

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2006-2007 ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: 3
Output Group: 3.2 – Assistance for collaboration and innovation

DEST Question No. E958_07

Senator Milne asked on 14 February 2007, EWRE Hansard page 77.

Question:

Release of Publications

Senator Milne— What I would like to know are the arrangements that govern the release of publications from the CRC. You said you can find that, so if you could take that on notice.

Ms Emery—Certainly, as much as is set out in the centre agreement, yes.

Senator MILNE—In particular, I am interested in a report by N. Dave, T. Do and GJ Duffy entitled *Assessment of the aqua ammonia process as an option for CO2 capture from coal-fired power plants*. According to the information I have, that report was meant to be released some time in 2006-07. I would like to know whether that has been released and when it is expected to be released. Is that one of the reports that is covered by the agreement with the private sector? I would like to know the specifics in relation to that report.

Ms Emery—The publication or otherwise would be governed by the CRC itself. That is taking into account the interests of the participants within that CRC as to when things are published. I should also note that often research by a CRC may not be published. That is to protect its commercial integrity. We can look into it further.

Senator MILNE—I specifically would like an answer to my question in relation to that information because, with 25 per cent of the funding to this institution coming from the taxpayer, the taxpayer has a right to know what is being published and what is not being published. On that basis, I would particularly like to know what has become of that report and when it will be made public.

Ms Emery—We will take it on notice and see what information we can get.

Answer:

Release of Publications

The standard Agreement for the provision of funding by the Commonwealth to the CRCs selected in the 2000 selection round (of which the CRC for Coal in Sustainable Development is one), deals generally with the issue of the publication of research. It requires that the CRC have in place documented procedures to avoid potential prejudice to the subsistence or commercialisation of any intellectual property, including the possibility that publication might preclude the grant of a patent or cause the loss of intellectual property in any confidential information.

The CRC for Coal in Sustainable Development (CCSD) has in place agreed procedures to govern the release of publications and these are set out in their Centre Agreement (an agreement between the participants in the CRC, that does not involve the Commonwealth).

The CCSD's publication policy can be found on their web site at:
<http://www.ccsd.biz/publications.cfm>.