

INNOVATION, INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND RESEARCH PORTFOLIO
Additional Estimates 2008–09 (February 2009)

Written Questions on Notice

Q No	Senator	Agency	Question	Date answered	Date sent to Senator	Additional Information
<i>Staffing</i>						
<u>AI-1</u>	Humphries	DIISR	How many SES positions were there in this department as at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24 November 2007 • 26 February 2009 	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	
<i>OPAL reactor</i>						
<u>AI-2</u>	Eggleston	ANSTO	You had already advised in previous estimates that the water leakage between the light and heavy waters of the OPAL reactor had been remedied in the short term and that a solution that would correct this issue for the whole operative life of OPAL was still being looked into. Could you please update us on how that situation is coming along?	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	
<i>Molybdenum-99</i>						
<u>AI-3</u>	Eggleston	ANSTO	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. During the last estimates, you discussed issues faced by ANSTO in sourcing molybdenum-99 from overseas and how you were aiming to have your own molybdenum-99 plant commissioned around Christmas of last year. Were you successful in this goal and if not why not? 2. You also mentioned that there were only 4 other sources of molybdenum-99 in the world with most of those sources relied upon old reactors. You also suggested that Australia might play a role in meeting the needs of molybdenum-99 of other countries. How is this opportunity to export molybdenum-99 panning out? 3. What is the annual value of molybdenum-99 production in Australia and how much of that are you looking at exporting? 4. Could you advise if there are any other export avenues open to ANSTO, their potential benefits, and what would be needed to see those options come about? 	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	

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<i>PETNet</i>						
<u>AI-4</u>	Eggleston	ANSTO	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Last estimates you had advised the Committee of your decision to partner up with PETNet to start building a cyclotron to produce the tracers used in PET scans. Could you provide us with an update as to how this partnership is turning out and where the project is at? 2. What is the value of current demand for this product in Australia and how much of that does ANSTO see itself providing? 3. Is there any possibility of expanding into overseas markets? 	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	
<i>Nuclear waste storage at OPAL</i>						
<u>AI-5</u>	Eggleston	ANSTO	During the previous estimates you had discussed your plans to amalgamate storage facilities for nuclear material at the OPAL site with the open of this move providing space for more on-site waste storage. How are these plans moving along and has OPAL's waste storage capacity improved as you had hoped?	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	
<i>OPAL-INVAP</i>						
<u>AI-6</u>	Eggleston	ANSTO	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The issue of costs during the commissioning phase of OPAL has been before this Committee for some time now; could you provide us with an update of how your negotiations are going with both INVAP, the Argentineans that supplied the reactor? 2. When do you foresee these negotiations coming to an end? 	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	
<i>Cost recovery of business losses</i>						
<u>AI-7</u>	Eggleston	ANSTO	You had already explained previously that any loss-of-business costs would not be carried by INVAP however you had discussed the option of recovering business losses with your insurer Comcover. Could you provide us with details on how those negotiations are going?	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	
<i>Membership of the Generation IV International Forum</i>						
<u>AI-8</u>	Eggleston	ANSTO	The current government has put Australia's participation on the Generation IV International Forum on hold and we were advised at the Budget Estimates that a decision was going to be made but no-one knew how long that was going to take. How is that decision going; is there any idea as to when a decision will be made and if not, why is it taking so long?	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	

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<i>Decommissioning of the HIFAR reactor</i>						
<u>AI-9</u>	Eggleston	ANSTO	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Could you provide us with an update on the decommissioning process of HIFAR? 2. What is the situation with funding? Has funding been secured for the complete decommissioning process and if not, why not? What would happen if that funding were not forthcoming? 	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	
<i>Training and staff development</i>						
<u>AI-10</u>	Eggleston	ANSTO	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We were advised during Additional Estimates in 2008 that ANSTO's Nuclear Technician Training Program had been cancelled due to inflationary pressures. As those pressures are no longer with us is there any reasons why funding for the program will not be restored? 2. Why does ANSTO find this program so important? 	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	
<i>Property sales</i>						
<u>AI-11</u>	Payne	CSIRO	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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? 	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	
<i>Efficiency dividend</i>						
<u>AI-12</u>	Abetz	DIISR	<p>How has your agency implemented the one-off two per cent efficiency dividend (ED)?</p> <p>Where have savings been achieved – i.e. which programs/resources have been cut?</p> <p>Have you had to reduce any activities that you consider to be 'core business' or have you</p>	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	

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			had to reduce service standards as a result of the ED?			
Staffing						
AI-13	Abetz	DIISR	<p>Have staffing numbers been reduced as a result of the efficiency dividend and/or other budget cuts?</p> <p>If so, where and at what level?</p> <p>Are there any plans for staff reductions? If so, please advise details ie. reduction target, how this will be achieved, services/programs to be cut etc.</p> <p>What changes are underway or planned for graduate recruitment, cadetships or similar programs?</p> <p>Are such employment programs being reduced? If so, by how many and have you done an analysis on long term effect on retention and attrition?</p>	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	
Consultancies						
AI-14	Abetz	DIISR	Has your consultancy expenditure increased due to reduced staffing?	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	
Appropriations						
AI-15	Abetz	DIISR	<p>I note that the Government has introduced new legislation – the Federal Financial Relations Bill – which appropriates money to Treasury to pass on to the States.</p> <p>Does your department/agency receive any appropriations that will be transferred to the Treasury Department?</p> <p>What are these?</p>	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	
Analytical resources						
AI-16	Abetz	DIISR	Does your department/agency have enough analytical resources at its disposal? For example, the Government has cut funding to the ABS – are you provided with enough data collection for evidence-based policy making and evaluation?	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	
Depreciation						
AI-17	Abetz	DIISR	<p>Did your agency use any depreciation funding for recurrent expenditure in 2007-08?</p> <p>Has your agency used any depreciation funding for recurrent expenditure this year?</p> <p>Has any depreciation funding been used for purposes other than the replacement of capital items in 2007-08?</p>	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	

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			How much has your department/agency spent on the replacement of capital items in the first six months of 2008-09?			
<i>Stimulus package</i>						
<u>AI-18</u>	Abetz	DIISR	Does the Department/agency have any involvement in measures announced as part of the \$42 billion budget stimulus package? If so, was (and when was) the Dept/agency asked for input before the stimulus package was announced? When did the Dept/agency know details about the stimulus package affecting their portfolio?	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	
<i>Staffing</i>						
<u>AI-19</u>	Abetz	DIISR	What is the current total staffing for the Department/Agency – permanent and temporary? What was the total Full Time Equivalent (FTE) staffing level for the Department/Agency on 1 July 2008? How many permanent staff were recruited in calendar year 2008 and in FY 2008-09 to date? What level are these staff? How many temporary positions exist or have been created CY 2008 and FY 2008-09 to date? For CY 2008 and FY 2008-09, how many employees have been employed on contract and what is the average length of their employment period?	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	
<i>Program funding</i>						
<u>AI-20</u>	Abetz	DIISR	Which programs are currently tracking for an underspend this financial year? How many of the Department's funding programs/budget measures lapse this Financial Year?	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	
<i>Gershon Review</i>						
<u>AI-21</u>	Abetz	DIISR	What impact will the Gershon Review have on your department/agency? How much money will be saved? Will you be required to return any money to Budget for 2009-10?	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	

