

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

**QUESTION ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2014 - 2015**

Outcome: Higher Education Research and International

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000016

Senator Wright, Penny asked on 25 February 2015, Hansard page 119

IMOS data

Question

Senator KIM CARR: This is IMOS, is it?

Senator WRIGHT: Yes.

Mr English: Yes, data from the facilities is generally made publically available, although for particular collection points and particular results we would have to check to get a bit more precise advice for you. But, generally, the principle around the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Scheme is that the results of their work would be publically available, and, generally, that would include data. But, for a site within a network that spans the coast of the country, I would have to check; I am sorry.

Senator WRIGHT: Do you mean you would have to check for a particular site?

Mr English: Yes, that is right.

Senator WRIGHT: Thank you for that—

Mr English: For the facts of Kangaroo Island, I would have to check.

Senator WRIGHT: because that was my question: when will it become available? I am asking because the data collected will likely contain whale calls, which will help determine whale presence in that particular area off Kangaroo Island. It is information which is of critical importance because of the amount of oil and gas exploration that has been planned in the Great Australian Bite in coming months and years by a number of operators, including Bite Petroleum, Schlumberger, Ion, Chevron and BP. How long does it usually take between collecting the data and it becoming publically available, in the general scope of things?

Mr English: I would take that on notice

Answer

All data collected by the Integrated Marine Observing System (IMOS) is made publicly available. The timing of the availability depends on the type of data being collected and the level of post collection processing and quality control required and ranges from real time to up to one year post collection.

The noise loggers off the Kangaroo Island coast are a delayed mode data stream and do not transmit in real time. The data loggers are deployed and recovered on a nine month cycle, timed according to the biological activity in the region.

The data sets collected are large and complex with the data not generally being publicly available for twelve months.