC, the electronic certification system, as their prime source of documentation. An external review of EXDOC across non-meat commodities indicates that the Program leads all other programs in uptake, which is over 80 per cent of total estimated users. By September 2002 the demand for electronic certification will exceed that of manual documentation. The Program has also built on the financial and debt management procedures put in place to address a large deficit in 2000-01, which has resulted in the Program returning a surplus in 2001-02. In relation to market access, new procedures are being piloted in Queensland for implementation across the industry in line with EC review outcomes. The Program has also managed clearance of ten seafood consignments, which were detained for various reasons in overseas ports, which has upheld the reputation of AQIS certification.

Dairy Exports
The Dairy Export Program has continued to assist market access by providing electronic certification to meet importing country requirements through EXDOC, audit of State Dairy Authorities, and by providing information to exporters of dairy products. The key achievements for 2001-02 were the redevelopment of the Dairy Website within the AFFA and AQIS websites, revision of the client service charter and progression of action items arising from importing reviews conducted during the years 2000 and 2001. Development of contingency arrangements has commenced for the Dairy Export Program, with the initial emphasis on improved communication with exporters seeking dairy export certification. Consultation with the dairy industry on Dairy Export Programs has continued to be a priority during 2001-02, with meetings of the Dairy Export Industry Consultative Committee and its sub-committees for Charging and Dairy Electronic Documentation held on a regular basis.

Live Animal Exports
During 2001-02 the Live Animal Exports Program continued to assist market access through the issue of about 9,800 export permits for the export of 7.7 million animals. It also processed 620 protocol amendments on Animex and had program staff accompany two export shipments. Through accrediting a further 30 new veterinarians and undertaking 80 audits of accredited veterinarians, the Program has continued to be able to issue export certification of high integrity and to meet increasing industry demands.
Key achievements include the establishment of various export protocols, including Vietnam and Korea, and further development of the live camel export trade. The Live Animal Exports Program also contributed to the implementation of revised industry standards to improve animal health, welfare and transport conditions for the export of live animals.

**Horticulture Exports**

During 2001-02, the Horticulture Exports Program benefited from enhanced market access opportunities and the implementation of Program efficiencies such as revenue processing reforms, co-regulation and EXDOC certification. Growers, packers and exporters of table grapes were the first to benefit from relaxing the previous quarantine embargos of non-protocol commodities, and substantial consignments were forwarded during the season. Citrus fruits, persimmons, lychee and rambutans are also being exported for the first time during 2002. The key achievements for the program were the participation in bilateral negotiations with New Zealand to allow for future access of all tomato varieties into New Zealand, and a 50 per cent increase of clients using EXDOC certification.

**EXDOC**

In 2001-02 the Export Documentation Program (EXDOC) was subject to an independent review of the development of the EXDOC system to provide functionality for the fish, dairy, horticulture and grain industries. The review found that EXDOC meets the government-to-government certification requirements of each industry and the development will deliver substantial quantifiable and non-quantifiable benefits to industry and AQIS. During the year there was significant progress in moving clients from manual systems onto EXDOC, with around 90 per cent of all potential users for the fish and dairy industries now on the system. Major enhancements were made to facilitate uptake in the grain and horticulture industries. During the year the Program continued to progress the issue of electronic certification as a means of increasing supply chain security, and major advances are expected in 2002-03.

**Organic and Biodynamic Program**

Supplementing the Japanese Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry’s formal registration of five AQIS-approved certification organisations, the Organic and Biodynamic Program assisted a visit to Australia in December 2001 by two Japanese government officials. Five AQIS approved certification
organisations were reviewed during this visit together with a comprehensive explanation of the Japanese Agriculture Standard (JAS) and associated Law for the importation of Australian organic or biodynamic produce. The visit followed the approval of the five AQIS-approved certification organisations to manage the JAS mark for all Australian organic or biodynamic-labelled produce exported to Japan.

**Market Maintenance**

New market access was gained for a number of commodities to several markets (for example beef to Croatia, crocodile meat to Malaysia and ratite meat to USA). The Saudi Arabian market re-established as the largest market ($212 million) for Australian sheep with exports of over two million sheep. A risk assessment on residue risk to livestock arising from the feeding of grain treated post-harvest with grain protectants allayed many concerns and provided a basis for rational decision-making in the use of grain protectants in Australia. Legislatively, efforts are continuing with industry and State authorities to promote the uptake of the new Australian meat standard into State and Commonwealth legislation. An appropriate verification framework was established for State-regulated meat plants wishing to enter the export markets.

**The Level of Awareness of AQIS Services**

AQIS publishes the *AQIS Bulletin* 11 times a year. The *Bulletin* provides a range of information on activities of relevance to industry clients and the community. The newsletter is distributed free of charge: subscriptions can be arranged by phoning (02) 6272 5151; faxing (02) 6272 4494; by email to the editor, carson.creagh@aqis.gov.au; or via the AQIS homepage at www.aqis.gov.au.

AQIS’s *Quarantine Matters!* national and international quarantine awareness campaign continued to make significant progress during the year. The campaign is aimed at a range of audiences, including international travellers to Australia (both returning Australians and visitors), cargo importers, international mail recipients, students, the travel industry and rural industries such as those dealing with animals and horticulture, and scientists.

The *Quarantine Matters!* campaign used a range of mediums to raise quarantine awareness, including print and electronic media, advertising, direct marketing, direct lobbying, industry expos and displays, a national
Quarantine Week, a schools program and special communications to non-English speaking audiences. The messages are directed on-shore and off-shore to reach people before they travel or export to Australia.

A tracking research survey at the conclusion of the first phase of the Quarantine Matters! campaign, conducted in mid-2001, indicated generally favourable outcomes when compared to the results of earlier surveys in 1997 and 1999:

- 78 per cent of residents said they had seen or heard something about quarantine in the 12 months to mid-2001, compared to 58 per cent in 1999;
- 56 per cent of Australian residences felt they were well informed about quarantine regulations – up from 44 per cent in 1999 and 37 per cent in 1997;
- the relative position of quarantine when ranked by Australians as an ‘issue of concern’ against a basket of other social issues (eg. drugs, unemployment) increased from eighth out of ten in 1997 and 1999 to fourth out of ten in 2001; and
- the vast majority (99 per cent) of management and staff of the international cargo community agreed that quarantine restrictions are essential to the well-being of our economy, while 70 per cent considered quarantine regulations were always strictly enforced, up from 55 per cent in 1997.

An upgrade of quarantine signage and ambient advertising spaces at key international airports has commenced, with a bolder visual presence for quarantine at both Sydney and Brisbane airports. Other airports will follow.

The second phase of the Quarantine Matters! campaign began in the second half of 2001, with the appointment of a new strategic communications consultant and the development of a communications strategy for the period to mid-2004. The phase two strategy provides for sharper targeting of key audiences and stronger recruitment of the ‘as yet non-committed’ individuals and groups to the active quarantine protection of Australia. At the same time, it is designed to maintain and reinforce the already high levels of awareness and compliance among the general community. Specific sub-strategies are being developed to address the lower than desirable awareness levels among youth and non-English speaking audiences.
Top Watch as part of the Northern Australian Quarantine Strategy has been especially designed for northern Australia. It is planned, funded and operated separately from the Quarantine Matters! campaign, but there is close co-operation between the two.

Top Watch is the quarantine awareness program aimed at encouraging the reporting of unusual pest and disease occurrences to quarantine officers by local communities, industry groups and visitors in northern Australia. Key campaign activities include weekly radio broadcasts in the Torres Strait and other remote areas, quarantine signage on all inhabited Torres Strait islands, production of annual calendars for the Torres Strait and Cape York, production of a quarterly NAQS newsletter to update key stakeholders, distribution of a quarantine wall-planner in Western Australia and NAQS displays/exhibits at agricultural and community shows.

AQIS’s export facilitation officers play a vital role in ensuring Australian exporters of agricultural commodities are aware of the requirements of importing countries. Particular attention will be given in 2002-03 to ways in which public awareness of AQIS’s export facilitation and certification functions can be heightened.

**Delivery of effective quarantine services**

Pest and disease protection has increased substantially as a result of the implementation of Government decisions to significantly increase quarantine intervention at Australia’s border entry points. These decisions enabled the recruitment of over 900 additional full time equivalent staff in AQIS, some 65 additional detector dogs and almost 50 additional x-ray machines. The full implementation of revised arrangements has been finalised for cargo, vessels and airports and advanced at international mail centres.

Substantial progress in implementation has been achieved so far. Intervention rates have increased to over 90 per cent at airports compared to the previous rate of approximately 35 per cent. The Airport program is continuing to work closely with Customs, airports, airlines and the AQIS Airline Industry Consultative Committee to ensure that intervention levels remain above target levels.

Intervention levels have already increased to 100 per cent for all mail at all mail centres. Sustained 100 per cent intervention at all centres is largely dependent on improved facilities being provided by Australia Post.
For most cargo and all vessel clearances, intervention levels have reached the 100 per cent target. For High Volume Low Value (HVLV) Air Cargo, national intervention levels are approximately 93 per cent with full intervention to be reached by October 2002.

Performance monitoring data is being collected to enable the effectiveness of a wide range of revised border controls to be assessed. These effectiveness measures will become more comprehensive and robust as border arrangements are refined and more data becomes available for analysis.

**Quarantine intervention levels at the border**

Performance targets for quarantine intervention are 80 per cent at international airports and 100 per cent at other border entry points. Progress in delivery services against these targets is summarised in the following graph.

**Figure 5**
Quarantine intervention levels at the border
Quarantine risk effectiveness at the border

Effectiveness targets for the delivery of quarantine services have also been established. Progress against these targets is summarised in the following graph.

Figure 6
Quarantine risk effectiveness at the border

Note: The AQIS Risk Management Steering Committee has developed a glossary of quarantine risk terminology, which amongst other things defines ‘higher risk’ items where the probability of an exotic pest or disease establishing in Australia is higher than other goods of quarantine interest. Examples of high-risk items include foodstuffs of animal origin and fresh plant material.

The Level of Awareness of AQIS Quarantine Services

See Level of Awareness of AQIS Services as reported above.
Provision of effective export services

Number of consignments in export markets where facilitation of release of cargoes is attributable to AQIS involvement

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Through facilitation activities, AQIS contributed to the release of 552 consignments in export markets for the year. The reasons why facilitation from AQIS was needed for the release of these consignments ranged from certification problems (incorrect certification sent with consignments and consignments sent without certificates) to new import conditions negotiated or required.

Figure 7
Rate of Rejection of Export Consignments

Live Animal Exports
AQIS Live Animal Export health certification continues to be readily accepted by importing countries with only one consignment of cattle (200 head) rejected on initial presentation of health certification at the port of discharge in 2001-02. This was out of a total of 9,608 export consignments.
Grain Exports

As feedback from overseas countries on reasons for non-conformance of Australian grain is not regularly received, the program measures the rejection of grain presented for inspection at the point of export. The rejected grain may be treated to correct the cause of rejection and subsequently exported after re-inspection.

Horticulture Exports

Figures reflect good interception rates by AQIS officers prior to export of product. This has resulted in a rejection rate of 0.05 per cent in the importing country for products that require AQIS Phytosanitary Certification (i.e. twelve rejections from an average of 23,626 phytosanitary certificates issued per quarter). It is expected that the low rate of interceptions will continue due to interception of pest infestations prior to export by AQIS officers.

Meat Exports

The overall rejection rate for contamination and pathology as at the end of June 2002 was 0.29 per cent.

The Level of Awareness of AQIS Export Services

See Level of Awareness of AQIS Services as reported above.

Evaluations

Six reviews for Quarantine and Export Services were undertaken in 2001-02 in line with the Performance Improvement Cycle (PIC) methodology. The remaining reviews identified in the 2001-02 Portfolio Budget Statements have been integrated into program business planning processes as part of AQIS’s commitment to continuous improvement.

In 2001-02, the Parliamentary Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit commenced a review of the efficiency and effectiveness of the quarantine function.
The review is to focus on:

- the coordination of AQIS with other border control agencies;
- the identification of potential risks to Australia and the application of resources to meet those risks;
- the impact of international agreements on quarantine activities;
- the operations of AQIS that are beyond Australia’s borders;
- AQIS border operations;
- monitoring and surveillance within Australia for breaches of the quarantine barrier;
- the development of import risk analyses;
- opportunities to increase public awareness of, and involvement in quarantine issues; and
- any other issues raised by Audit Report 47, 2000-01, *Managing for Quarantine Effectiveness*.

The review is expected to be completed in 2002-03.
OUTPUT 8
SCIENTIFIC ADVICE

Through its Scientific Advice Output, AFFA aims to deliver effective, timely, policy-relevant scientific advice and assessments, and tools for decision-making on profitable, competitive and sustainable Australian industries and their supporting communities.

Scientific Advice incorporates scientific analysis, research, resource assessments and natural resource databases. These comprise scientific input into decision-making and evidence-based policy development such as:

- advice on salinity; aquifer risk assessment, land use; land cover; environmental management systems; feral animal management; agricultural industries and supply chains; gene technology; social factors and impacts on policy; climate and agricultural risk; exceptional circumstances; fisheries and marine sciences; forestry; vegetation and plantation resources; and greenhouse sciences;
- resource assessments, including the status of Commonwealth fisheries, groundwater, and the status of Australian forests; and
- natural resource information and databases, including the National Land and Water Resources Audit data, National Forest Inventory, National Vegetation Information System, and land and water information systems.

Advice is provided through presentations, written briefings, workshops, service on committees, reports and papers, maps, books, computer-based databases, and decision support systems.

Performance Indicators for Output 8 – Scientific Advice

Overall Effectiveness Indicators

Scientific advice:
- the extent to which scientific advice is reflected in national policy decisions or related public information; and
- the degree to which scientific advice is used by Ministers and industry.
Departmental Indicators
Meeting the high standards and expectations for internal and external clients as measured by:

- high level of satisfaction as measured through biannual client feedback survey.

High level of relevance to policy agenda as measured by:

- biannual client feedback survey;
- level of demand for database access, Internet access, publications, and conference attendance; and
- the extent to which scientific advice is reflected in policy decisions and public information associated with them.

Timely scientific advice as measured by:

- biannual client feedback survey; and
- meeting milestones contained in business plans and contracts.

Scientific advice
To assist Commonwealth managers with the concepts of sustainable development, the Department’s Bureau of Rural Sciences (BRS) has presented seminars and workshops for AFFA and other Commonwealth departments on indicators for environmentally sustainable development and has published a ‘How to’ guide for the National Ecological Sustainable Development (ESD) reporting framework for Australian Fisheries.

BRS continued to provide national support and leadership in agricultural pest management and policy. This included briefing and advice, including substantial contributions through papers, such as Risks of Vertebrate Pests; Environmental and Economic Cost of Alien Plant, Animal and Microbe Invasions; and Research on Bird Pests.

During 2001-02, BRS produced the Marine Matters: Atlas of the Southeast Fisheries, which maps fisheries and marine uses and provides information on the populations and communities that depend on these activities. The atlas is a powerful tool for the decision-making of regional marine planning. Client and stakeholder agencies are interested in BRS developing a national atlas of Australia’s marine regions.
BRS developed the 2002 AFFA Science and Innovation Awards for Young People. Since their inauguration in 2001 the awards have become an established annual event, attracting two major sponsorships and seven others from RDCs. The awards will continue to raise AFFA’s profile in the rural community, with the Minister awarding prizes at the National Science Festival in August 2002.

Since being accredited under the international Investors in People (IiP) standard in 2000, BRS has continued to improve its broader people-management focus and, in particular, individual development to better the bureau’s business needs. This commitment to improvement was recognised when BRS’ IiP status was upgraded to the new IiP standard in 2001.

Meeting the high standards and expectations for internal and external clients

The main instrument for assessing performance, the client feedback survey, was conducted in June 2002. Eighty six per cent of respondents were either satisfied or very satisfied with BRS projects, and only four per cent (two respondents) were not.

These results were similar to the 2001 survey, where 83 per cent of respondents were either largely or completely satisfied with BRS projects, and over 85 per cent largely or completely satisfied with the relevance of BRS work.

High level of relevance to policy agenda

In the 2002 client feedback survey, 81 per cent of respondents were either satisfied or very satisfied that BRS projects were relevant to their decision-making. As the majority of respondents were policy clients, the result indicates the high degree of policy relevance of BRS work. These results are also similar to the 2001 survey.
There was a strong demand for BRS reports and publications in 2001-02. Although most publications are distributed to clients free of charge, BRS has sold over 1,200 publications, which indicates strong demand. For example, *The Role of Marine Reserves in Fisheries Management* book released in March 2002 has required extra printing beyond the 450 originally ordered and has sold over 50 copies from the extra print run.

As well as a wide range of maps and briefings provided by BRS on request, there have been over 1,400 downloads of data sets from the Rural Data Library on the BRS website. Most of these were Australian, with 45 per cent from government agencies, 20 per cent from educational institutes, and 20 per cent from commercial clients.

**Timely scientific advice**

In the June 2002 client feedback survey, 86 per cent of respondents were either satisfied or very satisfied with the timeliness of BRS work. This verifies that BRS outputs are being delivered to agreed deadlines, as shown in quarterly reviews of business plans. Policy staff and the Ministers office have provided good feedback on timeliness and quality of the input and advice received, and the responsiveness of BRS scientists.
**OUTPUT 9**

**ECONOMIC RESEARCH**

The objective of the Economic Research Output is to provide high quality economic policy analysis and forecasts to enhance the competitiveness of Australia’s agriculture and resource industries and the quality of the Australian environment.

This Output aims to make a significant contribution to AFFA and government and resource commodity industry stakeholders by conducting high-level policy and economic research. This is achieved by providing economic policy analysis and forecasts. The Output’s work is undertaken primarily by one of AFFA’s expert bureau, the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics (ABARE).

The ABARE farm survey program provides the Australian rural sector with a unique economic research database that enables government and industry to analyse a wide variety of issues facing rural and regional Australia.

The database has been developed over many years and, with the continued support from industry, underpins much of ABARE’s research effort. It provides data on the physical, financial and socio-economic performance of farms in the broadacre and dairy industries and it has enabled research to support the policy debate on issues related to these specific industries, as well as to issues facing regional Australia.

The data, combined with ABARE’s commodity forecasts, form the backbone of research on areas covered by other relevant outputs, including natural resource management, product integrity, food, industry development and markets.

ABARE also conducts annual fishing industry surveys, which provide information for assessing the efficiency and effectiveness of the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA).

ABARE continues to work closely with industry and the Australian Bureau of Statistics to improve access to rural sector data. ABARE publications provide information on industry and commodity-specific issues based on ABARE survey information and statistics gathered through other means, including:

- Australian Commodity Statistics;
- Australian Forest Product Statistics;
• Fisheries Statistics;
• The Australian Farm Surveys Report;
• Australian Beef Industry Report;
• Australian Sheepmeat Industry Report;
• Australian Grains Industry Report;
• Australian Dairy Industry report; and
• Fish Surveys Report.

Performance Indicators for Output 9 – Economic Research

Overall Effectiveness Indicators
Economic research:
• economic research findings reflected in national and international agendas and in uptake by Ministers and industry.

Departmental Indicators
Timely economic research as measured by:
• completion of core policy research in time to feed into decision-making processes; and
• contracted research is completed within negotiated timeframes

Professional standards as measured by:
• client satisfaction survey; and
• rigorous quality control maintained on research processes.

Relevant and professionally independent economic research as measured by:
• annual client survey;
• ongoing ability to attract economic research funding; and
• number of normalised reports produced by ABARE.
Economic research

In 2001-02 ABARE continued to provide high quality research that contributed to enhancing Australian natural resources, agricultural, minerals and energy, fishing and forest industries and making them more competitive. ABARE published 49 reports and provided significant levels of economic briefing. This work was well represented at international and domestic forums on issues such as climate change and agricultural trade. ABARE continued to focus on issues of high importance to the agricultural sector, such as salinity and water property rights and provided key commodity forecasts and analysis, that helped AFFA to make timely and well-informed policy decisions.

Financial performance estimates for Australian farms in 2000-01 and 2001-02 were released in the Farm Performance paper, presented as part of the Future of Farming session at Outlook 2002. This paper was published in the March Australian Commodities and focused on the impact on structural adjustment and farm use of Farm Management Deposits.

The public availability of detailed, survey-based rural industry information was expanded in October 2001 when ABARE released the interactive website Agsurf. The site provides free public access to a wide range of current and historical state, industry and regional statistics in the broadacre and dairy industries. ABARE’s survey analysis staff responded, by email and telephone, to approximately 4,820 requests for farm survey data. There were around 8,760 Agsurf downloads and Dairyweb recorded 210 requests for data.

A major focus of ABARE’s modelling program has been to enhance, refine and maintain the Global Trade and Environment Model (GTEM) to carry out quantitative analysis of the likely economic impacts of international climate change response policy.

ABARE’s agricultural trade reform program continued to deliver first-class research on World Trade Organisation (WTO) and other trade-related issues. Outputs included major research reports on export support measures, the United States Farm Bill, world dairy product markets and world grains markets. The research helps to keep Australian policy makers, trade negotiators and Cairns Group members abreast of developments in trade policy and critical negotiations at the WTO. Important briefing was also provided on the impact of a free trade agreement between Australia and the United States.

Other significant outputs included a study on trade preference agreements, and the first of two reports into the impact of special provisions for developing countries under the WTO agreement on agriculture. The latter reports provide further evidence of ABARE’s commitment to improving understanding of the interests and needs of developing countries with respect to both the WTO and economic development more generally.

ABARE continued to play a strong role in domestic and international forums relating to climate change in 2001-02. Its analysis was injected directly and indirectly into the international negotiations and informed domestic policy processes. Ministers were briefed on the potential economic implications of the Kyoto Protocol for Australian industries. ABARE participated in the inter-departmental Greenhouse Projections Group and contributed to the development of Australian emission projections. The Bureau disseminated research widely to other stakeholders and interested parties.

Environmental flows, water property rights and salinity control options were at the heart of ABARE’s work under the natural resource management program in 2001-02. ABARE continued to provide economic advice, often based on integrated economic-biophysical models, to underpin AFFA policy development on salinity and water reform. ABARE also made a significant contribution to the analysis of the opportunity cost of environmental flows in the Murray River. The Murray-Darling Basin Commission, through CSIRO, commissioned ABARE to estimate the opportunity cost of environmental flows in the Murray River. The analysis used ABARE’s integrated economic-hydrological model of land use and salinity processes in the MDB, called SALSA.
ABARE’s release of detailed farm financial performance estimates for 2000-01 to 2001-02 at the national Outlook conference in March advanced communication of farm sector information to a wide population. Release of the data generated a high level of interest from researchers, industry and the media. The national conference, held on 5-7 March 2002, was very successful. Ministers delivered keynote addresses on each day, and Minister Truss maintained a meeting room for discussions with portfolio groups.

The good local media coverage of the 2001-02 regional Outlook conferences helped disseminate ABARE forecasts more widely to farmers and the local industries that service their needs.

**Timely economic research**

ABARE provided timely input to meetings involving AFFA and Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) staff. The meetings focused on important issues relating to the current round of negotiations on agriculture at the WTO. ABARE provided briefing to the Geneva-based Cairns Group members on food aid and export subsidies, and released a current issues paper on export subsidies in the current WTO agricultural negotiations. The timely results of this research are an important contribution to the ongoing debate within the WTO on the role and importance of developing countries in achieving further reform to world agricultural markets. Presentations on the results of ABARE’s special and differential (S&D) research were made in South Africa at a workshop attended by senior government trade policy experts and negotiators from 22 African countries. A second presentation was made in Canada at an international workshop on trade and development.

ABARE research in this area is important, as developing countries are likely to be critical players in determining whether Australia gains significantly from the next agreement on agricultural trade reform, to be negotiated at the WTO during 2002-03.

ABARE provided a timely injection of advice into the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate
Change (UNFCCC) negotiations at the resumed Sixth Conference of the Parties in Bonn in July. It also continued to play an important role in Australia’s contribution to the Umbrella Group, providing analysis of the Marrakech agreement and international climate change response policy, using ABARE’s GTEM model. The analysis reflecting the Marrakech Accords was published in the ABARE paper for the international climate change session at Outlook 2002.

All contracted research has been delivered within negotiated timeframes for this financial year.

Professional standards

ABARE completed a client satisfaction survey in April 2002 of all clients who had contracted research services from the Bureau since 1 July 2001. A 92 per cent response rate was obtained from this telephone survey. The analysis shows that over half the clients, including AFFA and the Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources (DITR), gave high quality as their reason for selecting ABARE’s services. Eleven per cent quoted ABARE as the only known source of the data, and the rest highlighted the Bureau’s unbiased reporting and good client relations.

All ABARE research undergoes a formal clearance process to ensure appropriate levels of rigor, reliability and accuracy, and the validity of the conclusions. Researchers maintain, and continue to develop, the professional quality of their research by study and trialling new research approaches, engaging in internal and external peer review processes and by active participation in professional organisations. For example, in August 2001, ABARE participated in a workshop on Climate Change Impacts and Integrated Assessment, organised by the Stanford Energy Modelling Forum (EMF), which enabled rigorous review of ABARE’s work by an internationally reputed modeling group.

Relevant and professionally independent economic research

In 2001-02 ABARE attracted economic research funding from a combination of appropriation and external sources. External clients provided 52 per cent of ABARE’s research funding, including DITR, research and development corporations, other government agencies, private sector and international clients. ABARE faces a highly competitive market and competes with public and private sector for about 30 per cent of projects.
About 120 papers were presented at Outlook 2002. ABARE staff presented another 22 papers at national and international conferences and published articles in other regular ABARE publications, and some non-ABARE publications.

ABARE provided briefing papers to assist in the consideration of applications for exceptional circumstances. A further collection of preliminary 2001-02 farm physical and financial data was carried out for Eastern Darling Downs farms in August, providing data critical to determining an application for this area.

ABARE published and disseminated the following reports in 2001-2002:

- **Research Reports**
  - *Australian Prime Lamb Industry 2001* (11 July 2001)
  - *Australian Beef Industry 2001* (17 July 2001)
  - *Genetically Modified Grains. Market Implications For Australian Grain Growers* (9 August 2001)
  - *Agricultural Export Measures in WTO Negotiations* (25 October 2001)
  - *2002 US Farm Bill: support and agricultural trade* (6 December 2001)
  - *Australian Energy Outlook to 2019-20* (22 November 2001)

- **Current issues**
  - *The ‘New Economy’ And The Energy Sector : Assessing The Economic Impacts* (6 July 2001)
  - *Export Subsidies In The Current WTO Agricultural Negotiations* (23 July 2001)
  - *Californian Electricity Market Reform. An Australian Perspective* (14 August 2001)
Deregulating Electricity Supply Industries in North East Asia: Impacts on energy markets (16 October 2001)
Competition in the Australian National Electricity Market (10 January 2002)
Global grains policy and WTO agricultural negotiations (24 January 2002)
Environmental Flows & Water Trade (7 March 2002)
Wood & Paper Product Markets in China (12 March 2002)
Domestic Support of Agriculture. Is WTO 'special treatment' for developing countries helping or hindering change? (21 May 2002)

- Statistical reports
  - Australian Forest Products Statistics (quarterly)
  - Australian Crop Report (quarterly)
  - Australian Mineral Statistics (quarterly)
  - Australian Commodities (quarterly)
  - Australian Commodity Statistics 2001 (December 2001)
  - Australian Fisheries Statistics 2001 (19 April 2002)

- Other reports
  - Technology & Farm Management Practices In The Australian Dairy Industry (12 July 2001)
  - Mine Site Rehabilitation. An economic review of current policy issues (1 August 2001)
  - Outlook for Australian Grains Industry, 2001-02 (14 August 2001)
  - Coal Export Prices: leading economic indicators (18 September 2001)
  - Australia’s Expanding Dairy Industry-productivity and profit (16 November 2001)
  - Trade Preferences: Are they helpful in advancing economic development in poor countries? (21 November 2001)
- Leading Economic Indicators for Australia’s Contract Coal Prices in the Japanese Market (1 January 2002)
- Economic impact of the Northern Prawn Fishery amendment management plan (28 February 2002)
- OUTLOOK 2002: Economic Overview session (5 March 2002)
- Forging a Nation. A celebration of Australia’s minerals & energy sector (7 March 2002)
- Australian Grains Industry 2002 (15 April 2002)
- Outlook 2002 Conference proceedings
- Conference papers
  - ABARE presented 23 conference papers covering a range of issues in the agriculture, natural resources, energy and minerals sectors.

