

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: COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION

TOPIC: CSIRO Publishing

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 15 February 2012, page 7)

QUESTION No.: AI-2

Senator MASON: But it is less than 12 months ago, that is my point. Mr Whelan, in terms of the publishing question, could you find out who did it, if that is all right? Who decided to upload the description? Was it a staff member of CSIRO Publishing? If you could find that out for us, that would be great. If indeed it was a CSIRO staff member, then it looks to me to be, prima facie, a breach. But I understand that there is a further process to go through. So could you please look at that? Will you undertake to review the books and their descriptions found on the website to ensure that it is clear that any books and description which do breach the CSIRO's public comment policy are the opinion of others? Will you make sure that the publishing site is in accordance with your own policy about engaging in public policy?

Mr M Whelan: With regard to the books that the CSIRO publishes, we make it very clear in the foreword to those books whether the statements are on behalf of the CSIRO or not and whether they are produced by CSIRO or not. I can give you those assurances now with respect to books. With respect to other comments on the website, I will take your question on notice.

Senator MASON: And any editorialising, as it were, with respect to the books.

Mr M Whelan: I understand your question.

ANSWER

Refer to response to AI-1.