

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

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION

TOPIC: CLIMATE CHANGE SCIENCE PROGRAM

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Colbeck

QUESTION No.: SI-74

Does the CSIRO remain a partner in the delivery of the Australian Climate Change Science Program administered by the Department of Climate Change? If so, what is the extent of CSIRO's participation?

ANSWER

CSIRO collaborates in the delivery of the Australian Climate Change Science Program under a co-investment contract administered by the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency.

The Program aims to improve our understanding of the causes, nature, timing and consequences of climate change so that government, industry and the community are better informed.

Specific research areas include:

- understanding the Southern Ocean and its influence on global climate;
- increasing our knowledge of the contribution to, and response of, Australia's unique biosphere to climate change;
- understanding processes in the atmosphere, such as cloud properties and aerosol behaviour, that contribute to current and likely future climate;
- incorporating climate knowledge into computer models that represent the climate system and that can be verified and used for the projection of future climate change and its impacts; and
- regional assessments of the impacts of (and development of strategies to address) climate change, global change and climatic variability.