

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio
Additional Estimates Hearing
26 February 2009

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION

TOPIC: Report for DEWHA

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard 26 February 2009, E126 – E127)

QUESTION No.: AI-74

Senator ABETZ—There has been a lot of public discussion in my home state about that. The Herzfeld report is out, but I understand other papers have been produced. Can you confirm to me whether CSIRO has produced other papers?

Dr Johnson—CSIRO has provided advice through the independent experts group. I am not aware of the totality of the other papers provided, but, again, if that was of interest to you we would be happy to provide it on notice.

Senator ABETZ—Yes, that would be very helpful. And any work that Dr Batley and—

Dr Johnson—Dr Westcott.

Senator ABETZ—yes—Dr Westcott have done? I understand there was an FOI request in relation to the Herzfeld report?

Dr Johnson—Correct.

Senator ABETZ—Could I be advised whether I can get a copy of any of the reports that the other—is it gentlemen?

Dr Johnson—Yes.

Senator ABETZ—gentlemen have done?

Dr Johnson—Just to be clear, the input that CSIRO has had in this process has been through the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts. In answering your request for information, I think it is best that you do it through that portfolio and not through CSIRO. We have delivered those reports to them and they are the client for the work.

Senator ABETZ—Dr Johnson, I am very disappointed because you have foiled me. I was hoping I could get that which I sought at Environment through you.

Dr Johnson—No.

Senator ABETZ—I am going to be foiled now here as well.

Dr Johnson—As I say, the—

Senator ABETZ—But as much information as you are at liberty to disclose to me I would appreciate. If officers of the department of environment read this section of the *Hansard*, I would like to know from it or from CSIRO whether we can get any other reports or documentation such as the Herzfeld report. I have a funny feeling that there might be other documents around. If need be, we will use FOI.

ANSWER

As the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts manages the independent expert group, this question should be directed to the Department. CSIRO has advised the Department that this question is likely to be referred to them.