

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

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates February 2015

**Agriculture**

**Question:** 60

**Division/Agency:** Exports Division

**Topic:** Contamination of Kangaroo meat since 2013

**Proof Hansard page:** 78 (23.02.2015)

**Senator RHIANNON asked:**

**Senator RHIANNON:** Sorry; can I just clarify? I thought it was about the meat. There was contamination before it was exported from Australia. Are you saying that the contamination occurred in Russia?

**CHAIR:** No.

**Mr Read:** The issue in Russia, and again it is on notice, as I recall—and I may need to correct this—I think there was a micro-detection issue on the product. I think we have gone back to the plant because the obligations in terms of the product run right through to the point of harvest. We have looked at that full supply chain and identified areas where we can actually get improvements to lower some of those micro-levels that may well have been present. We will provide that information on notice.

**Senator RHIANNON:** So it was from Australia, and that is what you think. You will take it on notice to clarify what you have done to eliminate that problem?

**Mr Read:** Correct.

**Answer:**

The response to QoN58 details the corrective action implemented by Macro Meats in response to Russia's findings which included:

- the implementation of improved Standard Operating Procedures;
- the development of enhanced Work Instructions;
- the retraining of operators;
- increased daily product quality assurance checks; and
- increased frequency of microbiological sampling of kangaroo meat.

The department has verified that these actions are effective and sustainable.