

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio
Additional Estimates Hearing 2007-08
21 February 2008

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: INNOVATION, INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

TOPIC: CSIRO Funds Allocated to Other Bodies

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard 21/2/08, Page E54)

QUESTION No. AI-9

Senator ABETZ: Does CSIRO use the funds allocated to it to fund other bodies, other institutions or other research projects not under its direct control?

Mr Whelan—Yes, the organisation does provide funding from its appropriation to other bodies.

Senator ABETZ—Is a list readily available as to who the recipients of those funds are and for what purposes those funds are made available?

Mr Whelan—We do not have that information with us.

Senator ABETZ—I did not expect you to.

Mr Whelan—But it is readily compilable.

Senator ABETZ—My next question was: could you direct me somewhere on that website for that information but take that on notice as well. So if you can provide me with a list and then for future, if there is a website where I can look it up, that would make that easier.

ANSWER

CSIRO has provided the following response.

FLAGSHIP COLLABORATION FUND

Funding provided by the Commonwealth Government to CSIRO for the National Research Flagships includes a Flagship Collaboration Fund, for external collaboration with universities and other publicly funded research agencies. The fund supports collaborative research “clusters” (significant three-year research partnerships which attract Collaboration Fund contributions of around \$1 million per year), shorter collaborative projects of one year’s duration and \$100,000 funding, visiting fellowships and postgraduate scholarships where students work on a project relevant to a Flagship and are jointly supervised by CSIRO and a university.

The following tables list funds allocated from the Flagship Collaboration Fund to research “clusters” as of January 2008.

Flagship Collaboration Fund clusters as at April 2008

Round 1 Clusters

Flagship	Cluster name	Cluster leader(s)	Other partners	Launched
Energy Transformed	National Hydrogen Materials Alliance	Dr Andrew Dicks, University of Queensland	UNSW, Uni of Wollongong, Uni of Sydney, QUT, RMIT, ANU, Curtin, Monash, Griffith Uni, Newcastle Uni, ANSTO	18 October, 2006 Newcastle
Food Futures	Concentration and separation of bioactives in food science	Professor Milton Hearn, Monash University and Dr Muthupandian Ashokkumar, University of Melbourne (merged)	No other partners	12 December, 2006, Melbourne
Food Futures	Learning the principles of olfactory pattern recognition from invertebrates	Professor Mandyam Srinivasan, UQ (moved from ANU)	Monash, ANU	11 August, 2006 Canberra
Light Metals	Australian Partnership in Light Metals Research	Professor David St John, CAST CRC and Professor Barry Muddle, Monash University	ARC CoE, UQ, Deakin, Swinburne	18 August, 2006 Melbourne
P-Health	Detecting and preventing Alzheimer's disease	Professor David Ames, University of Melbourne	Edith Cowan Uni, Mental Health Research Institute, Neurosciences Australia	14 November, 2006 Melbourne
Water for a Healthy Country	CLAMMecology (Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth)	Dr Mike Geddes, University of Adelaide	Flinders, SARDI	29 August, 2006 Adelaide
Wealth from Oceans	Human uses and impacts on Ningaloo reef	Professor Neil Loneragan, Murdoch University	ANU, Curtin, Edith Cowan, Sustainable Tourism CRC, UWA, UQ	23 November, 2006 Perth

Round 2 Clusters

Flagship	Cluster name	Cluster leader(s)	Other partners	Launched
Food Futures	Redesigning grain polysaccharides	Professor Mike Gidley, University of Queensland	University of Adelaide, University of Melbourne	25 July, 2007
Water for a Healthy Country	Advanced membrane technologies for water treatment	Professor Stephen Gray, Victoria University	UNSW, University of Melbourne, RMIT, Monash, University of Queensland, Curtin University, University of SA, Murdoch University	18 May, 2007 Melbourne
Wealth from Oceans	Subsea pipelines for reliable and environmentally safe development	Professor Mark Cassidy, University of Western Australia	Curtin University, Flinders University, Monash, University of Sydney, University of Queensland	31 October, 2007 Perth

Round 3 Clusters (Approved Clusters, currently progressing through governance and contractual arrangements)

Flagship	Cluster name	Cluster leader(s)	Other partners	Launched
Energy Transformed	The "intelligent grid" – modelling distributed generation and interruptible load	Professor Stuart White, University of Technology Sydney	University of South Australia, University of Queensland, Curtin, QUT	TBC
Light Metals	Breakthrough technology for primary aluminium	Professor Geoff Brooks, Swinburne University	TBC	TBC
Preventative Health	The ASPREE healthy ageing cohort Biobank	Professor John McNeil, Monash University	University of Melbourne, University of Tasmania, Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research	TBC

In addition to the clusters, 13 collaborative projects are underway or have been completed with a further 10 approved. Sixteen visiting fellows are already underway or have been completed. At the end of 2007, 80 postgraduate scholarships have been awarded with another round commencing in 2008.

While CSIRO provides information on individual Flagship Collaboration Fund clusters on its web site (see for example the [Olfactory pattern recognition research cluster](http://www.csiro.au/partnerships/ps241.html) <<http://www.csiro.au/partnerships/ps241.html>> or the [Ningaloo collaboration cluster](http://www.csiro.au/partnerships/ps2i5.html) <<http://www.csiro.au/partnerships/ps2i5.html>>) it does not maintain a web-accessible list of Flagship Collaboration Fund recipients of projects, fellowships or postgraduate students.