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Media monitoring						
<u>AI-22</u>	Abetz	DIISR	How much was spent on media monitoring in CY 2008? How much has been spent on media monitoring FY 2008-09 YTD? How many staff in each department/agency are employed for media related duties?	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	
Ministerial staff						
<u>AI-23</u>	Abetz	DIISR	For each Minister/Parl Secretary in the portfolio, how many personal staff are employed, how many vacancies exist and what levels are these positions? How many laptops, mobile phones and PDAs does the Department provide to the personal staff of the Minister/Parliamentary Secretary? How many Departmental Liaison Officers are currently allocated to each Minister/Parliamentary Secretary? Do any DLOs they provide policy advice? Are any Departmental officers are on secondment to the office of the Minister/Parl Sec? If so, how many and to whom.	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	
Ministerial travel						
<u>AI-24</u>	Abetz	DIISR	Has the Minister/Parliamentary Secretary travelled overseas on official business since Budget Estimates? If so, where was the travel and what was the duration? What was the total cost of: a) travel b) accommodation, and c) any other expenses? How many Ministerial staff or family accompanied the Minister/Parliamentary Secretary? For these staff/family what was the cost of: a) travel b) accommodation, and c) any other expenses? How many officers from the Department accompanied the Minister/Parliamentary Secretary? In relation to these Departmental officers, what was the total cost of:	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	

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			a) travel b) accommodation, and c) any other expenses?			
Government advertising						
AI-25	Abetz	DIISR	What communications programs has the Department/Agency undertaken, or are planning to undertake? For each program, what is the total spend? Please detail including media advertisements (where placed and costs) What was the total spend on advertising by the Department/Agency in CY 2008 and for so far for FY 2008/09?	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	
Hospitality						
AI-26	Abetz	DIISR	What is the Department's hospitality spend CY 2008 and FYTD? Please detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events.	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	
Ministerial hospitality						
AI-27	Abetz	DIISR	For each Minister/Parliamentary Secretary's office, please detail total hospitality spend CY 2008 and FYTD. Please detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	
Freedom of Information						
AI-28	Abetz	DIISR	Has the Department/agency received any advice on how to respond to FOI requests? How many FOI requests has the Department received? How many have been granted or denied? How many conclusive certificates have been issued in relation to FOI requests?	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	
Drivetrain						
AI-29	Abetz	DIISR	What discussions have you had with Drivetrain about their situation? Please detail the dates on which Minister Carr has had discussions with this company. Why has the Government failed to do anything to assist this company?	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	

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<i>ACL Bearings</i>						
<u>AI-30</u>	Abetz	DIISR	<p>When was the Federal Government first approached by ACL bearings requesting further financial support?</p> <p>What was the request for – amount – loan or grant?</p> <p>Is it correct that an industry player (Ford) has provided a \$2 million loan to the company?</p> <p>Is this in anyway under-written by the Federal Government?</p> <p>What specific action did the Minister/Government take in regard to securing this outcome?</p> <p>On what basis does the local member claim it wouldn't happened without Federal Government involvement?</p>	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	
<i>Melba Industries</i>						
<u>AI-31</u>	Abetz	DIISR	<p>Please detail the dates on which Minister Carr has had discussions with this company.</p> <p>What will be the impact on Australia's car industry, firefighters and SAS troops if they close? Please detail.</p> <p>Is the Government facilitating discussions with the car manufacturers like it claims it did with ACL?</p> <p>If not, why not?</p>	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	
<i>Green Car Innovation Fund – GM Holden</i>						
<u>AI-32</u>	Abetz	DIISR	<p>When did the Government commence discussions with GM Holden about providing this funding? Date.</p> <p>Did the Government approach GM Holden or the other way around?</p> <p>What exactly will be the emissions from this new car? (g/km CO2)</p> <p>How many NEW jobs will it create?</p> <p>Does the Government have any guarantees regarding the engine for this car being anything other than petrol?</p> <p>What is GM Holden's contribution to this grant? Is it 1 for 3, 1 for 2, or 1 for 1?</p> <p>How much will GM Holden be paid in each year of the grant?</p> <p>What assessment/approval process was used in this grant? Eg did it go to the committee of Innovation Australia? Did it go to Cabinet?</p> <p>Against what criteria was the grant proposal assessed?</p>	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	

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<i>AISAP</i>						
<u>AI-33</u>	Abetz	DIISR	<p>On what basis has the Government set aside \$8.5 million (DEEWR) for “training and other assistance”?</p> <p>What is the total set aside in 2009/10 for this?</p> <p>Is this based on modeling?</p> <p>Is there a notional cost per worker etc?</p> <p>Have any mergers or consolidations been approved by the Minister yet? If so, please provide details.</p> <p>Are any mergers/consolidations currently before the Department and/or Minister?</p>	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	
<i>North East Tasmania Development Program</i>						
<u>AI-34</u>	Abetz	DIISR	<p>What is total size of this fund?</p> <p>How much has been expended to date?</p> <p>Confirm that no new money, ALL funded by abolishing the former Government’s Scottsdale Industry and Community Fund?</p> <p>What was the original size of that fund? How much was expended?</p> <p>How is this "new economic assistance" as claimed by the Minister in his media release on 13 August 2008?</p>	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	
<i>Government car procurement policies</i>						
<u>AI-35</u>	Abetz	DIISR	<p>In reference to answer 1182, part 7, the Minister disagreed that the procurement policies of the Tasmanian and Queensland Governments were inherently biased against Australian made cars.</p> <p>What do the Australian manufacturers think of the policies of these two states?</p> <p>How aren’t the policies of Tasmania and Queensland biased against Australian made cars?</p> <p>Does the Minister think that Tas/Qld should change their policies?</p> <p>If not, why not?</p> <p>Is the Minister happy for State Governments to use the Green Vehicle Guide website as a reference for their procurement policies?</p>	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	

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ICT industry						
<u>AI-36</u>	Abetz	DIISR	Can you confirm for me that the IT policy section in the department is handled by the ICT Industry Development section of the Aerospace, Defence and ICT branch of the Manufacturing Division of the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research? How many staff and where in DIISR are dedicated to “information and communications technology industry development”? Why is ICT section within the manufacturing division? What new committees/reviews on ICT has the Government commissioned?	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	
<u>AI-37 to AI-70</u> see oral questions on notice below						
Appointments						
<u>AI-71</u>	Abetz	DIISR	What is the gender ratio on each board and across the portfolio? In which states/territories do these Board members reside?	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	
Discretionary grants reporting						
<u>AI-72</u>	Abetz	DIISR	Has the Department complied with interim requirements relating to the publication of discretionary grants?	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	
<u>AI-73 to AI-74</u> see oral questions on notice below						

