

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE – QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2005-2006 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: CSIRO
Output Group: CSIRO

DEST Question No. E181_06

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question:

SOUTHERN SURVEYOR: SAFETY

I appreciate that the noxious smell of itself is not harmful, but tell me more about the condition of the vessel?

How many millions have been spent over the past four years to try and bring this vessel up to standard?

You have told this committee repeatedly that refurbishment on this vessel was done to the highest standard: why, then, was such a potentially dangerous cost cutting decision made?

Answer:

CSIRO has provided the following response.

Southern Surveyor - Safety

At no time has the vessel failed to comply with Australian Maritime Safety Authority standards.

Operational standards within the maritime industry are subject to continuous change as national and international regulatory authorities reassess them. During a Port State inspection of the vessel in Brisbane on 5 January 2005 by AMSA, three minor deficiencies were raised and rectified. They were:

- the international shore connection was not sighted;
- the Port funnel fire damper was stiff; and
- two accommodation fire doors were missing latches and handles.

The international shore connection was pointed out to the inspector, and no further action was required. The other two items were rectified at a total cost of less than \$3000.

No potentially dangerous cost-cutting decisions were made during the vessel's conversion to the Marine National Facility.