

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: INDUSTRY, INNOVATION, SCIENCE, RESEARCH AND TERTIARY EDUCATION

TOPIC: Climate Change

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Bushby

QUESTION No.: AI-251

Are there climate change sections or areas that work on climate change in your department/agency? If yes, list details.

ANSWER

Yes.

IP Australia's domestic policy and international policy and cooperation sections provide technical advice in relation to intellectual property and climate change to other relevant government agencies.

Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) - Three of AIMS' 10 Key Result Areas in the 2011-15 Research Plan concern the impacts of our changing climate on coral reefs across northern Australia.

- Australia's tropical seas - past, present and future
- Resilience and vulnerability of coral reefs in a high carbon dioxide world
- Reef symbioses in a changing ocean

AusIndustry does not have any dedicated sections or areas that work on Climate Change. AusIndustry delivers a number of programs as part of Clean Business Australia, New Car Plan for a Greener Future and Clean Energy Future. They include Retooling for Climate Change (closed), Climate Ready (closed), Green Building Fund (closed), Green Car Innovation Fund (closed), Steel Transformation Scheme (open), Clean Technology Investment Fund (open), Clean Technology Food and Foundries Investment Fund (open), and Clean Technology Innovation Program (yet to open).

The Industry, Energy and Environment Policy Section, within the **Industry and Small Business Policy** Division, undertakes analysis and provides advice to the Ministers, the Executive and the Department on industry, energy and environmental policy issues of relevance to the portfolio and associated matters, this includes climate change policy.

Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) - The areas within CSIRO which work on climate change and its impacts include:

- CSIRO's Marine and Atmospheric Research Division's Climate and Atmosphere Theme
- Climate Science

- Climate Adaptation Flagship - Adaptation to climate change
- Sustainable Agriculture Flagship - Mitigation of climate impacts through Land Management
- Energy Transformed Flagship - Mitigation of climate change impacts through renewables and carbon futures

The **Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation** (ANSTO) uses nuclear technology to address a plethora of environmental issues including climate change. The sensitivity of the tools used at ANSTO provides insights into past, present and future climates, which are impossible using other techniques. Past climates leave their signatures in a variety of places including tree rings, ice cores, corals and cave stalagmites. Understanding the factors that have impacted on past climate can be key to understanding the factors that influence present and future climate.

The **Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies'** (AIATSIS) Native Title Research Unit undertakes research in land and water and is focused on water, climate change, ecology, and joint management.

Dr Jessica Weir, Tran Tran, Dr Kara Youngentob and Dr Lisa Strelein were successful in applying for \$440,000 in funding under the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency's Climate Change Adaptation Research Grants Program. The grant is for case study research into climate change adaptation on native title lands, with funding for an early career researcher and part of Dr Jessica Weir's time, from 1 July 2011 to 30 December 2012.

The **Chief Scientist** Professor Ian Chubb has provided advice on the evidence regarding climate change, reflecting the position of the scientific community in broad.

While not working specifically on climate change the **Science and Infrastructure Division** manages grants programs providing funding for research infrastructure that supports climate change and other research.

Whilst there are no climate change sections or areas working specifically on climate change within **Enterprise Connect**, the program includes two elements of the *Clean 21: The Future of Manufacturing* initiative which:

- links small and medium-sized firms with new clean technology and helps them gain the knowledge they need to reduce their energy, water and material use, cut costs and reduce their environmental impact; and
- aims to help managers develop the skills they need to seize new business opportunities flowing from climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Manufacturing Division does not have any specific climate change responsibilities, but has policy responsibility for the delivery of grant programs under the Clean Energy Future plan. Although an indirect link, the plan aims to address climate change by assisting manufacturers to become more energy efficient in order to transition to a lower carbon economy.

Please note – as this information is as at 29 February 2012 this does not include Outcome 3 and associated Agencies which is transferring from the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations due to the recent Machinery of Government.