AGENCY: COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION

TOPIC: TRANSIT Models

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 22 October 2015, page 68)

QUESTION No.: SI-17

Dr Marshall: The combination of NICTA and CSIRO—NICTA also has capability in this area—has really supercharged our capacity in this predictive analytics area. I think you will see even more valuable things in the future as a result of that combination.

Dr Wonhas: You are correct; we are expending the transit model from, originally, cattle transport to now 25 commodities in the north of Australia. We certainly hope that the results from this model will help to direct the $700 million investment that the government wants to make into northern roads to the most beneficial use for this country.

Senator CANAVAN: I know the model has been used to some extent for the beef industry already, but how long is it going to take to start getting useful information for those 25 commodities?

Dr Wonhas: This is off the top of my head, but I will correct that. I think the full 25 commodities will be available in 2017.

Senator CANAVAN: Okay.

ANSWER

CSIRO is currently adapting TRANSIT to the transport of pigs, sugar, cotton, wheat, barley, oats, rice and dairy and has been working very closely with industry groups representing each of these commodities to ensure TRANSIT has an accurate representation of the transport logistics. CSIRO expects to have a draft baseline analysis and some useful information for these commodities by March/April 2016. CSIRO will also adapt TRANSIT to the transport of sheep, goats, bananas, poultry, canola, apples, grapes, and a range of horticulture crops. CSIRO will consult with the state governments before confirming a final list of individual horticulture crops. CSIRO expects to adapt TRANSIT to these crops and livestock by mid-2016.