

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

AGENCY: CSIRO

TOPIC: Development plan for Northern Australia

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Carr

QUESTION No.: AI-164

Dr Marshall's all-staff email talks about CSIRO engagement in the development plan for Northern Australia.

- a. Is this primarily through the CRC for Developing Northern Australia? If not, please provide further details of CSIRO's engagement in the development plan for Northern Australia.
- b. Is CSIRO a partner in the CRC for Developing Northern Australia? Please describe CSIRO's current and expected involvement in this initiative.
- c. Is CSIRO expecting to attract external revenue from its engagement with the CRC for Developing Northern Australia? If so, how much?

ANSWER

- a. Not primarily. CSIRO's most significant engagement is through the Northern Australia Water Resource Assessment projects announced on 26 February 2016 whereby over the next three years CSIRO will work with northern jurisdictions, research partners and communities to undertake these assessments.

As part of the Northern Australia White Paper, CSIRO's TRANSIT model will be applied to inform the \$100 million beef roads fund.

CSIRO is also engaged in a range of work relevant to development of Northern Australia but not included under the umbrella of the White Paper on Development of Northern Australia – for example through the National Environmental Science Programme's Northern Australia Environmental Resources Hub led through Charles Darwin University and the Tropical Water Quality Hub led through the Reef and Rainforest Research Centre, and the Uncover project working to unlock and potentially double the mineral resources of Northern Australia by subsurface prospecting using geophysics, ground water analysis and other new techniques.

- b. CSIRO is engaging in the discussions for the formation of the CRC and does anticipate being a partner in the CRC at its formation.
- c. At the current stage of formation of the CRC, it is too early to make an estimate of CSIRO's investment and revenues from engagement in the CRC.