

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: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, INNOVATION, SCIENCE, RESEARCH AND TERTIARY EDUCATION

TOPIC: Dr Clark's appointment as CEO

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 13 February 2013, page 19)

QUESTION No.: AI-7

Senator BUSHBY: The question I was going to ask is: is it correct that Dr Lonsdale has now vacated his position, which I do not think is material to the court case.

Mr Whelan: It is correct that Dr Lonsdale has indicated that he is not seeking another term as chief of the Division of Ecosystem Sciences.

Senator BUSHBY: That is at his instigation?

Mr Whelan: He has indicated he is not seeking another term.

Senator BUSHBY: I understand that Dr Clark's appointment expires at the end of this year. Is that correct?

Dr Clark: Yes.

Senator BUSHBY: It is probably a question for the minister. Senator Lundy, I understand that Dr Clark's current appointment expires at the end of this year. Have there been any steps taken towards looking at what might happen with the CEO's position beyond the end of this year?

Senator Lundy: I would of course refer that to the minister, but I would just question the appropriateness of discussing such things at the Senate estimates table. I am very happy to take that on notice for the minister.

Senator BUSHBY: I am aware that the Tax Commissioner's position has been discussed, the ACCC commissioner has been discussed and all sorts of such positions are discussed, because it is a matter of public importance and public interest.

Senator Lundy: They do indeed.

Senator BUSHBY: Would you on notice advise what processes will be followed in order to examine that position and what might occur from 1 January next year?

Senator Lundy: I am sure they will be normal processes.

ANSWER

The Board of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) has primary responsibility for the appointment of the Chief Executive of the organisation under the *Science and Industry Research Act 1949*. Under the Act, the Board is required to consult with the Minister prior to appointing a Chief Executive. The Board is following the correct and normal processes to ensure that the CSIRO Chief Executive position is filled. An announcement will be made in due course.