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Oral Questions on Notice

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<u>AI-1 to AI-36</u> see written questions on notice above								
<i>GM advertisement</i>								
<u>AI-37</u>	Abetz	DIISR	26/02/2009	<p>Senator ABETZ—...Can you explain the time line to us of how it came to be that the Prime Minister appeared in an advertisement for Holden?</p> <p>Senator Carr—Is this the Australia Day weekend advertisement?</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—How many ads has he appeared in? I thought there was only one, but if you have trouble identifying it then tell us how many he has appeared in and I will ask about all of them.</p> <p>Senator Carr—There was an advertisement that appeared on Australia Day that I understood used previously published footage of the Prime Minister and me at the Holden factory.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—I do not think you featured in it.</p> <p>Senator Carr—I have not seen the ad myself; I have better things to do with my time.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—GM was smart enough not to have you in the ad. Do not delude yourself in that regard.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON—They must have thought you were marketable.</p> <p>Senator Carr—That is probably what it was.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—Not him; Mr Rudd possibly, but not the minister. Were you, your office or the department contacted about permission to use that particular footage of the Prime</p>	E82	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	

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				<p>Minister in the ad? Senator Carr—Yes. Senator ABETZ—Which one? Was it you, your office or the department? Senator Carr—My office. Senator ABETZ—Were you personally involved in that? Senator Carr—From my recollection I was, yes. Senator ABETZ—Did you then put that request to the Prime Minister's office? Senator Carr—I cannot recall that. I made the call about the use of public footage in an advertisement for a great Australian product at a time when the industry is under considerable pressure. Senator ABETZ—Did you contact the Prime Minister's office to get their approval or the Prime Minister's approval for use in the advertisement? Senator Carr—I did not contact anyone. Senator ABETZ—Thank you for that. Did any person in your office contact anybody? Senator Carr—I will have to make inquiries on that because I am not aware. Senator ABETZ—You are not aware. The Prime Minister's office is on record as saying that there were discussions and that it was your office that provided the approval. Senator Carr—I will establish what the circumstances were. Senator ABETZ—Can you give us a full and detailed account of all the conversations between your office and the Prime Minister's office and then who it was? I do not need to know the name of the officer, but whether it was an officer in your office or you who personally passed on the permission to General Motors for that footage to be used in the advertisement. Senator Carr—I have taken the question on notice.</p>				

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<i>Stimulus package</i>								
<u>AI-38</u>	Abetz	DIISR	26/02/2009	<p>Senator ABETZ—...Turning to the stimulus package at this stage, Mr Paterson told the inquiry into the stimulus package by the Finance and Public Administration Committee on 6 February that there was nothing in the package for innovation.</p> <p>Mr Paterson—I do not have the transcript with me, but as I recall the evidence I gave on that occasion I indicated that there was no explicit response in that package to the Cutler report or to the Bradley report in relation to higher education. You were questioning about responses to both of those areas. I indicated to you that I expected that the government's response would deal with those issues. As yet we do not have that.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—Do you recall saying that this is not a package that is focused on that area of activity, when I asked whether the package assisted innovation?</p> <p>Mr Paterson—Within the context of my response, which is a fair description of what I said. It was in the context of talking about a response to the Cutler review, which is what you had raised at the time.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—If it is not Cutler and others, are there any other specific innovation matters in the package?</p> <p>Mr Paterson—The evidence that I gave to you at the time was that I expected the government's response on those issues, that is the innovation issues—</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—Innovation issue generally.</p> <p>Mr Paterson—It would be announced at the time that the government responded. It had a review of the whole of the national innovation system. There was a complementary review looking at higher education undertaken by Denise Bradley and the government has already indicated its intention to respond to those two reports together.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—I can understand that. Given the time constraints that we have got, I would invite the minister to have a look at his answer to the Senate on 5 February to a dorothy</p>	E83-E84	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	

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				dixer from Senator Arbib and tell us on notice how Mr Paterson's answer matches up with the minister's answer on that day.				
Green Car Innovation Fund								
<u>AI-39</u>	Abetz	DIISR	26/02/2009	<p>Senator ABETZ—...The Green Car Innovation Fund is \$788,000. Do we have a long, detailed list as to how that money has been spent?</p> <p>Mr Peel—No.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—I was going to say that you could give it to us on notice.</p> <p>Mr Peel—It is funds that we need to use to do some early activity in relation to the program. For example, we have had public consultations around the country.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—Like the advertising?</p> <p>Mr Peel—And any advertising that we might need to do.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—Can you take on notice how much was spent on advertising?</p> <p>Mr Peel—Of course.</p>	E84	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	
Green Car Innovation Fund								
<u>AI-40</u>	Abetz	DIISR	26/02/2009	<p>Senator ABETZ—When did we have the Holden announcement?</p> <p>Mr Payne—On 22 December.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—The approval process clearly, for such a large lump of money, did not take place between 19 and 22 December, so we would say that it was a process similar to that. Can you tell us in which ways it varied?</p> <p>Mr Payne—No, I cannot, because the decision was made by ministers.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—Thank you. Minister, did you make the decision or did the cabinet or the Prime Minister?</p> <p>Senator Carr—The processes were made in the proper arrangements of the government.</p>	E91	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	

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				<p>Senator ABETZ—We have just been told by the official that it was not by the processes of government, which clearly includes the Public Service, and that this was a decision made by—the record will say whether it was minister or ministers. Can you tell us if you were the one that signed off on it on your own?</p> <p>Senator Carr—Personally, no.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—With the Prime Minister’s approval? Did the Prime Minister approve this?</p> <p>Senator Carr—No. It was a cabinet decision.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—Funny that. I asked about that quite some time ago as to whether it went to the Innovation Australia committee or whether it went to cabinet. We now know that it went to cabinet. Are we allowed to know what day it went to cabinet?</p> <p>Mr Paterson—We are not supposed to report what went to cabinet and what did not go to cabinet. I cannot tell you what date it went.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—The minister has now told us publicly that it did go to cabinet, so that is no longer a state secret. Therefore, I am asking: what date did it go to cabinet? I would not have thought that would be a state secret.</p> <p>Senator Carr—I would have to take that on notice.</p>				
Green Car Innovation Fund								
AI-41	Abetz	DIISR	26/02/2009	<p>Senator ABETZ—Have we made any extra money, loan or deal available to General Motors at all, other than the \$149 million? There has been some suggestion in the media about GE and some other arrangements.</p> <p>Senator Carr—I would have to take that on notice.</p>	E91	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	
Manufactures trade deficits								
AI-42	Cameron	DIISR	26/02/2009	Senator CAMERON —On this point could you take on notice what the trade deficit, in terms of manufacturing and cars, is in	E91	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	

