

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Resources, Energy and Tourism Portfolio

Budget Estimates

3 June 2013

Question: BR4

Topic: CSIRO Report - Residential Rating Project

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Senator Ludlam asked:

Senator LUDLAM: I have three quick issues to raise in the brief time remaining. If it was not already canvassed before I got here, I understand that DRET commissioned CSIRO to prepare a report on residential energy efficiency, the residential ratings project. Has that been received by the department and when are you proposing to release it?

Mr Divall: Senator, could I just ask the name of the report you are after?

Senator LUDLAM: The residential ratings project.

Mr Divall: We have an early draft of that, which I have not seen, where we have provided some feedback to CSIRO. It is in early draft and there will probably be a couple of other iterations of that. It is not available at this point in time.

Senator LUDLAM: Could you provide on notice when you expect it to be finalised, the process that you propose to follow in finalising it and who you are consulting with prior to finalisation of the draft and publication?

Mr Divall: I could provide you some response now or I could take it on notice. Effectively we are going to a consultation group in July.

Senator LUDLAM: A public group?

Mr Divall: It will be a group that has expertise in this area. I am happy to take on notice the remainder of your question.

Senator LUDLAM: Do you want to give us an example of the representation on that group? Is it all internal departmental people?

Mr Divall: No, it will not be internal, it will be external.

Answer:

The Department has received a draft of the report: *The Evaluation of Residential Building Energy Efficiency Standards* from CSIRO. The report will provide analysis of a large quantity of data collected over a 12 month period in a range of homes in different climates. It is a complex task to ensure the report is comprehensive and accurate as well as understandable. The Department expects to finalise the report around August this year following review processes to ensure these outcomes.

In this process, a project review committee will be consulted. The review committee includes representatives from the Department, the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, the Department of Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education, the Housing Industry Association, the Master Builders Association and the Australian Sustainable Built Environment Council.