

**Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2015

**Agriculture**

**Question:** 104

**Division/Agency:** Exports Division

**Topic:** Contamination of kangaroo meat

**Proof Hansard page:** Written

**Senator RHIANNON asked:**

1. In February 2015 Estimates I asked for a list of which countries have raised concerns about the contamination of kangaroo meat since 2013, including the specific concerns raised by each country and the response to those concerns (Questions 59 and 63, Exports Division, Additional Estimates Feb 2015):
  - a. With regard to Q59: I was not provided the details requested. Please provide updated details including: Specific countries; specific contaminations including disease, bacteria and parasites; and details about the findings of each investigation.
  - b. With regard to Q63:
    - i. Please provide details about which “three different areas of the Department of Agriculture” provided officers to address the current Russian ban on imported kangaroo meat.
    - ii. Please advise specifically what their “actions” were to address the ban, and the outcomes of those actions.
    - iii. Please provide the details of the type and levels of bacterial contamination of kangaroo meat raised by the European Union, including which EU agency, which kangaroo product (ie meat or unidentified protein), and which country was involved in this issue.

**Answer:**

1. a. Since 2013, four incidents have been raised by the European Union and Russia:

Country	Concern	Findings of investigation
European Union (Netherlands)	Salmonella spp. In frozen kangaroo meat	The investigations found effective process controls and acceptable control of operational sanitation and hygiene practices are in place at the establishment.  One corrective action request was made (need for adequate recording of company corrective action) and this was addressed by the review and

		amendment of the relevant Standard Operating Procedures and Work Instructions.
European Union (Netherlands)	Shigatoxin-producing E.coli in chilled kangaroo meat	The investigations found effective process controls and acceptable control of operational sanitation and hygiene practices are in place at the establishment.  One corrective action request was made (need for adequate recording of company corrective action) and this was addressed by the review and amendment of the relevant Standard Operating Procedures and Work Instructions.
Russia	Excess total viable plate count (aerobic and anaerobic microorganisms) in kangaroo meat	Following investigation by the department, corrective actions including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the implementation of improved Standard Operating Procedures;</li> <li>• the development of enhanced Work Instructions;</li> <li>• the retraining of operators;</li> <li>• increased daily product quality assurance checks; and</li> <li>• increased frequency of microbiological sampling of kangaroo meat.</li> </ul>
Russia	E. coli in frozen kangaroo meat	Following investigation by the department, corrective actions were introduced, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• retraining of trimming staff and increased monitoring;</li> <li>• retraining of cleaners and pre-operational hygiene inspector.</li> <li>• retraining of staff in legging of carcasses, causes of cross-contamination and personal hygiene.</li> </ul>

In addition, the EU has issued Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF) advices for the following issues, but has not formally notified any concerns to the Department of Agriculture:

European Union (Netherlands)	Shigatoxin-producing E.coli in frozen kangaroo meat
European Union (Denmark)	Salmonella spp. in chilled kangaroo meat

**Question:** 104 (continued)

b.

- i. Areas of the Department of Agriculture that contributed to address the current Russian ban on imports of Kangaroo meat were: Exports Division – Export Standards Branch, Exports Division – Meat Exports Branch and Trade and Market Access Division.
- ii. Actions conducted by the three areas included conducting investigations, working with establishments to address any corrective action required, preparing investigation reports and letters to Russian authorities and facilitating delivery of letters/submissions, including through provision of translation services and meetings. These actions resulted in the presentation to Russia of evidence and assurances that the issues identified have been addressed.
- iii. Refer response to 1.a. above. These issues were raised by the competent authority of the country concerned and through the European Commission's Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF) system.