

**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:** COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION

**TOPIC:** Biochar

**REFERENCE:** Written Question – Senator Abetz

**QUESTION No.:** BI-21

On what date did the CSIRO first approach the Government with a proposal for further research into biochar?

Whom was the approach made to?

When (on what date) was the CSIRO advised it would be receiving specific funding to undertake new research into biochar?

How much funding will CSIRO receive for this research?

How many researchers will be involved?

Will the NSW Department of Primary industries be involved in this research?

**ANSWER**

See response to QoN BI-43

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Discussions were entered into on the 6 May 2009 regarding the possibility of new funding for biochar research subject to Ministerial approval which was subsequently granted on 21 May 2009.

Total funding for the project is \$1.4 million. This will be shared between CSIRO and its partners in the research (Department of Primary Industries NSW, University Western Australia) to allow a national initiative on biochar to be conducted, overseen and guided by CSIRO.

See response to QoN BI-40

Yes, at least two staff from NSW DPI will be involved.