

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee**

Additional Estimates, 11 February 2013

Answers to Questions on Notice

Climate Change and Energy Efficiency Portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	84
Program:	1.3		
Division:	ASCD		
Topic:	Filling the Research Gap		
Hansard Page EC:	EC68		

Senator SIEWERT: ... Are there any projects that you are undertaking that are different to the projects being funded under Filling the Research Gap, which I was talking to DAFF about this morning?

Ms Jensen: ... We tend to work quite closely with our colleagues at DAFF in terms of coordinating the programs that we have. I do not have the detail at my fingertips right now in terms of the specific research, but I would be happy to provide some of that to the committee.

Senator SIEWERT: ... I am particularly interested in the south-west of Western Australia. I am aware of the ongoing programs through the various CRCs, the various research corporations and Filling the Research Gap, so it is anything beyond that—Australia-wide but particularly for the south-west of WA—that I am interested in.

Ms Jensen: We are happy to take that on notice and look at some specific research.

Answer:

1. The Department has funded 144 research projects through the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility (NCCARF). Some of these projects considered the agricultural industry and adaptation of farming systems and inputs to climate change in the Australian context. These include:
 - Australian food security: Impact of climate change for risk management: how prepared are food industry leaders?;
 - Creating a climate for food security: The business, people and landscapes in food production;
 - Leading gifted horses to water: The economics of climate adaptation in government-sponsored irrigation in Victoria;
 - EverFarm® – Design of climate adapted perennial-based farming systems for dry land agriculture in southern Australia;
 - Will primary producers continue to adjust practices and technologies, change production systems or transform their industry – An application of real options;

- Adaptive capacity and adaptive strategies of broadacre farms experiencing climate change;
- Water trade, climate change and irrigator adaptability in the Murray-Darling Basin;
- Climate-resilient vegetation of multi-use landscapes: Exploiting genetic variability in widespread species; and
- Determining future invasive plant threats under climate change: An interactive decision tool for managers.

Some of these research outputs are already available on the NCCARF website (see www.nccarf.edu.au/research). As remaining projects are finalised over 2013, their final reports will also be made available.

2. Stream 2 of the Regional Natural Resource Management Planning for Climate Change Fund, part of the Government's Plan for a Clean Energy Future, is funding research teams across Australia to deliver regionally-relevant information on climate change tailored to the needs of natural resource management planners.

Project outputs will include up-to-date 'application ready' climate change projections suitable for incorporation into agricultural production models and expert assistance to help end users interpret and apply these projections to inform their decision-making.

There are 10 research projects involved in the delivery of Stream 2 – two will operate nationally, and the remaining eight will focus on groupings of the regional NRM organisations.

The project covering the south-west of Western Australia will review available climate change research and produce spatial data layers of climate change projections for biodiversity and agriculture. This will allow natural resource managers to identify priority areas for conservation, revegetation, pest and weed control, and agricultural activity.