

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: Zero Emissions

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 30 May 2011, E31)

QUESTION No.: BI-14

Senator COLBECK: You never know. Can you give me some information about the Zero Emission House project? Do you manage a project called the Zero Emission House project?
Dr Clark: Yes, we did, in conjunction with Lend Lease and Delfin. The house was constructed on the basis of zero emissions. My understanding is that a family would live in there and we would monitor that family. I do not have the up-to-date monitoring of the zero emissions house at the moment.

Senator COLBECK: So what information have you provided in respect of reports to date on that? Is there a regular reporting time frame and process on that?

Dr Clark: There may be; I am not aware of it. I am very happy to take that on notice and provide that information.

1) QUESTION –SENATOR COLBECK - Okay. When did the project actually commence?

Dr Clark: I can take that on notice and provide you with the exact date. We did launch the house with our partners and I can provide you with the dates of that launch. I can also provide you with the information in terms of the ongoing monitoring.

2) QUESTION SENATOR COLBECK - Can you give me some information around the specifications for the design and construction of the house, or is that commercially held?

Dr Clark: Yes, we can. Some of that information is available publicly. But if you provide the details of exactly what you require we can make it available.

3) QUESTION SENATOR COLBECK: I would be interested in the specifications for the construction of the house.

Dr Clark: Certainly.

Senator COLBECK: That is a fairly specific document, I assume.

Dr Clark: I would be happy to take that on notice. Obviously we have commercial partners as well in that project, and I would certainly like to check the information that CSIRO can provide. There may, of course, be other information that would be held by our commercial partners, but I would be happy to investigate that.

ANSWERS:

A confidential report, that includes information related to intellectual property owned by our project partners, has been delivered to the project partners. Another report is due to be delivered to them in March 2012 at the conclusion of the monitoring phase of the program.

1) The AusZEH project was launched in September 2008 at the Sustainable Buildings Conference (SB08) in Melbourne. Construction of the house commenced in April 2009 and the house was officially launched on 29 April 2010. The house was open to the public for a period of six months and in November 2010 a family took up residence in the house. The energy usage and the occupant's interaction with the energy system in the house are being monitored for a period of one year as part of the research program associated with the construction of the house.

2) Basic specification data (including information factsheets) for the house is available on the project's website (www.auszeh.org.au).

3) Beyond the basic specifications listed on the project web site, a commercial in confidence report was prepared for the project's consortium partners which provides further details on the house's construction.