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				the US free trade agreement negotiated by the previous government and the Thai free trade agreement? What were the implications of those agreements in terms of the Australian economy?				
Fuel efficiency								
<u>AI-43</u>	Abetz	DIISR	26/02/2009	<p>Senator ABETZ—...I would like to move on the supplementary estimates answer SI40. You can take this on notice, look at it and see if it is correct, because I suggest the voluntary agreement relating to grams of carbon dioxide emitted is not litres per 100 kilometres but in fact measured in grams, and it is 222. Not much rides on it, but I just want to make sure that, if I use that information, it is actually correct. I would also like you to take on notice whether the government has a target of 20 per cent improved fuel efficiency by 2010, as outlined in the <i>Australian</i> newspaper on 16 June 2008.</p> <p>Mr Paterson—We will take that on notice.</p>	E92	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	
Green Car Innovation Fund								
<u>AI-44</u>	Abetz	DIISR	26/02/2009	<p>Senator ABETZ—...Have any discussions been held with Better Place by the department about potential access to the Green Car Fund?</p> <p>Mr Payne—We did attend a presentation by that company. An officer of my division went to a meeting. I do not think you could characterise that as a request by the company regarding an application.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—When was that?</p> <p>Mr Payne—I am not sure.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—You can take that on notice. Can you tell us whether Mr Thornley was there?</p> <p>Mr Payne—We will take that on notice too.</p>	E92	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	
TCF Review								
<u>AI-45</u>	Abetz	DIISR	26/02/2009	Senator ABETZ —...Are we able to find out what part of	E93	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	

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				Professor Green's payment went to the university? Senator Carr —We will take that on notice. Senator ABETZ —He may have had a side contract with a university, of which you were not part. That is why I am asking this.				
<i>Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS)</i>								
<u>AI-46</u>	Abetz	DIISR	26/02/2009	Senator ABETZ —How many of the 1,000 businesses that are assumed to be affected by the CPRS are industries that would fall within the purview of this department? Mr Paterson —I will take that on notice.	E94	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	
<i>Emissions intensive, trade exposed industry (EITE) assistance</i>								
<u>AI-47</u>	Abetz	DIISR	26/02/2009	Senator ABETZ —Are you able to tell us how many EITE activities are eligible for EITE assistance in both the 90 per cent and 60 per cent categories? Undoubtedly you will take that on notice as well. Mr Paterson —I will.	E94	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	
<i>Enterprise Connect</i>								
<u>AI-48</u>	Cameron	DIISR	26/02/2009	Senator CAMERON —You may like to take this question on notice. Can you give the committee an update on the operations of Enterprise Connect and how successful it has been? CHAIR —Can I ask that you do take that on notice? Senator Carr —Yes.	E97	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	
<i>Australian Stem Cell Centre</i>								
<u>AI-49</u>	Abetz	DIISR	26/02/2009	Senator ABETZ —In relation to the Australian Stem Cell Centre, all I want to do is put on record my appreciation for being given a copy of the executive summary, but I do ask: when did you get the report? Senator Carr —The day before you asked the last question. Senator ABETZ —Yesterday?	E98	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	

Q No.	Senator	Agency	Hearing date	Question	Proof Hansard Page	Date answered	Date sent to Senator	Additional Information
				<p>Senator Carr—No.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—The day before the day of the last estimates?</p> <p>Senator Carr—That is right.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—Can somebody assist me: how many weeks or months was that? Were they in October?</p> <p>Mr Paterson—23 October.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—We have a situation where on the one hand I am thankful that I have been given a copy of the executive summary, but I am also a bit disappointed that I was not given it, say, 24 hours ago.</p> <p>Senator Carr—Why?</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—So that I could read it, comprehend it and then potentially ask some questions.</p> <p>Senator Carr—That might be the case, but you would be aware that these matters are subject to due process. We have undertaken to table it after getting advice from the department. I have done that. I am sure the matter will not be concluded here.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—When was that advice received?</p> <p>Senator Carr—I have had numerous pieces of advice on the Australian Stem Cell Centre.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—No, when was the advice received about tabling the executive summary?</p> <p>Senator Carr—I would have to check that.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—Could you take it on notice, because it seems either a strange coincidence or in fact a discourtesy that a substantial and serious document of some 20-plus pages is given to committee members on the day of the hearing, which basically means that they cannot digest it, read through it and possibly even get independent information on it for the purposes of questions.</p>				
Research funding								
AI-50	Abetz	DIISR	26/02/2009	Senator ABETZ —If I might just go back so I fully	E103	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	

Q No.	Senator	Agency	Hearing date	Question	Proof Hansard Page	Date answered	Date sent to Senator	Additional Information
				<p>understand: if I use the term ‘the full cost of research’, does that mean anything to you?</p> <p>Senator Carr—That is a different concept altogether.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—What does that mean?</p> <p>Senator Carr—Could you just give us a second?</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—Can you please answer for the minister?</p> <p>Ms Borthwick—Certainly. The full cost of research is generally taken to mean a couple of things. One is the full funding of the direct cost of research through the competitive granting processes through the ARC and the NHMRC as well as the supporting funding through our block grant program.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—What is the difference between full funding and full cost? Supporting the full funding or the full cost of research, I would have thought, means the same thing, doesn’t it?</p> <p>Ms Borthwick—I am not sure what distinction you are pointing to.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—Nor can I, because the minister is directly quoted in the <i>Age</i> in inverted commas on 2 January 2009: ‘I personally support the principle of the full cost of research.’</p> <p>Senator Carr—Which is different from the full funding of research.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—I then asked, ‘What is the difference?’ and nobody has yet been able to explain that to me. Take it on notice.</p> <p>Ms Borthwick—I was going to go on to say—</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—Take it on notice. We are playing semantics, but I think we know what—</p> <p>Senator Carr—You are pretty good at the Perry Mason style—</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—the minister meant.</p>				
<i>Nanotechnology research</i>								
<u>AI-51</u>	Abetz	DIISR	26/02/2009	Senator ABETZ —On 21 October we were provided with an article in the <i>Daily Telegraph</i> talking about a \$100 million plan	E103 & E104	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	

Q No.	Senator	Agency	Hearing date	Question	Proof Hansard Page	Date answered	Date sent to Senator	Additional Information
				<p>for nanotechnology research...</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—...Where are we at with this plan? Have people been employed? Who is in charge of this facility?</p> <p>Ms Lansdown—The Australian Nanofabrication Facility is in fact a distributed facility across the country.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—That is right, yes: seven centres.</p> <p>Ms Lansdown—The entity you refer to provides some strategic guidance to those nodes around the country. Our funding actually is infrastructure funding, not research funding, but what that group have actually done is to endeavour to be very clear about what sorts of infrastructure we need across the country and provide integrated facilities so that researchers can access the best-quality research facilities in locations closest to them. They actually program the infrastructure across the country. It has provided fairly good economies of scale.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—When we are talking about infrastructure, we are not talking about building new laboratories for them being bricks and mortar, or that as well?</p> <p>Ms Lansdown—That can be part of it.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—Has there been a split up of this \$100 million for bricks and mortar, development or purchase of equipment?</p> <p>Ms Lansdown—We would have to take that on notice to make sure that we are accurate.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—All right. Is there a head of this organisation?</p> <p>Ms Lansdown—Yes, there is. There is a CEO and a board.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—Can I be provided on notice with the name of the board and the CEO?</p> <p>Ms Lansdown—Yes.</p>				
<i>Deed of employment</i>								
<u>AI-52</u>	Abetz	Chief Scientist	26/02/2009	<p>Senator ABETZ—Do the rules of the Public Service apply in relation to making public statements?</p> <p>Mr Paterson—The Public Service Act does not apply to the</p>	E106-E107	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	

