

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Portfolio
Additional Estimates Hearing 2012-13
13 February 2013

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION (CSIRO)

TOPIC: Letter from AWI – minutes from meeting

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 13 February 2013, page 23)

QUESTION No.: AI-10

CHAIR: Senator Heffernan, I have been provided with a copy of a letter signed by Mr Merriman, chairman of Australian Wool Innovation Limited, attached to which are some minutes of a meeting dated Thursday 18 October 2012 and a letter attached to those minutes. Apart from the covering letter, the minutes are not signed.

Senator HEFFERNAN: That is right. So can I ask if that is a true record of that meeting?

CHAIR: I will take some advice from the secretary as to whether or not the documents should be tabled. You may continue with your discussion.

Mr Whelan: With respect to your question of whether the material is accurate, I have not seen the material so I cannot comment.

Senator HEFFERNAN: Can I show you the material?

CHAIR: No, you cannot.

Senator HEFFERNAN: Why not?

Senator Lundy: Senator Heffernan, it is inappropriate to approach the table.

CHAIR: Senator Heffernan, sit down please. You have asked for the documents to be tabled.

Senator HEFFERNAN: Yes.

CHAIR: I have advised there is a letter attached to which is a copy of minutes. The minutes are unsigned. I have advised you I will consult with the secretary as to whether or not the documents may be tabled. I have also said you may ask questions.

Senator HEFFERNAN: The minutes read: minutes of a meeting of sustainable wool in Australia and the CSIRO dated 18 October 2012 at 1:30 pm CSIRO Geelong Laboratory. Did that meeting take place?

Mr Whelan: I understand the meeting took place between CSIRO stakeholders and the people you are talking about. I do not know the details or the date.

Senator HEFFERNAN: Could you confirm there were a set of minutes from that meeting.

Mr Whelan: I would be happy to take that on notice.

ANSWER

The meeting took place on 18 October 2012 at 1:00pm. No agreed minutes were developed from this meeting. However, the CSIRO's officers attending took meeting notes and believe that other participants may have as well.