

#### **Question 4 – Hansard Page 11 and 12**

**Dr Hajkowicz:** I'm afraid I'm going to get the number wrong. They're not cheap. Can I take that on notice? They're not cheap, and it's expensive. The United States National Artificial Intelligence Research Resource, the NAIRR, which has been created is about making three things available to the US AI ecosystem to unleash what they can do across the entire ecosystem. It's about giving them access to GPUs, high-performance computing; it's about giving them access to data; and it's about skills and capability uplift so they can do it. There's that view. And the European AI factories that have been announced are creating the same sorts of capabilities. That's the policy mechanism they're using to increase the rate of AI building and AI making in those places.

**Senator SHOEBRIDGE:** So why isn't the CSIRO tasked with the same job here? We don't have the assets and we don't have the capacity. It seems the obvious place to do that would be in the CSIRO, but we haven't heard a word about it.

**Dr Hajkowicz:** I don't know the full answer. I can't really speak for the whole of CSIRO. I'm going to have to take that on notice. We could show you all the stuff we are doing, which may go to some extent—

#### **Answer**

CSIRO has not been tasked as described above. Questions relating to policy are better directed to our portfolio department, the Department of Industry, Science and Resources. Notwithstanding this, CSIRO has an important role in hosting critical national facilities on behalf of the nation, including the Pawsey Supercomputing Research Centre. This centre supports researchers across the nation with supercomputing, data, cloud and visualisation services by handling computational challenges at the highest scale. Pawsey enables research solutions to big science problems that impact both society and economic growth for Australia.

At CSIRO, we can see the huge benefits to Australia from increased AI capability and more powerful computing resources. AI can be used alongside other technologies and innovations to keep electricity prices down whilst reducing emissions, deliver improved healthcare at lower cost, mitigate natural hazards like bushfires and floods, reduce traffic congestion and accidents, make housing more affordable, and generally improve the quality of life of Australians.