

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio
Budget Estimates Hearing 2011-12
30 May 2011

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION

TOPIC: Government's Climate Commission report

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 30 May 2011, E28)

QUESTION No.: BI-12

Senator COLBECK: It is actually getting the information on the table, which is what I was trying to do. All the defensive mechanism that floats around it makes you think otherwise. When you get the right information, it is very helpful. Thank you. Have any staff from CSIRO contributed to the government's Climate Commission report that was released last week?

Dr Clark: Yes, Senator. I will call Dr Johnson to the table. He can outline the depth of our contribution to that report.

Dr Johnson: Yes, CSIRO staff have contributed to that report.

Senator COLBECK: Can you tell me how many staff were involved in that process?

Dr Johnson: I cannot tell you the exact number of staff but, I do know that staff in a number of our research divisions were consulted on elements around the climate science dimensions of that report. One of our staff is also a member of the scientific advisory council that advises the Climate Commission.

Senator COLBECK: Which divisions?

Dr Johnson: Predominantly from our Division of Marine and Atmospheric Research but also from our Division of Land and Water. They would be the two prime areas.

Senator COLBECK: You had one who was a member of the assessment panel?

Dr Johnson: The Climate Commission has a scientific advisory committee which contains a number of Australia's leading climate scientists. Dr Helen Cleugh, who is the deputy chief of our Division of Marine and Atmospheric Research, has been involved in that process.

Senator COLBECK: So you do not know specifically who, out of those two divisions, was involved in the—

Dr Johnson: I do not have the names in front of me, Senator, although I do know that across the key areas that the report covered from a climate science perspective our scientists who had expertise in those areas were consulted.

Senator CAMERON: A good report. You have done a good job.

Senator COLBECK: If you could provide for me on notice—

Dr Johnson: I would be happy to do that.

Senator COLBECK: —the details of who they were and also their background and qualifications in climate science, please. Do you know how much time would have been spent collectively on that work?

ANSWER

The details of the CSIRO staff who commented on a draft of the Climate Commission report are provided below:

Name	Position/Background
Dr John Church	PhD in Physics and over 30 years experience in climate and ocean science. Lead editor of Understanding Sea-Level Rise and Variability published in 2010 < http://www.csiro.au/people/John.Church.html >
Dr Pep Canadell	PhD in Biology. Global Carbon Project Executive Director, < http://www.globalcarbonproject.org/who_is_who/pep_canadell.htm >
Dr Andrew Ash	PhD and over 20 years' experience in how climate, grazing and fire influence the productivity and health of agriculture and ecosystems < http://www.csiro.au/people/Andrew.Ash.html >
Dr Wenju Cai	PhD in Physical oceanography, leader of research that is using climate change and variability predictions to maximise agricultural, urban and ecological water use opportunities < http://www.csiro.au/people/Wenju.Cai.html >
Dr David Post	PhD and Program Director of the South Eastern Australian Climate Initiative (SEACI) partnership investigating the causes and impacts of climate change and variability across south eastern Australia < http://www.csiro.au/people/David.Post.html >
Dr Francis Chiew	PhD and CSIRO Science Leader with over 15 years experience in research, teaching and consulting in hydrology and water resources. Dr Chiew leads research on hydrological modelling and climate impact on water < http://www.csiro.au/people/Francis.Chiew.html >
Dr Debbie Abbs	PhD and Team leader in the Division of Marine and Atmospheric research using a number of different methods to predict the risk of occurrence of severe weather events. Dr Abbs leads a research Team working on Climate variability and change
Dr Alastair Hobday	PhD in Biological Oceanography and Leader of Marine Climate Impacts and Adaptation research on spatial management and migration of large pelagic species, environmental influences on marine species, and the impacts of climate change on marine resources

CSIRO estimates the time spent on providing comment or input from this group amounts to about 20 hours in total. This is in addition to around five hours of input provided by Dr Helen Cleugh in her role on the Climate Commission's Scientific Advisory Committee.