

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio
Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing 2009-10
21 October 2009

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION

TOPIC: Climate Change Modelling

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard 21 October 2009, E17)

QUESTION No.: SI-22

Senator ABETZ—If it does not occasion too much work, could you provide us with a list of the various disclaimers that the CSIRO does use and whether, in relation to climate change, you use this disclaimer? For what it is worth, allegedly in 2003 the CSIRO predicted that Mount Hotham and Mount Buller would lose 25 per cent of their snow cover by 2020. First of all, let us establish that there was such a report and, if so, whether CSIRO produced it and then whether they added this disclaimer: The projections in this report are based on results from computer models that involve simplifications of real physical processes that are not fully understood. Accordingly, no responsibility will be accepted by CSIRO for the accuracy of the projections inferred from this report or for any person's interpretations, conclusions or actions based on this information. Could check up for me whether that disclaimer was used in 2003 and whether it is continuing to be used in relation to climate change modelling?

ANSWER

Yes, the disclaimer as cited was used for the 2003 report "*The impact of climate change on snow conditions in mainland Australia*" Kevin Hennessy *et al*, CSIRO Atmospheric Research.

CSIRO report templates make provision for the use of disclaimer statements. If a disclaimer is used on a CSIRO research report, it is used to reflect the specific circumstances of the work undertaken and is developed in negotiation with the collaborators on the project.