

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Portfolio
Additional Estimates Hearing 2011-12
15 February 2012

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION

TOPIC: The Conversation Website

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 15 February 2012, page 18)

QUESTION No.: AI-11

Senator BUSHBY: I apologise. I have been popping in and out of the room a couple of times and did not realise that Senator Milne had asked that. I will not pursue that any further. It has probably been canvassed. CSIRO is apparently a founding partner of the conservation website. As an organisation, how much has CSIRO committed financially to that project?

Mr Whelan: Perhaps I could just clarify: did you say the 'conversation' or 'conservation'?

Senator BUSHBY: Conservation, sorry.

Mr Whelan: I think that we are—I am not sure about the material you have before you. We are a founding member of The Conversation, which is an—

Senator BUSHBY: That is probably what I meant to say, yes.

Mr Whelan: Okay. So yes, we have made some contributions to the creation of that website. Off the top of my head—and I could take the detail on notice—it is probably of the order of \$125,000. But I would have to take the detail of that on notice.

Senator BUSHBY: Thank you.

ANSWER

As a founding member of “The Conversation” CSIRO is committed to payments totalling \$525,000 (excluding GST) at the rate of \$175,000 per annum for 2010, 2011 and 2012.