

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation and Science Portfolio
2017 - 2018 Budget Estimates
31 May – 1 June 2017

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: CSIRO

TOPIC: Set up costs for Sydney data centre

REFERENCE: Questions on Notice (Hansard, 1 June 2017, page 37)

QUESTION No.: BI-28

Senator KIM CARR: I am seeking some advice in regard to a couple of projects that CSIRO is engaged in through Data61. It would appear that your brief does not cover today. Would that be a fair assumption?

Dr Williams: Are they the questions that you have already asked?

Senator KIM CARR: Have you been able to secure any information in regard to the—

Dr Williams: Not in real time. At any moment in time, Data61 probably have 150 projects, and I need to—

Senator KIM CARR: That is not an unreasonable response. I am not suggesting to you that you should carry around in your head every detail. If, on notice, could you tell me how much money was spent by CSIRO setting up a data centre located in Sydney to install equipment and then, as I understand, uninstall that equipment, as previously sought.

Dr Williams: Yes.

Senator KIM CARR: Can you provide me with any information on the involvement of Scott Wilkie in these projects?

Dr Williams: I can do that, as well.

Senator KIM CARR: Has there been any continuing engagement with any CSIRO employee in these projects?

Dr Williams: I can take that, as well.

ANSWER

Refer to BI-26 for the cost of the Cyber Assured Systems pilot project (referred to by Senator Carr in the question as “a data centre located in Sydney”).

There was no involvement by Mr Wilkie through CSIRO in either the Cyber Assured Systems pilot project or the CSIRO Cyber Range project.