

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: CSIRO – Global Precincts

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Mason

QUESTION No.: AI-61

With respect to CSIRO's plans to develop Global Precincts (outlined in the CSIRO Strategy 2011-2015):

- a) Please provide an outline of the specific progress that has been made by CSIRO in developing plans for the operation of the Global Precincts.
- b) Who are the key stakeholders/partners likely to be involved in the Global Precincts and what contact has been made with stakeholders to date?
- c) Will plans for the Global Precincts be consistent with CSIRO's general capital investment strategy?
- d) Given the potential for overlap, will the Global Precincts involve any streamlining of existing CSIRO collaboration programs, for example CSIRO's investment in the Cooperative Research Centre program and CSIRO's Flagship Collaboration Fund?
- e) What contribution to the Global Precincts will be provided by the Science and Industry Endowment Fund?

ANSWER

a) and b) Progress towards establishing the Global Precincts that are within Board-approved plans are reported in Annual Report 2011-12 at pages 5 and 9. Detailed progress against these Precincts is provided below:

| Precinct | Current Status and Key Stakeholders |
|--------------------------|--|
| Resource Sciences: Perth | The Precinct will be based around the CSIRO's existing site in Perth. The CSIRO is working with partners in Perth (including Curtin University, the University of Western Australia, and the Western Australian Government) to formalise and implement the science and partnering vision for the precinct. A steering committee has been established and is meeting regularly to guide this process. |

| Precinct | Current Status and Key Stakeholders |
|---|--|
| Ecosciences: Brisbane | The CSIRO is a participant in the Ecosciences Precinct centred around Dutton Park in Brisbane on a site owned by the Queensland Government. A collaborative science vision has been developed by the precinct partners (including the CSIRO and the Queensland Government) but discussions have halted following significant changes within the Queensland Government. |
| Natural & Environmental Sciences: Canberra | The CSIRO is working with the Australian National University to develop a vision for the precinct that would include the CSIRO Black Mountain site in Canberra. A steering committee has been established to guide the development and implementation of this precinct. |
| Human Life Sciences: Parkville | A number of key medical research hospitals, institutes, the University of Melbourne and Bio21 are already closely located around Parkville, Melbourne. Discussions with the University of Melbourne and other partners are underway to develop the combined scope and vision for the human life sciences precinct of which CSIRO would become a participant. This may involve the relocation of the CSIRO closer to the precinct. A steering committee has been developed to guide this process. |
| Manufacturing & Materials Sciences: Clayton | The precinct will be based in and around the existing the CSIRO site in Clayton, Victoria. The CSIRO and Monash University are developing the precinct vision and have been engaging extensively with partners in the area. The precinct partners are also working with the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science, Research and Tertiary Education to assist in the implementation of the Manufacturing Industry Innovation Precinct. |

c) Yes.

d) The Global Precincts initiative is new within the CSIRO 2011-2015 strategy period and the objective is currently at the strategy and planning stage. To date there has not been any overlap with the Cooperative Research Centre program or the Flagship Collaboration Fund. In relation to the alignment of the Flagship Collaboration Fund, the CSIRO will monitor the development of the Precinct initiative and will look for opportunities for alignment of the Precincts and investments through the Flagship Collaboration Fund.

e) The CSIRO and relevant partners have submitted three proposals relevant to the Global Precincts initiative to the Science and Industry Endowment Fund (SIEF) for consideration under the Research Infrastructure category of that fund. The Trustee of the SIEF makes funding determinations guided by an expert panel, independently of the Trustee's position within the CSIRO. The SIEF Trustee is yet to notify the CSIRO whether any the proposals have been approved.