

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry Portfolio
Additional Budget Estimates Hearing 2013-14
27 February 2013

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: CSIRO

TOPIC: CSIRO Travel Delegations

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 27 February 2014, page 15)

QUESTION No.: AI-2

Senator KIM CARR: How many trips did you have on the SKA delegation on the bid?

Dr Clark: I do not have that information in front of me, but I can take the question on notice.

Senator KIM CARR: I would have thought that 24 trips, given that you are engaged with 80 countries, would be a very modest number.

ANSWER

The SKA bid phase commenced when the SKA Siting Group issued a Request for Information on 25 June 2011. Between that date and the announcement of the SKA decision, CSIRO participated in two formal bid activities:

- The first event was an international SKA Forum in Banff, Canada, in July 2011 where CSIRO sent two representatives to attend; Dr Lisa Harvey-Smith who was part of the bid presentation team and CSIRO Aboriginal Liaison Officer, Robyn Boddington who was not part of the bid delegation but held an important role to report back to the site's traditional owners.
- The second event was to participate in an interview with the SKA Siting Selection Committee in December 2011. Three officers from CSIRO attended (noting the expenses of one officer were provided by the former Department of Innovation, Industry, Climate Change, Science and Research and Tertiary Education).

CSIRO also used every available opportunity to contribute informally to Australia's bid for the SKA through for example, conference attendance and participation in collaborative SKA design meetings, but these were not part of the formal bid process. CSIRO also notes that the former Innovation Department also facilitated a number of visits to promote the SKA which involved CSIRO Officers. These visits were not referenced in this answer as they were not considered to be a formal bid activity.