

QUESTION No.SBI-27

Senator Webber asked:

I noticed from press reports that there has been some analysis done that shows that the monitoring stations set up to detect atomic explosions could help predict the path of a tsunami, are you aware of that work?

ANSWER

Geoscience Australia is aware of the research being undertaken by the nuclear monitoring community for monitoring tsunamis. Seismograph stations are used to monitor for earthquakes that might trigger tsunamis. However, having determined that an earthquake has occurred and tsunamis may have been triggered, it is unlikely that the paths of tsunamis can be predicted using the data collected from seismograph stations. Predictions of the path of a tsunami would be based on computer modelling of tsunami waves in the open ocean, backed up by real-time monitoring of sea level using tide gauges and buoys for the deep ocean reporting and assessment of tsunamis.

QUESTION No.SBI-28

Senator Webber asked:

Does Geoscience Australia have any views about the use of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organisation (CTBTO) data to help in the detection and prediction of tsunami events?

ANSWER

Geoscience Australia is in the process of retrieving data from the CTBTO to test the usefulness of such data in enhancing earthquake monitoring for tsunamis in the Australian region.

QUESTION No.SBI-29

Senator Webber asked:

Are any elements of your existing detection system used to assist in the detection of atomic events?

ANSWER

Some of the seismograph stations in the Australian National Seismograph Network were enhanced by the CTBTO to meet the requirements for monitoring of atomic events by Australia and the CTBTO. All Australian seismographs will respond to the ground motions generated by large earthquakes that might generate tsunamis in the Australian region.