

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2007-2008 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome CSIRO

DEST Question No. E030_08

Senator Carol Brown asked in writing on 30 May 2007.

Question:

Please provide an indication as to what measures/plans the CSIRO have in place for the replacement of the Southern Surveyor.

1. In past Estimates, you have provided different dates for the end of the useful life of the Southern Surveyor. What is the current anticipated date by which the Southern Surveyor will have outlived its useful working life?
2. What provision has CSIRO made for its replacement?
3. Have you undertaken any preliminary work on the nature of a replacement vessel? Please provide details.
4. Have you made any proposals to government for funding a replacement vessel?
5. Has CSIRO sought any NCRIS funding in relation to a replacement for the Southern Surveyor?
6. [If so] With what result?
7. [If no] Could you outline to the committee your current strategy for replacing this vessel?

Answer:

CSIRO has provided the following response.

Southern Surveyor

1. It is estimated that by June 2011 it will no longer be economically efficient to operate the *Southern Surveyor*.
2. CSIRO is presently discussing options for replacement with the Department of Education, Science and Training.
3. The Steering Committee of the Marine National Facility established an Expert Working Group to consult with the Australian Marine Science and Technology community at its 59th meeting on 25 August 2006. The Expert Working Group published a report of its first round of consultation on 4 December 2006. That report identifies the capabilities required to support Australia's bluewater marine research effort over coming decades. The Expert Working Group conducted a second round of consultation to develop a Statement of Requirements for the supply of that capability and reported to the Steering Committee on 20 June 2007.
4. No proposal has been put to Government following on from the above report to the Steering Committee.

5. CSIRO has not sought any NCRIS funding in relation to the replacement of the *Southern Surveyor*.
6. Not applicable
7. See answer to question 2.