

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: CSIRO SEMINARS

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Colbeck

QUESTION No.: SI-76

1. Is it correct that a CSIRO employee presented at least one seminar to Victorian public servants last year titled ‘Dealing with climate change denialism’?
2. If so: on how many occasions in total was this seminar presented; on what dates; where; and to whom?
3. Have these been the only occasions on which a CSIRO employee has, as part of the course of their employment, provided information, presentations or briefings of any kind to public servants or to any other audience critical of scientists and/or journalists and/or any other people who do not support the theory of anthropogenic global warming? If not, please list all other occasions on which such presentations have been made; on what dates; where; and to whom.

ANSWER

1. The Victorian Department of Sustainability and Environment requested a presentation to departmental staff by Mr Paul Holper, CSIRO, entitled ‘Dealing with climate change denialism’. CSIRO declined to make a presentation with this title. Mr Holper made a presentation to departmental staff instead titled ‘An analysis of the climate change debate’ on 18 June 2010.
2. The presentation made on 18 June 2010 (referenced above) was the only occasion in which that presentation was made. The presentation was made at the Treasury Theatre, 1 McArthur St, Melbourne.
3. CSIRO communicates extensively on its research activities, including climate change science. CSIRO explains the research that we and others have undertaken and its likely impacts and consequences. CSIRO does this through various mechanisms, including publications, the internet, presentations and the media. One aspect of CSIRO’s climate change science communication is to present information and analyses on areas where there are misunderstandings, and where questions have been raised about the veracity of the science. An example is the web site at <http://www.csiro.au/resources/Climate-Questions-Science-Facts.html>