Evaluations

ABARE-Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Farm Survey Design Improvements

Objective

To implement a fully integrated survey collection of farms by making use of recent developments in information technology that have the potential to increase the accuracy, efficiency and timeliness of ABARE’s farm survey program, including public access to information.

Timing

2001-02 negotiations with the ABS focused on fully integrating the ABS Agricultural Finance Survey (AFS) collection with ABARE broadacre farm surveys for May 2002.

Result

ABS has ceased to conduct its annual AFS survey and now proposes to rely on ABARE farm survey data for input into the National Accounts for the broadacre and dairy industries. ABARE released its online public access statistical product AgSurf in September 2001, and this will be linked to the ABS online data directory when it is fully developed.
PURCHASER PROVIDER ARRANGEMENTS

Purchaser/provider arrangements have been put in place where one Commonwealth agency is buying or selling services from another Commonwealth agency. The arrangements aim to improve program efficiency, effectiveness and accountability. They explicitly describe roles and responsibilities for service delivery and avoid duplication in service delivery infrastructure by recognising the complementary strengths of different agencies.

The following purchaser/provider arrangements were held between AFFA and other agencies during 2001-02.

AFFA / Centrelink

AAA-Farm Help program delivery
An arrangement exists for Centrelink to deliver the AAA-Farm Help program and the Exceptional Circumstances Relief Payment by Centrelink. During 2001-02, Centrelink also delivered the Sugar Industry Assistance Package and the Flood Assistance Packages on AFFA’s behalf.

Performance Against Outcomes and Outputs:
AFFA’s Memorandum of Understanding with Centrelink allows for the gathering of relevant information to help evaluate program and service delivery performance. During 2001-02 an independent evaluation of AAA-Farm Help was carried out with Centrelink’s assistance. AFFA also now carries out regular surveys of AAA-Farm Help recipients in cooperation with Centrelink.

Performance information on programs delivered by Centrelink for AFFA can be found in the Report on Performance section.

AFFA / CSIRO – Australian Animal Health Laboratory
The Australian Animal Health Laboratory (AAHL) plays a role in maintaining Australia’s capability to quickly diagnose exotic and emerging animal diseases. AFFA funds AAHL to allow the Department to participate in setting the strategic direction for operating the laboratory, as detailed in AAHL’s annual operating plan.
For performance against Outcomes and Outputs see administered item Payment to CSIRO – Contribution to the Operating Costs of the AAHL on page 117 of this report.

**AFFA / Department of the Environment and Heritage**

**Natural Heritage Trust administration**

**Performance against Outcomes and Outputs**

**Quantity**: All projects approved by the Ministers in 2001-02 are provided with funding, in accordance with Natural Heritage Trust accountability and acquittal procedures to meet Natural Heritage Program objectives.

**Quality**: Projects meet quality standards agreed by community-based State and regional assessment panels, Commonwealth Natural Heritage Trust guidelines issues by Ministers and Natural Heritage Trust Partnership Agreements with State governments.

**Efficiency**: The administration of the Natural Heritage Trust meets benchmarks for comparable grants and programs.

**Quantity Indicator Results**


The 2001-02 round of new and continuing Natural Heritage Trust projects for AFFA programs was completed and payments to the States and Territories were made on time. Total approved funding of $133 million for 1,287 projects in 2001-02 was approved for AFFA programs. Financial acquittals were received from all States and Territories for payments received in 2000-01 under the Trust.
Report on Performance

Quality Indicator Results
Projects approved by the Ministers met the requirements of Trust guidelines and Commonwealth priorities. State and Territory governments recommended projects following assessment by community-dominated regional and State assessment panels.

Efficiency Indicator Results
AFFA’s administrative costs in 2001-2002 were 5.8 per cent. While this figure is above the five per cent benchmark, it reflects the reduction in program funding for 2001-02 over previous financial years and the need to maintain administrative effort to develop the framework for the extension of the Trust.

National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality administration and implementation

Performance Against Outcomes and Outputs
Quantity: Bilateral Agreements are complete or significantly progressed for each State and Territory. Negotiations towards Partnership Agreements are commenced for all priority regions covered by a signed Action Plan bilateral agreement, including a review of the existing planning base for each of the 21 priority regions.

Quality: Integrated regional/catchment natural resource management plans are developed and being implemented, or are being developed, according to accreditation criteria agreed by First Ministers.

Efficiency: The administration of the National Action Plan meets benchmarks for comparable grants and natural resource management programs.

Quantity Indicator Results
Bilateral Agreements, which set out in more detail the implementation arrangements for each State and Territory, have been signed with New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania and Queensland. Agreements are still to be completed with Western Australia, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory.

Development of regional plans and associated investment strategies is well advanced in New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia. Development of Partnership Agreements that will enable implementation of regional investment strategies has begun in a number of regions.
Quality Indicator Results

The development of integrated natural resource management plans for accreditation has progressed substantially in South Australia and Victoria during 2001-02, and evaluation of New South Wales catchment ‘blueprints’ for accreditation commenced.

Before accreditation of plans, foundation funding to support regional bodies to develop the plans, and funding for priority actions, was agreed in Victoria, South Australia, Queensland and Tasmania. Over $48 million in joint funding was agreed between Commonwealth and State governments.

Efficiency Indicator Results

Program administration costs have been limited to 5 per cent of program funds over the life of the program, which is similar to, and less than, comparable programs. The creation of a joint, co-located team of AFFA and Environment Australia staff has increased the efficiency of Commonwealth delivery of the NAP to states and regions.

Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics (ABARE) / Department of Industry Tourism and Resources (DITR)

To provide a program of economic forecasting, market analysis and research services relating to the minerals and energy sectors.

Performance Against Outcomes and Outputs

Performance Outcomes and Outputs for ABARE services are outlined in the Service Level Agreement with DITR.

Results

ABARE had a Service Level Agreement with DITR that provided a general framework for the delivery of high quality economic research and related analytical services by ABARE to DITR.

Performance was measured against the delivery of Outputs, as listed in the Service Level Agreement for each of the programs.

ABARE reported quarterly to DITR on performance against each program.
During 2001-02 ABARE released four issues of *Australian Commodities* which contains forecasts for a number of minerals and energy commodities, comprehensive statistical tables, macroeconomic indicators and articles on a range of issues of relevance to the minerals and energy sector. ABARE published four issues of *Australian Mineral Statistics* which provides quarterly and annual information on production, exports and prices for major minerals and energy commodities. ABARE also published *Australian Commodities Statistics 2001* which provides a comprehensive coverage of current and historical data on price, production and exports for more than 40 commodities.

ABARE published a number of reports during the year: *Australian Energy: Projections to 2019-2002; Global Coal Markets: Prospects to 2010; The ‘New Economy’ and the Energy Sector: Assessing the Economic Impacts; Californian Electricity Market Reform – An Australian Perspective; Deregulating Electricity Supply Industries in NE Asia – Impacts on Energy; Competition in the Australian National Electricity Market; and Mine Site Rehabilitation.*

ABARE’s Outlook 2002 conference on 5-7 March held nine sessions on minerals, energy and climate change. ABARE staff presented papers in all sessions. ABARE research staff also presented papers at a number of industry conferences, provided briefings to DITR and other government bodies, and were involved in climate change negotiations and forums.
SERVICE CHARTERS

AFFA

The Client Service Charter outlines the service customers can expect when dealing with the Department. It also provides an overview of AFFA’s responsibilities and customers, and lists the avenues available to provide feedback or make a complaint about the Department. The Charter commits staff to a level of service that AFFA customers can expect and measure against, and a Code of Conduct that embodies professionalism, integrity, openness, fairness and respect.

AFFA customers include everyone to whom the Department provides a service, and anyone with an interest in its activities, such as:

- Ministers;
- Agricultural, fisheries and forestry industries; food producers and processors; consumers; importers and exporters; natural resource managers and travellers;
- Government (Commonwealth, State and local); and
- Other interest groups, research and development organisations and rural communities.

To better serve the needs of its portfolio customers, AFFA has developed guidelines to help staff when engaging with certain client groups, specifically women, young people and indigenous people. These guides reflect AFFA’s ongoing commitment to understanding and linking effectively with all its customers in order to continually improve the service it provides (see www.affa.gov.au).

AFFA has a number of avenues available for customers to provide feedback and suggestions on its service. A toll-free customer service telephone line is available 24 hours a day, and a reply-paid feedback slip was distributed with the Department’s 2001-02 Charter. Refer to the ‘Complaints Data’ section for details of feedback AFFA received during 2001-02.

AFFA’s Client Service Charter is reviewed annually to incorporate customer feedback and ensure the Charter aligns with current best practice, reflecting AFFA’s commitment to continual improvement of its Service Charter. Client feedback during 2001-02 did not require any changes to the Charter, but the 2002-03 Charter will be updated to reflect current best practice.
The AFFA Client Service Charter can be found at:  

ABARE and AQIS also have their service charters, and conduct regular client surveys to get feedback on the quality and level of their services. Outlines of their charters are described below.

**ABARE**

*Performance against Service Charter customer service standards, complaints data and the response to complaints*

ABARE has a Research Quality Statement that provides information to clients on the Bureau’s service standards for the conduct of its research. It also encourages direct client feedback through the Business Manager and maintains a complaints register for ABARE’s publication and distribution service. Clients provided feedback through ABARE’s website, mostly in relation to the site itself, but also to request information. All information requests were passed to the relevant area to follow-up.

ABARE conducts regular client surveys to obtain feedback on the quality and level of services it provides. In March 2002, ABARE conducted a telephone survey of clients who had contracted it to carry out consultancies since 1 July 2001.

Of the 57 responses, 96 per cent said that they would purchase from ABARE again and 95 per cent said that they would recommend the Bureau’s products or services to others. Over half of the clients highlighted high quality as the reason they had chosen ABARE. A further 18 per cent nominated ABARE’s unbiased reporting and good client relations.

ABARE conducted telephone interviews immediately following Outlook 2002. A key performance indicator for the Outlook conference is the degree of satisfaction or dissatisfaction of delegates. Overall, 65 per cent of delegates said they were satisfied, 28 per cent said that they were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied, and only 7 per cent said they were dissatisfied. Almost three-quarters (72 per cent) of delegates were satisfied with the selection of speakers at the conference and 65 per cent were satisfied with the presentations. Similarly, 64 per cent were satisfied with the relevance of papers presented. Eighty-two per cent said they would consider attending again. The results of this survey are being used to plan for Outlook 2003.
ABARE conducted delegate surveys after its regional Outlook conferences in Tamworth (August 2001), Gippsland (October 2001), Darwin (December 2001) and Dubbo (May 2002). Results indicated 95 per cent of the respondents found the information presented at the conferences useful or very useful. Feedback from all the regional Outlook conferences is being used to plan the regional conferences next financial year.

**AQIS**

AQIS uses a combination of service charters, toll-free national contact numbers, a feedback register, Industry Consultative Committees and an annual client survey to help measure and monitor how well it is fulfilling its clients responsibilities.

AQIS uses a corporate-wide service charter to state its service delivery principles and outline the service clients can expect. This document is available to clients in hard copy and electronic formats. Further detail is published in individual program and regional office service charters. These publications contain service-level standards and provide clients with feedback forms for expressing levels of satisfaction with the services they receive.

The AQIS Service Charter and summaries from the AQIS Feedback Register, as reported through the AQIS Corporate Performance Indicator framework, are available electronically at [www.affa.gov.au/aqis_about](http://www.affa.gov.au/aqis_about).

**BRS client feedback survey**

BRS conducts regular feedback surveys of clients as part of its annual performance measurement cycle. The surveys consist of semi-structured telephone or face-to-face interviews and provide an opportunity for feedback on projects and the organisation. Consultants interviewed 63 participants in July 2001 and 70 participants in June 2002. Over 80 per cent of respondents were largely or completely satisfied with BRS’s performance.

Program areas have followed up on the detailed feedback from these surveys and used it as a basis for interacting with their clients to improve services.

**Complaints data**

AFFA is committed to continually improving its customer service and provides a number of avenues for feedback and suggestions, including a
toll-free 24-hour customer service telephone line. In 2001-02, AFFA received three service-related calls, one relating to government policy, another to the use of government funds, and the third to property damage during air transit. Two calls were referred on to other relevant agencies, and one was followed up with the AFFA program area concerned.

No feedback was received through the reply-paid feedback slips that were included in AFFA's 2001-02 Client Service Charter.

A number of complaints and compliments were received through the AQIS Feedback Register. The majority voiced concern about delays in entry processing. Isolated concerns were also raised over AQIS’s policy on shipping-container cleanliness and the inconsistency of importation conditions for vegetarian dog biscuits.

By contrast, several compliments were received for high performance of AQIS’ service to clients, especially in the area of export facilitation. All matters reported were referred to the appropriate program areas for information or action. No allegations of fraud or staff misconduct (see Maintenance of Ethical Standards) were received through this avenue.
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EQUITY

AFFA continued to promote the principles of social justice and equity during 2001-02 by improving the access, equity, communication and responsiveness of its services in line with the *Charter of Public Service in a Culturally Diverse Society*.

Access


The Bureau of Rural Sciences (BRS) ([www.affa.gov.au/brs](http://www.affa.gov.au/brs)) has improved Internet access to rainfall and climate data by placing the Rainfall Reliability wizard online. As custodians of the Rural Data Library, BRS have made significant progress in improving its accessibility via the Internet, with data sets covering soils, native vegetation and land use.

In 2001, BRS published reports on *Indigenous Enterprise: ARRI Case Studies*, making this evaluation and its methodology publicly available, to promulgate the successful outcomes of project initiatives to develop rural resource-based enterprises in rural and remote areas, and provide useful ways of improving communication on projects in these areas.

A website was created to provide access to Market Access and Biosecurity policy issues. Stakeholders were also invited through an Australia-wide advertisement to register their interest on the Biosecurity Australia Stakeholder Register in receiving quarantine policy information on specific commodities and occasional general quarantine policy information.

In 2000, AFFA commissioned an independent review of indigenous access to departmental programs. A cross-departmental Indigenous Strategy Steering Committee was established in 2001 to oversee recommendations arising from the Review. The Committee has developed and implemented an action plan to address the review findings and increase indigenous involvement with the Department.
Continued support was provided for a national network of 13 indigenous land management facilitators, in conjunction with Environment Australia (EA), through the Natural Heritage Trust’s National Landcare Program. The purpose of the network is to assist indigenous Australians to address their land management needs, contribute to national objectives for natural resource management and gain access to the Trust funding. Support was also provided for projects to improve monitoring and reporting of indigenous forest uses and values, through case studies in Arnhem Land.

The Indigenous Land Management facilitator network complemented the broader facilitator/ coordinator network, and worked to engage community groups in a partnership with government and other corporate investors to achieve natural resource management (NRM) objectives. These facilitators/ coordinators play a crucial role in helping build the social capital needed at a regional scale to address local issues and develop effective strategies. An Expression of interest process was introduced for the Australian Government Envirofund to access the $20 million (2002-03) program for community groups not previously engaged in NRM activities.

AFFA’s Industry Leadership Section continued to improve the status of rural women through its work with governments, rural industries and communities to promote the key role women play in rural industries. The Section also continued to increase the involvement, experience and profile of young people in rural industries in policy and decision-making processes, through its Young People in Rural Industries Program.

AFFA contracted Centrelink to deliver the Dairy Exit Program, the Flood Assistance Package and the Sugar Industry Assistance Package, ensuring people had access to assistance if needed.

The employment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people by AQIS under the Northern Australia Quarantine Strategy (NAQS) helped improve indigenous community access to quarantine information and services. An Aboriginal liaison officer, based in Darwin, has been employed to work with remote communities and Aboriginal Land Councils. This position supplements the long-standing employment of indigenous officers throughout the Torres Strait Islands and Cape York.

AQIS export facilitation officers provided advice and assistance across the community to develop or expand export opportunities where access to AQIS inspection or certification is important.
The New Industry Development Program (NIDP) supports Australian agribusiness as they commercialise innovations. Access to the NIDP program was improved through targeted distribution of new hard copy and electronic promotional materials. Paperwork was improved through redesigned and streamlined grant guidelines and application forms, phone access was improved, and the NIDP Agribiz website was streamlined for easier access. Three new issues of *Made in Australia* magazine and NIDP factsheets were made available on the Agribiz website. NIDP increased program awareness by advertising NIDP programs in newspapers and publications that reach remote areas of northern Australia. Advertising included all rural newspapers in the Northern Territory and the Internet News (which covers tropical Australia). NIDP increased program awareness among indigenous groups by advertising NIDP programs through three indigenous newspapers (see improved equity) and extended awareness of the program within the processed food industry through advertising in *Global Supermarket*, co-distributing one issue of *Made in Australia* to 7,500 food industry groups, and advertising in the *Food News Bulletin*.

**Equity**

The Primary Industries and Natural Resource Management Ministerial Councils developed the Action Plans for Advancing Reconciliation. The plans recognise the importance of the effective involvement and contribution of indigenous people in rural industries and management of Australia’s natural resources.

The Murray-Darling Basin Ministerial Council has endorsed the development of a Basin Indigenous Action Plan based on the outcomes of consultation with indigenous people. The Plan will have the agreement of indigenous groups and will report to the Council of Australian Governments in-line with other Ministerial Council Action Plans for Advancing Reconciliation.

AFFA, in partnership with EA and with Natural Heritage Trust funding, continued to support a network of 13 indigenous Land Management Facilitators across Australia to assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities involved in land management activities.

AFFA participated in a number of tax consultative forums to ensure the interests of primary producers and other portfolio stakeholders were adequately represented in the development and administration of tax policy.
The AAA-FarmBis program was made available to Australian primary producers and land managers throughout Australia. Extensive communication and coordination campaigns were used to raise awareness of the program, and included specific efforts to target and encourage participation from indigenous land managers and people from non-English speaking backgrounds. The Indigenous Land Corporation (ILC) was one of a number of successful applicants granted funding. The ILC project covers the development of business management training materials and pilot-tests the training activities in regions across Australia.

The Dairy and Sugar Industry Adjustment and Flood Assistance Packages have provided equitable financial assistance to eligible producers throughout Australia in times of hardship and change. Assistance is aimed at ensuring economically viable and efficient industries in the long term.

The advertised call for submissions for the Independent Assessment of the Sugar Industry was placed in local and national press throughout all sugar-growing regions. The peak industry bodies also disseminated the information through their electronic and print distribution mechanisms.

Information about the Independent Assessment of the Sugar Industry was made available to all stakeholders through conventional and electronic means. Correspondence with the Secretariat was encouraged through the website, email, phone, fax and post.

The public nature of the five-yearly review process for the Tasmania Regional Forest Agreement continues to allow significant opportunity for community input.

The membership of the Commonwealth Fisheries Policy Review Steering Group Committee allowed a wide range of views from government, industry, non-government organizations and indigenous communities.

The government announced that the chair of the Torres Strait Regional Authority will become a permanent member of the Protected Zone Joint Authority which manages Torres Strait Fisheries.

NIDP improved equity by distributing program-awareness information through AFFA Industry Development networks. The Industry Development (ID) email newsletter networks reach over 1,000 individuals and groups, including women in rural industries and rural youth. NIDP continued to
improve communication to indigenous clients, and supplied program information electronically to Australian Women in Agriculture (AWiA), which reaches over 300 rural womens’ groups.

Communication

AFFA continued to improve its electronic forms of communication through its website and by email. Its website is updated daily with comprehensive information on the latest issues affecting the Portfolio. The Department’s publications are also made widely available through the website. The use of email subscription services allows stakeholders to be kept up to date on their selected areas of interest.

In other communication activities, AFFA:

- Widely publicised the Natural Heritage Trust and the Australian Government Envirofund to encourage broad community participation in natural resource management.

- Released a discussion paper with EA and State and Territory Governments. The paper, *Towards a National Framework for Environmental Management Systems in Agriculture*, was released for public consultation through the EMS Working Group. Submissions on the paper were sought, a website developed, workshops were held and articles released to the media.

- Funded a communication strategy to publicise the proposed Market Based Instruments (MBI) pilot program, as part of a Commonwealth/State MBI Working Group. Two documents that provide up to date access to information on market based instruments were publicised: *MBI – Investigating New Approaches – A Guide*; and *MBI – Investigating New Approaches – A Review of Pilots*.

- Developed a free Private Forest Growers Greenhouse Resource Kit to provide a guide to available information on Greenhouse activities from the perspective of private forest growers (existing or potential). The Kit is available on AFFA’s website, in hard copy form and on compact disc.

- Launched through its Industry Leadership Section *Guidelines for Reaching our Clients - Young People* which were designed to help departmental staff recognise opportunities to include young people, and then to engage them in the Department’s work.

- Developed communication materials for targeted organisations to encourage involvement of indigenous land managers and wild-catch fishing
in AAA-FarmBis (Commonwealth and State component). State planning
groups in all States/Territory have also developed communication strategies
for their State/Territory.

• Advertised in the local press the Flood Assistance and Sugar Industry
Assistance Packages administered through Centrelink. Individuals were also
able to access further information through AFFA’s website, a telephone
hotline and direct client contact.

• Placed advertisements in the national and local press, in March 2002,
calling for submissions to the Independent Assessment of the Sugar
Industry. A total of 225 submissions were subsequently received from a
wide cross-section of stakeholders. Along with public and private meetings,
the independent assessor also attended several industry forums as part of
the consultation process. Stakeholders were able to correspond with the
Secretariat for the Independent Assessment of the Sugar Industry in a
confidential manner via email. Over 1,000 emails were received during the
assessment. A database including all participants’ contact details has been
maintained, and an extensive reference library was also collated.

• Continued to provide access to information for food businesses through
the AFFA food site at www.affa.gov.au/foodinfo, including an email help
service and a subscriber facility to notify stakeholders when new
information is available.

• Through the quarterly AFFA Food News Bulletin continued to provide
information to food industry stakeholders.

• NIDP improved communication with regional Australia by working with
existing regional networks to supply NIDP promotional material through
Indigenous Small Business Development Network and the Department of
Workplace Relations and Small Business, Regional Small Business
Assistance Network. In June 2002 NIDP improved communication among
program grantees by setting up the web-based Agribusiness Innovators on
Line to help grantees find out more about best practice in agribusiness,
and share information with one another. The Made in Australia magazine
print run was doubled to 10,000, and a new distribution list was
developed to include 5,000 rural and regional contacts. The magazine
promotes successful grantees and advertises the program. The Agribiz
information site was streamlined to make searching easier. NIDP increased
program awareness by 13 three-minute segments featuring innovative
agribusiness projects in the television program On the Land aired
throughout rural and regional Australia. Segments included reference to
the NIDP toll-free 1300 telephone number.
AFFA Roadshow

AFFA added another dimension to its communication activities during the year by setting up a Roadshow to take information on the Agriculture – Advancing Australia (AAA) package and other portfolio programs directly to rural and regional Australia.

The Roadshow visited around 30 venues, including field days, agricultural shows and conferences in all States and Territories. It provided first-hand advice and information on AAA and other funding and grant programs, such as the New Industries Development Program. There was also strong interest in national issues, including foot and mouth disease and feral animal control.

Specialist AFFA staff often accompanied the Roadshow team to provide more in-depth information on specific issues, including quarantine and exceptional circumstances funding, farm forestry and aquaculture. If full information could not be provided on the spot, the Roadshow team ensured follow-up action to obtain the information.

Several seminars highlighting AAA ‘success’ stories were also arranged in conjunction with Roadshow visits.

The Roadshow has been effective in raising AFFA’s profile among its regional and rural stakeholders, with many locals expressing appreciation that the Commonwealth was attending these events and listening to their views and answering their questions.
• The *Australia's Forests – the Path for Sustainability* brochure was updated on sustainable forest management in Australia. The brochure gives a complete overview of Australia’s forests in the context of ecologically sustainable development. There has been widespread community interest in this publication.

• Wide publicity of fisheries related AFFA programs were provided at trade stalls at fisheries conferences such as the World Recreational Fisheries Conference in Darwin in May 2002 and the International Billfish Conference in Brisbane in November 2001.

• The bimonthly Biosecurity Australia News provided information to stakeholders on Biosecurity Australia’s activities, including import risk analyses and technical market access work.

• The Quarantine Matters! Communication Campaign continued to use a wide range of, on-shore and off-shore, communications activities to inform people of their quarantine responsibilities when travelling, importing, exporting or sending mail or courier items to Australia. Print advertising, airport signage, an e-marketing campaign and an education initiative with CSIRO were among initiatives used to engage key target audiences. Community events and brochures available in 16 languages were used to target priority groups of non-English speaking backgrounds. Quarantine Matters! has been operating successfully for more than three years, and levels of awareness and interest in quarantine issues have soared.

• AQIS continued to consult with industry on a regular basis through Industry Consultative Committees (ICCs) over the management of its cost-recovered programs. In particular, the ICCs were closely involved in decisions regarding charges to fees and charges as a result of the reduction to 60 per cent cost recovery for AQIS Export programs.

• ABARE’s Outlook 2002 conference was widely advertised and received extensive media coverage, with 94 media representatives in attendance ensured comprehensive coverage of the conference. Non-attending journalists representing regional, rural, national and overseas print and electronic media, and industry publications, received faxed media releases after each conference session. ABC Rural also provided comprehensive radio and online coverage, and proceedings from the Royal Theatre sessions were streamed live online.

• ABARE research was also disseminated at its regional Outlook conferences held at Tamworth, Gippsland, Darwin and Dubbo. ABARE economists also spoke at various conferences run by other organisations throughout
Australia. ABARE disseminates its research through trade displays and promotions at relevant industry events, for example field days.

- ABARE has a comprehensive internet site that has information about its research projects, publications, media and conference information. The site also provides clients with a wide range of web-based benchmarking services using farm survey data. ABARE publications are advertised widely and distributed free of charge to the National Library and all State libraries. To encourage use of ABARE information by farmers, registered primary producers are eligible for a 20 per cent discount on all full priced ABARE publications.

**Responsiveness**

AFFA and EA arranged for all expressions of interest for funding under the Australian Government Envirofund to be followed up by local facilitators and coordinators.

AFFA held a National Rural Industry EMS Forum to engage a wide range of stakeholders and obtain their views on developing a national framework for EMS in Agriculture. A key outcome of the Forum was the agreement to establish an industry/community EMS Steering Committee to ensure a co-coordinated approach to EMS in agriculture.

In conjunction with the (tripartite) Greenhouse and Agriculture Taskforce, AFFA and the Australian Greenhouse Office (AGO) are undertaking comprehensive consultation with stakeholders with a view to developing a strategic national plan to identify and deal with greenhouse and agriculture issues.

The refocused Women in Rural Industries Program was developed in response to dealings and consultation with rural communities and organisations.

The Flood Assistance Package and the Fodder/Pasture Grant developed by Field Crops provided a rapid response to the plight of crop and dairy farmers who were severely affected by rainfall and flooding.

On 28 June 2002 Minister Truss released the report of the Independent Assessment of the Sugar Industry by Clive Hildebrand. The report is available to view or download from the Assessment website, and is available in published form through the Secretariat. About 1,000 copies of the published report have been distributed.
Following the announcement of the Government’s *National Food Industry Strategy*, AFFA provided feedback on the outcomes to all participants in the consultation process and made information available through updates to the Foodinfo website, articles in the *Food News Bulletin*, media releases and distribution of a promotion and marketing information package.

