

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry and Science Portfolio
Budget Estimates Hearing 2015-16
3 and 4 June 2015

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

TOPIC: Methane Emissions Measurements

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 3 June 2015, page 96)

QUESTION No.: BI-13

Senator WATERS: Thank you. We will check up on that again soon. There was an article recently that reported on a US study that was looking at the effectiveness of equipment used to measure methane emissions. There is something called the Bacharach Hi Flow Sampler. Are you familiar with that particular type of measurement technology?

Prof. Barrett: I am not familiar with that particular instrument but I am familiar with other instruments to measure concentrations of methane in the flow of sample gas through those instruments.

Senator WATERS: This one sounds like it performs a similar function. It is described as 'allowing scientists to take instantaneous measurements of methane emissions from pipelines, storage tanks and other natural gas facilities'. The report says that this study finds that it in fact underreports emissions. So I am interested in whether anybody is using this equipment which has clearly been found to be a bit unreliable.

Prof. Barrett: I am not aware of anybody using that equipment.

Senator WATERS: All right. Could you take it on notice to let us know if anybody—in particular, you—is using it?

Senator Ronaldson: That can be taken on notice to see whether we have any knowledge of its use.

ANSWER

Please refer to CSIRO's answer to Question on Notice BI-69.