Economics Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Industry Portfolio Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing 2013-14 21 November 2013

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: GEOSCIENCE AUSTRALIA

TOPIC: Geosequestration

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 21 November 2013, page 94)

QUESTION No.: SI-22

Dr Pigram: We are working on potential storage sites for geosequestration. The future of that program is not clear at this time. It is up to the government to decide whether or not it wishes to continue that program. That is a policy decision. At this stage, we are awaiting the government developing a view and providing some guidance as to whether or not they wish to continue with that work.

Senator PRATT: What is the current quota of your budget that is dedicated to the work on—**Dr Pigram:** I will need to take that on notice. I do not have the precise figure with me. It is not huge, but it is significant, in that those funds come from the portfolio and we are really dependent on the portfolio's view of the future as to whether that will continue.

ANSWER

The current quota of Geoscience Australia's 2013-14 budget, relating to working on potential storage sites for geosequestration, is \$16,954,638. This amount equates to 8.6% of Geoscience Australia's 2013-14 Mid-year Economic and Fiscal Outlook budget.