AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION

TOPIC: Conflict of Interest Declaration

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 30 May 2011, E33-34)

QUESTION No.: BI-18

Senator COLBECK: I will go back over that; that is fine. Thank you for that. I need you to be pretty specific about this: is it also true that details of Mr Stacey's past association with TK that had previously been made available on the CSIRO website were deleted from the website shortly after the final decision was made?

Dr Johnson: I have no knowledge of that. I would, again, have to take that on notice. I have no knowledge of that.

Senator COLBECK: Let us look at it from a slightly different perspective. Was any detail about Mr Stacey's association with TK posted on the website at any time?

Dr Johnson: Again, I would have to take that on notice. It is well known in the industry. Graham Stacey is well known as a highly talented and senior engineer in the marine industry. His previous work history in the companies in which he had undertaken project work before would be well known in the industry. I think where you are going with this is questions around the probity of the process. As I said before, there was a very extensive, transparent and quality assured process around the probity of this procurement. We stand by the outcome that we have. The probity of that process has been quality assured by the Australian Government Solicitor.

Senator COLBECK: I am just trying to assure myself of that process.

Dr Johnson: Sure

Senator COLBECK: I spent 25 years tendering for contracts and I know how the rumour mill works.

Dr Johnson: Sure. We recognised, as I said before, Mr Stacey's previous work history and, in the design of the procurement process, we took great pains to make sure that we appropriately reflected that during the process. That process was verified by the AGS.

Senator COLBECK: If you could provide me with that data on notice that would be very helpful.

ANSWER

Mr Stacey's work history was never published on CSIRO's website. Senator the Hon Kim Carr's media release announcing Mr Stacey's appointment as director of the Marine National Facility Future Research Vessel includes a biography which refers to Mr Stacey's past association with Teekay Marine. The media release and biography remain on the Minister's website and can be found at

http://minister.innovation.gov.au/Carr/MediaReleases/Pages/120MSTATEOFTHEARTRESEARC HVESSELTOSAILINFLINDERSWAKE.aspx