AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: CSIRO

TOPIC: CSIRO data centre in Sydney

REFERENCE: Questions on Notice (Hansard, 1 June 2017, pages 31-32)

QUESTION No.: BI-26

Senator KIM CARR: Did CSIRO set up a data centre in Sydney?
Dr Williams: We did. There was a piece of work around cyber and security where we did hold data as a trial in Sydney, and that project has now ceased, to my knowledge.
Senator KIM CARR: When you say 'ceased', did you install the equipment and then have to uninstall the equipment?
Dr Williams: It was a trial project, and that is the nature of trials.
Senator KIM CARR: What was the cost of that trial project?
Dr Williams: I would have to go back to give you a figure on that.
Senator KIM CARR: Can you confirm it was $3 million.
Dr Williams: I cannot confirm it at the moment, no.
Senator KIM CARR: Can you confirm that the equipment was uninstalled?
Dr Williams: I would have to take that on notice.
Senator KIM CARR: Was there a project undertaken by the ADF for ADFA called the Cyber Range Project?
Dr Williams: By Data61?
Senator KIM CARR: Yes.
Dr Williams: Not to my knowledge, but I do not know all the projects they are involved in, I have to say.
Senator KIM CARR: Can anyone here assist me with any work that CSIRO has undertaken for ADFA, particularly around the so-called Cyber Range Project?
Dr Marshall: Perhaps we could get the names of those projects, and we will come back to you on notice.

ANSWER

The CSIRO Information Management and Technology team undertook a Cyber Assured Systems pilot project from January 2016 to January 2017 utilising leased data centre IT infrastructure (floor space, cooling racks, cabling and environmental monitoring services) supplied through a contract with the company NTT Communications and located at the Global Switch data centre in Sydney.

At the conclusion of the pilot project, the CSIRO IT assets were removed and redeployed into pre-existing CSIRO data centres. CSIRO has no further commitment to NTT Communications or the Global Switch data centre.

The cost to CSIRO of the Cyber Assured Systems pilot was net $2,474,400 (excl GST) (excluding the cost of the redeployable assets).

Please refer to BI-29 for information on the CSIRO Cyber Range Project.