

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio  
Budget Estimates Hearing 2008-09  
2-3 June 2008

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**AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:** COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION

**TOPIC:** Forest Biosciences

**REFERENCE:** Question on Notice (Hansard, 3 June 2008, Page E38-39)

**QUESTION No.** BI-104

**Senator ABETZ**—The livestock and the agricultural sector, broadly speaking, has taken a huge hit with these budget cuts. In relation to the forest biosciences capability, will CSIRO be able to fully continue its research at the level it currently is at into alternatives to 1080?

**Dr Daly**—I do not understand the question. Can you clarify please?

**Senator ABETZ**—There is a change being made to the forest biosciences capability. I say ‘change’; it is going to be lessened. With that lessening of capacity or capability, will the CSIRO forest biosciences division still be able to work on the phase-out of 1080 poisoning at the same level at which it has previously been operating?

**Dr Daly**—I would have to take that question on notice. Let me assure you that we are not reducing the scientific capability associated with forest biosciences. We are adding that capability to other research divisions in CSIRO and retaining it in large research groups. We do not envisage a reduction in—

**ANSWER**

For the past two years CSIRO Forest Biosciences has had no active involvement in 1080 research, and the changes to Forest Biosciences capability will therefore have no impact on the level of research in this area. Some research into 1080 in forests is still being undertaken by the University of Tasmania through the Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) for Forestry. Meanwhile, CSIRO Forest Biosciences staff will continue to maintain their active engagement in other areas of research in the CRC.