

**Economics Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Portfolio  
Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing 2012-13  
17 October 2012

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**AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:** COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION (CSIRO)

**TOPIC:** Groundwater – APPEA advertisements

**REFERENCE:** Written Question – Senator Waters

**QUESTION No.:** SI-122

In September 2012, APPEA ran television ads suggesting that CSG is proven safe for the long term future of groundwater, and cited support from CSIRO. CSIRO then issued media statements rejecting the misrepresentation of CSIRO's position on CSG. The ads were withdrawn.

1. Has CSIRO communicated with APPEA regarding the ads requesting a public correction or retraction of the claim?
  - a. Please describe the nature and content of those communications.
2. Has CSIRO made a complaint to the ACCC for false and misleading conduct?
  - a. If not, why not?
3. Is CSIRO aware of any action being taken against APPEA as a result of these ads?
4. Has CSIRO been asked to support or join any such actions?
5. Does APPEA have any commercial dealings with CSIRO?
6. Do any APPEA members have any commercial dealings with CSIRO? Please provide details.

**ANSWER**

1. The CSIRO has not asked for a correction or retraction.
  - (a) the CSIRO has communicated with APPEA to ask that the CSIRO reference be removed and for the commercial not to be aired because the content misrepresents the CSIRO's research.
2. The CSIRO has not made a complaint to the ACCC.
  - (a) APPEA stopped the advertisements airing and the CSIRO felt there was no need to take further action.
3. No.
4. No.
5. The CSIRO has in the past been an associate member of APPEA and exhibited at the annual APPEA conference which involved payment for the exhibition space. The CSIRO is no longer a member of APPEA.

The CSIRO has been working with APPEA and the Western Australian Department for Mines and Petroleum (DMP) to deliver a series of public forums on unconventional gas in Western Australia. APPEA and DMP funded the CSIRO to run the forums.

6. The APPEA website and membership information brochures state that APPEA has 75 full member companies and more than 150 associate member companies. The list of those members is not in the public domain and therefore the CSIRO cannot answer this question.