

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio
Additional Estimates Hearing 2007-08
21 February 2008

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: INNOVATION, INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

TOPIC: CSIRO - Aqua-Ammonia Process

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard 21/2/08, Page E61)

QUESTION No. AI-10

Senator MILNE—What happened to the aqua-ammonia process?

Dr Ronalds—I do not know the detail of that. The post-combustion plants can use either an amine or an ammonia process, but I am not across the detail of our progress to date on particular processes.

Senator MILNE—On notice, how much has been spent on that process, where it is up to now, has it been abandoned or is work still going on on that particular part of it?

Dr Ronalds—Okay.

ANSWER

CSIRO's total expenditure on post combustion capture (PCC) in 2006-07 was \$1.4 million. Of this only a very small amount related solely to the chilled aqueous ammonia process, but CSIRO does not separately account for spending on the aqueous ammonia process within its research on CO₂ capture agents.

Through the Energy Transformed Flagship research program, the Asia Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate initiative (APP) program on PCC, and industry engagement, CSIRO is expanding its program in PCC considerably in 2007-08 and subsequent years. This includes laboratory research and pilot plant programs. (See also response to Question No AI-12). The vast majority of the expansion is a consequence of industry and APP support for the technology.

In laboratory and pilot plant projects, CSIRO is undertaking research in a range of potential CO₂ capture agents including amines (of which there are potentially thousands) and ammonia. CSIRO is also undertaking laboratory stage research on other "novel" capture agents.