The NIDP mailing list was extended, checked and updated, with 300 new contacts included, by request, on the list. NIDP staff responded to an average of six requests per week to mail out or directly distribute NIDP publications; an average of 10 calls a day on the 1300 local call-rate number; more than 20 requests a week concerning Pilot Commercialisation Projects (PCPs); over 100 inquiries for In Market Experience Scholarships; and 20 requests to give presentations and talks at industry conferences, seminars and gatherings.

**FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE**

The Department produced a satisfactory operating surplus of $4.73 million (2000-01: $2.78 million) for the reporting year, with the Auditor-General again signing its Annual Financial Statements without qualification.

During 2001-02, AFFA implemented a number of major initiatives to improve financial management. Key achievements included the implementation of a new Levies system; financial reporting improvements; reengineering of the Department’s external and internal budget systems; development of a corporate cost allocation mechanism; and significant improvements in the financial processes, policies and procedures underpinning the financial management information system.

Further work will be done in 2002-03 to consolidate these improvements, this includes benchmarking management operations where possible; further refinements to cost attribution; review of the administered controls framework; shorter and more timely reporting and the re-engineering of the accounts payable and accounts receivable processes.
# Management and Accountability

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CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Corporate Governance Practices in Place

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry – Australia (AFFA) has a governance framework – its structures, decision-making processes, planning and performance reporting framework and control systems – that is designed to effectively deliver policy objectives and to heighten organisational performance, as well as ensure AFFA meets all statutory requirements. A number of key structural and systems elements give effect to the governance framework. These elements cover the governance continuum from conformance to performance. This includes:

- interlinking executive committees giving a structured and integrated approach to decision making with committees providing advice and support to the Secretary to meet all responsibilities under the Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997, the Public Service Act 1999 and other legislative obligations. The key executive committees are:
  - Executive Leadership Team;
  - Audit Committee and Finance Sub-Committee;
  - Security Committee;
  - People Strategies Policy Committee; and
  - Executive Budget Committee.
- a robust Internal Audit Program, driving improved business processes and outcomes;
- the AFFA Fraud Control Plan through which fraud and ethics education and awareness programs are delivered and rigorous controls and monitoring are activated;
- an active AFFA Security Plan and Program which is directed towards providing a safe and secure work environment for staff and the protection of our physical and intellectual assets, drives an enhanced compliance culture, and addresses systems deficiencies;
- systems to support appropriate decision-making and controls such as principle-based Chief Executive Instructions and easily accessible Delegations under relevant acts, regulations and orders;
- the integration of risk management into business processes and culture through the AFFA Risk Management Framework, incorporating the three levels of risk management – project, business and corporate;
Management and Accountability

- communications from executive committees to Businesses and staff on key management decisions and organisational priorities;
- a strategic human resources policy framework that establishes the policy direction relating to the myriad of human resource management issues; and
- an integrated approach to monitoring the application of good governance principles, in the context of broader performance management, through the existing business planning framework, quarterly project performance reviews and individual performance agreements and appraisals.

The governance framework is continually being reviewed and refined to take account of emerging needs and better practice models. In line with this, the Executive Leadership Team has subsequently been revised to form the Executive Management Meeting and the Portfolio Policy Meeting, taking effect from 1 July 2002. In a similar vein, a Remuneration Committee has been formed.

SENIOR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES AND THEIR ROLES

Executive Leadership Team

The Executive Leadership Team (ELT) is the primary governance decision-making body of the Department. The principal role of the ELT is to provide advice and support to the Secretary and leadership to Businesses and staff on policy, management and administrative issues that have direct corporate or strategic significance.

The ELT met on a fortnightly basis and comprises the following members:
- the Secretary
- two Deputy Secretaries
- Executive Director, Australian Bureau of Agriculture and Resource Economics
- Executive Director, Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service
- Executive Director, Bureau of Rural Sciences
- Australian Chief Veterinary Officer
- Chief Operating Officer
Management and Accountability

- General Manager, Corporate Governance
- General Manager, Planning and Communications
- General Manager, Ministerial Services

Audit Committee

The Audit Committee provides advice to the Secretary on the management of possible risks associated with the structures, processes and practices within AFFA with a view to minimising financial and non-financial risk across the Department. It oversees audit, accounting and corporate control systems and assesses the governance continuum from conformance to performance. In this regard, the Committee advises Businesses on measures to improve business practices encompassing broader organisational performance and good practice. The Audit Committee consists of a Deputy Secretary (Chair), two senior executives nominated by the Secretary (on a rotation basis for up to two years) and two external/non-government members. The Chief Operating Officer, General Manager Corporate Governance and a senior Australian National Audit Office representative have observer status on the Committee. The Secretary attends Committee meetings as appropriate. The Audit Committee is scheduled to meet eight times a year.

Finance Sub-Committee

The Audit Committee has a Finance Sub-Committee, which is responsible for overseeing the production of AFFA’s financial statements. The Sub-Committee also ensures that any changes to accounting standards and policies have been appropriately actioned. The Finance Sub-Committee consists of an external member of the Audit Committee (Chair), an additional external member, the Chief Operating Officer, the Chief Financial Officer and one senior executive officer. The General Manager Corporate Governance, Director Internal Audit and an Australian National Audit Officer all hold observer positions on the Committee. The Finance Sub-Committee is scheduled to meet eight times a year.

Security Committee

The Security Committee provides advice to the Secretary and the ELT on security policy and is responsible for overseeing, monitoring and reporting on the overall framework and management of security issues within AFFA. This charter includes the elements of security policy, planning and security risk
management to enable the Department’s security obligations to be met. The Committee has senior representation from a cross-section of Business units. A Deputy Secretary fulfils the role of Security Executive as prescribed in the Protective Security Manual, and chairs the Committee. The Committee reports regularly to the Secretary and Executive Leadership Team on security issues affecting the Department. The Security Committee is scheduled to meet six times a year.

People Strategies Policy Committee

The People Strategies Policy Committee was established to give specific focus to people management issues and to support the Secretary and the ELT to achieve AFFA objectives in the development and management of staff. The Committee provides advice to the ELT on policy direction and facilitates the integration of policies and strategies into business practices, with an emphasis on business input and information sharing. Membership of the Committee consists of the Executive Director, Bureau of Rural Sciences (Chair), all other AFFA Executive Directors, Executive Managers and the General Manager People and Strategies.

Executive Budget Committee

The Executive Budget Committee (EBC) was established to determine budget strategy, priorities and allocations in line with ELT priorities. The Committee was established towards the end of the 2001-02 financial year as the key decision making body on AFFA’s 2002-03 Budget allocations. The EBC is comprised of the Secretary and the two Deputy Secretaries.

Senior Executives and their Responsibilities (as at 30 June 2002)

Secretary

Michael J Taylor

Responsibilities:

• Efficient and effective operation of the Department.
• Chair of the Executive Leadership Team.
• Chair of the National Primary Industry Standing Committee of Australia.
Management and Accountability

- Co-Chair of the National Standing Committee on Natural Resource Management.
- Chair of the National Management Group (Emergency Disease Response Task Force).
- Member of the Australian Council for International Agricultural Research.
- Member of the Food Regulation Standing Committee of the Australia and New Zealand Food Regulation Ministerial Council.
- Member of the Executive Budget Committee.

**Deputy Secretary**

Bernard Wonder

Responsibilities:
- Assistance to the Secretary across a broad range of issues and functions.
- Chair of the Audit Committee.
- Member of the Executive Leadership Team.
- Commonwealth Commissioner, Murray Darling Basin Commission.
- Member of the CSIRO Land and Water Sector Advisory Committee.
- Joint Chair of the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality and Natural Heritage Trust Boards of Management.
- Member of the Dairy Alliance Board.
- AFFA representative on the National Land and Water Resources Audit Advisory Council.
- Member of the Executive Budget Committee.

**Deputy Secretary**

Geoff Gorrie

Responsibilities:
- Assistance to the Secretary across a broad range of issues and functions.
- Chair of the Security Committee.
- Member of the Executive Leadership Team.
- Chair of the Australian Animal Health Laboratory Advisory Council.
Management and Accountability

- Government Director of the Australian Wine and Brandy Corporation Board.
- Member of the Executive Budget Committee.

Management Services

Bill Pahl
Chief Operating Officer

Responsibilities:
- Strategic development and efficient and effective provision of management services, including finance, human resources, information, ministerial liaison, corporate planning and reporting, public relations and contracting.
- Member of the Executive Leadership Team.
- Member of the People Strategies Policy Committee.
- Observer to the Executive Leadership Team Task Force on Financial Management.
- Observer to the Audit Committee.

Corporate Governance Group

Bill Handke
General Manager, Corporate Governance Group

Responsibilities:
- Support and advice to the Secretary on the AFFA governance framework.
- Efficient and effective operation of the Corporate Governance Group relating to business ethics, security, risk management, internal audit, and operational rules and accountability systems.
- Secretariat to a number of Executive Committees.

Natural Resource Management Business Group

Ian Thompson
Executive Manager, Natural Resource Management Business

Responsibilities:
- Efficient and effective operation of the Natural Resource Management Business.
• Development and implementation of natural resource management policies and portfolio interest in greenhouse issues.

• Management of natural resource management programs including the Natural Heritage Trust, National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality, the Murray-Darling 2001 Program, the Great Artesian Basin Sustainability Initiative and Commonwealth Contribution to the Murray-Darling Basin Initiative.

• Deputy Commonwealth Commissioner on the Murray-Darling Basin Commission.

• Director, Landcare Australia Limited.

• Member of People Strategies Policy Committee.

Innovation and Operating Environment Business Group

Paul Morris
Executive Manager, Innovation and Operating Environment Business

Responsibilities:

• Efficient and effective operation of the Innovation and Operating Environment Business.

• Provision of high quality and timely policy advice and services on strategic directions.

• Effective participation in national and international deliberations and developments on R&D issues including biotechnology.

• Strong links with the Rural Research and Development Corporations (RDCs) on planning and priority setting to meet both commercial and public benefit objectives as well as efficient and effective program administration.

• Provision of guidance to Departmental policy and strategies on indigenous issues.

Industry Development Business Group

Don Banfield
Business Manager, Industry Development Business
Executive Manager, Rural Support and Adjustment
Responsibilities:

- Efficient and effective operation of the Industry Development Business.
- Development and implementation of policies and programs that cut across agricultural industries, fisheries and forest industries, and rural support and adjustment. These policies and programs encourage farmers to take responsibilities for their financial self reliance and build their capacity to manage their commercial risks more effectively; and provide ‘safety net’ programs for farm families suffering hardship.
- Chair of the Executive Leadership Team Task Force on Financial Management.
- Government Member, National Rural Advisory Council.

Cliff Samson
General Manager, Agricultural Industries - Field Crops

Responsibilities:

- Efficient and effective operation of this component of the Industry Development Business.
- Development and implementation of policies and programs relating to the development of agricultural industries and market access, with a through chain approach. These policies and programs assist and support industry adjustment by encouraging farmers to take responsibility for their financial self reliance and build their capacity to manage their commercial risks more effectively.

Paul Sutton
General Manager, Agricultural Industries - Meat and Wool

Responsibilities:

- Efficient and effective operation of this component of the Industry Development Business.
- Development and implementation of policies and programs relating to the development of agricultural industries and market access, with a through chain approach. These policies and programs assist and support industry adjustment by encouraging farmers to take responsibility for their financial self reliance and build their capacity to manage their commercial risks more effectively.
Daryl Quinlivan
Executive Manager, Fisheries and Forest Industries

Responsibilities:
• Efficient and effective operation of the Industry Development Business.
• Development and implementation of policies and programs for the fisheries and forest industries.
• Member of the Forest and Wood Products R&D Corporation.

Food Business Group
Bev Clarke
Executive Manager, Food Business

Responsibilities:
• Efficient and effective operation of the Food Business.
• Development and implementation of policies and management of programs for the food and beverage industries and through chain development.
• Director, Agri Chain Solutions Ltd.

Market Access and Biosecurity Business Group
Simon Hearn
Executive Manager, Market Access and Biosecurity Business

Responsibilities:
• Efficient and effective operation of the Market Access and Biosecurity Business.
• Provision of international agricultural market and biosecurity policy advice to government.
• Management of AFFA’s international operations and representation.
• Government Member, Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation.
Management and Accountability

Mary Harwood
Executive Manager, Biosecurity Australia

Responsibilities:
• Efficient and effective management of Biosecurity Australia.
• Provision of professional, timely and focused advice in a whole of government context on biosecurity and technical market access issues.
• Delegate to the WTO Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Committee.

Product Integrity, Animal (including aquatic animal) and Plant Health

Gardner Murray
Executive Manager, Product Integrity, Animal and Plant Health Business
Australian Chief Veterinary Officer

Responsibilities:
• Efficient and effective operation of the Product Integrity, Animal and Plant Health Business Group.
• Provision of national and international leadership and coordination in the areas of animal (including aquatic animal) health and welfare, plant health, food safety, residue management and emergency management.
• Australian Chief Veterinary Officer.
• Member of the AFFA Executive Leadership Team.

Bill Roberts
Chief Plant Protection Officer

Responsibilities:
• Efficient and effective operation of the Product Integrity, Animal and Plant Health Business Group.
• Provision of national and international leadership and coordination in the areas of plant health and plant protection.
• Australian Chief Plant Protection Officer.
Management and Accountability

Tim Roseby
FMD/BSE Taskforce

Responsibilities:
• Efficient and effective operation of Product Integrity, Animal and Plant Health FMD/BSE Taskforce.
• Completion of objectives in a professional and timely manner.

Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service

Meryl Stanton
Executive Director, AQIS

Responsibilities:
• Efficient and effective operation of AQIS.
• Member of the AFFA Executive Leadership Team.
• Chair of the AQIS Business and Finance Committee, which oversees the strategic management of AQIS.
• Ex-officio member of the Quarantine and Exports Advisory Council.
• Member of the AFFA Audit Committee.

Greg Read
Executive Manager, Exports and Corporate

Responsibilities:
• Efficient and effective operation of AQIS Export Services and Business Strategies Group.
• Member of the AQIS Business and Finance Committee, which oversees strategic management of AQIS.
• Chair of the Export Meat Industry Advisory Committee.
• Chair of the AQIS Meat Industry Charging Consultative Committee.
• Chair of the AQIS Information Management Priorities Committee.
• Co-Chair of the AQIS Business Improvement Committee (BIC), which provides a strategic framework for business improvement initiatives in AQIS.
• Chair of the Codex Committee for Food Import and Export Certification Systems.
John Cahill  
Executive Manager, Quarantine  

Responsibilities:  
• Efficient and effective operation of AQIS Quarantine Services.  
• Member of the AQIS Business and Finance Committee, which oversees strategic management of AQIS.  
• Chair of the AQIS National Consistency Steering Committee.  
• Chair of the AQIS Border Taskforce.  
• AQIS representative on the Australian Customs Service Cargo Management Re-engineering Board.  
• Co-Chair of the AQIS Business Improvement Committee (BIC), which provides a strategic framework for business improvement initiatives in AQIS.

Bureau of Rural Sciences  
Peter O’Brien  
Executive Director, BRS  

Responsibilities:  
• Efficient and effective operation of BRS.  
• Member of the AFFA Executive Leadership Team.  
• Government Director of Australian Fisheries Management Authority.  
• Chairman of BRS Executive Committee.

Derek Staples  
Deputy Executive Director  

Responsibilities:  
• Leadership of BRS programs on Executive and Business Management, Fisheries and Marine Sciences and Rural Data Library & Information Management.  
• Member of BRS Executive Committee and Chairman of BRS Business & Finance sub-Committee.
Management and Accountability

Colin Chartres
Chief Scientist

Responsibilities:
• Leadership of BRS programs on Salinity Risk Management, Landscape Management Sciences and Water Sciences.
• Member of BRS Executive Committee and Chairman of BRS Science sub-Committee.

Melanie Fisher
Executive Manager

Responsibilities:
• Leadership of BRS programs on Social Sciences, Forest and Vegetation Sciences and Agriculture and Food Sciences.
• Member of BRS Executive Committee and Chairman of BRS People Management sub-Committee.

Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics

Brian Fisher
Executive Director, ABARE

Responsibilities:
• Efficient and effective operation of ABARE.
• Member of the AFFA Executive Leadership Team.

Vivek Tulpulé
Deputy Executive Director

Responsibilities:
• Leadership of ABARE’s research program on natural resources, agricultural trade and minerals and energy.

Steve Beare
Research Director, Project Development and Statistical Analysis

Responsibilities:
• Leadership and innovation in advanced applied economic research modelling.
AFFA CORPORATE FUNCTIONS

Corporate and Operational Planning and Reporting Framework

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry – Australia (AFFA) has a number of corporate and operational plans in place to assist in its governance and associated reporting and review mechanisms. These include:

- Portfolio Budget Statements which provide a statement of the Outcome goals for the portfolio and the purpose of the portfolio budget measures;
- AFFA Corporate Plan, which aims to strengthen AFFA’s identity and relevance to our customers by communicating who we are, what we do, and how we do it;
- AFFA Business Plan, which documents how AFFA’s business will be managed to deliver its Outcome and, building on the Portfolio Budget Statements, sets objectives, aligns and links efforts, and provides a basis for measuring performance;
- Business Group Plans which document how each Business Group will deliver individual Outputs through projects, building on the Portfolio Budget Statements and Business Plan;
- Performance reviews and reports are conducted for each Business Group on a quarterly basis to provide information on performance and achievements throughout the year;
- Individual Work Plans and Learning Agreements which document the work, and work standards, that individuals agree to undertake as their contribution to the projects they are working on. Learning Agreements document the skills individuals will need and how they will improve those skills;
- Risk Management Planning is conducted at the corporate, business and project level. The AFFA Risk Management Plan identifies the key risks to the organisation and the mitigation strategies and actions. The risk management framework is intended to underpin the whole planning process at the corporate, business and project level;
- Performance through People (PtP) plan, which is the overarching strategic approach to people management. The PtP Plan provides AFFA staff with a clear understanding of the business goals and what is expected of them, and empowers managers to lead and manage staff effectively while supporting and facilitating their professional development;
Management and Accountability

- Governance Plan outlines AFFA’s operating rules, internal audit, risk management, business ethics, fraud risk management and control, and security issues; and
- financial reporting is completed on a monthly basis.

Figure 8
AFFA Planning and Reporting Framework

Planning for success

Planning

- Portfolio Minister
  - Minister for Forestry & Conservation
  - Parliamentary Secretary
- Portfolio Budget Statements
  - Describes budget spending within the portfolio
- Corporate Plan
  - Overall departmental plan, provides strategic direction
- Business Plan
  - Our current year’s business
- Business Group plans
  - Detailed plans on specific outputs
- Individual work plans
  - Individual responsibilities

Reporting

- Annual Report
- Attendance at Senate Estimates hearings
Maintenance of Ethical Standards

A number of initiatives relating to the establishment and maintenance of appropriate ethical standards were progressed during the course of the financial year. These initiatives were in-the-main advanced by the Department’s Corporate Governance Group and included:

• revision of Senior Executive Service (SES) Performance Agreements and Performance Assessment criteria to include compliance with and promotion of: the Australian Public Service (APS) Values and Code of Conduct; the Protective Security Manual; Fraud Control Policy; and risk management requirements;

• promulgation of an AFFA Security Guidelines;

• continued implementation of the AFFA 2000 Fraud Control Plan based on a comprehensive fraud risk assessment across all the Department’s programs and significant administrative activities - as required under the Fraud Control Policy of the Commonwealth;

• continued fraud, ethics, and security training through the new recruit induction process - which (in part) promotes the APS Values, Code of Conduct, Fraud Control and security issues;

• continued implementation of the AFFA 2000 Security Plan based on a comprehensive security risk assessment - to meet the requirements of the Commonwealth Protective Security Manual;

• maintenance of a complaints/compliments free call line and a “whistleblower” process;

• maintenance of a fraud and misconduct investigations function;

• commencement of a compact disk based fraud and ethics e-learning project;

• promulgation of new Chief Executive Instructions, and continued redevelopment of the Department’s Corporate Rules (including Chief Executive Instructions and the Delegation Database);

• extensive staff training and awareness raising on the provisions of the revised Chief Executive Instructions;

• enhanced communication to Business Units and staff on governance aspects including adoption of APS Values;

• refocus of the Department’s committees with regard to governance issues – including the Audit Committee and the Security Committee; and

• the use of the internal audit function to support and monitor business practices.
Management and Accountability

The Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) completed an audit of the Department’s fraud control arrangements during the course of the year. The outcomes are addressed under the External Scrutiny Chapter of this Report.

Risk Management

AFFA has adopted a systematic and comprehensive approach to risk management, which targets risk at three separate levels: corporate (organisational), business and project. AFFA’s objective is to ensure that risk and opportunity are considerations in all decision-making and planning within the organisation and that risk management processes are fully integrated into all planning activities. To this end, AFFA’s Corporate Governance Group facilitates risk management activity in the organisation.

AFFA has the view that all staff should play an active role in managing risk. The responsibilities of all staff are set out in AFFA’s Risk Management Policy, which is supported by a comprehensive set of guidelines.

The Corporate Governance Group undertook the following steps during the course of the financial year to ensure an integrated and consistent approach:

- provided support to Business and project staff in the development of their risk management plans;
- consolidated all risk management assessment data into the overall AFFA Risk Management Plan;
- developed a software model for risk assessment including generic risk data set;
- participated in the Department of Finance and Administration’s Comcover Benchmarking Surveys;
- participated in ANAO pilot survey on warranties, indemnities and guarantees;
- contributed to the development of the ANAO’s pilot survey on Risk Management and Insurance;
- co-ordinated and delivered training for staff using software models;
- provided risk management and governance presentations to the AFFA Induction Course;
- developed AFFA’s risk management framework to integrate project and business risk assessments; and
Management and Accountability

- developed the departmental Action Plan for the next steps in risk management within the organisation.

A revised Commonwealth Fraud Control Policy placing a particular emphasis on compliance with risk management standards was promulgated in May 2002. The full application of that policy is being considered and will be adopted in the preparation of a revised Fraud Control Plan.

Risk management activity is reported to and monitored by the Department’s Audit Committee.

Senior Executive Remuneration

AFFA’s remuneration policy continues to provide differential outcomes between individual jobs. Differential outcomes based on both market and work value considerations are a critical element that AFFA has adopted to compete effectively in the employment market.

Figure 9
SES Salary Profile
INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL SCRUTINY

Internal Audit

For the first six months of the financial year the majority of Internal Audit services were provided by Ernst & Young under the direction of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry – Australia (AFFA) Internal Audit Director. From 1 January 2002 audit services were provided through a co-sourced arrangement between AFFA and a panel of service providers. The primary service provider, Ernst & Young, performed at least 80 per cent of the Internal Audit function. The other panel members are Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu and Acumen Alliance. Total payments to Ernst & Young during 2001-02 were $698,000.

Internal Audit prioritised its activities for the year based on an assessment of risk for business critical areas of the organisation. Internal Audit endeavours to be involved early in new initiatives of the Department in order to ensure adequate management controls are in place. In this way it adds value through identifying areas of best practice and system weakness, and has been a key agent in facilitating changes to administrative processes.

Internal Audit issued 26 reports during 2001-02 covering a range of performance, assurance and information technology audits. Internal Audit contributed to the Department’s Outputs through activities aimed at:

- improving financial management practices and procedures within AFFA;
- focusing awareness and management of risk across a range of activities; and
- strengthening the Department’s corporate governance activities and maintenance of the internal control environment.

In accordance with its charter, approved by the Secretary of the Department, the Audit Committee approves the strategic direction and planning for internal audit. The Audit Committee also assesses the performance of the audit function, including consideration of outcomes from audits and reviews, and the appropriateness of subsequent action by managers. The Audit Committee met seven times during 2001-02.

Import Risk Analysis (IRA) Appeals

The IRA process includes provision for appeals by stakeholders at two stages during an IRA. The first occurs when stakeholders are informed of the scope, indicative timing and approach and, where relevant, membership of the Risk
Management and Accountability

Analysis Panel (RAP). The second opportunity to appeal follows release of a final IRA. An Import Risk Analysis Appeal Panel (IRAAP) is convened to consider appeals made at this stage. An IRAAP normally comprises the Chair of the Quarantine and Exports Advisory Committee (QEAC) as Chair, a representative of the Director of Animal and Plant Quarantine (the Secretary), the Chief Plant Protection Officer or Chief Veterinary Officer as appropriate and one other member of QEAC.

Advice to stakeholders in October 2001 proposing members of a RAP for the IRA of apples from New Zealand resulted in fourteen appeals expressing a range of concerns including a number relating to proposed members of the RAP. Consistent with the Draft Administrative Framework for Import Risk Analysis (2001) these were considered by the AFFA delegate and a determination made in December 2001 dismissing all appeals except those requiring an expert understanding of industry processes and trading patterns. The delegate determined that the panel was deficient in this area and membership of the RAP was subsequently expanded to include a member with the required experience and expertise.

Advice to stakeholders in April 2002 of the scope, indicative timing and approach proposed for the IRA of fresh mangosteens from Thailand resulted in an appeal from one stakeholder with concerns about the proposed scope and the expertise required. This was considered by the AFFA delegate who dismissed the appeal, the IRA is continuing.

The IRAAP on sweetcorn seed for sowing from Idaho, USA was convened in June 2002 to consider five appeals against a determination establishing conditions for the importation of this seed. The main issue raised in appeals was the possibility that a proportion of genetically modified (GM) seed might be unintentionally imported. Arrangements were made for a meeting of the IRAAP planned for early July 2002 to consider the appeals.

Three further opportunities for appeal were provided but did not result in any appeals. These opportunities were associated with the IRAs of non-domestic Felidae, ruminant semen from South Africa and deer and cervine genetic material from all countries.
Reports by the Auditor General

Eleven Auditor-General’s reports issued in 2001-02 make specific reference to AFFA. The following report was of particular significance to the Department.

2001-02 No 20 Fraud Control Arrangements in the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry – Australia (AFFA)

The objective of the audit was to assess whether AFFA had implemented appropriate fraud control arrangements in line with the Fraud Control Policy of the Commonwealth and whether these arrangements operated effectively in practice.

The Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) concluded that AFFA had developed an appropriate fraud control policy, with supporting fraud risk assessments and operational procedures that were consistent with the requirements of the Fraud Control Policy of the Commonwealth.

AFFA communicates widely the standards of conduct expected of its officers and its commitment to promoting an ethical workplace culture in the Department. However, with the exception of induction training for new employees, there had been little fraud related awareness raising and training activities since 1997. As well as addressing this, the Department is also taking action to enhance the training of its officers in contract management skills and to ensure that external service providers are more clearly aware of their contractual obligations and ethical responsibilities when providing services under contracts with the Commonwealth.

The ANAO made two recommendations aimed at improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the fraud control arrangements in AFFA. These recommendations address issues covering fraud, ethics and security training and the development of appropriate fraud performance information for inclusion in management reports in the Department. AFFA agreed with the recommendations.

Inquiries by Parliamentary Committees

The Incidence of Ovine Johne’s Disease in the Australian Sheep Flock – Second Report

This report is under active consideration by the Government. Discussions are ongoing between the national sheep industry and AFFA on key aspects of the report, including a proposal to establish a national levy to help industry fund
some financial assistance to affected producers. In addition a number of recent developments that potentially impact on the conduct of the National Ovine Johne's Disease Control and Evaluation Program are under consideration.

It is anticipated that, subject to the conclusion of discussions with industry, the Government will be in a position to respond to the report by September 2002.

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Primary Industries and Regional Services – Bioprospecting: Discoveries Changing The Future

Of the 22 recommendations tabled in August 2001, two were directed at AFFA. The Government response to the Standing Committee’s Report has not yet been tabled.

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Industry, Science and Resources inquiry into increasing value adding to Australia’s raw materials report, Getting a Better Return

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Industry, Science and Resources second report of the inquiry into increasing the value added to Australian raw materials Getting a Better Return was tabled in September 2001.

AFFA is the lead agency in responding to four of the recommendations, relating to matched funding for industry Research and Development Corporations, dairy industry adjustment, and wine industry regulation and tariffs. The Department has also provided comment on several other recommendations, relating to facilitating investment, infrastructure, wine industry taxation, incentives for research and development and zonal taxation.

