

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

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

TOPIC: Calcification rates for coral on the Great Barrier Reef

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, Monday 26 November 2012, Page 9).

QUESTION No.: SI-202

Senator BUSHBY: What does the scientific evidence show about calcification rates for coral on the Great Barrier Reef? Has that rate been more or less pronounced at any other time over the last 400 years?

Prof. Chubb: I do not know.

Senator BUSHBY: Can you take that on notice?

Prof. Chubb: Yes.

ANSWER

Recent work by the Australian Institute of Marine Science on one type of Great Barrier Reef coral shows that calcification rates have declined about 14 per cent since 1990. This recent reduction is unprecedented in at least the past 400 years.