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				<p>Chief Scientist. The terms of the engagement of the Chief Scientist are the terms set out in the deed between the Chief Scientist and the Commonwealth.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—Are those sections of the deed able to be made available? I do not need to know the full name, address, remuneration and other things that may be contained in the deed, but I would like to know those operational parts of the deed as to the conditions under which the professor is engaged as the Chief Scientist?</p> <p>Mr Paterson—I will take it on notice. Given the nature of the deed, being a deed between the Chief Scientist and the Commonwealth, I would just like to reflect on the status of that as to whether or not it should be placed on the public record.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—I did not ask for the whole need because I am aware of some of the matters that clearly would be confidential and should not be disclosed.</p> <p>Mr Paterson—I will take the question on notice.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—Yes—to the conditions of employment as it relates to public interaction and so on would be helpful.</p>				
Research on day-night cricket ball								
<u>AI-53</u>	Abetz	CSIRO	26/02/2009	<p>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?</p> <p>Dr Clark—I have to say that I am going to seek the aid of my colleagues on this one.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—It just goes to show that, even when I am on holidays listening to the cricket, I am alert to portfolio issues.</p> <p>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</p>	E108	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	

Q No.	Senator	Agency	Hearing date	Question	Proof Hansard Page	Date answered	Date sent to Senator	Additional Information
				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.				
<i>Staff movement</i>								
<u>AI-54</u>	Eggleston	CSIRO	26/02/2009	<p>Senator EGGLESTON—Last year there was a report from the joint committee inquiry into the impact of the two per cent efficiency dividend on government agencies. It commented that the CSIRO found it difficult to engage and retain scientists. Since last year's application of the efficiency dividend, what are the figures from the CSIRO on how many staff were laid off and also how many have been employed?</p> <p>Dr Clark—We have those figures.</p> <p>Senator EGGLESTON—Could that be broken down to full-time and part-time positions?</p> <p>Mr Whelan—The net movement of staff since the end of the last financial year has been a reduction of five staff.</p> <p>Senator EGGLESTON—A net loss of five.</p> <p>Mr Whelan—Yes, in full-time equivalent terms.</p> <p>Senator EGGLESTON—When you say that is a net loss, how many actually left and how many did you put on?</p> <p>Mr Whelan—I do not have that level of detail with me. I would be happy to take that on notice.</p>	E108	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	
<i>Report to the AFP on air security officers</i>								
<u>AI-55</u>	Brandis	CSIRO	26/02/2009	<p>Senator BRANDIS—You will have to take these questions on notice, Mr Whelan. Did the CSIRO report recommend a reduction in the number of air security officers?</p> <p>Mr Whelan—I will take that question on notice, Senator.</p> <p>Senator BRANDIS—Did the CSIRO report recommend that the number of air security officers should be maintained at its then existing level or did it recommend that the number of air security officers be increased?</p> <p>Mr Whelan—I will take that question on notice and any other questions of detail about the research, Senator.</p> <p>Senator BRANDIS—All right. Who was the officer of CSIRO</p>	E114-E115	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	

Q No.	Senator	Agency	Hearing date	Question	Proof Hansard Page	Date answered	Date sent to Senator	Additional Information
				<p>who was the team leader for this research, please?</p> <p>Mr Whelan—I will have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator BRANDIS—You do not even know that?</p> <p>Mr Whelan—Senator, we conduct more than 4,500 research projects. I could tell you the names of the people who lead the 100 research themes, and I have those details with me, but I am not sure in which of these themes this research was conducted.</p> <p>Senator BRANDIS—Could you also take on notice, please, that I would like the names of each of the CSIRO officers involved in this particular research project. I would like to know the date upon which the research was commissioned.</p> <p>Mr Whelan—Senator, I am happy to take those matters under consideration.</p> <p>Senator BRANDIS—I understand.</p> <p>Mr Whelan—Just to clarify, some of the matters you go to may be covered by the nature of the assignment that was conducted. I do not know on what basis it was conducted. If it was fully paid research by the AFP, there may be some constraints in that regard. I would need to have a look at that.</p> <p>Senator BRANDIS—I can tell you Mr Whelan, as I suspect you are already aware since you have read the <i>Hansard</i> of the other estimates proceedings, that this report was a confidential report. None of my questions will be directed to asking you to reveal the confidential aspects or the content of the report; I am more interested in the circumstances in which the report came to be commissioned and was transmitted to relevant agencies. I would like to know the date on which the report was commissioned. I would like to know who prepared the brief to the CSIRO for the preparation of the report. I would like, subject to the redaction of the—</p> <p>Mr Whelan—Senator, just to clarify, if it was a brief that we received from the AFP, it is probably appropriate the AFP provide you with that information.</p> <p>Senator BRANDIS—No, I am asking you. I have asked Commissioner Keelty and he has taken that question on notice.</p>				

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				<p>I am asking you and you can take the question on notice. In one way or another I hope to get a straight answer. I would like you to provide me, subject to the fact that of course you may feel the need for there to be the redaction of confidential material within it, with a copy of the brief. I would like to know the names of the agencies which commissioned the report. We know from Commissioner Keelty's evidence that the Australian Federal Police was one of them. It is apparent from Commissioner Keelty's evidence that the AFP was not the only agency which contributed to this process, so I would like to know the names of the other agencies with which you collaborated in the preparation of this report. I would like to know the date on which the report was delivered by the CSIRO to those who requested it, in particular the Australian Federal Police. I would like to know the names of any other agencies that were furnished with a copy of the report. I would like to know whether a copy of the report was given to the minister and, if a copy of the report was given to the minister, the date in which the report was given to the minister.</p> <p>Mr Whelan—Just to clarify, Senator, to which minister are you referring?</p> <p>Senator BRANDIS—I am assuming that the relevant minister would have been the minister responsible for the Australian Federal Police and for this program, namely, Mr Debus, the minister for homeland security. I do not think I can take it any further with you Mr Whelan. Thank you.</p>				
<i>Australian Animal Health Laboratory maintenance</i>								
<u>AI-56</u>	Heffernan	CSIRO	26/02/2009	<p>Senator HEFFERNAN—I understand there has been some leaking in the ceiling at AAHL. Can you clarify or explain what sort of leaks and building maintenance have been going on at AAHL?</p> <p>Dr Jeggo—I am not aware of any leaks in the ceiling as such. The building is maintained by a full fleet of 60 engineers and trade staff and I would contend is in excellent condition.</p>	E119	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	