AFFA has been working with the Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources and other interested departments in developing a Government response, which is expected to be tabled by the Minister for Industry, Tourism and Resources, the Hon Ian Macfarlane MP in the spring sittings of 2002.

The Senate Select Committee on Superannuation and Financial Services released a report, Early Access to Superannuation Benefits, which examined the effectiveness and efficiency of current rules governing early access to superannuation benefits

The Senate Select Committee on Superannuation and Financial Services report Early Access to Superannuation Benefits was tabled on 31 January 2002.
AFFA’s submission highlighted the following key points:

- It is important to relax criteria for early access to superannuation funds in cases of severe financial hardship. Relaxation of early access criteria would complement the current AAA – Farm Management Deposits arrangements, by facilitating investment in superannuation once farmers are comfortable with their risk management strategy; and

- Superannuation is an important issue for farm retirement and succession planning. AFFA noted that additional information is required on superannuation to allow more informed policy decision-making for all sectors, including farming.

AFFA agreed with the need for Government to maintain motivation for investing in superannuation, but identified that the stringent criteria for accessing funds creates a disincentive to invest in superannuation.

**Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit to examine**
**Audit Report No 43, 2000-01, Performance Information for Commonwealth Financial Assistance under the Natural Heritage Trust (Jointly with Environment Australia)**

AFFA and Environment Australia (EA) provided a joint submission to the Committee’s Inquiry in August 2001. As part of the Inquiry, AFFA and EA appeared at a public hearing of the Committee on 30 April 2002. The hearing examined the Audit Report No 43. No recommendations were made from the Public Hearing.

The Audit Report itself was published by the Australian National Audit Office in June 2001. It made six recommendations that were agreed by AFFA and EA and are being implemented through the Extension to the Natural Heritage Trust and the National Action Plan on Salinity and Water Quality.

**The House of Representatives Environment and Heritage Committee tabled its report on**
**Co-ordinating Catchment Management – Inquiry into Catchment Management in February 2001**

The Committee undertook a review of the 1997-98 Annual Report of the Department of Environment and Heritage, and tabled a report on its review on 21 June 1999. The Committee resolved to continue its investigation of the matters raised in the annual report through an inquiry into catchment management. The Committee has held a number of inspections and public hearings in almost all States. The Government response to the report has not yet been submitted to the Committee.
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The Committee made 26 recommendations, the most significant of which are listed below.

- The Commonwealth should adopt a lead role in catchment management.
- The Government should ask and resource the Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC) to examine the feasibility of, and options for, a national body of law to deal with the ecologically sustainable use of land. In particular it should report on consolidating Commonwealth laws; consolidating State and Territory laws; and integrating laws at all levels.
- The Government should work towards an agreement through the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) that requires each jurisdiction to enact complementary legislation to establish an independent statutory authority, the National Catchment Management Authority (NCMA).
- The Governments should develop national catchment management principles in consultation with stakeholders to be enacted within national catchment management legislation.
- The Government should work through COAG to set targets for the ecologically sustainable use of Australia’s catchment systems under the national catchment management legislation as soon as possible.
- The Government should ask and resource the ALRC to report on options for resolving, in a cost effective and speedy manner, cross-jurisdictional environmental disputes.
- The National Land and Water Resources Committee (NLWRC) should be formally established as an ongoing independent statutory Commonwealth authority called the National Environment Audit Office.
- Funding for the National Land and Water Resources Audit (NLWRA) should be provided to enable it to complete a comprehensive audit of Australia’s catchment systems.
- Clear protocols should be established for the exchange of information concerning the ecologically sustainable use of Australia’s catchment systems.
- An Education Strategy should be developed to cover the ecologically sustainable use of Australia’s catchment systems.
- Catchment Management Authorities should be established.
- Accreditation should be applied by the proposed NCMA for all programs that affect ecologically sustainable use of a catchment area.
• When local government boundaries are revised they should be aligned with catchment boundaries and local governments should be encouraged to implement Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) within catchments.

• States should enact legislation for local governments to apply ecologically sustainable use of Australia's catchment systems.

• Formal recognition should be given to partner organisations.

• All programs that affect the ecologically sustainable use of a catchment area should be accredited by the proposed NCMA.

• The Government should instigate a program to foster the development of, and access to, the internet for rural Australians and the development of an information base pertaining to ecologically sustainable use of Australia's catchment systems.

• Rural transaction centres should act as information centres for ecologically sustainable use of Australia's catchment systems.

• The six recommendations made on improving funding and resourcing in relation to managing ecologically sustainable systems should be addressed.


The Committee conducted an inquiry into the impact on landholders and farmers of public good conservation measures imposed by State/Territory and Commonwealth governments. The inquiry also addressed matters related to public good conservation arising from the catchment management inquiry. The Committee has prepared an interim report in response to the inquiry.

Senate Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts References Committee – Inquiry on Australia’s Urban Water Management

The Committee is examining the management of water in Australian cities, reviewing the management of urban water; ecologically sustainable water use and imperatives for achieving this; progress and adequacy of Australia’s policies to reduce urban water use and improve water quality; environmental performance in stormwater management; and the potential for Australia to improve water quality and environmental outcomes.
AFFA and EA provided a joint submission to the Committee’s Inquiry in September 2001. As part of the Inquiry, AFFA and EA appeared at a public hearing of the Committee on 22 March 2002. The Committee was expected to table the Inquiry report in August 2002.

An Appropriate Level of Protection? The Importation of Salmon Products: A case study of the Administration of Australian Quarantine and the Impact of International Trade Arrangements

The Senate’s Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee tabled a report An Appropriate Level of Protection? The Importation of Salmon Products: A case study of the Administration of Australian Quarantine and the Impact of International Trade Arrangements in June 2000. The report contained 15 recommendations relating to the import risk analysis process, Australia’s appropriate level of protection and arrangements for the provision of international legal advice, which are outlined below:

- That the Australian Government make application to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) for a variation to the WTO Rules to have disease free area status applied to fish and fish products that are untreated.
- AQIS maintain an ongoing review of its import protocols and develop procedures that enable it to implement new import protocols as a response to any changes in perceived risk or any new scientific evidence which might arise.
- The Committee affirms recommendation 8.17 in its 1996 report on AQIS and recommends that, prior to the publication of documentation, AQIS consult with stakeholders, incorporating the outcome of such consultations in any documentation.
- AQIS, in its review of the Import Risk Analysis processes and procedures, amend the procedures to allow for the direct involvement of domestic stakeholders through the establishment of a Risk Assessment Committee for each import risk analysis.
- The Import Risk Analysis procedures and handbook be amended to ensure that the consultation process takes place prior to the development and publication of documents such as issues papers and the like.
- Draft Import Risk Analysis documents and other like documentation not contain any proposed or indicative conclusions.
• Publication of documentation be limited to the requirements of our international obligations and discussion papers or draft documents should have limited distribution on a strictly confidential basis and be restricted to domestic stakeholders and the seeking of expert opinion.

• Wherever possible, AQIS support their qualitative analysis with quantitative risk assessment techniques.

• Given the fundamental significance of risk analysis, the Government establish a Key Centre for quarantine related risk analysis, consistent with that proposed by the Nairn Committee in *Australian Quarantine - a Shared Responsibility*.

• The Commonwealth Government, in consultation with the community and with State and Territory governments, be responsible for the establishment of an appropriate level of protection for Australia.

• The appropriate level of protection be more explicit and include, as part of its determination, environmental factors and the application of the precautionary principle.

• An International Legal Adviser’s Office be established to provide high quality international legal advice from the early stages of Australia’s relationships with other countries and international organisations.

• The International Legal Adviser’s Office be established as a statutory authority within the Attorney-General’s Department.

• The Head of that Office, the Legal Adviser, be appointed at the highest level, reporting to the Attorney-General and to the Prime Minister.

• A thorough evaluation be undertaken of the approach to and conduct of international litigation by such countries as Canada and the United States, especially in disputes under agreements governed by the WTO. The investigation could be via an independent agent/adviser or a parliamentary committee.

The Department has been reviewing the import risk analysis process through public consultation including the circulation of proposed revisions to the process. The Primary Industries Ministerial Council agreed in May 2002 that the current definition of appropriate level of protection meets Australia’s needs. The response to the Senate Committee’s report is being considered, in consultation with relevant portfolios.
The Proposed Importation of Fresh Apple Fruit from New Zealand – Interim Report

The Senate’s Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislative Committee tabled a report on the Proposed importation of fresh apple fruit from New Zealand in July 2001. The report contained 15 recommendations either relating specifically to the current import risk analysis (IRA) on New Zealand apples, or more generally to the IRA process. The Committee recommended that Biosecurity Australia:

• as part of its current review into the future conduct of the IRA process, develop procedures to allow a decision to adopt a routine IRA to be appealed to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal;

• as part of its current review into the future conduct of the IRA process, develop procedures to allow for consideration of the likely consequences of the incursion of a particular pest when deciding whether to use a routine or non-routine IRA;

• as part of its current review into the future conduct of the IRA process, develop and publish widely guidelines on the purpose and the method of consultation in the IRA process;

• as part of its current review into the future conduct of the IRA process, establish a Risk Assessment Committee to allow for the direct involvement of domestic stakeholders during the conduct of IRAs;

• as part of its current review into the future conduct of the IRA process, clarify with Environment Australia the definition of pathogens which pose a significant risk of harm to the natural environment. Such pathogens must be referred to the Minister for the Environment for advice under the terms of the Quarantine Amendment Act 1999;

• incorporate a full quantitative risk evaluation in the final IRA on the possible importation of New Zealand apples, in preference to the current unsatisfactory qualitative risk evaluation used in the draft IRA;

• revise the combined events in the entry, establishment and spread pathways in the final IRA on the possible importation of New Zealand apples. This is to measure more accurately and transparently the unrestricted risk associated with Erwinia amylovora and other pests;

• develop a quantitative measure of what constitutes a “very low” risk in the final IRA on the possible importation of New Zealand apples, based on a full quantitative risk assessment;
• immediately commission research by the CSIRO, the NZ Horticulture and Food Research Institute or independent authorities into whether export-ready apples from New Zealand can carry viable colonies of *Erwinia amylovora* in their core, calyx or flesh;

• incorporate in the final IRA further research into the role of other pests in the possible broadcast of *Erwinia amylovora* in Australia, notably the apple leaf-curling midge;

• adopt as a better alternative to the protocols outlined in the draft IRA the following measures:
  - the use of random drop sampling at certified New Zealand packing houses for sampling of New Zealand apple lots earmarked for possible export to Australia;
  - the DNA testing of apples taken during random drop sampling for the presence of *Erwinia amylovora*; and
  - the acceptance or rejection of apple lots from New Zealand earmarked for export to the Australian market based on the results of the above DNA testing and other relevant testing;

• themselves conduct tests with at least two major New Zealand export packing houses on the appropriate apple processing speed and staffing levels required to guarantee that apples destined for possible export to Australia would be completely trash free;

• incorporate in the final IRA advice from the NRA as to the circumstances under which the NRA would permit the spraying of streptomycin or terramycin in Australia in response to an outbreak of *Erwinia amylovora*. This advice should be based on research by Biosecurity Australia on the number of applications of streptomycin or terramycin which would be required each season to contain an outbreak of *Erwinia amylovora* in the various apple growing regions of Australia; and

• contact countries to which Australia exports apples to clarify their position should Australia allow importation of apples from New Zealand. This is to avoid Australian apples being assessed as posing a risk by other countries should Australia accept apples from New Zealand.

The Committee also recommended that the independent scientific review conducted as part of the revised public consultation process announced on 6 March 2000 by the Director of Quarantine, Mr Taylor, should be similar to that used in non-routine IRAs.
The response is being considered, in consultation with relevant portfolios. The Department has been reviewing the import risk analysis process through a public consultative process including the circulation of proposed revisions to the process. Biosecurity Australia has formed a risk analysis panel to finalise the IRA on New Zealand apples. This panel, which includes two AFFA members and four non-AFFA members, has been provided with a copy of the committee’s report. It is expected that the IRA will be concluded in 2003.

**Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee: The Introduction of Quota Management Controls on Australian Beef Exports to the United States**

The Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee conducted an Inquiry and tabled on 26 June 2002 a report on quota management for Australian beef exports to the United States. While the Government Response has not been finalised, the Minister has agreed to most recommendations and these were reflected in the Australian Meat and Live-stock (Export of Beef to the United States of America) Order 2002 of 1 July 2002. 30,000 tonnes of the quota is to be available for discretionary allocation, replacing the previously proposed 14,000 tonnes ‘hardship’ provision.

The Minister has established an independent Quota Management Panel to handle future quota management. The Government continues to seek agreement with the United States for a greater Tariff Rate Quota.

**Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit (JCPAA) – Review of the Quarantine Function**

In June 2001 the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) issued its Performance Audit Report on AFFA’s management of quarantine services with particular reference to AFFA’s implementation of the recommendations arising from the 1996 Quarantine Review Committee Report. The ANAO Report *Managing for Quarantine Effectiveness* found that AFFA’s quarantine operations were markedly more effective than they were in 1996. The report also made eight recommendations (all agreed to by AFFA) to improve operational effectiveness and quarantine outcomes. The Government’s decision in the 2001-02 Budget to significantly increase quarantine intervention in the face of the risks posed by exotic pests and diseases also provided resources for the implementation of the ANAO’s recommendations.

The JCPAA will consider written submissions, and conduct public hearings and site visits. The Review will consider all aspects of the quarantine function
including pre-border and border operations, and post-border monitoring and surveillance. In response to the ANAO Report and in the context of the significant boost in funding for quarantine, the JCPAA initiated a review of the efficiency and effectiveness of the quarantine function. The JCPAA review will consider all aspects of the quarantine function including pre-border and border operations, and post-border monitoring and surveillance. The review process will include consideration of written submissions, the conduct of public hearings and site visits. The JCPAA is expected to report later in 2002-03.

**JCPAA – Cost Recovery**

On 2 March 2001, AQIS appeared before a JCPAA Hearing to respond to issues arising from the ANAO Cost-Recovery Systems Report No 10. Following that Hearing, the JCPAA tabled a report in Parliament on 30 August 2001. The JCPAA report contained three recommendations that related to AQIS, all of which were agreed. The recommendations were that AQIS improve risk management in fee-setting activities with the aim of reducing over-recoveries; seek to more closely align fees charged to particular clients with the costs associated with servicing those clients where it is cost effective to do so; and undertake a cost-benefit analysis of the non-meat EXDOC system. In reporting back to the JCPAA on progress with implementing the recommendations, AQIS commented that it recognised the importance of operating effective and efficient cost-recovery systems, and particularly the need for continuous improvement in the setting of fees and charges and their alignment with the costs of providing those services.

**Comments by the Ombudsman**

AFFA received no comments from the Ombudsman in 2001-02.

**Court and Administrative Tribunal Decisions**

**Federal Court decision on the use of powers under the Quarantine Act**

*Pacific Century Production Pty Ltd v Watson [2001]*

FCA 1424 (12 October 2001)

During July 2001, Quarantine Officers issued an ‘Order into Quarantine’ (under the provisions of the *Quarantine Act 1908*), relating to plant material held on a property in Queensland. Preliminary testing of the plant material
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indicated the possible presence of exotic diseases. The owner of the property took action in the Federal Court for an ‘Order of Review’ of the decision. The Federal Court found in favour of the actions of the Quarantine Officers.

An appeal was then made to the Full Bench of the Federal Court on that decision. In particular, the use of Section 35 of the Act and the meaning of ‘likely to be…infected with a quarantinable disease’. The Court further clarified the meaning of ‘likely’ to be ‘less than probable but more than a remote possibility’. The applicants’ appeal against the original decision was dismissed.

Levy information

The Director of Public Prosecutions prosecuted nine matters for failing to respond to requests for levy information.

Freedom of Information

During 2001-02, AFFA received 26 requests for access under the Freedom of Information Act 1982. One undecided request was carried over from the previous year. During this period decisions were made on 21 requests.

- two requests for access were granted in full;
- ten requests for access were granted in part;
- two requests for access were denied;
- no requests for access were transferred to another agency;
- seven requests for access were withdrawn; and
- six requests for access remained undecided by 30 June 2002.

The Department’s Section 8 statement under the Freedom of Information Act 1982 is at Appendix 5.
MANAGEMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry – Australia (AFFA) is a large and diverse employer that recognises the importance of employing a diverse workforce and assisting all employees to achieve their potential. AFFA employs a wide variety of staff ranging from policy officers, program administrators, scientists and economists located in Canberra, to meat inspectors, veterinary officers, and quarantine inspectors in the most remote parts of the country. To effectively manage and develop its staff, AFFA is required to adopt flexible and innovative approaches for the workplace.

The People Strategies Policy Committee chaired by the Executive Director, Bureau of Rural Sciences, is the strategic human resource management committee established to give specific focus to people management issues and to support the Secretary and the Executive Leadership Team. The Committee is made up of all other AFFA Executive Directors and Executive Managers.

Future People

Performance through People (PtP) is the overarching strategic human resource framework in AFFA. Effective people management ensures AFFA continues to deliver quality outcomes to clients and stakeholders. The PtP Plan provides AFFA staff with a clear understanding of the business goals and what is expected of them, while empowering managers to lead and manage staff effectively through support and facilitation of their professional development. The basis of the PtP Plan is five integrated strategies:

1. Performance through People supports organisational goals;
2. AFFA has the right people in the right place at the right time;
3. AFFA staff have high levels of skills and performance;
4. AFFA provides a safe and fair workplace; and
5. individuals and managers have access to timely and responsive Human Resources (HR) services.

These strategies provide AFFA with the mechanisms to ensure its workforce is equipped for future challenges.

To complement the plan, AFFA has conducted a review of workforce planning. The literature on age and workforce planning indicates that better practice organisations develop and actively manage pools of talented individuals from which future leaders may be drawn. These talent pools are tied to organisational competencies rather than specific positions. Strategies are implemented to attract, develop and retain high potential individuals.
These include incentive and rewards schemes, varied work assignments, creative advertising and thorough induction programs. As the first step, AFFA has reviewed its rewards and recognition policies and instigated alternative job vacancy advertising mediums. Work has also focused on human resource information and reporting. Analysis of this data will enable long-term workforce planning to be undertaken.

**Managing People**

Underlying the PtP Plan and local HR practices is AFFA’s Performance Management Scheme. Performance management is more than just the assessment and evaluation of an individual’s performance throughout the year. AFFA’s scheme is also concerned with the alignment of accountabilities and responsibilities throughout the organisation and the appropriateness of those alignments to the overall achievement of business outcomes. In order to ensure this occurs, performance management agreements are used in AFFA to assist in identifying the needs appropriate to individual employees and organisational operating requirements. The Performance Management Scheme not only assists employees to further their skills and knowledge within their own work area (through the assessment and feedback mechanisms), but also promotes a greater understanding of AFFA’s business priorities and directions. As part of the performance management process, managers and employees develop, maintain and regularly review work plans and learning agreements. In this way, employees’ learning and development needs are identified in the context of the skills they require to do their jobs effectively.

AFFA is committed to best practice, and as such will be conducting a performance management review in the latter half of 2002 to benchmark the AFFA Performance Management Scheme (including alignment with the recent Australian Public Service (APS) Secretaries’ Management Advisory Committee and Institute of Public Administration Australia reports and the Investors in People Standard). The analysis will also include the extent of performance agreements and learning agreements within each Business and the frequency and effectiveness of performance appraisals, with an emphasis on individual approaches to giving and receiving feedback.

**Retaining People**

The employment policies, procedures and practices outlined in the Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Certified Agreement 2000-2003 provide a mechanism to promote AFFA as an employer of choice. AFFA offers
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competitive rates of pay and conditions of service, including part-time and home-based work, maternity and parental leave, personal and carer’s leave arrangements and flexible working hours. Staff also have access to salary packaging, Australian Workplace Agreements and Variable Remuneration. All of these arrangements are negotiable at commencement and on an on-going basis, as an employee’s circumstances and operational requirements dictate.

Employment by Type as at 30 June 2002

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<td>Non-ongoing part time</td>
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<td><strong>Total Number of Employees</strong></td>
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There has been a net increase of approximately 600 staff over the last year, specifically reflecting the government’s priority action areas of border protection and quarantine measures in Australia. The large-scale recruitment campaign undertaken in 2001-02 has had an impact on AFFA’s overall age profile, with a significant number of new recruits falling into the 21-25 and 26-30 years age categories. This recruitment activity has also resulted in an increase in the number of women employed.
### Management and Accountability

**Classification Structure by Employment Stream**

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<th>Classification</th>
<th>ACT</th>
<th>NSW</th>
<th>NT</th>
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<td>597</td>
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<td>486</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>1,305</td>
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<td>Total Proportion %</td>
<td>40.47</td>
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<td>16.42</td>
<td>3.96</td>
<td>0.30</td>
<td>13.37</td>
<td>1.84</td>
<td>35.90</td>
<td>64.10</td>
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</table>
**Rewarding People**

The principal objective of the *Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry - Australia Certified Agreement 2000-2003* (the Agreement) is to consolidate the benefits of previous agreements while aligning common core conditions and maintaining flexibility for Businesses and individual staff to agree on conditions and working arrangements which meet specific identified needs.

The main features of the Agreement, which covered 3,064 employees at 30 June 2002 include:

- a performance assessment and management framework with defined performance measures which in turn is linked to pay point progression as opposed to automatic increment advancement;
- procedures for resolving individual workplace grievances in a fair, unbiased manner;
- enhanced flexible working hours arrangements;
- arrangements for part-time work;
- arrangements for home-based work;
- a continuation of a specific, but streamlined, AFFA broad banded Classification Structure; and
- the introduction of a Remuneration Framework focused on:
  - key aspects and responsibility of individual jobs and the associated critical market pressures;
  - demonstrated capability and impact that an individual will bring to a job; and
  - performance outcomes.

Integral to the Remuneration Framework, are two categories of remuneration:

- **Fixed Remuneration** – the regular, standard reward for work undertaken; and
- **Variable Remuneration** – additional remuneration paid on top of an employee’s fixed remuneration.

Variable Remuneration is designed to allow the organisation to remain competitive in the employment market by providing similar flexibility to an Australian Workplace Agreement in terms of the ability to negotiate salary in addition to the salary rate specified in the Certified Agreement.
Australian Workplace Agreements continue to be utilised as part of AFFA's Remuneration Framework, with 167 non-SES and 63 SES agreements in operation as at 30 June 2002.

AFFA places a strong emphasis on performance management and appraisal over the course of a year. Performance improves where staff are clear about their work goals and expected standards, and are given the feedback, resources and skills development opportunities to achieve these.

A total of 101 AFFA staff members received performance pay as a result of their appraisals for the 2001–2002 performance appraisal cycle.

Performance Pay Size and Distribution

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classification Structure by Employment Stream</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AFFA Band 2 (Policy &amp; Technical)</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>$2,966</td>
<td>$17,797</td>
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<tr>
<td>AFFA Band 3 and 4 (Policy &amp; Technical)*</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>$5,088</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>$6,233</td>
<td>$629,511</td>
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</table>

*Classifications have been aggregated to maintain privacy of individuals

AFFA’s Salary Structure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classification/Stream</th>
<th>Policy &amp; Technical Stream $</th>
<th>Science Stream $</th>
<th>Vet Stream $</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Band 1</td>
<td>$28,958 - $43,705</td>
<td>$33,814 - $47,439</td>
<td>$38,386 - $48,490</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Band 2</td>
<td>$45,192 - $62,561</td>
<td>$49,961 - $54,190</td>
<td>$42,468 - $72,771</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The present Agreement nominally expires on 22 June 2003. Clause 10 of the Agreement provides for negotiations to replace the Agreement to commence no later than 22 December 2002. The Department is looking to the future by considering, with employees, particular issues such as the form of Certified Agreement, possible productivity initiatives, enhancement of conditions, and consultative mechanisms to be used.

In addition to the Agreement, AFFA also has 341 employees covered under the Meat Program Agreement 2002. The Meat Program Agreement covering the meat inspectors in AQIS was renegotiated in June 2002. The replacement Agreement will operate until June 2004. This agreement builds on the reforms delivered in previous agreements in return for a 5.5 per cent wage outcome over the two-year period.

**Recognising People**

AFFA is committed to workplace diversity and to promoting a workplace culture that respects and responds to the cultural diversity of the Australian community. AFFA’s Workplace Diversity Strategy identifies six action areas:

1. integrating workplace diversity with business goals;
2. raising awareness of diversity in AFFA;
3. attracting and developing people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, people with a disability and Indigenous Australians;
4. providing a discrimination-free workplace and encouraging flexible working arrangements;
5. integrating workplace diversity into performance management and leadership development; and
6. managing and evaluating diversity outcomes.

In 2001-02 AFFA has focused on raising the general awareness of workplace diversity. Initiatives undertaken include:

- a newsletter titled SEECHANGE which was introduced to highlight people management activities across the department;
- development of a Multicultural Diary on the intranet (AFFAlink) with work continuing to incorporate this information into a Cultural and Linguistics Database;
Management and Accountability

- regular attendance at the Inter-Departmental Committee on Multicultural Affairs, and the APS’s Indigenous Employment, Diversity and Disability Networks;
- development of a Diversity Statement for inclusion on the AFFA website;
- celebration of Disability Day, Harmony Day and National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC) week; and
- review of the language used in recruitment documentation (advertisements and selection criteria) to make it more ‘inclusive’, and the activation of telephone services for the hearing and vision impaired and people from non-English speaking backgrounds.

In July 2001, AFFA established the Indigenous Strategy Steering Committee (the Committee) to oversee the implementation of the recommendations from a report commissioned by the Department to review indigenous access to AFFA programs. During 2001-02 the Committee developed an Action Plan to: identify and implement on-the-ground projects to address the needs of indigenous people; and to improve access to AFFA programs, communication and interaction with Indigenous Australians and the awareness of staff of issues relevant to Indigenous people.

AFFA’s commitment to diversity has been recognised through a certificate of commendation received under the Australian Public Service Awards for Innovative Practice in Implementing Workplace Diversity. This commendation recognised the collaborative approach to quarantine that has been forged between AQIS and many indigenous communities across northern Australia – particularly in the Northern Territory, the Torres Strait and Cape York.
Management and Accountability

Representation of Diversity Groups in AFFA at 30 June 2002

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classification Structure By Employment Stream</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>NESB</th>
<th>PWD</th>
<th>ATSI</th>
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<tr>
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<td>341</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SES Band 1</td>
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<td>335</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>46</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Note: NESB Non-English speaking background
      PWD Person with a disability
      ATSI Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander

Developing People

With outsourcing of the Department’s human resource operations, AFFA has experienced significant change in the way training and development is delivered. AFFA’s PtP Plan provides each Business the opportunity to address specific training requirements for its work area through the development of action oriented human resource plans. In addition to formal training programs, Businesses take a ‘hands on’ approach to training and development. On-the-job training has a high priority across all Businesses as part of their blended approach to staff development. On-the-job training has enabled
AFFA to take advantage of the skill sets of experienced staff and transfer their knowledge to less experienced employees. This environment fosters a positive learning culture, assisting AFFA to achieve its objectives.

AFFA encourages the employment of young people through the Graduate Development Program and scholarships/traineeships. AFFA’s Graduate Development Program is the major recruitment entry point for Canberra based staff and is also AFFA’s major youth and gender initiative, offering an average 30 to 40 positions a year. The program is advertised nationally in newspapers and extensively throughout universities across Australia. This year, AFFA received a record number of applications (over 1200) for the 2003 Graduate Development Program. This is attributed to several new advertising techniques highlighting the employment opportunities that AFFA provides.

The Graduate Development Program is aimed at equipping young people with the skills and knowledge that will assist their career within AFFA and the APS. Graduates complete a comprehensive competency training and development program while experiencing three diverse workplace rotations (involving policy management) and an extensive industry tour. At the completion of the 10-month program, staff are awarded a Diploma of Government. Graduates may then have the Diploma accredited towards a Masters of Business Administration through the University of Southern Queensland.

