

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio  
Budget Estimates Hearing 2009-10  
01 June 2009

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**AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:** INNOVATION, INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

**TOPIC:** Bushfire CRC

**REFERENCE:** Written Question – Senator Eggleston

**QUESTION No.:** BI-11

After the Black Saturday bushfires, there were criticisms of bushfire management practices that had permitted a build-up of combustible vegetation in the proximity of homes. Many blamed the influence of ‘greenies’ on local councils and environment groups. Has the Bushfire CRC been directed to undertake any specific research activities with its extension funding?

**ANSWER**

In the 2009-10 Budget, the Government allocated an additional \$15 million over three years from 2010-2011 (\$5 million per annum) to support the work of the Bushfire CRC. The CRC has not been directed to undertake any specific research activities with its extension funding at this stage. The funding is being made available to tackle specific research tasks arising from the experience of the Victorian bushfires. These research tasks are still taking shape as the events of last summer are considered by the Royal Commission and the Victorian State Coroner. An Agreement will need to be reached between the Commonwealth, represented by the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, the Bushfire CRC and its participants about the new research activities to be undertaken from 1 July 2010.