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				<p>Senator HEFFERNAN—So how much of your budget is spent on building maintenance?</p> <p>Mr Whelan—We will have to take that on notice.</p>				
<i>Staffing</i>								
<u>AI-57</u>	Abetz	CSIRO	26/02/2009	<p>Senator ABETZ—I understand the terminology but can I say that, in general terms, usually closure of facilities and the loss of 85 to 100 personnel must dilute the research capacity of CSIRO. Otherwise, those 85 to 100 people were sitting around twiddling their thumbs not doing anything—and, knowing CSIRO as I do, I am sure that was not the case.</p> <p>Mr Whelan—A significant proportion of them would have been involved in management and support roles. We have sought to minimise the impact on research personnel and research programs as a result of the reduction.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—And the number of research personnel has decreased?</p> <p>Mr Whelan—It has increased in CSIRO over the last five years.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—Over the last five years?</p> <p>Mr Whelan—And, to the best of my knowledge there has been no reduction in research personnel this year. I am happy to clarify that but to the best of my knowledge there has been no reduction.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—If you would take that on notice that would be most helpful.</p>	E120	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	
<i>Commercial Ready</i>								
<u>AI-58</u>	Abetz	CSIRO	26/02/2009	<p>Senator ABETZ—...I asked, I think it was last time, whether CSIRO had undertaken an assessment of reduction in income from outside sources as it relates to the Commercial Ready program being cut, axed, whatever term we want to use. I think we have agreed and established in the past that CSIRO was the beneficiary of collaborative type arrangements with projects that had been in receipt of Commercial Ready program funding</p>	E120-E121	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	

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				<p>and, when it drew up its budget for the May budget last year, it was not aware of the government's decision to axe the Commercial Ready program. And, if I recall Dr Garrett's evidence at the time, that was not factored into the budget considerations in relation to income from external sources. Are you able now to give us some idea as to the impact of that on the CSIRO's budget?</p> <p>Mr Whelan—Senator, yes, you did ask me questions on that and you asked me some questions on notice. At the time we were not able to identify the impact. We are still unable to do that. There are a range of factors that impact our research and services revenue. On the face of it, we look likely to achieve our research and services budget this year. At the end of January we had secured more than 93 per cent of that research target through contracts. At this point in time it does not look like it has had any impact, but I cannot precisely quantify that other than to say that, at this point in time, we appear on track to achieve our external revenue budget for this year.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—Right, but would you agree with this proposition: if the Commercial Ready program had not been axed, CSIRO's income from external sources would be greater than it otherwise is?</p> <p>Mr Whelan—I can not speculate on that, Senator. I do not know.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—Mr Whelan, can you please take on notice how many projects the CSIRO has collaborated with and obtained income from projects that have been at least partially funded by the Commercial Ready program over the last three years?</p> <p>Mr Whelan—We would certainly apply our best efforts.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—Right, thank you.</p> <p>Mr Whelan—If I could just clarify, we may not be able to provide all of the data you are seeking because we are not necessarily going to be aware that our partners have received money from Commercial Ready, but where we are aware, I am</p>				

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				happy to take that on notice.				
<i>Travel expenditure</i>								
<u>AI-59</u>	Abetz	CSIRO	26/02/2009	<p>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?</p> <p>Mr Whelan—We certainly could do that, Senator, but I would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—Alright, what measures are in place to control this expenditure?</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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?</p> <p>Mr Whelan—Happy to do that, Senator.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—That would be very helpful. How many of the CSIRO staff were platinum frequent flyers, do you know that?</p> <p>Mr Whelan—I imagine there would be quite a few, Senator.</p>	E122	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	

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<i>Travel expenditure</i>								
<u>AI-60</u>	Abetz	CSIRO	26/02/2009	<p>Senator ABETZ—How many of the CSIRO executive team are based outside of Canberra?</p> <p>Mr Whelan—I will just do the maths on that, Senator.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—Take it on notice; I do not need a specific answer now. What support by way of airfares, accommodation and living away from home allowance does CSIRO provide to these senior executives?</p> <p>Mr Whelan—Senator, as a general rule CSIRO does not provide any allowances to officers when they are travelling overnight. We cover actual expenses, but I am happy to look at the costs associated with that travel.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—Let us say if I am home based in Hobart and I travel to Canberra for work during the week, am I paid a living away from home allowance or not?</p> <p>Mr Whelan—As a general rule, no, Senator.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—If I stay in a hotel, my hotel bill is then reimbursed?</p> <p>Mr Whelan—That is correct, Senator.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—All right, so instead of using the term living away from home allowance, what term should I be using?</p> <p>Mr Whelan—Expenses, Senator.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—Expenses, if you can provide that to me on notice.</p> <p>Mr Whelan—I will do that.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—Thank you for clarifying that for me.</p>	E122	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	
<i>Real estate sales</i>								
<u>AI-61</u>	Abetz	CSIRO	26/02/2009	<p>Senator ABETZ—...Has CSIRO sold or is it planning to sell assets such as real estate...</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—For those that you have stated an intention to sell, if you could provide me on notice the properties, identifying whereabouts and whether they have been sold, are being readied for sale or whether they are actually on the</p>	E122 & E123	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	

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				market to be sold. Mr Whelan —Happy to do so, Senator. Senator ABETZ —That would be very helpful.				
Mulesing								
AI-62	Abetz	CSIRO	26/02/2009	Senator ABETZ —...Is CSIRO currently working on the issue of mulesing at all? Mr Whelan —I think we are doing some research in that area. There may be an officer here who can give you some more details on that, or would you like me to take a question on notice? How do you want to handle it? Senator ABETZ —Could you please take on notice where we are at with it, because it is becoming an international issue for the marketing of Australian wool. When I say research on mulesing, I should say alternatives to mulesing. I want to know how progress is going. A page maximum—I do not need all the research papers on it—just so I can get a handle on how that is going.	E125	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	
Bee research								
AI-63	Abetz	CSIRO	26/02/2009	Senator ABETZ —...What about bee health? Mr Whelan —We are doing research on that issue. Senator ABETZ —Any research on the possibility of importing queen bees into Australia? Dr Daly —We certainly do work on bee health. I am not aware of research about importation of queen bees. I would have to take that on notice. Senator ABETZ —If you could, and if you could give me a summary as to the sort of work that is being done in that area.	E125	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	
Gunns Pulp Mill								
AI-64	Abetz	CSIRO	26/02/2009	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	E125 & E126	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	