In addition, AFFA also offers vacation employment opportunities and scholarships targeting promising economic and science students in their third or fourth year of study. The scholarships schemes allow AFFA to access new fresh and innovative ideas.

AFFA staff also have the opportunity to participate in the annual AFFA Development Awards. These awards are designed to provide staff with opportunities to undertake professional and personal development activities that are considered to be of long term benefit to AFFA. In most cases participants
Management and Accountability

attend an overseas conference and/or make a presentation to that conference. This year 14 Awards were granted from 31 nominations. Businesses also provide additional support for staff through individual reward and recognition practices. AFFA’s Studybank Scheme is also widely supported in all Businesses. AFFA recognises that continual changes in the nature of work mean that the skills many employees had when they started work are no longer current. The aim of Studybank is to ensure that AFFA is best placed to meet its goals and objectives by developing the skills and knowledge of its employees.

AQIS as AFFA’s largest regional employer designs and delivers specific programs to address employees’ learning and development needs as APS employees generally and AQIS officers specifically (through a suite of AQIS-specific technical training packages). These training programs are nationally accredited through the ACT Accreditation Registration Council and include:

- Certificate II in Quarantine
- Certificate III in Quarantine
- Certificate IV in Government (under redevelopment)

**AFFA 2001-02 Training Expenditure**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Business</th>
<th>Total Training Cost ($)</th>
<th>Total Training Days</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ABARE</td>
<td>104,498</td>
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<td>AFFA Executive</td>
<td>3,210</td>
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<tr>
<td>AQIS</td>
<td>1,996,681</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bureau of Rural Sciences</td>
<td>239,481</td>
<td>835</td>
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<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td>81,051</td>
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<tr>
<td>Industry Development</td>
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<td>512</td>
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<tr>
<td>Innovation/Operating Environment</td>
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<td>139</td>
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<tr>
<td>Management Services</td>
<td>73,571</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Market Access &amp; Biosecurity</td>
<td>109,770</td>
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<tr>
<td>Natural Resource Management</td>
<td>64,176</td>
<td>235</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Product Integrity Animal &amp; Plant Health</td>
<td>85,113</td>
<td>320</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,964,828</strong></td>
<td><strong>17,225</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Training expenditure represents a significant investment in AFFA’s future. These figures tend to under-report the level of training and development activity because they do not include on-the-job training. A major part of AFFA’s training and development delivery is through opportunities of learning skills while performing at work. Virtually all learning agreements include a component of how the individual’s duties will help improve skills. Work is designed so that there is a component of a more challenging nature, which helps motivate staff and improve their skills so that they are better able to perform more difficult tasks. Learning agreements also include some opportunity to experience higher-level meetings and the like. These activities give staff a better perspective on their job and help them build important communication and liaison skills.

AFFA measures its training and development opportunities through one or more of the following methods:

- extent to which Work Plans and Learning Agreements have become an integral part of all performance agreement reviews;
- effect on the employee’s performance after undertaking the training and development opportunities;
- extent to which training and development considerations have been integrated into all business plans and daily work practices;
- course evaluation forms or post implementation reviews;
- cost of staff attending training or the cost for the organisation to deliver training and development activities;
- extent to which facilitators have considered equity and diversity factors when designing courses, ensuring that material is sensitive to the needs of all AFFA employees and that any manuals developed are clear and straightforward; and
- in cases involving accredited training programs, formal assessment instruments are completed and then assessed by qualified assessors.

Results from some of these measures have highlighted the need for AFFA to ensure learning and development opportunities are consistent, but flexible and enable a shared understanding of the important issues across the Department. As such, development of a learning and development framework for middle and senior managers has commenced, with focus groups, interviews and surveys being conducted to determine the content, structure and selection process.
Healthy People

AFFA is committed to providing and maintaining a safe and healthy working environment for all its employees, contractors and visitors. Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) is a key component of AFFA’s Performance through People Plan (PtP).

During 2001-02, OH&S Committees in the three Employing Authorities (ABARE, AFFA and AQIS) worked actively on implementing an AFFA-wide OH&S Work Plan, which has a specific focus on integrating standards, practices and procedures wherever possible. Regular progress reports have been provided to the Executive Leadership Team.

OH&S Committees in ABARE, AFFA and AQIS met regularly throughout the year. A common OH&S Policy has been implemented and is reflected in all three OH&S Agreements. AFFA and AQIS reviewed their Designated Work Groups (DWGs) and selected and trained new Health and Safety Representatives (HSRs). AFFA and AQIS negotiated new OH&S Agreements with the relevant unions. AQIS also established a formal national and regional committee structure to deal with health and safety matters.

Major initiatives in 2001-02 included the introduction of a new Rehabilitation Policy and the development of OH&S Guidelines for Field Workers. A program of awareness training for managers, supervisors and staff who exercise delegations under the Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988, supported the implementation of the Rehabilitation Policy.

Across the Department, particularly in AQIS, where staff in International Mail Centres faced a higher level of risk, specific actions were taken to address the threat of the possibility of anthrax contaminated mail items being inspected following incidents in the United States in September 2001. In recognition of these efforts, the Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission presented AQIS with a ‘Highly Commended’ award as part of its 2002 Safety Awards program.

Workers compensation claim frequency (number of claims per million salary dollars) for AFFA as a whole, was 1.29 in 2001-02, a slight increase from 1.028 in 2000-01. AFFA’s workers compensation premium is expected to increase by 6.1 per cent for 2002-03, significantly less than the overall Commonwealth rate, which will increase by 13 per cent.
Enabling People

Under the Workplace Diversity Strategy, AFFA determined the best way to proceed in implementing the Commonwealth Disability Strategy (CDS) was to combine its various reporting requirements. Several agencies including the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs (DIMIA) and the Australian Public Service Commission also require information on people from diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds, Indigenous Australians and workplace diversity in the Australian Public Service. Using the one framework to collate information allows AFFA to streamline its reporting process.

While AFFA’s focus on workplace diversity is as a strategy for generating a successful business, it is also an important consideration in the interactions AFFA undertakes with the community. AFFA is committed to enabling full participation of people with disabilities in the development of its programs and in the provision of services.

In that regard, AFFA has determined that it will report under the following roles:

1. **Policy Adviser** (a large number of areas in AFFA develop policy for Commonwealth programs and services);
2. **Regulator** (AFFA is responsible for enforcing quarantine legislation or other government rules that influence the way people behave);
3. **Purchaser** (some areas of AFFA have responsibility for determining outputs to be purchased in terms of price, volume and quality and nominate the providers);
4. **Provider** (AFFA is contracted to deliver a range of services related to a specific areas of expertise); and
5. **Employer** (AFFA has a responsibility to identify and remove barriers to equal access, practices and facilities).

Adapted from the indicators developed by DIMIA and the Office of Disability and with particular reference to Indigenous Australians, people with disabilities and people from diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds, AFFA reports against five indicators for each of these roles. They are:

- appropriate consultation with colleagues and stakeholders has taken place;
- impact of proposals on community/individuals has been assessed;
Management and Accountability

• information is accessible to all individuals;
• compliance with all relevant legislation; and
• appropriate review mechanisms in place.

The collated information is then extracted for the appropriate reporting medium. Appendix 8 details AFFA’s progress on implementing the CDS.

PURCHASING

Each of the Businesses in the Department is responsible for its own purchasing activities. These purchasing activities are, however, subject to the provisions of the Chief Executive’s Instruction (CEI) relating to procurement.

The Instruction relating to the procurement has recently been reviewed and updated to further improve arrangements for, and governance of, AFFA’s contractual arrangements.

The CEI provide policies, guidelines and procedural information on purchasing and are complementary to the Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines and related policies including promoting the purchase of goods and services from Australian and New Zealand small to medium businesses.

Under the AFFA CEIs three threshold levels are established for purchases. Purchases between $2,000 and $100,000* can be made through AFFA electronic procurement systems, the preferred supplier arrangements, obtaining oral or written quotations from suppliers, or undertaking more formal processes where appropriate. Purchases over $100,000 are to be subject to public tender, although exemptions may be approved under certain circumstances.

A checklist is contained in the CEI to ensure that people involved in purchasing follow a process that covers all issues needing to be considered. The checklist includes scoping, developing specifications, advertising, evaluating tenders, contract preparation and monitoring.

* Benchmark increased from $50,000 with effect from 2 May 2002.
CONSULTANTS

Consultants continued to provide a range of specialised skills not available within the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry – Australia (AFFA) and where staff or other in-house resources were limited.

The procedures and guidelines for engaging consultants are contained in the Chief Executive’s Instruction relating to procurement. Proposals for consultancies are required to specify the requirements of the project, clearly justify the use of a consultant, identify the expected costs, recommend a procurement method and explain how the consultant’s performance will be evaluated and monitored.

During the year, AFFA engaged 161 new consultancies valued over $10,000 for a total commitment of $10,265,700. A total amount of $12,629,078 was spent on new and existing consultancies in 2001-02. Details are provided in Appendix 2.

COMPETITIVE TENDERING AND CONTRACTING

Information Technology services have been outsourced to Ipex ITG Pty Ltd as part of the Group 8 initiative. These services commenced 26 June 2000. The initial term of the contract is five years.

Property Services have been outsourced to Jones Lang LaSalle (NSW) Pty Ltd since 3 July 2000. The initial term of the contract is three years with ongoing two-year options.

The Department’s Legal Services are outsourced to Minter Ellison Lawyers and a supplementary Panel of Providers. The contracts commenced on 31 July 2000 with an initial term of three years.

PricewaterhouseCoopers HR Limited are contracted to deliver human resource services to the Department. The initial term of the contract is for three years commencing on 1 September 2000, with options to extend the contract for indefinitely for two year periods.

For the first six months of the financial year the majority of Internal Audit services were provided by Ernst & Young. From 1 January 2002 audit services were provided through a co-sourced arrangement between the Department and a panel of service providers. The primary service provider, Ernst & Young, performed at least 80 per cent of the Internal Audit function. The other panel members are Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu and Acumen Alliance.
### Appendices

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APPENDIX 1
DISCRETIONARY GRANTS

A discretionary grant allows the Portfolio Minister or paying agency discretion in determining whether or not a particular applicant receives funding. The payment can be made to an organisation or individual, and the recipient need not provide a service to government in return for the grant. In 2001-02 the Department administered the following grants programs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Discretionary Grants Program</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AAA – Farm Innovation Program</td>
<td>To provide grants to eligible Australian farming, food, fishing and forestry businesses to adopt innovative practices, processes and products.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abalone Association of SA Inc</td>
<td>Improving Business Skills in Australian Abalone Fisheries.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AgForce Queensland</td>
<td>ClimEd - An applied climate education program for rural industry in Australia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agrica Pty Ltd and The Mackinnon Project</td>
<td>Development of Internet based decision support tools.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian Women in Agriculture Ltd</td>
<td>Australian Women in Agriculture Learning Network Project.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation</td>
<td>Improving kangaroo skin quality.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems</td>
<td>A pilot training program on information technology that empowers Australian farm businesses to better deal with climate, market and environmental risks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eden Region Adjustment Package</td>
<td>To supplement private sector investment in projects in the Eden region (NSW) which generate sustainable employment opportunities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farm Forestry Program (National Component)*</td>
<td>To promote commercial wood and non-wood production and integrate commercial tree growing with other agricultural land uses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fisheries Action Program (National Component)*</td>
<td>To help achieve the repair of Australia’s aquatic environment and assist in the conservation and sustainable use of fish resources in freshwater, estuarine and marine environments.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Appendices

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Discretionary Grants Program</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Flood Assistance Package</strong></td>
<td>To help eligible crop farmers affected by rain and flooding in central/northern New South Wales and southern Queensland in November 2000.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Forest Industry Development Assistance Program for South East Queensland</strong></td>
<td>To supplement private sector investment in the native forest timber industry in the region.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Forest Industry Structural Adjustment Package (Victoria and New South Wales)</strong></td>
<td>Joint States and Commonwealth programs to provide funding to assist business and workers in the native hardwood timber industry adjust to, and take advantage of, the outcomes from Regional Forest Agreements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Great Southern TAFE</strong></td>
<td>Farming Saltwater Trout: A case study in building regional supply chains for new industries.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grower Direct</strong></td>
<td>The Grower Direct Learning and Change Strategy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lamb Industry Development Program</strong></td>
<td>Assist the Australian Lamb Industry diversify its markets in the wake of the tariff rate quota scheme imposed by the United States in July 1999.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Murray Darling 2001 Fish Rehabilitation</strong></td>
<td>Initiate targeted activities in the Murray-Darling Basin to expedite the return of water to the environment, to regenerate native fish populations and to assist with the management of pest species, including European carp, in the Murray-Darling Basin.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Murray Dairy Inc.</strong></td>
<td>Developing innovative networks in the dairy industry.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>National Feral Animal Control Program</strong></td>
<td>To ensure effective management of the impact of feral animals on the natural environment and on primary production.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>**National Landcare Program (National Component) *</td>
<td>To develop and implement resource management practices that enhance our soil, water and biological resources and which are efficient, sustainable, equitable and consistent with the principles of ecologically sustainable development.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>**National Rivercare (National Component) ***</td>
<td>To ensure progress towards the sustainable management, rehabilitation and conservation of rivers outside the Murray Darling Basin.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discretionary Grants Program</td>
<td>Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Industries Development Program</td>
<td>To provide grants and scholarships to commercialise new products, technologies and services in agricultural, processed food, fisheries and forestry industries.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QLD Rural Industry Training Council of Australia</td>
<td>Aglink - A Leadership Program for Youth in Agriculture.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queensland Fruit &amp; Vegetable Growers</td>
<td>Grower Alliance Action Learning Development Program.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rangelands Australia</td>
<td>Building Capacity for a Bright Future for our Rangelands.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resource Consulting Service</td>
<td>Development of Innovative Farm Business Management Training Modules for the Australian Sugar Industry.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural Business Systems Pty Ltd</td>
<td>Developing a strategic approach for Australian horticultural marketing groups.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation</td>
<td>Capacity building for innovation in rural industries.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural Skills Australia (A)</td>
<td>Managing Farm Business after Adversity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural Skills Australia (B)</td>
<td>Recruitment and Induction Training for Primary Producers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA Farmers Federation</td>
<td>Developing the capacity to employ and manage human resources in agriculture.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seafood Council (SA) Ltd</td>
<td>Seafood Industry of Australia: Leadership Development Program.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sports Turf Technology</td>
<td>Developing a national Integrated Turf Management training package for turf farmers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sugar Industry Adjustment Package – Canegrowers</td>
<td>The SIAP provided income support and interest rate subsidy assistance to eligible cane growers adversely affected by reduced production levels and low world prices. It was aimed at ensuring an economically viable and efficient industry in the longer term.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sugar Industry Adjustment Package – Research</td>
<td>The Commonwealth is providing special funding of $13.45 million over four years for research into ways of increasing the sugar content of Australian cane and other priority research, particularly in relation to pest control and other productivity issues. The Sugar Research and Development Corporation is administering the funding.</td>
</tr>
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</table>
### Discretionary Grants Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Synapse Research &amp; Consulting</td>
<td>Farm tools and skills for environmental management.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tasmanian Wheat Freight Scheme (TWFS)</td>
<td>The TWFS was put in place to allow transition by Tasmanian wheat processing and user industries from the previous price equalisation scheme, following deregulation of the domestic wheat market in 1989.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Virginia Horticulture Centre Inc</td>
<td>Bi$Link - A pilot training program linking NESB communities to each other and to mainstream business.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s Industry Network Seafood Community</td>
<td>Casting the net to skill seafood women.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: * These programs receive funding from the Natural Heritage Trust. The National Landcare Program also receives separate budget funding.
APPENDIX 2
CONSULTANCY SERVICES

The following sets out details of consultancy contracts let by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry – Australia (AFFA) during 2001-02 for amounts in excess of $10,000 (including GST). The table also details amounts in excess of $10,000 (including GST) actually paid by AFFA for consultancy services in that year. Where these amounts were paid for consultancies let in previous years, ‘N/A’ (not applicable) has been used in the ‘Total Let’ column. It is important to note that some areas of AFFA have a preferred list of consultants who have been through an extensive selection process. These consultants are engaged, for example, by ‘direct engagement’.

Consultancies marked with a * are for advertising and market research. They are therefore also recorded in Appendix 4 - Advertising and Market Research.
### Output 1 - Natural Resources Access and Management

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australian Water Association</td>
<td>Non Major Urban Water Utilities Performance Monitoring Report</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>53,000.00</td>
<td>Direct engagement</td>
<td>Independent assessment required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BDA Group Pty Ltd</td>
<td>Inadvertent Outcomes Scoping Study - a scoping study of Commonwealth support mechanisms to determine which mechanisms could inadvertently lead to adverse environmental outcomes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>20,000.00</td>
<td>20,000.00</td>
<td>Selective tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big Picture Marketing Communications*</td>
<td>Natural Heritage Trust communication and public relations - to provide communication services to the Trust, under the strategic oversight of the Natural Heritage Ministerial Board</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>72,937.00</td>
<td>Publicly advertised</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centre for International Economics</td>
<td>Review of Funding Arrangements for the Great Artesian Basin Consultative Council (GABCC)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>20,000.00</td>
<td>20,000.00</td>
<td>Open tender</td>
<td>Independent assessment required</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centre for International Economics</td>
<td>Review of Governance of the GABCC</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>20,000.00</td>
<td>20,000.00</td>
<td>Open tender</td>
<td>Independent assessment required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSIRO</td>
<td>A consultancy on Standards and Targets to provide advice on Interim Standards for Salinity and Water Quality</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>46,300.00</td>
<td>46,300.00</td>
<td>Selective tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSIRO Forests and Forest Products</td>
<td>Greenhouse Toolkit for Private Forest Growers</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>70,600.00</td>
<td>Open tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hassall &amp; Associates</td>
<td>National Greenhouse Workshop Series - workshops held with agricultural industry stakeholders undertaken to identify: critical gaps in knowledge on agricultural greenhouse gas emissions; where further research is needed; what communication and extension services might be required</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>114,425.00</td>
<td>114,425.00</td>
<td>Open tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Thorp Pty Ltd</td>
<td>Provide Executive Officer Support to Australian Weeds Committee</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>100,000.00</td>
<td>100,000.00</td>
<td>Limited tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Policy area</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kate Roberts Research and</td>
<td>Long Term Impact Review of Building Regional Capacity Short Course</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>17,800.00</td>
<td>17,800.00</td>
<td>Selective tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
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<tr>
<td>Evaluation Pty Ltd</td>
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<tr>
<td>Land and Water Australia</td>
<td>Prospectus for attracting investment in high priority national research</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>60,000.00</td>
<td>60,000.00</td>
<td>Direct engagement</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>and development (R&amp;D) salinity and water quality issues, including from</td>
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<td>the States</td>
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<tr>
<td>Land and Water Australia</td>
<td>Reference panel for catchment analysis tools and skills stock take</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>22,000.00</td>
<td>22,000.00</td>
<td>Direct engagement</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
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<td>project</td>
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<tr>
<td>Land and Water Australia</td>
<td>Tools/methodologies for mapping regional capacity for the National</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>80,000.00</td>
<td>60,000.00</td>
<td>Direct engagement</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality implementation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Land and Water Australia</td>
<td>Issues paper on regional planning skills needs</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>45,000.00</td>
<td>37,125.00</td>
<td>Direct engagement</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
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<tr>
<td>Land and Water Australia</td>
<td>Manage tender process and consultancies for research projects on water</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>125,000.00</td>
<td>75,000.00</td>
<td>Selective tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
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<td>use efficiency</td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Land and Water Australia</td>
<td>Assess desalination in Australia and produce a report <em>Economic and technical assessment of desalination technologies in Australia</em></td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>50,000.00</td>
<td>50,000.00</td>
<td>LWA were directly engaged to manage consultancy on behalf of AFFA - individual consultants were invited by LWA to supply quotes through a selective tender process (NRMBU included in selection panel)</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSW Agriculture</td>
<td>Environmental Management Systems (EMS) National Trainers Kit stage 1 - this will provide an EMS training framework, explanatory notes, video and resource materials to assist in the delivery of the national EMS training</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>130,000.00</td>
<td>60,000.00</td>
<td>Selective tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSW Department of Land and Water Conservation</td>
<td>Consultancy to develop a publicity strategy for the National Market Based Instruments (MBI) Pilots Program</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>37,550.00</td>
<td>26,254.00</td>
<td>Direct engagement</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salient Solutions</td>
<td>Progress with the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Groundwater Reform Recommendations</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>10,000.00</td>
<td>10,000.00</td>
<td>Direct engagement</td>
<td>Independent assessment required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shellack Pty Ltd</td>
<td>National Plan of Action for the conservation of Sharks</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>38,400.00</td>
<td>38,400.00</td>
<td>Direct engagement</td>
<td>Independent assessment required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URS Pty Ltd</td>
<td>Undertake a stocktake of, and provide commentary on, existing biophysical, economic, social models, decision support systems, tools and expertise that can assist the design of catchment actions to address salinity and water quality</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>137,180.00</td>
<td>137,180.00</td>
<td>Selective tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woolcott Research Pty Ltd*</td>
<td>Additional Market Research for the National Action Plan national communication strategy</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>43,340.00</td>
<td>21,670.00</td>
<td>Direct engagement</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woolcott Research Pty Ltd</td>
<td>Developmental Research for the National Action Plan on Salinity and Water Quality</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>87,516.00</td>
<td>24,109.80</td>
<td>Direct engagement</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Output 1 - Total Paid in 2001-2002 1,156,800.80
## Output 2 - Innovation and Operating Environment

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australian Government Analytical Laboratories (AGAL)</td>
<td>To develop testing methodology for Genetically Modified material</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>60,000.00</td>
<td>51,719.00</td>
<td>Selective tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hassall &amp; Associates Pty Ltd</td>
<td>Preparation of an interim evaluation of the AAA - Farm Innovation Program</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>37,400.00</td>
<td>35,860.00</td>
<td>Selective tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LNB Computing Consulting Pty Ltd</td>
<td>To develop a database to manage and administer funds for the AFFA Supply Chain Management of GM Products Project</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>20,000.00</td>
<td>20,000.00</td>
<td>Selective tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mallesons Stephen Jaques</td>
<td>To review the appropriateness of governance arrangements for portfolio bodies</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>64,000.00</td>
<td>59,151.00</td>
<td>Open tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matthews Pegg Consulting Pty Ltd</td>
<td>To assess applications received through a Request for Proposals/Expressions of Interest</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>17,575.00</td>
<td>17,575.00</td>
<td>Selective tender</td>
<td>Resources not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural Economic Services</td>
<td>Evaluation of the AAA - Farm Management Deposits Scheme</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>53,900.00</td>
<td>48,211.00</td>
<td>Open tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Synecon Pty Ltd</td>
<td>Stewardship Program for Canola. Develop Code of Practice for the Supply Chain Management of GM Grain</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>35,000.00</td>
<td>34,589.00</td>
<td>Selective tender</td>
<td>Specialist was already engaged by industry to undertake the project and the Department was supporting industry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wolfe Words</td>
<td>Provision of editing services for the 2001 publication <em>Innovating rural Australia: research and development corporation outcomes</em></td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>15,000.00</td>
<td>13,640.00</td>
<td>Selective tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
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Output 2 - Total Paid in 2001-2002 280,745.00
## Output 3 - Industry Development and Adjustment

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A H Taylor &amp; Associates Pty Limited</td>
<td>Contribution to participation by Industry/Technical expert on Australian delegation to International Maritime Organisation ballast water meeting</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>13,874.05</td>
<td>13,874.05</td>
<td>Direct engagement</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A H Taylor &amp; Associates Pty Limited</td>
<td>Identification and Management of Vessel Biofouling Areas, as Pathways for the Introduction of Unwanted Aquatic Organisms</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>21,780.00</td>
<td>21,780.00</td>
<td>Selective tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGTrans Research</td>
<td>Economic Analysis as part of the Independent Assessment of the Sugar Industry</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>57,200.00</td>
<td>57,200.00</td>
<td>Selective tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian Fisheries Academy Ltd</td>
<td>Stage 3 payment for 2000-01 Young Rural Leaders Course</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>17,564.00</td>
<td>Open tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centre for Research and Learning, University of Tasmania</td>
<td>Providing client driven education and training - one of six research projects selected to address identified knowledge gaps and contribute to the monitoring and evaluation of the AAA - FarmBi program by enabling a better understanding of primary producer participation in training and education activities</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>137,177.00</td>
<td>Open tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clive Hildebrand - Independent Assessor</td>
<td>Independent Assessment of the Sugar Industry</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>82,500.00</td>
<td>82,500.00</td>
<td>Ministerial appointment</td>
<td>Independent assessment and special expertise required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commonwealth Scientific And Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)</td>
<td>Mapping the Australian Ballast Water Uptake and Deballasting Contingency Zones</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>62,891.00</td>
<td>62,891.00</td>
<td>Selective Tender</td>
<td>Value for money from specialist expertise outside the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSIRO</td>
<td>Port Survey Evaluations</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>120,000.00</td>
<td>120,000.00</td>
<td>Direct engagement</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSIRO</td>
<td>Development of a marketing database for use by Australia and Korea, particularly in relation to product specifications and building regulations to address outcomes from the 2nd Korea-Australia Cooperative Committee Meeting held in March 2001</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>15,000.00</td>
<td>15,000.00</td>
<td>Direct engagement</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems</td>
<td>Improving resource management through rural women's use of new technology: a pilot study on impediments and opportunities for learning activities (One of six research projects selected to address identified knowledge gaps and contribute to the monitoring and evaluation of the AAA - FarmBis program by enabling a better understanding of primary producer participation in training and education activities)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>40,000.00</td>
<td>Open tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
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<tr>
<td>Complete Marketing &amp; Management</td>
<td>Develop and deliver one 3.5-day leadership course for a total of 40 young women and men currently working in the agricultural, fisheries and forestry industries</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>57,640.00</td>
<td>57,640.00</td>
<td>Direct engagement</td>
<td>Provided these services the previous year (as Australian Fisheries Academy Ltd), basic course already established</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cox Inall*</td>
<td>Develop and implement a mainstream public relations campaign to supplement other communication activities to increase awareness of and participation in AAA programs</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>190,680.00</td>
<td>Selective Tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Environment and Heritage, Australian Biological Resources Study</td>
<td>ABRS Forest Species List Verification</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>22,000.00</td>
<td>22,000.00</td>
<td>Selective tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department. Consultant is expert in biological diversity in Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DNV Certification Pty Ltd</td>
<td>Forest certification and environmental services auditing advice</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>12,250.05</td>
<td>Selective tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMD Multicultural Marketing and Management*</td>
<td>Develop and implement a public relations campaign to increase awareness of and participation in AAA programs for nine key ethnic producer groups</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>69,802.00</td>
<td>Selective tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ernst &amp; Young</td>
<td>Review of sugar industry infrastructure projects funded by the Commonwealth</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>41,682.50</td>
<td>41,682.50</td>
<td>Direct engagement</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Industry Strategies</td>
<td>Monitor and report on project progress under Pigmeat Processing Grants Program</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>7,835.88</td>
<td>Open tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest and Wood Products Research &amp; Development Corporation</td>
<td>Certification and Labelling Attitudes Survey Grant</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>40,000.00</td>
<td>Direct engagement</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gavin Jones and Cultural Partners*</td>
<td>Develop and implement a public relations campaign to increase awareness of and participation in AAA programs for indigenous producers</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>18,998.00</td>
<td>Selective Tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glendar Consulting Services Pty Ltd</td>
<td>Ad-hoc support, enhancement and maintenance of the AAA - FarmBis State Entry System; enhancement of AAA - FarmBis Monitoring and Evaluation Database; creation and maintenance of AAA - FarmBis database</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>19,120.00</td>
<td>Direct engagement</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glendar Consulting Services Pty Ltd</td>
<td>Redesign and ongoing maintenance of Atlas Database for Rural Financial Counselling Program</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>20,617.50</td>
<td>20,617.50</td>
<td>Direct engagement</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hassall &amp; Associates Pty Ltd</td>
<td>Finalisation of AAA - FarmBis Review</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>1,310.00</td>
<td>Direct engagement</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hassall &amp; Associates Pty Ltd</td>
<td>Socio-economic Analysis of the Impacts of Introduced Marine Pests</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>29,531.00</td>
<td>16,242.05</td>
<td>Selective tender</td>
<td>Value for money from specialist expertise outside the department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Howard Partners*</td>
<td>Public Relations for AAA - FarmBis - development of fishing brochure</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>26,950.00</td>
<td>Direct engagement</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
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<tr>
<td>Howard Partners*</td>
<td>Public Relations for AAA - FarmBis - development of Indigenous brochure</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>28,875.45</td>
<td>Direct engagement</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jenni Mattila &amp; Co</td>
<td>Specialist legal advice on Agricultural Cooperatives as part of the Independent Assessment of the Sugar Industry</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>12,175.00</td>
<td>12,175.00</td>
<td>Selective tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kewagama Holdings Pty Ltd</td>
<td>To undertake the survey design and training consultancy of the implementation phase of the National Recreational and Indigenous Fishing Survey</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>25,087.65</td>
<td>Direct engagement</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Margaret Grace &amp; Associates</td>
<td>Review and report on the Grants Program for National Rural Women's Non Government Organisations (NGOs) to identify options for strengthening the relationship between national women's NGOs involved in rural industries and AFFA</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>19,035.00</td>
<td>19,035.00</td>
<td>Selective tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marketing &amp; Planning Pty Ltd</td>
<td>To undertake a follow up project focusing on the recommendations of a previous report on training and education needs in Australia and India for wool</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>44,572.00</td>
<td>44,572.00</td>
<td>Selective tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participative Technologies Pty Ltd</td>
<td>Conditions influencing on farm implementation of learning’s from education and training (One of six research projects selected to address identified knowledge gaps and contribute to the monitoring and evaluation of the AAA - FarmBi's program by enabling a better understanding of primary producer participation in training and education activities)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>45,454.00</td>
<td>Open tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PDF Management Services</td>
<td>Development and delivery of Agricultural Show Training project</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>1,844,305.00</td>
<td>216,191.00</td>
<td>Open tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pricewaterhouse-Coopers</td>
<td>Independent assessment of the Forest Industry Structural Adjustment Program grants</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>16,410.00</td>
<td>Selective tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
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<tr>
<td>Queensland Sugar Limited</td>
<td>Economic Simulation Model as part of the Independent Assessment of the Sugar Industry</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>51,955.00</td>
<td>51,955.00</td>
<td>Selective tender</td>
<td>Updating of previous model requiring familiarity with existing equipment and systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rob Brennan Facilitation and Training Services Pty Ltd</td>
<td>Evaluate the Lamb Industry Development Program</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>47,800.00</td>
<td>47,800.00</td>
<td>Selective tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roy Morgan Research Pty Ltd</td>
<td>AAA - FarmBis Participant Survey</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>45,562.00</td>
<td>45,562.00</td>
<td>Selective tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skill Strategies</td>
<td>Education and training for primary producers – a guide for creating rural networks (One of six research projects selected to address identified knowledge gaps and contribute to the monitoring and evaluation of the AAA - FarmBis program by enabling a better understanding of primary producer participation in training and education activities)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>14,545.00</td>
<td>Open tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Australian Centre for Economic Studies</td>
<td>Evaluation of the Farm Help Program</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>55,935.00</td>
<td>55,935.00</td>
<td>Open tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Australian Centre for Economic Studies</td>
<td>Farm Help exit survey and database development</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>14,932.54</td>
<td>Selective Tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Queensland</td>
<td>Increasing producer participation in learning activities (One of six research projects selected to address identified knowledge gaps and contribute to the monitoring and evaluation of the AAA - FarmBis program by enabling a better understanding of primary producer participation in training and education activities)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>12,000.00</td>
<td>Open tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Queensland</td>
<td>Social factors affecting informal farmer learning using the Internet (One of six research projects selected to address identified knowledge gaps and contribute to the monitoring and evaluation of the AAA - FarmBis program by enabling a better understanding of primary producer participation in training and education activities)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>41,000.00</td>
<td>Open tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woolcott Market Research</td>
<td>Market research to provide the Department with insights into the way that farm families process information, the different groups within our client base, appropriate marketing messages for the promotion of AAA programs, and benchmarking during the conduct of ongoing advertising coverage</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>50,000.00</td>
<td>Selective Tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
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Output 3 - Total Paid in 2001-2002  
1,854,643.67
### Output 4 - Food Processing and Through Chain Development

