

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: CSIRO
Output Group: CSIRO

DEST Question No. E186_06

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question:

SOUTHERN SURVEYOR: SAFETY

Can you confirm that new steel brackets and plates had to be installed, that the tanks were internally coated (two coats) with an epoxy paint and that other necessary cleaning and repairs were done? And yet after all this, barely eight weeks later the system breaks down to such an extent that Geoscience Australia threaten to call off a research voyage?

Answer:

CSIRO has provided the following response.

Southern Surveyor - Safety

Yes, these repairs to the sewage holding tanks were carried out. The sewage treatment plant did not break down or malfunction during voyage SS04/2005. The cause of the smells which arose on voyages SS03/2005 and SS04/2005 was unrelated to the maintenance of these holding tanks.

The cause of the smells was identified by the ship's engineers as a vent which became blocked when the vessel encountered the heavy weather generated by cyclone Ingrid.

Please see the answers to questions E182_06 and E183_06.