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				<p>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...</p> <p>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?</p> <p>Dr Johnson—I am not in a position to answer that question. I do not know the answer to that.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—All right. Could you please take that on notice for me?</p> <p>Dr Johnson—Sure.</p>				
Nanotechnology								
AI-65	Abetz	CSIRO	26/02/2009	<p>Senator ABETZ—Yes, now. But was there a proposal at least for CSIRO to have a nanotechnology—</p> <p>Dr Clark—No, that is not right.</p> <p>Mr Whelan—Just to clarify that answer: the Niche Manufacturing Flagship—which has now been renamed the Future Manufacturing Flagship—did have a large proportion of nano material based research. Some people might have described it as a nanotechnology flagship, but it was called the Niche Manufacturing Flagship and has been renamed Future Manufacturing.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—Thank you very much. A bit has been revealed here. Did that actually ever get started?</p> <p>Mr Whelan—It is up and running. It has a director and it has people working in it.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—When did it get started?</p> <p>Mr Whelan—Funding was provided I think about two years ago. We have had research programs in our operational plan.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—Why was it that I was under the</p>	E127-E128	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	

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				<p>apprehension, or misapprehension, that the funding for it had been cut by the incoming government?</p> <p>Mr Whelan—I am not sure, but there have been no reductions in funding as a result of any budget cuts.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—There is a very good question that Senator Bushby has given me. Is nanotechnology still a major part of this new—</p> <p>Dr Clark—Yes, it is.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—And what do we call ‘major part’? Is it 50 per cent of the budget?</p> <p>Dr Clark—I met with over 200 of our scientists involved in that area, and we cover all aspects of nanotechnology in that. New materials, our advanced materials work, our advanced coatings work and our polymer work are all involved in that flagship.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—But you do work in it on matters other than those related to nanotechnology?</p> <p>Dr Clark—We do, but a large proportion of what we do involves new materials and advanced materials.</p> <p>Mr Whelan—Three out of the five research programs have ‘nano’ in their name.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—I reckon that qualifies, doesn’t it, as a large part—</p> <p>Dr Clark—It does, indeed.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—Is it 60 per cent? Can you provide me with the detail of that? So I do not get conned just by the names of the projects, what about the monetary allocation to those three out of the five? Does that represent 60 per cent of the budget or—</p> <p>Mr Whelan—No, it does not, but I am happy to provide those details on notice.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—What percentage of the budget does it represent? I might be on to something here, that it is only 20 per cent of the budget.</p> <p>Mr Whelan—It is a substantial, proportion. I have not done</p>				

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				<p>the maths.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—I just thought I would take you up, Senator Cameron.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON—He is very excited.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—Small things amuse small minds, so forgive me, Senator Cameron.</p> <p>Dr Clark—Senator, I am not sure that—</p> <p>Senator CAMERON—That's what I'm watching happening with you!</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—If you could provide that to me on notice, that would be helpful.</p>				
<i>Discovery program</i>								
<u>AI-66</u>	Abetz	ARC	26/02/2009	<p>Senator ABETZ—... You look after discovery grants?</p> <p>Ms Harvey—Mr Marsden would be able to answer that.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—What date were the funding rules, application forms for discovery project programs released?</p> <p>Mr Marsden—It would have been the first week in December.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—That is good enough. If you can supply on notice the exact date. So that is both the rules and the application forms?</p> <p>Mr Marsden—I think the application form was probably a week later, but I will take that on notice. It was not at the same time as the rules.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—Nothing revolves around it, other than just general interest for me, so thanks for that. When was the closing date for submissions?</p> <p>Mr Marsden—For the current round?</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—Yes.</p> <p>Mr Marsden—It has not closed quite yet.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—All right, when is the closing date?</p> <p>Ms Harvey—I believe it is 4 March.</p> <p>Mr Marsden—That is correct.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—Is this a new concept, these discovery grants?</p>	E133-E134	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	

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				<p>Mr Marsden—No, they have been around for quite some years.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—They have been around for some years. Is the time period between that first week in December and 4 March a shorter period of time than usual?</p> <p>Mr Marsden—Yes. We normally aim to go out and open up about the end of November, so it is marginally shorter.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—By how much?</p> <p>Mr Marsden—I would have to check the date from the last round of discovery, but I would say probably—</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—There have been previous rounds before that as well?</p> <p>Mr Marsden—Yes, that is correct.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—It has been put to me that, this time, the period in which you can make submissions is substantially shorter, and that has caused some inconvenience, but take it on notice and let us know. If it is a matter of two weeks, I will get back to the people that have told me that. Minister, when did you sign off on the DP funding rules?</p> <p>Senator Carr—I will have to take check on the date.</p> <p>Mr Marsden—I will have to take that on notice.</p>				
<i>Grant program changes</i>								
<u>AI-67</u>	Abetz	ARC	26/02/2009	<p>Senator ABETZ—Have any changes been made to the rules applying ARC's various grant programs?</p> <p>Mr Marsden—Substantial changes?</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—Any material changes?</p> <p>Mr Marsden—I cannot recall. I will take that on notice. I do not think so.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—What consultation took place about any of those changes?</p> <p>Mr Marsden—Each year we go out to the sector as a whole and take comments on all of our funding rules. We then review those comments and, where appropriate, and where we think it is useful to further the research investment, we actually build</p>	E134	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	

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				<p>those into the funding rules. Those changes we are proposing to put into place are usually discussed with the research officers administrator's conference which is round about early November, I think.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—Sorry, I thought Mr Cameron was giving you further information.</p> <p>Mr Marsden—He was, actually. He has given a list of some of the changes.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—You are taking that on notice, so—</p> <p>Mr Marsden—There is nothing significant.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—If you could provide that on notice to the committee, that would be very helpful.</p>				
Replacement researchers								
AI-68	Abetz	ARC	26/02/2009	<p>Senator ABETZ—...Can you tell me against what criteria is the internationalisation objective to be assessed?</p> <p>Mr Marsden—That is to be assessed obviously by the College of Experts, but it is being assessed by the level of collaboration that is in the proposal between the Australian based researchers and the international based researches, and that can take many forms.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—Referring to clause 8.4, which prevents, I understand, replacement personnel, is that a change?</p> <p>Mr Marsden—I will take that on notice. Unfortunately I do not have the rules with me, but normally, when there is replacement personnel, the administering organisation, and that is usually the university, writes to the Australian Research Council to notify us of the proposed change, to seek agreement.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—It has been put to me—and I confess I do not have the rules in front of me either—that clause 8.4 now prevents replacement personnel who were not included on the original application, and that that is a change. If you cannot answer it straight away, take it on notice.</p> <p>Mr Marsden—I will have to take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—If it is simply a requirement that</p>	E134	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	

