

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: Great white sharks – submission to an inquiry by the Tasmanian government

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 17 October 2012, page 14)

QUESTION No.: SI-8

Senator WHISH-WILSON: Thank you. I have another question on great whites. In Tasmania, at the moment we are looking at shark-cage diving. A number of submissions are with the state government about ecotourism and the use of berley and the promotion of shark-cage diving. Have you put in a submission on that?

Dr Clark: I will take the question on notice.

ANSWER

The CSIRO has not made any formal submission on this topic. However, the Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE) approached the CSIRO for informal advice on shark cage dive management and shark research related to this subject in early 2011. The CSIRO provided a report titled ‘The effects of berleying on the distribution and behaviour of white sharks, *Carcharodon carcharias*, at the Neptune Islands, South Australia’ prepared for the South Australian Government Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in 2011. The CSIRO report was provided to DPIPWE staff on request in February 2012.

The background and issues paper ‘Shark Cage-Diving and Use of Berley for Fishing and Ecotourism’ released by the Tasmanian Government makes specific reference to the findings of the CSIRO research in South Australia.