

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Portfolio
Additional Estimates Hearing 2011-12
15 February 2012

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION

TOPIC: Global Warming

REFERENCE: Written Question –Senator Bernardi

QUESTION No.: AI-62

At what point in time did the CSIRO move from using the term ‘global warming’ to using ‘climate change’?

How was this decision made?

Why was this decision made?

ANSWER

The terms "global warming" and "climate change" have different meanings and CSIRO uses them appropriately when referring to different processes.

Global warming is used when referring to an increase in the average global temperature of the Earth’s atmosphere and oceans.

Climate change is used when referring more generally to the many changes in the climate system, encompassing for example changing temperature and changing rainfalls, and that persist for an extended period typically decades or longer.