

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio
Budget Estimates Hearing 2011-12
30 May 2011

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION

TOPIC: MDBA

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 30 May 2011, E37-38)

QUESTION No.: BI-21

Senator JOYCE: The MDBA also said that in their view there was no climate signal in the 114 year historical record of rainfall in the Murray-Darling Basin. Is this consistent with the CSIRO's view?

Dr Johnson: Again, our comments on climate change in the Basin, particularly the south-eastern Basin, are on the public record. I would be happy to direct you to those. I do not have that detail in front of me. We have been involved in a very large initiative, particularly in the south-eastern part of the Basin for some years now, called the *South Eastern Australian Climate Initiative*.

Senator JOYCE: It is consistent or it is not consistent?

Dr Johnson: Again, I would have to take that on notice. My general reaction, Senator, here—and I am happy to stand corrected—is that it is not consistent with the science that we have had in the southern part of the Basin.

ANSWER

The MDBA statement that in their view there was no climate signal in the 114 year historical record of rainfall in the Murray Darling Basin is not consistent with CSIRO science.