

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: CSIRO
Output Group: CSIRO

DEST Question No. E187_06

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question:

SOUTHERN SURVEYOR: SAFETY

Do you consider that competent, cost-effective management? Or is it really yet another example of why you have over-invested in an old fishing vessel that is not structurally up to the job?

Answer:

CSIRO has provided the following response.

Southern Surveyor - Safety

Management of the vessel's maintenance has been competent and cost effective. The maintenance necessary to address the cause of the smells which arose during voyages SS03/2005 and SS04/2005 was undertaken within five weeks of its symptoms being first reported and within days of the cause being identified by the ship's engineers. The problem was professionally investigated and rectified.

Had that initial assumption regarding the need for separate black water and grey water treatment systems been acted upon without further investigation, it is conceivable that up to \$100k would have been spent to little effect. Fortunately the ship's engineers, in conjunction with the ship's Technical Managers, P&O Maritime Services and waste water treatment specialists AquaTreat, were able to resolve the matter in cost-effective manner.

Southern Surveyor's Repair and Maintenance expenditure in the 2004/05 financial year at approximately \$400k, remains in line with international benchmarks for vessels of a similar size and type, notwithstanding its age.

Please refer to the answers to questions E182_06, E183_06, E185_06 and E186_06.