

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

TOPIC: European wasps – research into controls

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

QUESTION No.: SI-9

Senator WHISH-WILSON: European wasps are a big issue in Tasmania as they are across the country in agriculture, tourism and other areas. Are you aware of any research into biological controls or other controls for European wasps?

Dr Clark: I am not a specialist in that area. I would like to get our experts to provide with some information on what we are doing.

Senator WHISH-WILSON: They love my grapes, unfortunately! They are a big problem. Recently, we have also looked at trying to get some feedback on the potential ecosystem impacts of European wasps. Has that come across your radar at all in your research?

Dr Clark: Let me take both of those. If I understand your question you would like some information on what we are doing, what is happening more generally in that area outside the CSIRO and the ecosystem impacts of the European wasp?

Senator WHISH-WILSON: Yes, and if there is any specific funding or any program to deal with them?

Dr Clark: And any funding issues; I am happy to take that on notice.

ANSWER

The CSIRO has not been involved in research on the European wasp since 1991. Further, the CSIRO is not currently aware of any research into biological or other controls for European wasps. However,

- There has been some previous research in South Australia which discounted biological control using the parasitic wasp *Sphecophaga vesparum* as it largely proved ineffective in New Zealand and earlier establishment in Australia had failed.
- The website, Biosecurity, Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (Tasmania) (<http://www.dpiw.tas.gov.au/inter.nsf/webpages/cpas-5y9793?open>) provides information on destroying nests and baiting.

To CSIRO's knowledge, there is no current research being done in Australia regarding the European wasp more generally. There has been research into the European wasp in New Zealand.