

**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:** Research on Day/Night Cricket Ball

**REFERENCE:** Question on Notice (Hansard 26 February 2009, E108)

**QUESTION No.:** AI-53

**Senator ABETZ**—...During the cricket season I was listening in and one of the commentators was telling me that the CSIRO—we are already getting a smile—was being tasked to work on developing a cricket ball for day/night test matches. I was wondering whether is that true and how are we getting on with it?

**Dr Clark**—I have to say that I am going to seek the aid of my colleagues on this one.

**Senator ABETZ**—It just goes to show that, even when I am on holidays listening to the cricket, I am alert to portfolio issues.

**Mr Whelan**—Yes, it is true that we are working with the Australian Cricket Board to see if we can develop a cricket ball or a covering for a cricket ball that enables it to be better seen at night. I do not have the details as to how it is progressing but I am more than happy to provide those to you on notice.

**ANSWER**

A joint CSIRO/AIS proposal has been prepared and was submitted to Cricket Australia on 9 February 2009. The proposed project will have the following aims:

1. The establishment of independent Australian cricket ball standards, testing processes and accreditation,
2. The development of a day-night test cricket ball (80 over minimum specification), and
3. The improvement of the durability and visibility of the current one day ball (50 overs – white or another colour)

If approved, it is hoped that the project will result in a prototype day-night test ball in 15 months as well as a more durable one-day ball. This proposal is under consideration by Cricket Australia.