

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry and Science Portfolio
Budget Estimates Hearing 2015-16
3 and 4 June 2015

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)

TOPIC: RV Investigator

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 3 June 2015, page 90)

QUESTION No.: BI-8

Senator WHISH-WILSON: On that point of administrators, how many requests have there been to make use of the *RV Investigator* and how many days do those requests amount to now? Can you give us a figure now or on notice of the booking schedule going forward, including those who have not been able to access the boat?

Dr Marshall: We have plenty of demand for the vessel, more than we can satisfy.

Senator WHISH-WILSON: I would just like to get ratios on that or some sort of matrix.

Dr Williams: It is four times oversubscribed. I will take it on notice to give you the exact figures but that is the magnitude of the oversubscription.

ANSWER

With the delayed arrival of the *RV Investigator* to Hobart in September 2014, all applications for sea time including multi-year applications originally received for 2014-15 and 2015-16 were reconsidered for scheduling over the last quarter of 2014-15 and the two years 2015-17.

The *RV Investigator* has 40 berths available for each voyage giving a maximum of 7,200 scientist days at sea based on 180 ship days at sea annually. A two stage process is used to allocate berths. The first is a call for applications to be the primary science driver for a voyage of any time period up to 60 days, and up to 40 berths per voyage. These are awarded via an external to CSIRO peer review process and drive the specific voyage. As not all applications require 40 berths, a supplementary call is made to fill the "spare" berths on each voyage. Opportunities to fill any remaining berths following this process will be investigated in the lead up to each voyage.

Against this background the applications received, granted, declined and scientist days at sea are:

2014-15, 2015-16 & 2016-17	Number of primary applications	Primary ship days at sea applied for	Scientist days at sea	
			Primary	Supplementary
Applications received for sea time on <i>Investigator</i>	52	2,031	58,889	5,555
Applications granted	15	449	13,353	1,103
Applications not granted	37	1,582	45,536	4,452

The MNF schedule is available at: <http://www.mnf.csiro.au/Voyages/Investigator-schedules.aspx>