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Access Economics</td>
<td>Determine the economic and social significance of the food and beverage processing industry to the Australian economy and community, particularly rural and regional Australia</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>39,600.00</td>
<td>36,300.00</td>
<td>Selective tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACIL Consulting Pty Ltd</td>
<td>To provide a review of wine exports and wine tourism with regard to small to medium wineries</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>94,545.00</td>
<td>54,545.00</td>
<td>Selective tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporation Builders Pty Ltd</td>
<td>To develop and deliver five half-day Capital Raising workshops</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>50,000.00</td>
<td>50,000.00</td>
<td>Selective tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Ray Collins</td>
<td>Delivering Workshop and reports</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>19,800.00</td>
<td>19,800.00</td>
<td>Selective tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ernst &amp; Young</td>
<td>Evaluation of New Industries Development Program (NIDP) and Food and Fibre Chains Program (FFCP)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>78,513.00</td>
<td>78,513.00</td>
<td>Selective tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fasttrac Pty Ltd</td>
<td>To develop diagnostic tool</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>55,000.00</td>
<td>55,000.00</td>
<td>Selective tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fasttrac Pty Ltd</td>
<td>Business Readiness workshop</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>99,935.00</td>
<td>99,935.00</td>
<td>Selective tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fasttrac Pty Ltd</td>
<td>Licensing and Development agreement and ongoing software &amp; content development of the diagnostic tool</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>84,480.00</td>
<td>84,480.00</td>
<td>Selective tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fasttrac Pty Ltd</td>
<td>Investment Readiness Workshop</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>89,980.00</td>
<td>48,400.00</td>
<td>Selective tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GFA-RACE Partners Ltd</td>
<td>Food Safety and Quality Programs of Global Retailers</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>29,400.00</td>
<td>14,700.00</td>
<td>Selective tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Howard Partners</td>
<td>Evaluation of New Industries Development Program (NIDP) and Food and Fibre Chains Program (FFCP)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>20,710.00</td>
<td>20,710.00</td>
<td>Selective tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
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<tr>
<td>Howard Partners</td>
<td>Development of a monitoring and evaluation framework for the National Food Industry Strategy</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>66,280.50</td>
<td>66,280.50</td>
<td>Selective tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Network Business Strategy</td>
<td>To design a mobilisation plan for Supply Chain</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>13,000.00</td>
<td>13,000.00</td>
<td>Open tender</td>
<td>Resources not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pricewaterhouse-Coopers</td>
<td>Learning network consultancy - engaged to determine the need for, and the potential implementation of, a network to assist with the transfer of skills and knowledge throughout the food and agribusiness sector to improve Australia’s global competitiveness</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>152,390.42</td>
<td>Open tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary Business Solutions</td>
<td>To design various elements of the Supply Chain management Learning Network</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>106,920.00</td>
<td>106,920.00</td>
<td>Selective tender</td>
<td>Resources not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Output 4 - Total Paid in 2001-2002 900,973.92
## Output 5 - Market Access and Biosecurity

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture Victoria Services Pty Ltd</td>
<td>Consultancy services for weed risk assessment of plants</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>33,000.00</td>
<td>Open tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amanda Gyles</td>
<td>Journalist services</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>34,848.00</td>
<td>21,780.00</td>
<td>Selected from internal provider list</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrew Turner Consultancy Pty Ltd</td>
<td>Management of the project to establish quality assurance for animal health laboratories in Indonesia and Thailand</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>12,320.00</td>
<td>Open tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armour’s Apples Pty Ltd</td>
<td>Participation on the Risk Analysis Panel (RAP) for the importation of Apples from New Zealand to Australia</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>44,750.20</td>
<td>10,735.05</td>
<td>Selection process as per Import Risk Analysis Handbook</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ausvet Animal Health Services Pty Ltd</td>
<td>Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) training</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>13,860.00</td>
<td>13,860.00</td>
<td>Chosen by RAP</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSIRO</td>
<td>Study of procedures and protocols for using attractant traps to monitor insect pests of sugar cane</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>21,793.34</td>
<td>Open tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
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<tr>
<td>CSIRO - Australian Animal Health Laboratory (AAHL)</td>
<td>Consultancy services for the testing of the possibility that chickens with Infectious Bursal Disease virus antibodies and challenged with very virulent strains of Infectious Bursal Disease virus may transmit the virus through infected or contaminated poultry meat</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>27,383.40</td>
<td>Direct engagement</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSIRO - AAHL</td>
<td>Very Virulent Infectious Bursal Disease (vIBD) preparedness – experimental assessment of the risk of transmission on egg shells or in egg product</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>79,190.10</td>
<td>22,000.00</td>
<td>Selective tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSIRO - AAHL</td>
<td>Joint project between AAHL and the Victorian Institute of Animal Science (VIAS) quality assurance for animal health laboratories in Indonesia &amp; Thailand</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>107,250.00</td>
<td>53,625.00</td>
<td>Selective tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSIRO - AAHL</td>
<td>A comparison of cattle and pigs as sentinel animals for Japanese Encephalitis (JE) virus infections in an endemic area, Denpasar, Bali</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>66,275.00</td>
<td>39,765.00</td>
<td>Selective tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSIRO - AAHL</td>
<td>Technology transfer of a diagnostic capability for Duck Viral Enteritis (Duck Plague) to the Research Institute for Veterinary Science (Balitvet), Bogor, Indonesia</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>15,620.00</td>
<td>9,372.00</td>
<td>Selective tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSIRO - AAHL</td>
<td>Validation of an ELISA for the detection of antibodies to Trypanosoma evansi (surra diagnosis) in cattle and horses</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>11,000.00</td>
<td>Direct engagement</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSIRO - AAHL</td>
<td>Consultancy services for research on vvIBD Preparedness - experimental assessment of the risk of transmission by non-target species</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>44,000.00</td>
<td>Selective tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSIRO Entomology</td>
<td>Participation on Technical Working Group (TWG) for the timber Import Risk Analysis (IRA). Sawn coniferous timber from NZ, Canada &amp; US</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>22,000.00</td>
<td>Chosen by RAP</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems</td>
<td>Participation on RAP Apples from New Zealand</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>53,000.20</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>Selection process as per Import Risk Handbook</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Peasley Horticultural Services</td>
<td>Participate on the RAP for the importation of fresh banana fruit from the Philippines to Australia</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>59,528.44</td>
<td>Selection process as per Import Risk Analysis Handbook</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Natural Resources &amp; Environment, Victoria</td>
<td>Consultancy services for the study of methyl bromide phaseout issues for quarantine disinestation</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>26,503.51</td>
<td>Open tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Primary Industries Qld</td>
<td>For services on improvements to screwworm fly surveillance traps</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>29,700.00</td>
<td>Open tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Primary Industries Qld</td>
<td>Participate on the RAP for the importation of fresh banana fruit from the Philippines to Australia</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>16,767.54</td>
<td>Selection process as per Import Risk Analysis Handbook</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Primary Industries Qld</td>
<td>Participation on TWGs for the importation of fresh banana fruit from the Philippines to Australia</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>16,612.75</td>
<td>Chosen by RAP</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dept of Agriculture NSW</td>
<td>Insecticidal dip trials for nursery stock</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>16,957.00</td>
<td>Direct engagement</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dept of Agriculture</td>
<td>Participate on the RAP for the importation of fresh banana fruit from the</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>15,148.23</td>
<td>Selection process as per Import Risk Analysis Handbook</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSW</td>
<td>Philippines to Australia</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dept of Agriculture</td>
<td>Assessment of Culicoides brevitarsis attacking livestock under cover</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>10,015.37</td>
<td>Open tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSW</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dept of Agriculture</td>
<td>Consultancy services for the development &amp; evaluation of an ELISA for</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>24,701.33</td>
<td>Direct engagement</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSW</td>
<td>Epizootic Haemorrhagic Disease Virus</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dept of Agriculture</td>
<td>WSSV prawn testing</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>10,671.31</td>
<td>10,671.31</td>
<td>Direct engagement</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSW</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digby Gascoine</td>
<td>General consultancy services</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>38,585.93</td>
<td>Direct engagement</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Cris Hayward</td>
<td>Banana TWG consultancy</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>38,800.00</td>
<td>20,977.47</td>
<td>Chosen by RAP</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Penny Olsen</td>
<td>Test of proposed Vertebrate Pest Committee's pest risk assessment process</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>32,450.00</td>
<td>32,450.00</td>
<td>Open tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
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<tr>
<td>Geoff Gard</td>
<td>Pig Semen RAP</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>11,000.00</td>
<td>1,245.86</td>
<td>Selection process as per Import Risk Analysis Handbook</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edenbridge Consulting Services</td>
<td>Participation on the RAP for the importation of Apples from New Zealand to Australia</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>44,902.00</td>
<td>14,229.59</td>
<td>Selection process as per Import Risk Analysis Handbook</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ID-Lelystad, Netherlands</td>
<td>Research into the “Effect of heat processing on transmission of Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS) virus through pig meat”, Phase 1</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>25,439.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>Direct engagement</td>
<td>Independent assessment required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kewagama Holdings Pty Ltd</td>
<td>National survey of bait and berley use by recreational fishers - to gain a clear understanding of the use in Australia of raw aquatic animals and their parts as bait and berley by recreational fishers</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>178,572.90</td>
<td>66,500.75</td>
<td>Open tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary Industries South Australia</td>
<td>Participation on the RAP for the importation of apples from New Zealand to Australia</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>43,265.20</td>
<td>1,069.83</td>
<td>Selection process as per Import Risk Analysis Handbook</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queensland Herbarium Environmental Protection Agency</td>
<td>Participation on the TWG for the importation of fresh banana fruit from the Philippines to Australia</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>26,400.00</td>
<td>13,497.00</td>
<td>Chosen by RAP</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ross Cutler &amp; Associates Pty Ltd</td>
<td>Consultancy services as a member of the RAP for Pig Meat</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>11,000.00</td>
<td>5,037.82</td>
<td>Selection process as per Import Risk Analysis Handbook</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ross Cutler &amp; Associates Pty Ltd</td>
<td>Pig Semen RAP</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>11,000.00</td>
<td>2,454.93</td>
<td>Selection process as per Import Risk Analysis Handbook</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Queensland</td>
<td>Consultancy services for the study of Moko disease of banana caused by Ralstonia (Pseudomonas) solanacearum race 2</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>27,335.00</td>
<td>Open tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Queensland</td>
<td>Study of insect migration in the Torres Strait</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>29,876.00</td>
<td>Open tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Queensland</td>
<td>Study of seed identification using computerised databases</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>18,480.00</td>
<td>Open tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victorian Institute of Animal Science</td>
<td>Joint project between AAHL and VIAS re quality assurance for animal health laboratories in Indonesia &amp; Thailand</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>107,250.00</td>
<td>53,625.00</td>
<td>Selective tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
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**Output 5 - Total Paid in 2001-2002** 894,604.45
## Output 6 - Product Integrity, Animal and Plant Health

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AEMS Pty Ltd</td>
<td>Provide an Update of information technology</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>65,419.60</td>
<td>Selective tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture Western Australia</td>
<td>To provide a detection and trapping service of Asian Gypsy Moth and Exotic fruit fly</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>137,500.00</td>
<td>38,750.00</td>
<td>Selective tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alliance Resource</td>
<td>For consultancy fees for feeding of meat-and-bone meal (MBM) project</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>15,840.00</td>
<td>15,840.00</td>
<td>Direct engagement</td>
<td>Independent assessment required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alwani Pty Ltd</td>
<td>Review of targeted residue testing programs particularly for National Organochlorine Residue Management (NORM) and National Antibacterial Residue Minimisation (NARM)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>49,500.00</td>
<td>49,500.00</td>
<td>Selective tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia Pacific Consultants Pty Ltd</td>
<td>Professional Services</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>24,303.47</td>
<td>24,303.47</td>
<td>Selective tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aus-Meat Ltd</td>
<td>National Vendor Declaration Audit</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>76,501.00</td>
<td>76,501.00</td>
<td>Selective tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centre for International Economics</td>
<td>To consult on protection of data</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>44,000.00</td>
<td>44,000.00</td>
<td>Selective tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSIRO Entomology</td>
<td>Advice on experimental procedures to test Fipronil insecticide</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>10,670.00</td>
<td>10,670.00</td>
<td>Direct engagement</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dept of Natural Resources and Environment, Victoria</td>
<td>To provide a detection and trapping service of Fruit Fly Trapping</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>35,841.00</td>
<td>38,841.00</td>
<td>Selective tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dept of Primary Ind &amp; Fish (TAS)</td>
<td>To provide a detection and trapping service of Asian Gypsy Moth</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>16,500.00</td>
<td>10,450.00</td>
<td>Selective tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dept of Primary Industries (QLD)</td>
<td>To provide a detection and trapping service of Asian Gypsy Moth</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>11,154.00</td>
<td>11,154.00</td>
<td>Selective tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dept of Primary Industries (QLD)</td>
<td>To provide a detection and trapping service of Fruit Fly Trapping</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>173,800.00</td>
<td>173,800.00</td>
<td>Selective tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glenlyon Pastoral Management Pty Ltd</td>
<td>Consultant on Behalf of AFFA on The Tuberculosis Freedom Assurance Program</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>12,596.18</td>
<td>12,596.18</td>
<td>Direct engagement</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Stewart</td>
<td>Consultant on Behalf of AFFA on The Tuberculosis Freedom Assurance Program</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>60,595.93</td>
<td>60,595.93</td>
<td>Direct engagement</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSW Agriculture</td>
<td>To provide a detection and trapping service of Exotic Fruit fly</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>145,950.20</td>
<td>145,950.20</td>
<td>Selective tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pricewaterhouse-Coopers</td>
<td>Payment for HR services provided</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>80,360.00</td>
<td>80,360.00</td>
<td>Direct engagement</td>
<td>Resources not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Wollongong</td>
<td>Organophosphate pesticides and locust control: Sublethal effects on terrestrial vertebrates</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>18,700.00</td>
<td>The University obtained funding under Australian Research Council Strategic Partnership With Industry Research &amp; Training Scheme. Funding was matched by Australian Plague Locust Commission, PIAPH</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Victoria</td>
<td>To provide a detection and trapping service of Fruit Fly Trapping</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>35,841.00</td>
<td>38,841.00</td>
<td>Selective tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Output 6 - Total Paid in 2001-2002 877,431.38
## Output 7 - Quarantine and Export Services

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blue Moon Research and Planning Pty Ltd*</td>
<td>Provision of qualitative research services to the Quarantine Matters Campaign</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>15,037.00</td>
<td>Selective tender process via Ministerial Committee on Government Communications</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CARMA International (Asia Pacific) Pty Ltd</td>
<td>Provision of media analysis services to the Quarantine Matters Campaign</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>23,056.00</td>
<td>16,682.60</td>
<td>Selective tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSIRO - Australian Animal Health Laboratory</td>
<td>Training in exotic animal disease recognition</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>81,021.00</td>
<td>34,540.00</td>
<td>Best placed to undertake survey work</td>
<td>Specialist expertise and facilities not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural Perspectives</td>
<td>Provision of non-English communications services to the Quarantine Matters Campaign</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>123,172.26</td>
<td>Selective tender process via Ministerial Committee on Government Communications</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deborah Nanschild and Associates</td>
<td>Assist in the development of accredited training programs.</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>40,000.00</td>
<td>39,500.00</td>
<td>Selective tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digby Gascoine, Consultant</td>
<td>General consultancy services - Codex and Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>79,211.41</td>
<td>79,211.41</td>
<td>Existing contract</td>
<td>Consultant has extensive experience and a high level of expertise regarding Codex and CCFICs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enterprise Outsourcing P/L</td>
<td>Oversight the process of establishing a new contract for the provision of AQIS uniforms</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>32,400.00</td>
<td>29,100.00</td>
<td>Open tender</td>
<td>Resources not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Science Australia (Paul Vanderlinde)</td>
<td>Provision of specialised scientific advice to AQIS</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>22,108.00</td>
<td>22,108.00</td>
<td>Existing contract</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government of Papua New Guinea (represented by the National Agriculture Quarantine and Inspection Authority)</td>
<td>Monitoring and surveillance for agricultural pests, diseases and weeds in Papua New Guinea</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>59,649.00</td>
<td>Not applicable, government to government agreement</td>
<td>In line with Australia’s Memorandum of Understanding with PNG on collaborative animal and plant health and quarantine activities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grey Advertising Canberra Pty Ltd*</td>
<td>Provision of creative advertising and design services to the Quarantine Matters Campaign</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>197,827.13</td>
<td>Selective tender process via Ministerial Committee on Government Communications</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
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<tr>
<td>GRM International Pty Ltd</td>
<td>Review of chemical waste treatments</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>23,250.00</td>
<td>18,705.00</td>
<td>Selective tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
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<tr>
<td>GRM International Pty Ltd</td>
<td>East Timor Agricultural Quarantine and Animal and Plant Health Support Project</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>48,125.00</td>
<td>Tender information was placed on the AFFA Website seeking expressions of interest and sent to a number of prospective tenderers</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department or work not able to be undertaken within the Department in given timeframe.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Invertebrate Identification</td>
<td>Post border surveys for East Timor risks</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>7,084.00</td>
<td>Selective tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department or work not able to be undertaken within the Department in given timeframe.</td>
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<tr>
<td>KPMG Consulting</td>
<td>Implementation of a timesheet recording system for AQIS as a result of recommendations made by the Australian National Audit Office and Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>32,727.00</td>
<td>32,727.00</td>
<td>Direct engagement</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
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<tr>
<td>KPMG Consulting</td>
<td>Professional Services rendered in relation to the implementation of the Activity Cost Assessment Project</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>13,178.00</td>
<td>13,178.00</td>
<td>Direct engagement</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minter Ellison Consulting (Canberra) Pty Ltd</td>
<td>Post Implementation Review of export documentation (EXDOC) system</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>38,500.00</td>
<td>38,355.63</td>
<td>Selective tender</td>
<td>Independent assessment required</td>
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<td>NSW Agriculture</td>
<td>Post border surveys for East Timor risks</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>2,420.00</td>
<td>Best placed to undertake survey work</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department or work not able to be undertaken within the Department in given timeframe</td>
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<tr>
<td>NT Department of Business Industry &amp; Resource Development</td>
<td>Post border surveys for East Timor risks</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<td>Best placed to undertake survey work</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department or work not able to be undertaken within the Department in given timeframe</td>
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<tr>
<td>Open Mind Research Group Pty Ltd*</td>
<td>Provision of research services to the Quarantine Matters Campaign</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>329,800.35</td>
<td>329,800.35</td>
<td>Selective tender process via Ministerial Committee on Government Communications</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quay Connection</td>
<td>Development of a communications strategy for the Quarantine Matters Campaign</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>43,538.00</td>
<td>43,538.00</td>
<td>Selective tender process via Ministerial Committee on Government Communications</td>
<td>Consultant has extensive high-level expertise</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robert Vendrell</td>
<td>Development and delivery of Quarantine Prosecutions Training for Airport staff</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>30,000.00</td>
<td>25,455.57</td>
<td>Selective tender</td>
<td>Resources not available within the Department</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sinclair Knight Merz PTY LTD*</td>
<td>Provision of project management services for new Victorian Regional office accommodation</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>98,000.00</td>
<td>66,000.00</td>
<td>Selective tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Communications and Media Consultants</td>
<td>Design, develop and produce a Fraud and Ethics Awareness package</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>32,000.00</td>
<td>19,450.00</td>
<td>Selective tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
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</table>

**Output 7 - Total Paid in 2001-2002** | 1,287,725.95

*Note: The contractor for this project is the Australian Customs Service. Quarantine is paying 50% of the total price for project management direct to the consultant. Total Price for Project $196,000.
## Output 8 - Scientific Advice

