

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

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

**TOPIC:** CSIRO – National Research Priorities

**REFERENCE:** Written Question – Senator Mason

**QUESTION No.:** AI-62

Page 2 of the CSIRO 2011/12 Annual Report states that over 90% of CSIRO's resources are directed to achieving the government's National Research Priorities (NRPs).

The National Research Investment Plan, endorsed by the government on 28 November 2012, flags that the NRPs will be replaced by new Strategic Research Priorities (SRPs), currently being developed by the Australian Research Committee (see pages 83-84 of the National Research Investment Plan).

- a) Will CSIRO need to restructure some of its programs, including its Flagships, in light of the replacement of the NRPs?

What discussions has CSIRO had with the government and/or the Australian Research Committee with respect to (a) above?

**ANSWER**

The CSIRO will monitor the development of the strategic research priorities by the Australian Research Committee and, following their approval by the Government, will consider whether it may be appropriate to make an adjustment to the CSIRO's investment profile for 2013-14 or subsequent years. As the CSIRO's established investment procedures give strong weighting to the requirements of national challenges and opportunities, the CSIRO does not expect that the strategic research priorities will lead to marked changes to its programs.

The CSIRO has not had discussions with the Government and/or the Australian Research Committee as to any restructuring of the CSIRO programs as a result of the new strategic priorities. The CSIRO has visibility to the developing research priorities through its representatives on the Australian Research Committee (Deputy Chief Executive, Mr Craig Roy) and PMSEIC (Chief Executive, Dr Megan Clark) and has received briefings from the Chief Scientist on the process.