

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Portfolio
Additional Estimates Hearing 2011-12
15 February 2012

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, INNOVATION, SCIENCE, RESEARCH AND TERTIARY EDUCATION

TOPIC: Carbon Tax

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 15 February 2012, pages 19-20)

QUESTION No.: AI-14

Senator MASON: As Chief Scientist, have you provided any advice to the government that failing to implement the government's carbon tax will lead to Australians experiencing higher rates of infectious and vector-borne diseases, as well as food- and water-borne diseases?

Prof. Chubb: No. I have steered clear of making comments about the carbon tax. I think I said that the last time I was here, and probably the first time—no, that was a bit earlier, but certainly the last time I was here. I am not an expert in economics; I am not an expert in the whole issue surrounding the carbon tax. I have taken the view that, if I am asked to provide advice on where the science sits—potentially to interpret some of the science if I were asked—that that is entirely within my brief, but comments on academic matters are not my game.

Senator MASON: No, I understand that, Professor. Are you aware of any advice being provided to the government by any other agency or official in DIISRTE—I will call it the acronym—

Senator Chris Evans: That is not an appropriate question for the Chief Scientist. Whether he is aware of what other advice people have provided to the government is beyond his remit.

Senator MASON: All right. But he may be—

Senator Chris Evans: If you want to ask the question of the department, that is fine, but—

Senator MASON: Okay. Dr Russell, are you aware of any?

Dr Russell: Am I aware of any—

Senator MASON: I will repeat the question. It might make it easier. Are you aware of any advice being provided to the government by any other agency or official in the department or its predecessor that failing to implement the government's carbon tax will lead to Australians experiencing higher rates of infectious and vector borne diseases, as well as food and water borne diseases?

Dr Russell: Sorry; I was still pondering about the earlier question. The answer is no from the department, but we will check with the agency.

ANSWER

This question should be directed to the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency.