

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

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: INNOVATION, INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

TOPIC: Square Kilometre Array

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Eggleston

QUESTION No. BI-17

I know that the previous Coalition Government gave \$100.9 million for this proposal, but what funding has the current Government provided?

ANSWER

The amount of \$100.9 million refers to funds currently earmarked for the Australian Square Kilometre Array Pathfinder (ASKAP) radio telescope being constructed by CSIRO. It comprises:

- \$19.2 million from the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy program;
- \$51.7 million allocated in the 2007-08 Budget to CSIRO; and
- \$30 million from other CSIRO funds.

The ASKAP project in the form proposed and approved by the Government is fully funded and is proceeding as planned.

In total the Government has allocated \$118.5 million to SKA-related activities including funding from the Major National Research Facilities programs for CSIRO's extended New Technology Demonstrator (earlier R&D now incorporated into the ASKAP project), Australian Research Council grants and coordination of the Australian SKA bid.

No further funds have been allocated for SKA purposes since the 2007 election.