

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: CSIRO
Output Group: CSIRO

DEST Question No. E744_07

Senator Wong asked on 1 November 2006, EWRE Hansard page 28.

Question:

Senator WONG—You have already invested \$1 million so far in the post-combustion capture. Is that right? Dr Morton, from memory, you and I had a discussion about this on the last occasion.

Dr Morton—It would be much more than that, because we have constructed a transportable pilot plant for the purposes of trialling this technology.

Senator WONG—*Can you tell me what funding has been spent to date and what was projected to be spent over the forward estimates on that project?*

Mr Whelan—*We would have to take that on notice.*

Senator WONG—Are you not able to give me that? This is a fairly straight question about your PBS.

Mr Whelan—There are 4,200 projects in the organisation. We do not have details of the budgets of all of them here with us. I am more than happy to follow that up for you.

Senator WONG—You do not have them here, Dr Morton?

Dr Morton—Mr Whelan is right: to give you adequate detail we would have to take it on notice. But I can confirm that the low emissions coal technologies group of projects, which I mentioned in answer to an earlier question, comprises some \$10 million in this financial year. The bulk of that work is directed towards the post-combustion capture work.

Senator WONG—So it is \$10 million for 2006-07.

Dr Morton—For that broad spectrum of projects, yes.

Senator WONG—Can you tell me what the current forward estimate is for that project over the 2007-08 year?

Mr Whelan—I do not have that data with me. I am happy to take that on notice.

Answer:

CSIRO has provided the following response.

Post-combustion capture

CSIRO undertakes research work on a wide range of low emissions coal technology projects. The Organisation's spending up to 30 June 2006 on post-combustion capture was \$2M. Estimated spending on post-combustion capture during 2006-2007 is \$2.5M and the forward estimate for post-combustion capture spending for 2007-2008 is approximately \$6M.