

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE – QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2003-2004 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: CSIRO
Output Group: CSIRO

DEST Question No. E190_04

Senator Carr asked on 4 June 2003.

Question:

Refers to DEST Question E794_03

In respect to E794, could you now answer a number its unanswered elements?

In particular:

- When was the list of works formally finalised and approved by the Steering Committee?
- Had any works commenced prior to that approval?
- On what date did these works commence?
- Who made the decision to apparently divide management between CSIRO and P&O?
- Was that decision approved by the Steering Committee?
- When was that approval provided?

Answer:

CSIRO has provided the following response.

Southern Surveyor - refurbishment

- Details of works required for conversion of Southern Surveyor for oceanographic and geoscience research were first presented to Steering Committee on 25.10.00. These informed the Steering Committee's 04.12.01 approval to change over National Facility operations from Franklin to Southern Surveyor. Formal approval of the list of works by Steering Committee was not required.
- No.
- Physical works commenced July 2002.
- The refit was a collection of 39 separate items of work and was not managed as a single contract. P&O's management contract with CSIRO provides for the arrangement of alterations and improvements to the ship in consultation with CSIRO. The decision to apportion responsibility for items of work between CSIRO and P&O was made by CSIRO in consultation with P&O. 22 items associated with ship's hull, machinery and handling systems were within P&O's area of expertise. 17 items associated with scientific equipment or systems were within CSIRO's area of expertise.
- That decision was an operational one within CSIRO's responsibility and did not require Steering Committee approval.
- See above.