

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Portfolio
Additional Estimates Hearing 2012-13
13 February 2013

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION (CSIRO)

TOPIC: Major Research hubs

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Bushby

QUESTION No.: AI-154

1. In how many major research hubs or precincts does CSIRO currently have any kind of formal involvement? (And please list all of these.)
2. In relation to each of these precincts, where can members of the public see how much, financially, CSIRO has both (a) spent to date and (b) committed over future years to them?
3. Are there any plans currently underway in relation to any potential CSIRO involvement in other precincts – and if so, what precincts are those?

ANSWER

1. The CSIRO is involved in the development of five Global Precincts (as described in the 2011-12 CSIRO Annual Report) being:

- Canberra precinct - Natural and Environmental Sciences
- Brisbane precinct – Ecosciences
- Perth precinct - Resource Sciences
- Clayton precinct – Manufacturing and Materials Sciences
- Parkville precinct – Human life sciences

The CSIRO is involved in the development of six national research centres being:

- Sydney – Digital Services
- Hobart – Marine and Antarctic Sciences
- Adelaide – Food, Health and Nutrition
- Perth - Spaces Sciences
- Townsville - Tropical Innovation
- Newcastle - Energy Technology

2. The CSIRO Global Precincts initiative outlined in the CSIRO's 2011-15 Strategic Plan is a new initiative that is currently at the strategy and planning stage and requires extensive partnering with other participants in the innovation system. As this initiative is still largely in the planning and development phase, there has been no dedicated capital expenditure by the CSIRO to date.

The CSIRO Property Program includes expenditure on facilities that are located on the proposed sites of the Global Precincts. However, this expenditure is not being undertaken as a result of their link to the Global Precincts. No capital funding has been allocated specifically for precincts work. Therefore there is no reference point for the public to see financial expenditure on or commitments to this initiative at this point in time.

3. The CSIRO is aware of the intentions of other bodies to develop research precincts, such as the national innovation precincts articulated in the Government's recently released Industry and Innovation Policy Statement. The CSIRO is considering its involvement in such precincts however it cannot commit to such involvement before the details of how the program that will support the creation of these precincts is released.