

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

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION

TOPIC: CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Colbeck

QUESTION No.: SI-67

Mr Whelan also said on 19 October 2011 that the CSIRO has “frequently participated in information campaigns of this order”. In what other Government-financed advertising has CSIRO featured during the past five years?

ANSWER

CSIRO is frequently engaged by Government to undertake research which the Government intends to use to inform policy development. In its contracts or other interactions with Government, CSIRO will typically permit the Government to disseminate the results of that research as it sees fit on the conditions that CSIRO receives due attribution and that research outcomes are not misrepresented. As a consequence, CSIRO's research is frequently referenced in relation to activities undertaken by the Government. Examples of this include CSIRO's Northern Australia Land and Water Science Review, the Sustainable Yields water projects and CSIRO's health research. This included the production of a fridge magnet in September 2007 that was distributed to 1.8 million Australian primary school children and included a reference website that provided detailed nutrition and physical activity information and links for parents.