

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry Portfolio
Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing 2014-15
23 October 2014

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: Commonwealth Scientific & Industrial Research Organisation

TOPIC: Future Research Vessel Project

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 23 October 2014, page 14-16)

QUESTION No.: SI-4

Senator KIM CARR: The Executive Director of the Future Research Vessel Project, Toni Moate, has said—and I quote from the ABC report:

We invested quite a bit of money to upgrade the wharf here in Hobart including additional power requirements onto the wharf.

How much will it cost for the vessel to use the diesel engines instead of onshore power?

Dr Johnson: I do not have that figure in front of me. I could take that on notice, if it is something that you would like more information on.

Senator KIM CARR: So what are the criteria for getting access to the boat?

Dr Johnson: I do not have that in front of me, but I could provide that quite easily. There is a clearly established set of guidelines and criteria that the MNF's committee has used for some time now to determine—

Senator KIM CARR: And it has not changed?

Dr Johnson: Not to my knowledge, no.

Senator KIM CARR: I look forward to having a look at that.

Dr Johnson: Sure.

ANSWER

The RV *Investigator's* shore power requirements vary with onboard activities. The average cost of generating power with an onboard diesel engine is currently estimated at \$3,500 per day. The onshore supply of power to the Marine National Facility vessel is drawn from the site electricity supply and is not metered independently of total site usage. It is not possible to provide an estimate of the normal cost of powering the vessel when in port. At the time of preparing the answer, resolution of the supply of power for the RV *Investigator* was underway but had not been finalised.

To be eligible to submit an application for sea time to the Marine National Facility, an applicant must be based in Australia and be employed by an Australian research organisation. Eligible applications for sea time are assessed against the following three criteria:

- The scientific and/or technical excellence of the project.
- The potential of the project to contribute to Australia's national benefit.
- The ability of applicants (demonstrated or potential, relative to opportunity) to successfully undertake the project.