

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012
19 October 2011

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION

TOPIC: CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Colbeck

QUESTION No.: SI-57

In relation to Dr Clark's directorship of Cradle Mountain Carbon Pty Ltd, on what date was Senator Carr first informed by CSIRO of the existence of this directorship?

ANSWER

The Science and Industry Research Act 1949, under which the CSIRO was established and operates, mandates what is required of the Chief Executive of the CSIRO with respect to disclosure of direct or indirect pecuniary interests. That is:

The Chief Executive shall give written notice to the Board of all direct or indirect pecuniary interests that the Chief Executive has or may have in any business or in any body corporate carrying on a business. (Section 10F – Disclosure of Interests.)

As the CSIRO Board took the view that Dr Clark's directorship of Cradle Mountain Carbon Pty Ltd would not impact on Dr Clark's obligations with respect to CSIRO, this directorship was not specifically notified to the Minister. However, it is referenced in the CSIRO Annual Report, which was provided to the Minister for approval on 19 September 2011.