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<td>Agricultural supply chain services</td>
<td>Provide Expertise on supply chains</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>15,454.00</td>
<td>9,504.00</td>
<td>Selective tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
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<tr>
<td>Agriculture Victoria Service Pty Ltd</td>
<td>Catchment Scale Land use Mapping in Southern Victoria</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>150,000.00</td>
<td>37,500.00</td>
<td>Direct engagement</td>
<td>Sole Supplier</td>
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<tr>
<td>Agriculture Western Australia</td>
<td>Report on productivity in grains industry</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>60,000.00</td>
<td>16,500.00</td>
<td>Selective Tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
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<tr>
<td>Austrade</td>
<td>Client liaison with San-Luis government</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>3,000/ bi-monthly</td>
<td>32,071.34</td>
<td>Direct engagement</td>
<td>Sole supplier</td>
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<tr>
<td>Australian Bureau of Statistics</td>
<td>ABS Land MGT Practice Data - 1st Payment</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>123,944.00</td>
<td>123,944.00</td>
<td>Direct engagement</td>
<td>Resources not available within the Department</td>
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<td>Australian National University</td>
<td>Forestry Information</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>12,000.00</td>
<td>12,000.00</td>
<td>Selective tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
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<td>Australian National University</td>
<td>Survey &amp; report/regional impact statement book</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>24,000.00</td>
<td>24,000.00</td>
<td>Selective tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
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<td>Cawthorn &amp; Associates</td>
<td>Seal exclusion device monitoring</td>
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<td>30,000.00</td>
<td>Direct engagement</td>
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<tr>
<td>Central Exploration Drilling</td>
<td>Air core Drilling in Billabong Creek area</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>114,969.80</td>
<td>114,969.80</td>
<td>Tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
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<td>Consultant</td>
<td>Activity</td>
<td>Let in 2001-2002</td>
<td>Total Let ($</td>
<td>Paid in 2001-2002 ($</td>
<td>Selection Process Used</td>
<td>Justification for the Decision to Employ Consultancy Services</td>
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<td>Centre for Resource and Environmental Studies, ANU</td>
<td>Software Development - Growest</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>40,000.00</td>
<td>20,000.00</td>
<td>Direct engagement</td>
<td>Sole supplier</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coakes Consulting</td>
<td>Social assessments of Australian Winegrowing regions</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>54,000.00</td>
<td>54,000.00</td>
<td>Selective tender</td>
<td>Resources not available within the department</td>
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<td>Coakes Consulting</td>
<td>Social Assessments for South-East fisheries</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>54,000.00</td>
<td>54,000.00</td>
<td>Selective tender</td>
<td>Resources not available within the department</td>
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<td>Colmar Brunton Social Research</td>
<td>Conduct focus groups for community</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>20,368.00</td>
<td>20,368.00</td>
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<td>Complexia</td>
<td>Soil Carbon Modelling</td>
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<td>10,000.00</td>
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<td>Resources not available within the department</td>
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<td>CSIRO Division of Land and Water</td>
<td>Scientific analysis for Land &amp; Water Audit</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>131,818.18</td>
<td>131,818.18</td>
<td>Direct engagement</td>
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<td>CSIRO Division of Land and Water</td>
<td>Crop water balance modelling for San Luis</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>100,000.00</td>
<td>100,000.00</td>
<td>Direct engagement</td>
<td>Sole supplier</td>
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<td>Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Victoria</td>
<td>Milestone 2 Land use mapping</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>17,000.00</td>
<td>17,000.00</td>
<td>Direct engagement</td>
<td>Sole supplier</td>
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<td>Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Victoria</td>
<td>Translate and compile vegetation datasets</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>36,400.00</td>
<td>36,400.00</td>
<td>Direct engagement</td>
<td>Sole supplier</td>
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<tr>
<td>Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Victoria</td>
<td>Land use mapping - Goulburn-Broken Catchment</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>34,750.00</td>
<td>17,000.00</td>
<td>Sole Supplier</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
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<tr>
<td>Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Victoria</td>
<td>Land use mapping - South West Victoria</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>150,000.00</td>
<td>37,500.00</td>
<td>Sole Supplier</td>
<td>Resources not available within the Department</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Charles R Lawrence</td>
<td>Hydrogeology advice</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>530/day + exp</td>
<td>48,306.49</td>
<td>Selective tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
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<tr>
<td>Environment Behaviour</td>
<td>Community dependency methodology for winegrowers project</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>35,000.00</td>
<td>35,000.00</td>
<td>Selective tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
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<td>Environment Behaviour</td>
<td>Social profiling in the south-east fisheries</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>70,000.00</td>
<td>70,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Envision</td>
<td>Identifying regional planning skills needs</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>12,000.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>Selective tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
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<td>Envision</td>
<td>National Vegetation Information System client survey</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>13,050.00</td>
<td>13,050.00</td>
<td>Selective tender</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fildagua SA (Argentina)</td>
<td>Exploratory drilling</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>224,000.01</td>
<td>93,655.65</td>
<td>Selective tender</td>
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<td>Fugro Airborne surveys Pty Ltd</td>
<td>Airborne data collection</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>444,002.68</td>
<td>444,002.68</td>
<td>Tender</td>
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<tr>
<td>Geo Group SA (Argentina)</td>
<td>Exploratory drilling</td>
<td>No</td>
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<td>Tender</td>
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<td>Kevron Geophysics Pty Ltd</td>
<td>Airborne data collection</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<td>137,563.00</td>
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<td>Laraine Pty. Ltd.</td>
<td>Project management for Murray-Darling Basin Landmark project</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>44,200.00</td>
<td>13,260.00</td>
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<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
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<td>NSW Dept of Land and Water Conservation</td>
<td>Land use mapping - Upper Billabong Catchment</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>20,284.00</td>
<td>15,000.00</td>
<td>Direct engagement</td>
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<td>NSW Dept of Land and Water Conservation</td>
<td>Land use mapping - NE coastal catchments</td>
<td>No</td>
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<td>Direct engagement</td>
<td>Sole Supplier</td>
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<td>NSW National Parks &amp; Wildlife Services</td>
<td>Translate and compile vegetation datasets</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>36,400.00</td>
<td>36,400.00</td>
<td>Direct Engagement</td>
<td>Sole supplier</td>
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<td>NT Dept of Lands Planning and Infrastructure</td>
<td>Land use mapping - Northern Territory</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>150,000.00</td>
<td>37,500.00</td>
<td>Direct engagement</td>
<td>Sole Supplier</td>
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<td>Palm Management</td>
<td>Report to prepare the ELT for the implementation of the new BRS business model</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>15,747.81</td>
<td>15,747.80</td>
<td>Selective tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
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<td>Pepperell Research &amp; Consulting</td>
<td>Review of Striped marlin fisheries</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>16,818.19</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>Selective tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
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<td>Primary Industries and Resources SA</td>
<td>Land use mapping - Eyre Peninsula, KI and SE</td>
<td>No</td>
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<td>25,000.00</td>
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<td>Sole Supplier</td>
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<td>Qld Dept of Natural Resources and Mines</td>
<td>Land use mapping – Condamine No</td>
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<td>Sole Supplier</td>
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<td>QLD - Environment Protection Agency</td>
<td>Field Assessment</td>
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<td>15,114.55</td>
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<td>Direct engagement</td>
<td>Sole Supplier</td>
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<td>Raytheon Pty Ltd</td>
<td>Statistical analysis on remote sensing</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<td>12,000.00</td>
<td>Selective Tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
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<tr>
<td>Raytheon Pty Ltd</td>
<td>Technical advice on modelling</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<td>Selective tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
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<td>South Australia Department of Planning</td>
<td>Translate and compile vegetation datasets</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>50,400.00</td>
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<td>Direct engagement</td>
<td>Sole supplier</td>
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<td>SRA Information Technology Pty Ltd</td>
<td>Database Consultancy to restructure ENVIS Database</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>35,000.00</td>
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<td>Selective tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department.</td>
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<td>Tas Dept of Primary Industries, Water and Environment</td>
<td>Land use mapping - Tasmania</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>150,000.00</td>
<td>37,500.00</td>
<td>Direct engagement</td>
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<td>Tjurunga Pty Ltd</td>
<td>North-West Australia Development Assessment</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>26,000.00</td>
<td>26,000.00</td>
<td>Selective tender</td>
<td>Resources not available within the Department.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tony Davis Consulting</td>
<td>Water management for the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Lands</td>
<td>No</td>
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<td>26,020.00</td>
<td>Selective tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tony Davis Consulting</td>
<td>Water management for the Arid Areas Catchment Board</td>
<td>No</td>
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<td>15,000.00</td>
<td>Selective tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department.</td>
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<td>University of Adelaide</td>
<td>Geographic Information System work</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>10,909.09</td>
<td>10,909.90</td>
<td>Direct engagement</td>
<td>Sole supplier</td>
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<td>University of Melbourne</td>
<td>Review of Forests &amp; Vegetation Program</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>10,223.60</td>
<td>10,223.60</td>
<td>Direct engagement</td>
<td>Sole supplier</td>
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<td>University of Western Sydney</td>
<td>Workshop facilitation for joint research proposal</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>12,000.00</td>
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<td>Joint tender</td>
<td>Joint tender application - professional collaboration</td>
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<td>Zavalia &amp; Associates (Argentina)</td>
<td>Economics study</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>178,000.00</td>
<td>46,916.63</td>
<td>Recommended by client</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department.</td>
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Output 8 - Total Paid in 2001-2002 2,262,010.82
## Output 9 - Economic Research

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<tr>
<td>Consultecon Pty Ltd</td>
<td>APEC energy market deregulation project report assistance</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>27,500.00</td>
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<td>Direct engagement</td>
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<td>EMET Consulting</td>
<td>Revision of Australian MARKAL database</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>22,360.00</td>
<td>Direct engagement</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
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<tr>
<td>Energy Research Institute of State Development Planning Commission, China</td>
<td>Research collaboration on Liquefied Natural Gas in east China</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>25,000.00</td>
<td>Direct engagement</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monash University - Centre of Policy Studies</td>
<td>Database disaggregation and development</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<td>Direct engagement</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
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### Output 9 - Total Paid in 2001-2002

91,360.00
## Management Services

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<tr>
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<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acumen Alliance</td>
<td>Group 8 Ipex Data Integrity Audit</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>33,495.00</td>
<td>33,495.00</td>
<td>Selective tender</td>
<td>Resources not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian Corporate</td>
<td>Enhancement of Performance Information</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>57,816.00</td>
<td>57,816.00</td>
<td>Direct engagement</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information Solutions (ACIS)</td>
<td>Management System</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>DA Consulting Group</td>
<td>Development of training and performance support services</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>76,770.00</td>
<td>76,770.00</td>
<td>Contract arranged by outsourced provider</td>
<td>Resources not available within the Department</td>
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<tr>
<td>DA Consulting Group</td>
<td>Development of a Financial Management and Reporting course</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>12,075.00</td>
<td>12,075.00</td>
<td>Contract arranged by outsourced provider</td>
<td>Resources not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DA Consulting Group</td>
<td>Provision of scoping study services and delivery of training strategy</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>14,000.00</td>
<td>14,000.00</td>
<td>Contract arranged by outsourced provider</td>
<td>Resources not available within the Department</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ernst &amp; Young</td>
<td>Group 8 Information Technology Security Audit</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>33,430.50</td>
<td>33,430.50</td>
<td>Selective tender</td>
<td>Special expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ernst &amp; Young</td>
<td>Market testing of transactional banking services</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>35,501.00</td>
<td>Selective tender</td>
<td>Special expertise not available within the Department</td>
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<tr>
<td>--------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>Excelerated Consulting Pty Ltd</td>
<td>Develop and implement an effective Financial Management Framework for AFFA</td>
<td>No N/A</td>
<td>604,359.00</td>
<td>Extension of existing GITC contract</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Howard Partners</td>
<td>Assessment of communication, culture and resources in AFFA</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>100,000.00</td>
<td>100,000.00</td>
<td>Selective tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KPMG Consulting Australia Pty Ltd</td>
<td>Benchmarking of IT Specifications</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>12,100.00</td>
<td>12,100.00</td>
<td>Selective tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
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<tr>
<td>KPMG Consulting Australia Pty Ltd</td>
<td>Benchmarking of IT Specifications</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>12,540.00</td>
<td>12,540.00</td>
<td>Selective tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nexus Media Pty Ltd</td>
<td>Provision of technical writing services</td>
<td>No N/A</td>
<td>101,301.00</td>
<td>Direct engagement</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Nolan, Norton &amp; Co</td>
<td>Benchmarking of IT Specifications</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>34,100.00</td>
<td>34,100.00</td>
<td>Selective tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resolution Consulting Services Pty Ltd</td>
<td>Develop and implement an effective financial management framework for AFFA</td>
<td>No N/A</td>
<td>1,592,879.00</td>
<td>Direct engagement</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ross Blyton</td>
<td>Provision of specialist accounting advice</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>48,750.00</td>
<td>48,750.00</td>
<td>Direct engagement</td>
<td>Resources not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>-------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Nous Group</td>
<td>Assessment of AFFA's organisational state</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>55,140.00</td>
<td>55,140.00</td>
<td>Direct engagement</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ultima Consulting Pty Ltd</td>
<td>Design, develop and code the AFFA Chart of Accounts and assist with preparation of the Department's 2001-02 financial statements</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>99,200.00</td>
<td>82,025.00</td>
<td>Direct engagement</td>
<td>Resources not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vendor Management Australia</td>
<td>Review of Procedures Manual May 2002</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>11,000.00</td>
<td>11,000.00</td>
<td>Selective tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management Services</td>
<td>Total Paid in 2001-2002</td>
<td></td>
<td>2,917,281.50</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Governance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acton Corporate Partners Pty Ltd</td>
<td>Audit Committee and Finance Sub-Committee membership</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>23,694.00</td>
<td>Direct engagement</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian Protective Services</td>
<td>Security training needs analysis</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>49,500.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>Selective tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise and resources not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Risk Services</td>
<td>Information security review</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>27,500.00</td>
<td>15,400.00</td>
<td>Selective tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise and resources not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One Planet Solutions P/L</td>
<td>Development of the AFFA Decisions Register</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>34,947.00</td>
<td>34,947.00</td>
<td>Selective tender</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vanderbar Pty Ltd</td>
<td>Audit Committee and Finance Sub-Committee membership</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>31,460.00</td>
<td>Direct engagement</td>
<td>Specialist expertise not available within the Department</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Governance - Total Paid in 2001-2002**  
105,501.00

**AFFA - Total Paid in 2001-2002**  
12,629,078.49
APPENDIX 3

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

Measures to Ensure Health, Safety and Welfare at Work

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry – Australia (AFFA) has undertaken many measures to ensure the health, safety and welfare at work of its employees, contractors and visitors. Ongoing programs include workplace assessments, safety audits, provision of and training in the use of ergonomic equipment, eyesight testing, emergency evacuation drills and an Employee Assistance Program. Comprehensive Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) information is available to managers and staff through departmental Intranet sites.

Additional initiatives in 2001-02 included:

- development of OH&S Guidelines for Field Workers (all AFFA);
- centralised arrangements for replenishing First Aid Kits (all AFFA Canberra);
- OH&S and Rehabilitation Awareness training for managers, supervisors and staff exercising delegations under the Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988 (all AFFA Canberra);
- information sessions for individual Business Groups to raise awareness of reporting requirements and assist in addressing unique hazards for specific groups of staff (all AFFA Canberra);
- recruiting specialist health and safety resources (AQIS);
- development of a risk profile and implementation of processes to address highest identified risks (AQIS);
- specific measures to address the risks posed to staff as a consequence of a possible anthrax threat post 11 September 2001 (AQIS); and
- purchase of Personal Protective Equipment and provision of training for staff inspecting vessel hulls (AQIS).
Appendices

Notification and Reporting of Accidents and Dangerous Occurrences

In accordance with Section 68 of the Occupational Health and Safety (Commonwealth Employment) Act 1991 (the Act), the following were reported:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Deaths</th>
<th>*Serious Personal Injuries</th>
<th>Prescribed incapacities of 30 days or more</th>
<th>**Dangerous Occurrences</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AFFA (excluding ABARE &amp; AQIS)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABARE</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AQIS</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Serious Personal Injury (to ANY person) is that the person needs:
  • emergency treatment by a doctor; or
  • treatment in a hospital as a casualty, with or without being admitted to the hospital; or
  • admission to hospital.

** Dangerous Occurrences are ‘near misses’ that could have resulted in death, serious personal injury or incapacity, but did not.

Investigations and Notices

There were two investigations conducted in AQIS during 2000-01:
  • collapse of a scaffold at a Melbourne wharf; and
  • an incident relating to an X-ray conveyer belt at Brisbane Airport.

No directions were given to ABARE, AFFA or AQIS under Section 45 of the Act. No notices were given to ABARE, AFFA or AQIS under Sections 29, 46 or 47 of the Act.
APPENDIX 4
ADVERTISING AND MARKET RESEARCH

The following sets out particulars of amounts (in excess of $1,500 including GST) paid by, or on behalf of AFFA to advertising agencies, market research, polling, media advertising and direct mail organisations.

Organisations marked with a * are considered to be consultancies. They are therefore also recorded in Appendix 2 – Consultancy Services.

Output 1
Natural Resources Access and Management

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organisation</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Expenditure ($)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural Publishers Pty Ltd</td>
<td>Publication of the Farm Forestry Supplement in the Australian Farm Journal</td>
<td>25,645.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big Picture Marketing Communications*</td>
<td>Natural Heritage Trust communication and public relations</td>
<td>72,937.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woolcott Research Pty Ltd*</td>
<td>Additional Market Research for the National Action Plan national communications strategy. To define more precisely the national audiences and their characteristics to assist in the development of communications approaches.</td>
<td>43,340.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total - Output 1</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>141,922.00</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
## Output 2
### Innovation and Operating Environment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organisation</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Expenditure ($)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Green Advertising</td>
<td>Production of Fact sheets for AAA - Farm Innovation Program successful grantees</td>
<td>7,663.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Advertising</td>
<td>Production of <em>Rural Vision</em> magazine</td>
<td>26,734.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kondinin Group Inc</td>
<td>Distribution of mailing card for advertising biosecurity issues</td>
<td>4,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kondinin Group Inc</td>
<td>Distribution of <em>Rural Vision</em> magazine</td>
<td>6,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metrographics</td>
<td>Production of posters for the AFFA Centenary of Federation publication</td>
<td>1,666.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Starcom Worldwide (Australia) Pty Ltd</td>
<td>Advertisement re AFFA Centenary of Federation publication</td>
<td>1,513.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Starcom Worldwide (Australia) Pty Ltd</td>
<td>Advertising national and regional OUTLOOK conferences</td>
<td>21,204.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Starcom Worldwide (Australia) Pty Ltd</td>
<td>Design of Advertising Material for Plant Breeders Rights</td>
<td>4,092.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Starcom Worldwide (Australia) Pty Ltd</td>
<td>Non-Campaign Advertising for Plant Breeders Rights</td>
<td>24,944.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Starcom Worldwide (Australia) Pty Ltd</td>
<td>Request for Tender - Evaluation of the AAA - Farm Management Deposits Scheme</td>
<td>1,523.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Starcom Worldwide (Australia) Pty Ltd</td>
<td>Request for Tender - Request for Proposals/Expression of Interest for biotechnology and segregation research projects</td>
<td>4,576.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Starcom Worldwide (Australia) Pty Ltd</td>
<td>Request for Tender - To review the appropriateness of governance arrangements for portfolio bodies</td>
<td>1,513.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Starcom Worldwide (Australia) Pty Ltd</td>
<td>Rural Press advertisements for Round Four of the AAA - Farm Innovation Program</td>
<td>17,998.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total - Output 2</strong></td>
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<td><strong>123,426.98</strong></td>
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</table>
## Output 3
### Industry Development and Adjustment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organisation</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Expenditure ($)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baird Publication</td>
<td>AAA - FarmBis advertisement in Professional Fisherman publication</td>
<td>2,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cox Inall*</td>
<td>Development of AAA public relations campaign</td>
<td>190,680.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMD Multicultural Marketing and Management*</td>
<td>Development of AAA public relations campaign for key ethnic producer groups</td>
<td>69,802.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gavin Jones and Cultural Partners*</td>
<td>Development of AAA public relations campaign for indigenous producers</td>
<td>18,998.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Advertising</td>
<td>Reprinting of AAA - FarmBis fisheries brochures</td>
<td>8,799.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Howard Partners*</td>
<td>Development of AAA - FarmBis fisheries brochures</td>
<td>26,950.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Howard Partners*</td>
<td>Development of AAA - FarmBis indigenous brochures</td>
<td>28,875.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Starcom Media Placement</td>
<td>Call for public submissions as part of the Independent Assessment of the Sugar Industry</td>
<td>3,504.40</td>
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<tr>
<td>StarCom Worldwide (Australia) Pty Limited</td>
<td>Advertising Draft Australian Forestry Standard</td>
<td>12,116.75</td>
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<tr>
<td>StarCom Worldwide (Australia) Pty Limited</td>
<td>Advertising Forest Industry Structural Adjustment Program in Western Australia</td>
<td>5,175.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Starcom Worldwide (Australia) Pty Ltd</td>
<td>Advertising Womens Initiative - Non Government Organisation (NGO) Grants</td>
<td>3,469.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Starcom Worldwide (Australia) Pty Ltd</td>
<td>Advertising Young People - Company Directors Course</td>
<td>8,017.36</td>
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<tr>
<td>Starcom Worldwide (Australia) Pty Ltd</td>
<td>Advertising Young People - General Program</td>
<td>4,949.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Starcom Worldwide (Australia) Pty Ltd</td>
<td>Advertising Young People - Leadership Course 3</td>
<td>7,933.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Starcom Worldwide (Australia) Pty Ltd</td>
<td>Advertising Young People - NGO Grants</td>
<td>6,987.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Starcom Worldwide (Australia) Pty Ltd</td>
<td>Advertising Young People - Study Awards</td>
<td>9,430.38</td>
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## Appendices

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organisation</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Expenditure ($)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Starcom Worldwide (Australia) Pty Ltd</td>
<td>Advertising Young Peoples Initiative - Leadership Course 2</td>
<td>6,762.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Starcom Worldwide (Australia) Pty Ltd</td>
<td>Advertising Young Peoples Initiative - Study Awards</td>
<td>9,803.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Starcom Worldwide (Australia) Pty Ltd</td>
<td>Advertising Young Peoples Initiative - Study Awards</td>
<td>1,905.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Starcom Worldwide (Australia) Pty Ltd</td>
<td>Round Three and call for applications under AAA-FarmBis Australia</td>
<td>15,009.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total - Output 3</strong></td>
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<td><strong>441,168.44</strong></td>
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## Output 4

### Food Processing and Through Chain Development

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Organisation</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Expenditure ($)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gorie Glove - Media</td>
<td>Advertising in Magazine called Global Supermarket for Pilot Commercialisation Projects and Scholarships</td>
<td>1,939.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ibis Ridge P/L TA On The Land</td>
<td>On The Land Segment on new Pilot Commercialisation Projects and Grantees Progress</td>
<td>22,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ibis Ridge P/L TA On The Land</td>
<td>On The Land Segment on new Pilot Commercialisation Projects and Grantees Progress</td>
<td>104,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Starcom Worldwide Aust P/L</td>
<td>Advertising New Industries Development Program (NIDP) Grant closing</td>
<td>8,263.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Starcom Worldwide Aust P/L</td>
<td>Advertising NIDP Grant closing second round</td>
<td>8,065.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Starcom Worldwide Aust P/L</td>
<td>Advertising NIDP Scholarships</td>
<td>4,224.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Starcom Worldwide Aust P/L</td>
<td>Advertising NIDP Scholarships</td>
<td>6,481.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Walsh Media Service</td>
<td>Promoting NIDP</td>
<td>2,139.50</td>
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<td><strong>Total - Output 4</strong></td>
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<td><strong>157,611.76</strong></td>
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# Output 5
## Market Access and Biosecurity

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Organisation</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Expenditure ($)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conference Solutions</td>
<td>FRESH 2001 Exhibition</td>
<td>2,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Promotions</td>
<td>Public Relations and Marketing - Stationery</td>
<td>1,885.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Starcom Worldwide (Australia) Pty Ltd</td>
<td>Bait and Berley Tender Advertising</td>
<td>1,513.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoo Design</td>
<td>Bee Posters</td>
<td>3,959.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Starcom Worldwide (Australia) Pty Ltd</td>
<td>Nairn - Advertising Stakeholder Register</td>
<td>1,648.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Starcom Worldwide (Australia) Pty Ltd</td>
<td>Stakeholder Advertising</td>
<td>2,732.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total - Output 5</strong></td>
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<td><strong>14,237.00</strong></td>
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# Output 6
## Product Integrity, Animal and Plant Health

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Organisation</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Expenditure ($)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Copy Trends</td>
<td>Animal Disease Display Promo</td>
<td>1,632.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>StarCom Worldwide (Australia) Pty Ltd</td>
<td>Advertisment placed in Aust Financial Review and the Weekend Australian for Appointment of Directors to the National Registration Authority (NRA) Board</td>
<td>8,711.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vertical Markets</td>
<td>Veterinarian Advertising</td>
<td>1,760.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total - Output 6</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>12,103.62</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Output 7
### Quarantine and Export Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organisation</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Expenditure ($)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aust. Institute of Food Science &amp; Tech</td>
<td>Recruitment</td>
<td>1,640.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue Moon Research and Planning Pty Ltd*</td>
<td>Provision of qualitative research services to the Quarantine Matters Campaign</td>
<td>15,037.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue Moon Research</td>
<td>Quarantine Awareness</td>
<td>1,870.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carma International</td>
<td>Media Analysis</td>
<td>15,166.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSIRO</td>
<td>Science Program</td>
<td>12,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grey Advertising Canberra Pty Ltd*</td>
<td>Provision of creative advertising and design services to the Quarantine Matters Campaign</td>
<td>197,827.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grey Advertising Canberra Pty Ltd</td>
<td>Quarantine Awareness</td>
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<td>Media Monitors P/L</td>
<td>Media Analysis</td>
<td>15,950.00</td>
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<td>Mitchell &amp; Partners Australia P/L</td>
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<td>Open Mind Research Group Pty Ltd*</td>
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<td>Reflections Media Publications</td>
<td>Quarantine Awareness</td>
<td>11,920.00</td>
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<td>StarCom Worldwide (Australia) Pty Ltd</td>
<td>Quarantine Awareness</td>
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<td>TMP Worldwide Resourcing</td>
<td>Recruitment</td>
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<td><strong>Total - Output 7</strong></td>
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<td><strong>2,048,298.48</strong></td>
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### Output 8
**Scientific Advice**

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<th>Organisation</th>
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<th>Expenditure ($)</th>
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<td>Starcom Worldwide (Australia) Pty Ltd</td>
<td>2002 AFFA Science and Innovation Awards</td>
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<td><strong>Total - Output 8</strong></td>
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### Output 9
**Economic Research**

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<th>Organisation</th>
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<td>ADS Advertising Distribution Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Executive media</td>
<td>Advertising research publications and editorial</td>
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<td>Salmat Fulfilment services</td>
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<td>Stourgate</td>
<td>Advertising research publications and editorial</td>
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<td>Yellow Pages</td>
<td>General advertising</td>
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<td><strong>Total - Output 9</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>411,760.00</strong></td>
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* Expenditure for these clients also includes direct mail services for ABARE’s publications and data

**AFFA - Total Paid 2001-2002** 3,365,530.65
APPENDIX 5
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

This statement is published to meet the requirements of Section 8 of the Freedom of Information Act 1982 (FOI Act).

Agencies within the Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry portfolio that publish their own annual reports are not included in this statement. Each body is a forum for consultation on, and participation in, Government and Departmental policy formulation and decision-making.

Section 8 of the FOI Act requires departments and statutory authorities to make available information about their functions, organisation and operations. The information for the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry – Australia (AFFA) is contained in the body of this Annual Report. Separate information about the powers of the Minister and the Divisions are at the back of this appendix.

Under the FOI Act, AFFA is required to provide information on arrangements for individuals or bodies to participate, either through consultative procedures, the making of representations or otherwise, in the formulation of Departmental policy or in the administration of its programs. This statement satisfies these requirements.

Applications for information under the FOI Act should be directed to:

The Secretary
Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry - Australia
Edmund Barton Building
BARTON ACT 2600
Attention: Freedom of Information Coordinator

Telephone: 02 6271 6323
Facsimile: 02 6271 6680

Applicants are encouraged to contact the Freedom of Information Coordinator with any questions related to applications under the FOI Act.
The Coordinator can assist in identifying the particular documents sought, provide advice on the obligations of applicants and AFFA, and answer any questions related to the handling of requests.

AFFA has a wide variety of materials, which are available to the public. Many of these documents are available online or in hard copy. There may be a charge for some publications/audiovisual material. To obtain more information about AFFA publications:

- visit www.affashop.gov.au or
- visit www.affa.gov.au/publications or
- phone the AFFA Information Officer on 02-6272 5120.

The following is a summary of the types of material available from AFFA, by subject. Materials comprise of: articles; books; CDs; conference and proceedings papers; corporate documents; data and statistics; discussion papers; educational and awareness kits; fact sheets; holding orders; guidelines; journals; labelling requirements; lists (i.e. chemical compounds); newsletters; pamphlets; posters; program information kits; occasional papers; registers (export, import, restriction, etc); reports; research papers; resource kits; social atlases; standards listings; surveys; and, training manuals and videos.

**Publication Subject Areas**

- ABARE – Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics – various items on a variety of economic issues relating to the agricultural, environmental, natural resources, mining, energy, fisheries and forestry industries
- About AFFA – the functioning of AFFA
- Agribusiness
- Agricultural industries
- Agricultural pests/feral animals
- Agriculture – Advancing Australia (AAA)
- Agriculture and food sciences
- Animal and plant health
- Animal products
- Animal welfare
Appendices

- Aquaculture
- Aquatic animal disease information
- Australian National Residue Survey
- Australian Plague Locust Commission
- AQIS – Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service – various items relating to quarantine issues of the agricultural, environmental, natural resources, fisheries, forestry and food sectors
- Australian Water Resources Council and its Standing Committee
- Biosecurity Australia
- Biotechnology
- BRS – Bureau of Rural Sciences - various items on a variety of scientific, environmental and social issues relating to the agricultural, environmental, natural resources, fisheries, forestry and food sectors
- Centenary of Federation
- Chemicals management, use and approval (agvet)
- Chief Veterinary Officer issues
- Climate
- Commodities - including statistics
- Cotton
- Crops
- Dairy industry
- Data
- Economics – agriculture and trade, commodity analysis, energy and minerals, natural resources, research
- Effluent management
- Employment opportunities
- Energy data
- Exports
- Export registration – fish, dairy, eggs, fruit and vegetables, grain, meat - seasonal
- Farm business and education
- Farm Help
- Farm surveys
Appendices

- Field crops
- Fisheries - including national taskforce on imported fish and fish products, statistics and surveys
- Fisheries surveys report
- Food - including safety, packaging, standards, shipping, quality assurance and inspection operations
- Forest - including forest products, forestry and vegetation sciences
- Gene technology and genetically modified organisms
- Graduate recruitment
- Grains
- Grants
- Greenhouse research, information and technology
- Horticulture
- Indigenous people in rural industries
- Innovation
- International agriculture
- Invasive disease taskforce issues
- Land and water
- Landcare and regional issues
- Landscape management sciences
- Levies
- Marine sciences
- Market maintenance
- Meat hygiene
- Minerals and energy issues
- National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Management
- National food policy
- National residue survey
- Natural Heritage Trust
- Natural resource management issues and strategies
- National Rural Advisory Council
- New Industries Development Program
Appendices

- Outlook conference
- Pests and diseases
- Plague locusts
- Plant Breeder’s Rights
- Plants and weeds
- Park
- Product integrity
- Programs
- Quarantine - including general, border protection, cargo management and Northern Australian
- Recreational fishing
- Regional Forest Agreements
- Research and development - corporations
- Rural and remote area resources and classifications
- Rural Data Library and Information Sciences
- Rural Industry Leadership
- Rural policy
- Salinity - including risk management sciences
- Science and innovation awards
- Smallgoods manufacturing
- Social sciences
- Statutory Marketing Authorities
- Supply chain
- Trade policy
- Water - including Murray Darling Basin, quality management, sciences
- Weeds of national significance and other issues
- Wine and viticulture
- Women in rural industries
- Wool
- Young people in rural industries
**Briefs, Submissions and Reports**

Copies of briefing papers, reports and submissions prepared by officers of AFFA are held within relevant groups. These include papers prepared for ministers, committees, corporations, conferences and intra-Departmental use.

