

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012
19 October 2011

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION

TOPIC: CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Colbeck

QUESTION No.: SI-61

At the Estimates hearing of 19 October 2011, Mr Whelan noted that, where CSIRO employees have an interest in companies that might potentially influence their decisions at work, these are disclosed to the Commercial Committee. As an adviser to Bank of America Merrill Lynch and a director of Cradle Mountain Carbon (especially at a time when the Government is relying extensively on advice from the CSIRO to justify its pursuit of a carbon tax), is Dr Clark required to disclose one or both of these interests to that committee? If so, has she - and on what dates? If not, why not?

ANSWER

No.

Mr Whelan was referring to the CSIRO management committee known as the Commercial Executive Committee. The Chief Executive is not a member of this committee nor a proponent of transactions brought before the committee and so no declaration would be made during the standing item on declarations before the commencement of each meeting of this committee.