

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: Gunns Pulp Mill

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard 26 February 2009, E125 & E126)

QUESTION No.: AI-64

Senator ABETZ—...Can I ask about the Gunns pulp mill. Has the CSIRO been involved in that to assist the independent expert group...

Dr Johnson—As you correctly point out, Senator, CSIRO has been engaged and three of our staff are members of the independent expert group that has been working with officers in the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts...

Senator ABETZ—Are you aware of the trigger levels, and I am testing memory now, in table 26 on page 57 of module L—and undoubtedly they would be well known to you, Dr Johnson—and of whether the CSIRO panel of three were of a like mind or agreed that that was the appropriate standard against which the mill ought to be assessed?

Dr Johnson—I am not in a position to answer that question. I do not know the answer to that.

Senator ABETZ—All right. Could you please take that on notice for me?

Dr Johnson—Sure.

ANSWER

As the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts manages the independent expert group, this question should be directed to the Department. CSIRO has advised the Department that this question is likely to be referred to them.