

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: Rising Sea Levels

REFERENCE: Written Question –Senator Bernardi

QUESTION No.: AI-66

1. What has been the average sea level rise over the last 25 years?
2. How does this compare with sea level rise over the past 100 years?

ANSWER

1. High-quality global sea-level observations have been measured using satellites since the start of 1993. These satellite data indicate that sea level rose at a globally-averaged rate of 3.1 mm per year between 1993 and 2011 (the last 19 years).
2. Globally, sea level rose almost twice as fast between 1993 and 2011 than during the 20th Century. Tide-gauge data indicate a rise of 1.7 mm per year during the 20th century as a whole.

References:

Church, J.A. and White, N.J. 2011. Sea-level rise from the late 19th to the early 21st Century. *Surveys in Geophysics* 32, 585-602, DOI:10.1007/s10712-011-9119