

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: CYBERNOSE PROJECT

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Colbeck

QUESTION No.: SI-87

1. In answer to Question on Notice BI-75 from the last round of Estimates, we were told that Alisha Anderson became the project leader of Cybernose on 4 January 2011. How and on what date was the Plant Biosecurity CRC informed about this change of project leader and Dr Anderson's background, experience, involvement and contribution to the development and/or negotiation stages of the project? If there was a delay in informing the CRC, what was the reason for this delay? If the CRC was not provided with full details of Dr Anderson's credentials, why was this?
2. At around this time, was there also a revision of Dr Stephen Trowell's responsibilities in the Cybernose project in any form? If so, how and on what date was the Plant Biosecurity CRC informed about this change in Dr Trowell's role? If there was a delay in informing the CRC of this change, what was the reason for this delay?
3. At the time they were chosen to play key roles with Cybernose, what past experience and record of success did Dr Anderson and Dr Trowell each possess as project leaders at CSIRO?

ANSWER

1. Dr Anderson took over formal leadership of the project on 5 January 2011 following the termination of the previous leader's tenure with CSIRO on 4 January 2011. The Director of the CRC was informed in a letter from the Deputy Chief of CSIRO Ecosystem Sciences sent by email on 5 January 2011.

Dr. Anderson's credentials are publically available at:
www.csiro.au/people/Alisha.Anderson.html
www.researcherid.com/rid/C-1499-2008

The CRC for National Plant Biosecurity requested no further information.

2. There was no revision in Dr Trowell's responsibilities in the Cybernose project, on or around the time when Dr Anderson took over leadership of the CRC Project.

3. Dr Anderson was appointed to lead the CSIRO Cybernose Project in 2008 following an internationally advertised competitive appointment process in which she was deemed to be the outstanding candidate. Dr Anderson's previous experience and qualifications are publically available at the web addresses provided in response to question one.

Dr Trowell was appointed to lead the CSIRO Cybernose Project in 2004. Prior to that time, Dr Trowell had 15 years experience successfully leading a range of multidisciplinary, multi-institutional projects for CSIRO. For example Dr Trowell led the team that developed and commercialised the LepTon™ Test Kit for the benefit of the Australian cotton industry. Dr Trowell had also led the team that developed and commercialised CSIRO's Insect Extract Library in collaboration with BioDiscovery Ltd.

Full details of Dr Trowell's experience and track record are in the public domain at:

www.csiro.au/people/Stephen.Trowell.html

www.researcherid.com/rid/B-8043-2008