

**Economics Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
Industry, Innovation and Science Portfolio  
2015-16 Additional Budget Estimates  
11 February 2016

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**AGENCY:** CSIRO

**TOPIC:** Intellectual property

**REFERENCE:** Written Question – Senator Carr

**QUESTION No.:** AI-162

Dr Marshall has talked a lot about improving the rate at which CSIRO commercialises the intellectual property it holds.

- a. What will success look like in this regard?
- b. Has CSIRO set specific goals, targets or performance indicators in terms of either the number of deals or financial return to CSIRO?
- c. Please provide a summary of CSIRO patenting rates and revenue generated from commercialisation in the last 5 years?
- d. If the 2020 strategy is successful, what will patenting and revenue look like this year? Next year? In five years?
- e. What is the primary objective of CSIRO's commercialisation agenda? Is it to generate an income for CSIRO, to develop Australian companies or simply to see CSIRO's technology put to practical use?

**ANSWER**

- (a) CSIRO's strategy seeks to enhance our capacity to generate innovations with commercial potential and social benefits and accelerate their delivery to customers in industry, government and community.
- (b) See points 1, 3 and 4 on page 16 of CSIRO Corporate Plan 2015-16 (<http://www.csiro.au/en/About/Strategy-structure/Corporate-plan>)
- (c) See Table 2.4 of CSIRO Annual Report 2014-15 for patenting rates. Revenue generated from licensing of intellectual property over the last three years are as follows:  
  
2012-13: \$37.5 million  
  
2013-14: \$29.1 million  
  
2014-15: \$60.8 million.  
  
Information for prior years are available in the Annual Reports for those years.
- (d) Should the 2020 Strategy be successful, it is expected that patenting and revenue will increase across the life of the strategy. Exact revenue estimates will be articulated in the 2016-17 Portfolio Budget Statements when published.

- (e) Achieving impact through knowledge transfer is the primary objective of CSIRO as a mission-directed research organisation, including through CSIRO's commercialisation agenda. This is consistent with CSIRO's two primary functions under Section 9 of the *Science and Industry Research Act 1949 (SIR Act)*:
- a. To carry out scientific research for the purpose of assisting Australian industry; furthering the interests of the Australian community; and
  - b. To encourage or facilitate the application or utilization of the results of such research.

Under Section 9AA(1)(c) of the *SIR Act*, CSIRO has power to seek payment of fees or royalties for access to CSIRO intellectual property. CSIRO has published principles for generating impact from IP (<http://www.csiro.au/en/Do-business/Technology-licensing/CSIRO-IP-principles>) that include that where the knowledge and technology being transferred has a market application and is expected to generate commercial returns, an equitable return from the commercial exploitation of intellectual capital is expected. Another principle is that CSIRO will strive to choose the best transfer path to maximise impact. These pathways include public dissemination, exclusive or non-exclusive licensing, assignment or reciprocal agreements to increase collaboration and access to third party Intellectual Property Rights.