

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio
Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing 2010-11
20 October 2010

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION

TOPIC: Tender of contract for household sampling foils

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 20 October 2010, E15)

QUESTION no.: SI-11

Senator BIRMINGHAM - In relation to the sampling strategy, has this phase been completed?

Mr Whelan - Not that I am aware of. I do know that we have provided advice to the department on the sampling phase, but I am not aware if it has been completed or not.

Senator BIRMINGHAM - The department has already inspected some 40,000 out of 50,000 homes in the foil space, and around 58,000 homes out of 150,000 homes in the non-foil space. They strike me that they already have extremely significant samples. I am curious as to what particular advice CSIRO is providing as to how to better refine those samples from here on.

Mr Whelan - What I can say is that the capability that the department has contracted from CSIRO is world-class statistical modelling capability. It is a matter for the department as to what they want CSIRO to do and the reasons as to why they want CSIRO to do it. I am not in a position to provide you with advice on that.

Senator BIRMINGHAM - Is 58,000 out of around one million or so households usually a fairly significant statistical sample?

Mr Whelan - I am not qualified to provide an answer on that. I would have to take advice on that from the people doing the work.

Senator BIRMINGHAM - Did CSIRO tender for this contract, or was it a selective tender approach from the department?

Mr Whelan - I would have to take that on notice; I do not know the basis for that.

ANSWER

CSIRO has completed the part of the work for the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency (DCCEE) in relation to sampling strategy.

The particular advice provided by CSIRO concerned (i) data to be collected from each household and (ii) how to select a list of households to be inspected.

CSIRO has provided advice to DCCEE that comments on the representativeness of the 58,000 sample in this case and this question is best directed to DCCEE.

CSIRO did tender to DCCEE. However, CSIRO is not fully across the procurement approach used by DCCEE. DCCEE is the appropriate body to approach for details of the procurement process.