**Files**

AFFA maintains files of both a general (administrative) and a specific (AFFA functions) nature. These files contain administrative and working documents such as papers, correspondence, briefings, submissions and reports produced in the performance of Departmental functions. In addition, certain files contain records of a more specific nature including maps, automatic data processing, parliamentary questions and personnel and finance arrangements for the Businesses.

Businesses are accountable for creating and maintaining records as evidence of Business activities and transactions. These records are registered on a centralised Records Management System maintained by the Information Services Centre but accessible by all AFFA officers for enquiry only.


**Finance Documentation**

Documents on the administration, staffing and financial estimates of AFFA are held in relevant areas of AFFA. These include reports, plans and papers relating to management and functional planning, review and evaluation.

**Mailing Lists**

Mailing lists for the dissemination of information to the public are held within Businesses.

**Manuals**

Manuals relating to the following subjects are produced by AFFA:
- Assessment and publication of situation and outlook reports for the rural sectors
- Cargo containers – quarantine aspects and procedures*
- Crops research and technical studies of horticultural industries
Appendices

- Export control standards and procedures for food commodities
- Guidelines for the approval of chemical compounds used at establishments registered to prepare goods prescribed for the purpose of the Export Control Act 1982*
- Greenhouse Challenge workbooks
- Legislation, ministerial and parliamentary procedures
- Manual for control of Listeria in registered establishments processing fish for export
- Manuals relating to the export of food commodities *
- Personnel and recruitment procedures
- Plans covering emergency procedures in the event of an exotic disease outbreak in the livestock and pastoral industries (currently, AUSVETPLAN contains 46 separate manuals)
- Plans covering emergency procedures in the event of an exotic or emergency disease outbreak in the aquatic animal industries (currently, AQUAVETPLAN contains two published manuals, and four manuals are at various stages of preparation)
- Quarantine procedural manuals
- Quarantine import conditions manuals
- Scientific and technical innovations
- Technical studies of the livestock industries
- The Import Risk Analysis Process Handbook*

* Publications are available through AFFA’s website at the following address: www.affa.gov.au/publications

Databases

AFFA maintains a range of databases containing information associated with the conduct of its functions. These include:

- AQIS Public Relations Database Information;
- NAQS News and AQIS Bulletin Mailing List;
- AQIS Media Release Database;
- AQIS Brochure Distribution Database;
• Biosecurity Australia Stakeholder Register;
• ABARE Farm surveys database;
• ABARE Fuel and Electricity survey database; and
• ABARE Fish survey database.

Agreements
In performing the functions of AFFA, a range of agreements are entered into with both State/Territory, national and international bodies. The most important of these agreements are:

• the agreements between Australia and the United Kingdom, United States, Japan and Italy concerning cooperation in research and development;
• the Australia-Indonesian Ministerial Forum Working Group on Agricultural and Food Co-operation;
• agreements for the acceptance of overseas government food inspection certifications and a variety of agreements with the States and Territories on a range of portfolio matters;
• agricultural cooperation agreements with China and Thailand;
• protection of new plant varieties in accordance with the Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants Convention;
• AFFA enters into commercial agreements and contracts relating to the supply of goods and services to AFFA and the payment of program funds available to AFFA;
• Murray-Darling Basin Agreement between the Commonwealth, Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia;
• in accordance with Section 19(2) of the Natural Heritage Trust of Australia Act 1997, the Commonwealth has entered into Partnership Agreements with each State and Territory, to facilitate the delivery of programs funded from the Trust. These agreements were concluded during the first half of 1997-98; the then Minister for Primary Industries and Energy was among the Commonwealth signatories;
• Memorandum of Understanding between the Independent State of Papua New Guinea and the Government of Australia on Collaborative Animal and Plant Health and Quarantine Activities;
• Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of Indonesia and the Government of Australia on Collaborative Animal and Plant Health and Quarantine Activities; and

• Regional Forest Agreements (RFAs) are 20-year agreements between the Commonwealth and State governments for the conservation and ecologically sustainable management of Australia’s native forests. Copies of RFAs are available for Tasmania, South-West Western Australia, Eden New South Wales, Southern New South Wales, Upper and Lower North East NSW, Central Highlands Victoria, Gippsland Victoria, East Gippsland Victoria, North East Victoria and West Victoria.

Registers

The Plant Breeder’s Rights Office maintains a register of plant varieties protected by plant breeder’s rights. AQIS maintains information on the registration of export establishments.

Arrangements for Outside Participation

Formal and ad hoc arrangements exist for individuals and bodies to participate in the policy formulation and administration of AFFA. These arrangements take a variety of forms including representation on committees, working parties and advisory bodies, attendance at industry meetings and calls for submissions from industry and other stakeholders to AFFA.

In addition, participation can be undertaken by writing, including suggestions, complaints and comments, to the Secretary of AFFA, to the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry in relation to general portfolio issues, livestock, crops, forests issues, animal health, plant health, product integrity, quarantine and inspection, agricultural economics or rural science functions and natural resource issues, or the Minister for Forestry and Conservation for forests and natural resource issues.

Where specific statutory arrangements are required for consultation with individuals or bodies outside AFFA, a description of these arrangements is included in the entries below.

General and media inquiries relating to Departmental activities and responsibilities should be directed to AFFA’s Information Officer, telephone 02 6272 5120.
Powers of the Minister and the Businesses

Material relating to the functions of the Businesses can be found in the body of this Report. Below are the powers exercised by the Minister and by officers within the Department with delegated powers.

Natural Resource Management

The Minister has the power:

• to make decisions relating to the expenditure of funds under the *Natural Resource Management (Financial Assistance) Act 1992*;

• as a member of the Natural Heritage Trust Ministerial Board to take decisions on matters relating to the Trust Reserve, including the expending of money and the preparation of estimates;

• to take decisions on matters relating to the National Action Plan jointly with the Minister for the Environment and Heritage, including the accreditation of regional plans and expending of money;

• to make appointments to certain positions in the Murray-Darling Basin Commission, the Land and Water Resources Research and Development Corporation (LWRRDC) and the Australian Landcare Council; and

• as Chair of the Murray-Darling Ministerial Council, the Minister has a significant role in the management of the natural resources of the Basin.

Powers of the Minister under the *Primary Industries and Energy Research and Development Act 1989* include powers to:

• appoint the Chairperson and other members of the LWRRDC and its selection committee;

• approve the LWRRDC five year research and development and annual operational plans or variations of the plans;

• agree to the tabling of the LWRRDC annual report in Parliament; and

• issue directions to the LWRRDC in certain circumstances.
Innovation and Operating Environment

The Minister has the power under the *Primary Industries and Energy Research and Development Act 1989* to:

- appoint the Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and other members of the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC) and the RIRDC Selection Committee;
- approve RIRDC’s five year research and development plan and annual operating plan or approval to a request for variation to the plans and agree to the tabling of RIRDC’s annual report in Parliament;
- issue directions to the RIRDC in certain circumstances; and
- make declaration or approve arrangements relating to levies.

The Minister has the power to:

- appoint members to the Rural Innovation Advisory Council;
- approve the guidelines for the Farm Innovation Program; and
- approve the grants under the Farm Innovation Program.

Industry Development

Rural Support and Adjustment

The Minister has the power to:

- appoint members to the National Rural Advisory Council;
- approve grants under the various programs;
- make decisions relating to war service leases; and
- determine levels of financial assistance to the States and the Northern Territory under *the Rural Adjustment Act 1992*.

Agricultural Industries

The Minister has the power to:

- appoint, and terminate the appointment of the Chairperson and other members of statutory marketing and other authorities, Research and Development Corporations and Councils, industry councils and selection committees;
• approve corporate and annual operational plans of statutory bodies and annual reports for tabling in Parliament;
• review decisions and issue directions to request reports from and make declarations to statutory bodies in certain circumstances;
• approve specified contracts, arrangements, guidelines, borrowings and financial transactions of statutory bodies;
• make declarations or approve arrangements relating to certain levies;
• enter into arrangements with a State or Territory for transfer of funds with a view to the control and eradication in Australia of exotic diseases affecting livestock;
• issue directions to statutory bodies in certain circumstances;
• taking account of advice from affected industry sectors, make recommendations for regulations relating to the imposition of certain levies and determine the gross value of production for the purposes of establishing the limit of Commonwealth matching payments for research and establishing the limits of levies and charges payable;
• appoint persons as authorised persons for various purposes specified in legislation; and
• make declarations or impose conditions on plant varieties or taxa covered by the Plant Breeder’s Rights scheme.

Specific officers in the Business have powers to approve the importation of certain types of wool packs and the authority to approve exports of merino rams and merino semen for breeding purposes. Arrangements relating to certain levies and taxes including increases in the operative and maximum rates may only be made at the request of, or after consultation with, specified industry bodies. Regular consultation takes place with a wide range of industry bodies. Specific officers also grant intellectual property rights to certain new plant varieties under the Plant Breeder’s Rights Act 1994.

**Fisheries and Forestry Industries**

The Minister has the power to:

• appoint the Chairman and Board members of the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA), the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC), and the principal member of the Statutory Fishing Rights Allocation Review Panel;
Appendices

• approve the corporate and annual operating plans for tabling of the AFMA and FRDC or request a variation to such plans. The Minister also has power to accept a plan of management for a fishery submitted by AFMA, or refer the plan back to AFMA, issue directions to AFMA and FRDC in certain circumstances;

• approve AFMA entering into agreements to grant licences to permit foreign fishing boats to fish in areas of the Australian Fishing Zone, authorise the prosecution of operators of foreign treaty boats and determines the annual gross value of production of the Australian fishing industry for the purposes of funding the FRDC and the Fisheries Resources Research Fund (FRRF);

• make decisions relating to the expenditure of funds pursuant to the National Forest Policy Statement, the Eden Region Adjustment Package, and the Forest Industry Structural Adjustment Package;

• issue and withdraw export approvals of woodchips and unprocessed wood;

• appoint the Chairman and other members of the Forest and Wood Products Research and Development Corporation (FWPRDC) and the selection committee;

• approve corporate and annual operating plans of FWPRDC and annual reports for tabling in Parliament; and

• taking account of advice from affected industry sectors, make regulations relating to the imposition of certain levies and determine the gross value of production for the purposes of establishing the limit of Commonwealth matching payments for research and establishing the limits of levies and charges payable.

Food
The Minister has the power to:

• appoint the Chairman and other members of the New Industries Development Program (NIDP);

• make final funding decisions relating to the NIDP or delegate to the authorised officer of the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry – Australia;

• make recommendations to the Prime Minister on appointments to the National Food Industry Council; and

• approve the strategic plans of Agri Chain Solutions Ltd for the Food and Fibre Chains Program.
Product Integrity, Animal and Plant Health

The Minister has the power to:

- enter into arrangements with the States or Territories to contribute funds with a view to the control and eradication in Australia of exotic disease affecting livestock, plant pests, diseases and weeds. The Australian Plague Locust Commission became operational in 1976 and officials have the same powers as State Department of Agriculture officials within the States of New South Wales, South Australia, Victoria and Queensland under the relevant State legislation to carry out surveys and control plague locusts, where locust populations may pose an interstate hazard;

- appoint the Chairman and members of the Board of the National Registration Authority for Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (NRA);

- approve the terms and conditions including remuneration of certain senior officers of the NRA, under certain circumstances;

- approve corporate and/or operational plans of the NRA;

- make recommendations for regulations relating to the imposition of certain levies; and

- issue permits for certain chemicals under the Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations.

Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS)

The Minister and AQIS officers have broad powers granted under the Quarantine Act 1908, the Export Control Act 1982, and the Imported Food Control Act 1992 to:

- make Orders specifying imported foods considered risk categorised foods, to control procedures relating to imported food and the treatment of failing food, and to administer the certification and quality assurance arrangements in lieu of inspection;

- examine, exclude, detain, observe, segregate, isolate, protect, treat and regulate vessels, installations, human beings, animals, plants or other goods or things having as their object the prevention or control of the introduction, establishment or spread of diseases or pests that will or could cause significant damage to human beings, animals, plants, other aspects of the environment or economic activities;

- issue permits enabling the importation of goods, animals or plants into Australia, and investigate alleged breaches of the legislation;
• grant registration to establishments producing agricultural and food products for export, issue export permits and health certificates for such goods, and inspect goods to determine compliance with permits; and
• impose charges for services associated with above functions.

**Bureau of Rural Sciences (BRS)**

BRS, in association with the Agricultural Industries Business Group, administers the *Biological Control Act 1984*. The Minister has delegated powers to consider submissions from the public regarding proposed target and agent organisms to the Executive Director, BRS.

**Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics (ABARE)**

ABARE does not participate in the exercise of delegated powers under any portfolio legislation.

**Management Services**

The Minister has the power to:

• remit penalties applied for late payment of statutory levies and charges.
Throughout the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry – Australia (AFFA), policy development and implementation is conducted in accordance with Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) principles. It would be fair to say that the majority of AFFA’s programs have environmental outputs and a number of specific initiatives are directly targeted at the conservation of biodiversity, the maintenance of ecological integrity or intergenerational equity on a national scale.

Work on salinity and water research over 2001-02 contributed to ESD by improving Australia’s understanding of the scientific, social and economic issues surrounding water, salinity and vegetation management. Through an education process, governments and communities are learning and beginning to implement measures to slow down salinisation and check and reverse related land degradation.

Scientific, social and economic research projects made inroads into the management of rivers, the maintenance of environmental flows and the fair allocation of water rights. During 2001-02, AFFA played a major role in the Commonwealth funded on-ground activities in the Great Artesian Basin and Murray-Darling Basin which will bring about more sustainable natural resource management outcomes.

Over 2001-02, Natural Heritage Trust funding distributed by AFFA continued to conserve, repair and replenish Australia’s natural capital infrastructure.

Economic, scientific and social analysis and modelling throughout 2001-02 has led to an improved understanding of climate change, placing the government in a better position to plan for the future on these issues.

Pertinent fisheries and aquaculture activities included:

• the development of the South-east Regional Marine Planning process;
• the National Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks and the development of a Bycatch Action Plan for all major Commonwealth fisheries;
Appendices

- input into the draft strategic assessments for the Heard Island and McDonald Islands (HIMI) and the Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop fisheries;
- fish habitat restoration and protection through the Fisheries Action Program; and
- making a strong contribution towards the rebuilding of Australia’s fisheries through public education.

In agriculture, the AAA–FarmBis program has provided assistance to over 1,600 primary producers and land managers to undertake training activities relating to natural resource management during 2001-02.

In forestry the Department played a key role in the enactment of the *Regional Forest Agreements Act 2002* which underpins the national approach to the ecologically sustainable management of native forests. Other activities included:
- key roles in the measurement and reporting of forest management sustainability against international (Montreal) criteria;
- the Private Forestry Consultative Committee;
- the review of Plantations for Australia: the 2020 Vision partnership; and
- Regional Plantation Committees, all of which encourage the optimisation of environmental and agronomic benefits from commercial plantations and other commercial tree plantings.

The New Industries Development Program (NIDP) identified positive environmental outcomes in over 25 per cent of the projects supported in 2001-02. These benefits have been identified through reduced waste, the use of waste and previously discarded by-products, and reduced pressure on the environment.

In the area of product integrity, in separate research programs considerable progress was made in the assessment of the environmental impact of control operations on vertebrates, invertebrates and aquatic fauna. The area also has primary responsibility for agricultural and veterinary chemicals policy and plays a major role in representing Australia in international conventions on hazardous chemical use, management and education.

Meetings between Biosecurity Australia and Environment Australia (EA) have made substantial progress toward a Memorandum of Understanding on consideration of environment issues in import risk analyses.
Through inspection, regulation and education, the operations and activities of the AQIS accord with the principles of ESD in particular with the view to ensuring that the health, diversity and productivity of the Australian environment is maintained or enhanced for the benefit of future generations. This actively contributes to the conservation of Australia’s biological diversity and environmental integrity.

AFFA is actively involved in improving the management of the natural resource base and the general environment through its portfolio industries. It seeks measures that minimise negative environmental impacts while providing positive social and economic impacts. Scientific advice provides an important basis for identifying these measures. BRS provided scientific advice into the development of the Australian Forestry Standard, Greenchooser (Seafood) Environmental Management System (EMS) and the National Framework for EMS in Australian Agriculture.

BRS provides specific assessments of the performance of AFFA’s portfolio industries. These include assessments of Commonwealth fisheries and the monitoring of Regional Forest Agreements. BRS also contributes to the development nationally of review and evaluation techniques for forests, fisheries, marine ecosystems, agriculture and land and water. This work includes the development of a National Natural Resource Management Monitoring and Evaluation Framework under the auspices of the Natural Resources Management Ministerial Council.

The provision of advice, assessments, various evaluation and decision-making tools provided by BRS and assisted by a number of other Business Groups within AFFA, enhances the ability of Government, AFFA and industry to act according to the principles of ecologically sustainable development.

Areas where the activities of BRS are most relevant to ESD include:

• supporting the Salinity and Water Quality National Action Plan assessments;
• National ESD Reporting Framework for Australian Fisheries;
• the Regional Marine Planning Project;
• Montreal process reporting;
• Exceptional Circumstances modelling;
• food safety risk assessments;
• a wide range of studies/initiatives in fisheries, forestry and agriculture which provide information for AFFA and other government departments to act in a precautionary manner;
• the development of Regional Forest Agreements,
• the Regional Marine Planning Project;
• the Western New South Wales social science project;
• Fishery Status reports;
• National Vegetation Information System;
• fisheries bycatch and Environmental assessment projects;
• pest and weed research;
• Genetically Modified Organisms research;
• Climate Change, Greenhouse Gas and Agro-forestry projects;
• eco-labelling, supply chain and EMS research; and
• social science structural adjustment project.

AFFA-administered legislation influencing ESD
• Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Administration Act 1992
• Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Code Act 1994
• Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources
• Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)
• Fisheries Management Act 1991
• Fisheries Administration Act 1991
• Natural Resource Management (Financial Assistance) Act 1992
• Natural Heritage Trust of Australia Act 1997
• Regional Forest Agreements Act 2002
• Quarantine Act 1908
  - Quarantine Proclamation 1998
  - Quarantine (Cocos Islands) Regulations
  - Quarantine Regulations 2000
- Instrument declaring a Special Quarantine Zone under section 5A of Quarantine Act 1908
- Quarantine Service Fees Determinations 2001 (No 1 of 2001)

• **Export Control Act 1982**
  - Export Control (Orders) Regulations 1982
  - Export Control (Processed Food) Orders
  - Export Control (Processed Fruits and Vegetables) Orders
  - Grain, Plants and Plant Product Orders
  - Export Control (Organic Produce Certification) Orders
  - Export Control (Fees) Orders 2001
  - Export Control (Mung Beans) Orders
  - Export Control (Animal) Orders
  - Prescribed Goods (General) Orders 1985
  - Export Meat Orders 1985
  - Game Poultry and Rabbit Meat Orders
  - Export Control (Unprocessed Wood) Regulations

• **Export Inspection and Meat Charges Collection Act 1985**
  - Export Inspection and Meat Charges Collection Regulations 1985

• **Export Inspection (Establishment Registration Charges) Act 1985**
  - Export Inspection and Meat (Establishment Registration Charges) Regulations 1985

• **Export Inspection (Quantity Charge) Act 1985**
  - Export Inspection (Quantity Charge) Regulations 1985

• **Export Inspection (Service Charge) Act 1985**
  - Export Inspection (Service Charge) Regulations

• **Meat Export Charge Act 1984**
  - Meat Export Charge Regulations

• **Meat Export Charge Collection Act 1984**
  - Meat Export Charge Collection Regulations
• *Meat Inspection Act 1983*
  - Meat Inspection (Modification) Regulations
  - Meat Inspection (Orders) Regulations
• *Meat Inspection Arrangements Act 1964*
• *Australian Meat and Live-stock Industry Act 1997*
• *Imported Food Control Act 1992*
  - Imported Food Control Regulations 1993
  - Imported Food Control Order 2001
• *Ballast Water Research and Development Funding Levy Act 1998*
• *Ballast Water Research and Development Funding Levy Collection Act 1998*
  - Ballast Water Research and Development Funding Levy Collection Regulations 1998
The *Natural Resource Management (Financial Assistance) Act 1992* facilitates the development and implementation of an integrated approach to natural resource management in Australia. Under Section 26 (1) of the Act, a report must be prepared each year on the operation of the Act and agreements made under it.

Section 5 of the Act provides for the Commonwealth and States to agree on financial assistance for natural resource management projects. Framework agreements with the States and Territories have been in effect since 1 July 1993.

The National Landcare Program was established in 1992 to efficiently, sustainably and equitably manage Australia’s natural resources under the Act. After the Natural Heritage Trust was established in 1997, major natural resource management programs, including the National Landcare Program were managed through the Trust One Stop Shop or similar arrangements. At the same time, States and Territories negotiated partnership agreements to cover Trust programs.

Payments (in dollars) to the States and Territories under the Act in 2001-02 were:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>States and Territories</th>
<th>Payment ($)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australian Capital Territory</td>
<td>228,317</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New South Wales</td>
<td>8,627,198</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Territory</td>
<td>1,548,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queensland</td>
<td>6,221,416</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Australia</td>
<td>6,676,626</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tasmania</td>
<td>1,968,634</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victoria</td>
<td>9,786,414</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Australia</td>
<td>7,324,491</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>42,381,846</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In addition, under Section 6 of the Act, other agreements were approved. During 2001-02 a total of $1.92 million was expended on these agreements. Significant projects included support for Landcare Australia Limited and the National Landcare Facilitator. The Natural Resources Management Fund also contributed $0.39 million to meet expenses associated with the Australian Landcare Council and in administering the Act, including project assessment, communications projects, project monitoring and evaluation and sponsorship.
APPENDIX 8
COMMONWEALTH DISABILITY STRATEGY

In 2001-02 the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry – Australia (AFFA) Businesses identified the Commonwealth Disability Strategy (CDS) roles that were appropriate to their function as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Roles</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Policy Adviser Regulator Purchaser Provider Employer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industry Development and Adjustment</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Market Access and Biosecurity</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Resource Access and Management</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Processing and Through Chain Development</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research and Development Facilitation, Innovation</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural Industries Inputs, Services and Operating Environment</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Product Integrity, Animal (including Aquatic Animal and Plant Health)</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quarantine and Export Services</td>
<td>✓ ✓ ✓ ✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scientific Advice</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic Research</td>
<td>✓ ✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management Services</td>
<td>✓ ✓ ✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The majority of AFFA's business relates to the Policy Adviser role, with the Quarantine and Export Services, Scientific Advice and Economic Research Outputs providing services under the Regulator, Purchaser and Provider roles.

Indicator 1: Appropriate consultation with colleagues and stakeholders has taken place in respect to disability issues

AFFA's operational requirements and service delivery obligations are a major consideration when establishing arrangements for colleagues and stakeholders. Recognition is given to the importance of the personal needs and requirements.

AFFA has become a member of the newly formed Australian Public Service (APS) Disability Network organised by the APS Commission. This network allows AFFA to be kept informed of the issues affecting people with disabilities across the APS and action where appropriate any concerns relevant to the Department's business.

Indicator 2: Impact of proposals on individuals with disabilities has been assessed

AFFA recognises that its many programs, services and facilities have an impact on the lives of people with disabilities.

AFFA and the Australian Public Service Commission jointly celebrated the International Day of People with a Disability in December 2001 with a ‘Celebrating Ability’ function featuring several well known people with disabilities. This event highlighted the issues people with disabilities face and the need for AFFA to ensure that its programs and services are not discriminatory.

AFFA's Annual Client Satisfaction Survey, the Client Service Charter and toll-free customer service line are avenues where stakeholders can provide feedback on programs, services and facilities delivered by AFFA.

AFFA's Rehabilitation Policy, plays a pro-active role in return to work procedures for temporarily and permanently disabled staff. Individual assessments are conducted to match the employee's skills and the types of work they are able to perform.
**Indicator 3: Information is accessible to all individuals with disabilities**

All Businesses are aware of the need to present information in accessible formats. Individuals can request to access publications in their preferred medium. For example, recruitment information for potential job applicants and quarantine information brochures are available in accessible formats on request. A new initiative in AFFA is the adoption of a telephone typewriter service for clients with a hearing or speech impairment.

AFFA is committed to the Government Online Strategy, which requires AFFA’s Internet site to meet accessibility standards for people with disabilities. AFFA conducts regular reviews of its services to ensure the information displayed meets the standards.

In holding events, such as conferences, meetings or launches, AFFA ensures that the venues are selected with a view to appropriate access for people with physical disabilities. AFFA provides information on the intranet on the location, style and capacity of venues for those interested parties.

AFFA undertakes regular surveys of stakeholders to facilitate comments on issues such as communication and accessibility. Feedback to date has been positive.

From a staff perspective, AFFA encourages all individuals to self identify any disabilities that they may have, so that the Department can provide the necessary equipment/services to assist them. All staff are asked to inform the training administrator if they require special equipment or support to attend training. As a general rule, training and development programs include information on disability issues where appropriate to allow staff to: understand the importance of recognising barriers to access; develop appropriate means of ensuring non-discriminatory access to services; and to communicate in an equitable and respectful way.

As part of the celebration of International Day of People with a Disability, an Access Assessment was conducted. The recommendations will formulate the basis of AFFA’s Disability Action Plan.

**Indicator 4: Compliance with all relevant legislation**

Throughout the year all Outputs reported ongoing compliance with relevant legislation in the development of programs and policies. AFFA’s employment policies, procedures and practices comply with the requirements of the
Disability Discrimination Act 1992. In addition, employees employed under the AFFA Certified Agreement are also subject to the following Acts:

- Racial Discrimination Act 1975;
- Sex Discrimination Act 1984;
- Disability Discrimination Act 1992;
- Workplace Relations Act 1996; and
- Public Service Act 1999.

Indicator 5: Appropriate review mechanisms in place

AFFA has several complaints/grievance mechanisms in place to address any concerns raised about the conduct of the Department. Staff concerns are addressed through the procedures for resolving workplace issues outlined in the AFFA Certified Agreement. The Department has a number of trained Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S), harassment and first aid officers, who are available to assist staff with concerns. If staff are dissatisfied with the action undertaken by the Department, or the complaint fails to be resolved, the formal complaint resolution mechanisms under the Public Service Act 1999 remain available to staff.

Any complaints/grievances from external sources can be raised through the Annual Client Satisfaction Survey, the Client Service Charter or a toll-free customer service line. These mechanisms are reviewed annually and all results and suggestions are distributed across the Department for action where appropriate. Other complaints/grievances avenues also exist through anti-discrimination legislation.

OH&S has received a particular emphasis in AFFA, with the need to address the inherent risks associated with a diverse operating environment. AFFA’s efforts in this area was recognised externally in an award from the Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission for measures put in place to address potential anthrax threats.

AFFA’s Performance Management Framework has also been instrumental in improving staff awareness of disability issues and skill capabilities. Through a process of identifying and reviewing learning and speech disabilities in learning agreements, AFFA has been able to provide the appropriate development opportunities.
Overall, AFFA has consolidated the practices and procedures reported under the CDS last year.

AFFA’s future challenge is the development and implementation of a Disability Action Plan. Preliminary work has been undertaken on this Plan, which will be finalised in 2002-03.