

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates February 2015

Agriculture

Question: 118

Division/Agency: Trade and Market Access Division

Topic: Californian imports of kangaroo products

Proof Hansard page: Written

Senator RHIANNON asked:

Please provide specific details about Australian resources, personnel and government representations to the Californian legislature to renew the lifting of its ban on the import of kangaroo products.

Answer:

The Department of Agriculture works closely with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade on a day to day basis on a range of market access issues, including improving access to existing overseas markets for kangaroo products. The department is also working with the Department of Environment and with Australian Consulate in Los Angeles, which has been making and facilitating representations to the Californian legislature to permanently lift its ban on the importation and sale of kangaroo products.

The Australian Government, through the Department of Agriculture, has allocated A\$143 000 to the Kangaroo Industry Association of Australia, towards funding the Californian legal firm Manatt, Phelps and Phillips to provide resources, expertise and contacts in support of government action in California to lift this ban.

Recent government representations include those made by the previous Parliamentary Secretary for the Environment, Senator the Hon. Simon Birmingham who visited California in December 2014 and the Minister for Communications, the Hon. Malcolm Turnbull MP, who visited California in January 2015.