

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

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION

TOPIC: Biochar Research

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard 1 June 2009, E26)

QUESTION No.: BI-41

Senator ABETZ—If you could take on notice when the research into biochar specifically started, and in rough terms, if you can disaggregate, how much money was spent on that?

Dr Clark—We would be very happy to.

ANSWER

CSIRO is in the early stages of developing a research program in biochar, although CSIRO research into naturally occurring char in Australian soils (not manufactured biochar) has been undertaken for approximately 10 years. CSIRO commenced biochar research approximately two years ago and has invested in the order of \$150k annually since then to establish the state of current knowledge in the field and the key research gaps which need to be addressed in future research.