

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio  
Additional Estimates Hearing  
26 February 2009

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**AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:** COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION

**TOPIC:** Property sales

**REFERENCE:** Written Question – Senator Payne

**QUESTION No.:** AI-11

1. The Government has stated that it committed to releasing surplus government land for housing purposes. In September 2008, Housing Minister Tanya Plibersek, responding to a Question on Notice, said that the commonwealth had released the following land for sale (West Wattle Grove (Syd), Cannon Hill (Bris) and Schofields (Syd)). Is it true that the Cannon Hill site was sold for \$34.8 million? Will the future use of this land be for housing?
2. There are media reports of the sale of 7.2 hectare site at Indooroopilly, when the CSIRO vacates the site in 2011. Is this site being considered as part of the Audit of Commonwealth Land.?
3. Will either of these sites be investigated for development as part of the 20,000 social housing dwellings to be provided as part of the Commonwealth's National Building and Jobs Plan?
4. Will the Commonwealth Government consider transferring ownership of these sites to State Governments as part of its response to the shortage of public housing?

**ANSWER**

1. The CSIRO Cannon Hill property was sold in 2008 for \$34.8M (plus GST). CSIRO has a leaseback over most of the main parcel of land to mid 2010, coinciding with the planned relocation of CSIRO staff on site to the Health and Food Sciences Precinct at Coopers Plains at this time. The future use of the land, following the relocation of CSIRO staff from this site, is presently unknown. The smaller parcel of land on the corner of Creek Road and Murarrie Road was sold with vacant possession. CSIRO understands this smaller site may be used by Energex (the purchaser) as a community facility (electricity sub-station).
2. The CSIRO Indooroopilly site is presently being marketed for sale; it has not yet been sold (as at March 2009). The property was included in the Audit of Commonwealth land.
3. The Cannon Hill and Indooroopilly sites have both been marketed for sale in accordance with the Commonwealth's Land Disposal Policy. Both have promoted the Policy and the Government objectives in their divestment.
4. No. Cannon Hill was sold in 2008. The Queensland State Government has not sought to purchase the Indooroopilly property from CSIRO. The Indooroopilly property has been offered for sale via a public expression of interest process.