

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

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION

TOPIC: Travel Expenditure

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard 26 February 2009, E122)

QUESTION No.: AI-59

Senator ABETZ—...Can I ask possibly you, Mr Whelan, in relation to the travel bill incurred by CSIRO. You may need to take these on notice; if so, just let me know. What is the CSIRO's travel bill for 2008 and can we split it up between domestic and international?

Mr Whelan—We certainly could do that, Senator, but I would have to take that on notice.

Senator ABETZ—Alright, what measures are in place to control this expenditure?

Mr Whelan—Substantial measures, Senator. The organisation has rolled out an increase in its video conferencing footprint over the last two years in an attempt to curb its travel expenditure. We are currently rolling out around 1,000 desktop video cameras to enable more of our staff to video conference to try and limit

travel. This year we have reduced the number of times that the executive management council of the organisation comes together from six to three. Senior officers in the organisation, although entitled under their contracts to travel business class, have been travelling economy for the last two years. So, a range of arrangements are already in place across CSIRO to try and limit travel.

Senator ABETZ—All right, and that will undoubtedly show up if you could please provide me with a comparison. You work on a financial year I suppose? So 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 for this year, if you could provide me with that comparison of domestic and international travel?

Mr Whelan—Happy to do that, Senator.

Senator ABETZ—That would be very helpful. How many of the CSIRO staff were platinum frequent flyers, do you know that?

Mr Whelan—I imagine there would be quite a few, Senator.

ANSWER

	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09 to 28.2.09
Domestic Travel	\$23.959m	\$27.493m	\$8.038m
International Travel	\$12.217m	\$15.334m	\$6.483m
Total	\$36.176m	\$42.827m	\$14.521m

Note: Financial reports are produced to months end only.