

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Portfolio
Supplementary Budget Estimates
17 October 2012

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, INNOVATION, SCIENCE, RESEARCH AND TERTIARY EDUCATION

TOPIC: Climate change and emissions reporting

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Bushby

QUESTION No.: SI-106

1. Is it correct that the NMI has been asked to help the Department of Climate Change and the Climate Change Authority with various services and technical help in relation to climate change and emissions reporting? If so, please detail exactly when this work started in each case, and precisely what it entails.
2. Has NMI undertaken any previous work on climate change (including emissions reporting) – and, if so, on what and when?
3. How many ASL at NMI have been deployed to work on these collaborations with the Department of Climate Change and the Climate Change Authority – and have they been drawn from existing resources or are they surplus?

ANSWER

1. NMI provides services to a wide range of Government agencies. The Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency (DCCEE) sought a one-off training course from NMI in 2011, which related to measurement.

DCCEE has recently gone to tender to establish panels of expert providers in the area of energy efficiency. NMI has been appointed to a panel in the area of appliance efficiency, and has tendered to join a panel in the area of the built environment, but has not yet provided any services.

NMI has not provided services or advice to the Climate Change Authority.

2. NMI routinely provides advice to government agencies and in that context has provided occasional technical feedback to the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency, and its predecessor departments, including in response to calls for submissions. NMI made comments in relation to the development and revision of the Measurement Determination for the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Scheme (NGERS) in 2008, and in 2012.

3. NMI has a small training section that provides specialised measurement training, on a cost recovered basis, to a wide variety of clients including from industry, researchers, and government. The Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency was provided with training by one of our trainers, in accordance with our usual arrangements.

As noted above, providing technical feedback to government agencies is a routine part of the NMI's role as the peak source of measurement expertise in Australia. No specific ASL has been allocated to providing advice or support to DCCEE or the Climate Change Authority.