

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome CSIRO

DEST Question No. E031_08

Senator Carol Brown asked in writing on 30 May 2007.

Question:

It was indicated to the Committee during the hearing on Wednesday 30 May 2007 that you may consider contracting out other vessels with sufficient research capabilities as an alternative to replacing the vessel.

Could you please provide further details?

Answer:

CSIRO has provided the following response.

Southern Surveyor – Plans for a replacement

In developing options for replacing Australia's blue water research vessel capability, consideration will be given to long term charter rather than ownership. The Commonwealth already uses long term charter to access other maritime assets, such as *RSV Aurora Australis*.