

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: CSIROs ADFA cyber range project

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

QUESTION No.: BI-29

Senator KIM CARR: Could you also provide advice as to whether CSIRO's ADFA cyber range project was undertaken? What was the outcome of that cyber range project? Can you confirm that the project was aborted three weeks prior to delivery? What was the cost of the project?

Dr Williams: I can take both of those on notice.

Senator KIM CARR: Was it the original intent of the project that ADFA actually pay the CSIRO for hosting the service? And was the equipment donated to ADFA?

Dr Williams: I can take that on notice.

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

The project referred to in the question as the “ADFA cyber range project” is CSIRO’s Cyber Range Project.

CSIRO entered into a contract with the University of New South Wales (UNSW) on 2 September 2016 to provide a cyber range as a service to support cyber training programs run through the UNSW Canberra campus.

The Cyber Range project was originally designed to be built within the Cyber Assured Systems pilot project with CSIRO being paid to host the service. The Cyber Range project was not aborted, however, when CSIRO completed the Cyber Assured Systems pilot project, which provided the infrastructure arrangements on which the Cyber Range project had a dependency, the Cyber Range project deliverable needed to change. CSIRO therefore worked with UNSW and agreement was reached to deliver a facility accessible for training by CSIRO, and operated by UNSW Canberra. The hardware and associated components were transferred to the UNSW for their control and support.

The outcome of the project provided the UNSW with a replacement of its ageing cyber range. The cost of the project was \$260,000 (excl GST), excluding staff costs which were supplied from other projects.

CSIRO continues to work with the Cyber security team at UNSW Canberra, and will access the capabilities to collaborate on an ongoing program of cyber training exercises for its staff.

Please refer to BI-28 re involvement by Mr Wilkie in this project.