

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry and Science Portfolio
Additional Budget Estimates Hearing 2014-15
26 February 2015

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)

TOPIC: CSG – Stage 2 funding

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 26 February 2015, page 96)

QUESTION No.: AI-4

Senator Ronaldson: I think I can answer that question. I think it is about one per cent of existing CSG wells. This was a pilot study.

Senator WATERS: That was stage 1. We are onto stage 2 now.

Senator Ronaldson: Are you talking about what is going to happen?

Senator WATERS: Yes. So, coming back to stage 2, the literature review has been done. You are in talks about how to get access to the wells. What is the time frame for finishing off stage 2?

Dr Wonhas: I do not know exactly when it is going to be finished. As we have discovered in the discussions, it is actually a complex optimisation problem, because the point in time when the wells are actually being completed is very short and so we need to make sure that the team is in the right location and looking at the right type of well. I would say, over the course of the year, I certainly hope we complete that work.

Senator Ronaldson: I will just say that Geoscience Australia, who the committee sent home, could have probably assisted with a lot of your questions in relation to coal seam gas as well.

Senator WATERS: I have asked them about it before and I do have some questions for them on notice but these questions are about a CSIRO report, so I thought CSIRO would be the best place to respond to them.

Senator Ronaldson: In relation to their report, they are the best to respond.

Senator WATERS: Yes. That is what we are asking about. What is the amount of funding for stage 2?

Dr Wonhas: I do not know exactly, off the top of my head, but I am aware that the Department of Environment has made the funding available.

Senator WATERS: Your response to the question on notice said that \$190,000 had been allocated by the Department of the Environment over one year. Has that changed or is that still the same?

Dr Wonhas: I would expect that is the same, but I can certainly check that.

ANSWER

The Department of Environment funded 'methane fugitive emissions' project is scheduled to finish on 30 June 2015. CSIRO is currently in talks with industry about coordinating access to wells during the well completion and hydraulic fracturing stages. The amount of funding for this work remains at \$190,000.