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

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

TOPIC: RV Investigator

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Bushby

QUESTION No.: SI-50

1. What is the expected date of arrival of the vessel in Tasmania?
2. How many Tasmanian businesses are expected to be involved in the fit out of the vessel?
3. How much is expected to be spent in Tasmania on the fit out of the vessel?
4. How much is expected to be spent in Australia on the fit out of the vessel?
5. What will be the main focus of research the vessel will be used for?

ANSWER

1. The vessel is expected to arrive in Tasmania in September 2013

2,3 and 4. The vessel is being constructed in Singapore. The project has an approved Australian Industry Participation Plan. Procurement of Scientific equipment for the vessel has commenced and through the Industry Capability Network Australian organisations are able to indicate their desire to participate in procurements related to the Project. The number of businesses involved in the vessel project and the amount to be spent in Tasmania and in Australia will not be clear until the procurement of equipment is complete.

5. The RV *Investigator* will be a highly advanced research vessel with a broad range of scientific equipment to support marine scientists in oceanography and climatology, fisheries, marine ecosystem and marine environmental research, a wide range of marine geosciences and multi-disciplinary marine research. The RV *Investigator* will provide a step change in Australia's marine science capability, providing a larger vessel with accommodation for more scientists (40 cf. 10 currently), travelling over a greater range (equator to the ice edge) and operating for up to 300 days per year (compared to a current 120 days for the RV *Southern Surveyor*).