

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2004-2005 ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: CSIRO
Output Group: CSIRO

DEST Question No. E565_05

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question:

Who initiated this study?

Can you confirm that it was commissioned following representations by the then Science Minister to Dr Garrett and to Dr Morton, Head of the Environment and Natural Resources Group?

Answer:

CSIRO has provided the following response.

Latrobe Aquifer Study

The study was initiated by a stakeholder group which met in Sale, Victoria on 19 September 2003. Participants included the Minister for Science, the Hon. Peter McGauran MP, representatives from the Victorian Farmers Federation, Geoscience Australia, Bureau of Rural Sciences, Esso, the Loy Yang Power Station, and representatives from Victorian Government agencies. CSIRO was invited to the meeting at the initiative of the Minister.

The Minister did not commission CSIRO to undertake this study. During one of their regular meetings Dr Garrett and the Minister discussed whether CSIRO might undertake such a study. Following an assessment involving the Directors of the Wealth from Oceans and Water for a Healthy Country Flagships, CSIRO decided to undertake the study because it considered that it would address a set of interesting and important research questions of ongoing community interest. (See responses to Questions and E574_05 and E576_05)