

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2006-2007 SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: CSIRO

Output Group: CSIRO

DEST Question No. E725_07

Senator Wong asked on 1 November 2006, EWRE Hansard page 7.

Question:

Senator WONG— Can you explain to me the justification for spending twice as much on coal, petroleum and gas research as on renewables?

Dr Morton—I confess that I do not have at my fingertips the breakdown among those different areas, but my impression is that the bulk of it is going into gas and petroleum exploration. As you know, we have substantial offshore deep-sea gas resources, and CSIRO is making heavy investments there. I could provide you with that information if you wanted a breakdown. My impression is that the bulk of that investment is in exploration for gas and petroleum.

Senator WONG—Could you provide that on notice?

Dr Morton—Yes, certainly.

Answer:

CSIRO has provided the following response.

Expenditure on coal, gas and petroleum exploration and extraction

Of CSIRO's \$26 million of budgeted appropriation investment for coal, gas and petroleum exploration and extraction in 2006-2007, \$11.1 million is being spent on gas and petroleum exploration and extraction.