

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: Dr Wonhas – Carbon Tax Campaign

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 15 February 2012, page 17)

QUESTION No.: AI-10

Senator BUSHBY: At the last estimates hearing there was a discussion about the participation of one of your employees, Dr Alex Wonhas, in the government's carbon tax advertising campaign. On what date was Dr Wonhas first contacted by the Department of Climate Change about his potential involvement in the campaign?

Mr Whelan: I do not know that Dr Wonhas was contacted by the Department of Climate Change. He was probably contacted by a communications manager inside CSIRO. I would have to take the specific date on notice.

Senator BUSHBY: Perhaps you could find out the date of that for me.

ANSWER

During a discussion with an officer from the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency Dr Wonhas was asked if CSIRO had content that would be relevant for the Department's planned clean energy future website. Dr Wonhas referred the Department's request to CSIRO's internal communications team on 11 May 2011. On 16 June 2011 CSIRO's internal communications team contacted Dr Wonhas regarding his possible participation in a filmed interview.