

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio
Additional Estimates Hearing 2009-10
10 February 2010

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION

TOPIC: Research

REFERENCE: Written Question –Senator Eggleston

QUESTION No.: AI-85

How much funding does CSIRO receive from industry for the conduct of research?

Of the research conducted by CSIRO what % of that research is conducted at the request of industry?

What actions have CSIRO undertaken or are undertaking to increase the amount of research industry requests CSIRO to undertake?

ANSWER

In 2008-09, the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) received \$84 million (GST exclusive) from Australian and overseas private sector partners and clients for collaborative research and full cost consulting and testing services.

Approximately 26 per cent of CSIRO's funds spent in financial year 2008-09 on collaborative research and services were directly linked to contracts with industry. CSIRO also undertakes other research destined for industry application through its national research flagships such as the Future Manufacturing Flagship, Minerals Down Under Flagship and Food Futures Flagship. The research agenda for these flagships is developed in consultation with industry representatives on their Flagship Advisory Councils.

CSIRO increases its engagement with industry through a range of means, from large-scale co-investment and long-term alliance projects to the provision of contract research and specialist consultancy services. It has corporate Business Development staff focused on building engagement with larger Australian and international industry participants. In addition, through the Small and Medium Enterprise Engagement Centre (SME-EC), CSIRO is assisting Australian small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to access science and technology.