

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

Supplementary Budget Estimates

17 October – 18 October 2012

**Question:** SBT 193-196

**Topic:** Coal Seam Gas (CSG) & ACCC

**Written:** Received from Committee – 31 October 2012

**Senator WATERS asked:**

In September 2012, the Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association (APPEA) ran television ads suggesting that CSG is proven safe for the long term future of groundwater, and cited support from CSIRO. CSIRO then issued media statements rejecting the misrepresentation of CSIRO's position on CSG. The ads were withdrawn.

193. Has CSIRO made a complaint to the ACCC for false and misleading conduct?
194. Has ACCC received any complaints about this matter from any third party?
195. Is the ACCC investigating this issue? If so, what steps have been taken?
196. Has the ACCC communicated with APPEA regarding this issue?
  - a. Please describe the nature and content of those communications.

**Answer:**

193. No
194. As at 19 November 2012, the ACCC has received four complaints about this matter from third parties.
195. The ACCC is assessing this matter in accordance with its Compliance and Enforcement Policy and considering appropriate next steps.
196. No