

**Economics Legislation Committee**  
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Industry Portfolio  
Budget Estimates Hearing 2014-15  
2-3 June 2014

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**AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:** CSIRO

**TOPIC:** Marine National Facility Research Ship

**REFERENCE:** Written Questions – Senator Whish-Wilson

**QUESTION No.:** BI-89

In regards to media reports that the former Marine National Facility research ship, the RV *Southern Surveyor*, was sold for \$270,000:

1. To whom and for what purpose was the RV *Southern Surveyor* sold?
2. Where do the proceeds of the sale of the RV *Southern Surveyor* go? Into CSIRO bottomline or elsewhere?
3. What is the scrap value for a ship of this type on the international market?

**ANSWER**

The RV *Southern Surveyor* was sold for \$65,700 (inc. GST) to Excel International, who originally intended to use it as a piracy guard vessel off the coast of Africa. However, the vessel is currently being chartered for survey work around East Africa, and is based in Port Victoria, Seychelles. In addition to the ship sale price the CSIRO received \$206,000 (inc. GST) for fuels and lubricants (resulting in a total sale price of \$271,700). The CSIRO also received a refund from insurances in the vicinity of \$88,800.

The proceeds of the sale of the RV *Southern Surveyor* went to the Marine National Facility a bluewater research facility funded by the Australian Government and operated by the CSIRO. They were used to fund scientific equipment for the new research vessel RV *Investigator*.

The RV *Southern Surveyor* could potentially have realised around \$446,000 in scrap metal value. However the cost of fuel and crew for the voyage to China required to recycle the ship was estimated at \$629,000.