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				notification be provided or permission needs to be provided, if you can provide that in a more extensive answer, that would be very helpful, and as to the reason it was introduced, if it was introduced. Mr Marsden —Yes. Senator ABETZ —Thanks for that. And also: why was it introduced, and what was the reason for the ARC deciding it was no longer an option to allow replacement persons to step in and finalise research?				
Professor Sheil								
AI-69	Abetz	ARC	26/02/2009	Senator ABETZ —I have a few more controversial questions now, and it is a pity that Dr Sheil is not here to respond to them. I understand that Dr Sheil was reported in the <i>Australian</i> on 22 October 2008 as saying: ‘Researchers ask for more in the expectation they will be cut. What I think of as fully funded is about 80 per cent of the ask.’ Can you take that on notice as to whether Dr Sheil agrees that she made that comment, whether it is correct, because I am going on a media report. Then I would like to ask whether she was a funding recipient herself from the ARC previously and whether it is her personal experience that, in putting in an application, she stacked it by an extra 20 per cent in the expectation that it would be knocked down? Does she think that that statement has had any impact on the morale and confidence of researchers who are putting in for grants, that basically the message is: bump it up because you will get bumped down; those who put in a good, honest, sincere assessment get knocked down 20 per cent anyway? If Dr Sheil could provide me with some commentary on notice on that, I would be much obliged.	E135	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	
Staffing								
AI-70	Abetz	ARC	26/02/2009	Senator ABETZ —...In relation to staff at the ARC, have you lost senior staff in recent times?	E135-E136	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	

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				<p>Mr Marsden—Yes, we have.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—In which categories?</p> <p>Mr Marsden—We have lost one of our executive director positions, so we are going through a recruitment process at the moment to combine an executive director to cover a number of fields, and that is the physics, chemistry, geoscience and mathematics area. We have lost two non-research SES positions: one is the position of deputy chief executive officer, who has retired, and the position has not been refilled. The other is the position of legal counsel. The officer has left the ARC, and that position has not been refilled.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—It has been put to me that one of the government’s best evaluators on staff has left, that the deputy CEO has left, that the chief operating officer, head legal person—pejorative language is used in relation to this—has left; it has been suggested to me ‘kicked out’ but I will not use that; and that three or more executive directors have been encouraged to leave early or have been asked to leave, one of whom was the ex-head of the British Geoscience Agency with lots of high-level experience in government. The head communication person left and the evaluation expert person gave up and took a job elsewhere, and the program staff have had the deckchairs shuffled multiple times, all in the last 12 months. The suggestion was made to me that I should look at the termination funding figures in your annual report. What does that tell us in relation to other years as to terminations in the ARC? I think I said in relation to another area of this portfolio that when you are a shadow minister a lot of these accusations come to you by way of email, unsigned letters, et cetera, and therefore I am only asking the questions; I am not making the allegations. Conclusions might be able to be drawn from the answers that are provided.</p> <p>Senator Carr—You make a number of comments about the manner in which you allege these persons left, which you said you would not make, and then you put them on the <i>Hansard</i></p>				

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				<p>record, which is a pretty grubby way to do business, frankly.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON—That is after saying earlier that you would not name people.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—I have not named anybody in this. I have referred to positions.</p> <p>Senator Carr—No, you just refer to their positions in a research community where everyone knows who you are talking about. It is a pretty grubby exercise, Senator.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON—It is very grubby.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—Senator Carr, all I would invite you to do is go back through the <i>Hansards</i> and see how you actually named people, referred to people, and denigrated people. I always preface these sorts of comments—or I try to preface these sorts of comments on the basis—</p> <p>Senator Carr—Come on, who do you think you are kidding? Don't be such a sanctimonious flea.</p> <p>CHAIR—It is getting quite late.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—Mr Marsden, can you tell us what the termination figures are?</p> <p>Mr Marsden—I will have to take those figures on notice.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—Can you do a comparison for me for, let us say, the three previous years?</p> <p>Mr Marsden—Yes, Senator.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—Termination payments—and, if you can assist me with all the classifications that I have read into the <i>Hansard</i>, whether the person who held that particular classification has left in the past 12 or 18 months and the circumstances in which they left. That would be very helpful.</p>				
AI-71 to AI-72 see written questions on notice above								
Australia-India Strategic Research Fund								
AI-73	Abetz	DIISR	26/02/2009	Senator ABETZ —I was living in hope that ‘rephasing’ might have meant that it was going to start up again, but it looks as	E86	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	

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				<p>though it is not to be. Turning to page 21, we have International education and training Australia-India Strategic Research Fund. Do I read that, in layman's terms, it has just been axed? Is that right?</p> <p>Mr Peel—I cannot comment on that one.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—Who can?</p> <p>Mr Peel—It may be under the science and research division.</p> <p>Mr Paterson—They are here immediately after the break.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—Are you able to tell us just from the figures what that means? Does it mean that there is going to be no expenditure? The \$400,000 that was going to be spent in 2009-10 is no longer going to be spent; is that right?</p> <p>Mr Paterson—I did not hear the question, but I think you might have asked a question as to whether that had been—</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—Axed.</p> <p>Mr Paterson—axed. No, it has not been axed.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—What about the money here allocated to it?</p> <p>Mr Paterson—That is bringing—</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—That is in the next financial year. There was going to be an allocation of \$400,000.</p> <p>Mr Paterson—I will just check the detail of it. My recollection of that fund is that it is due to be fully expended by the end of this financial year, 2008-09.</p> <p>Mr Peel—If you look on page 20, right at the bottom of the page, you will see \$400,000 for the Australia- India Research Fund, a plus figure for 2011-12. It looks to me as if the funding has been moved from 2009-10 to 2011-12.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—When we get on to science if there is somebody who could just confirm that for me that would be very helpful.</p> <p>Mr Paterson—I am happy to do that.</p>				
Report for the Department of the Environment, Heritage and the Arts								
AI-74	Abetz	CSIRO	26/02/2009	Senator ABETZ —There has been a lot of public discussion in my home state about that. The Herzfeld report is out, but I	E126-E127	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	

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				<p>understand other papers have been produced. Can you confirm to me whether CSIRO has produced other papers?</p> <p>Dr Johnson—CSIRO has provided advice through the independent experts group. I am not aware of the totality of the other papers provided, but, again, if that was of interest to you we would be happy to provide it on notice.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—Yes, that would be very helpful. And any work that Dr Batley and—</p> <p>Dr Johnson—Dr Westcott.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—yes—Dr Westcott have done? I understand there was an FOI request in relation to the Herzfeld report?</p> <p>Dr Johnson—Correct.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—Could I be advised whether I can get a copy of any of the reports that the other—is it gentlemen?</p> <p>Dr Johnson—Yes.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—gentlemen have done?</p> <p>Dr Johnson—Just to be clear, the input that CSIRO has had in this process has been through the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts. In answering your request for information, I think it is best that you do it through that portfolio and not through CSIRO. We have delivered those reports to them and they are the client for the work.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—Dr Johnson, I am very disappointed because you have foiled me. I was hoping I could get that which I sought at Environment through you.</p> <p>Dr Johnson—No.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—I am going to be foiled now here as well.</p> <p>Dr Johnson—As I say, the—</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—But as much information as you are at liberty to disclose to me I would appreciate. If officers of the department of environment read this section of the <i>Hansard</i>, I would like to know from it or from CSIRO whether we can get any other reports or documentation such as the Herzfeld report. I have a funny feeling that there might be other documents around. If need be, we will use FOI.</p>				

