

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: CSIRO
Output Group: CSIRO

DEST Question No. E182_06

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question:

SOUTHERN SURVEYOR: SAFETY

- (a) Are you aware that it is definitely NOT recommended practice to mix grey and black water waste systems on a vessel?
- (b) I understand that now you are afraid that Geoscience Australia will stop hiring this vessel you are now installing separate grey and black water systems. Is that correct? At what cost?
- (c) When was this problem first documented?

Answer:

CSIRO has provided the following response.

Southern Surveyor - Safety

- (a) Advice received from the vessel's technical managers, P&O Maritime Services, and wastewater treatment specialists AquaTreat on 17 April 2005 does not support such an assertion. The vessel's sewerage treatment plant is designed to treat such a mixture. There has been speculation that the mixing of grey and black water waste contributed to the generation of Hydrogen Sulphide in the vessel's sewerage holding tanks, however that view is not supported by the evidence available.
- (b) No, this is not correct.
- (c) This problem was first documented during voyage SS03/2005. It arose shortly after the vessel experienced heavy weather associated with cyclone Ingrid between 9-12 March 2005. Following the reports received during that voyage, a procedure to minimise noxious odours in the accommodation was put in place on 14 March 2005. Please see Attachment 1 - E180_06.