

**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 Research

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

**QUESTION No.:** BI-42

**Senator ABETZ**—Without holding you to anything specifically at this stage, which one has the most beneficial aspect? Is it the poultry litter or the timber refuse?

**Dr Keating**—I am getting close to the edges of my expertise here, but I believe that the higher nutrient content materials going in clearly take higher nutrients through into the char environments as well. But I would like to perhaps explore that in more detail.

**Senator ABETZ**—If you could take that aspect on notice.

**ANSWER**

The benefits of biochar depend on the aim of application and the type of soil and crop that it is applied to. As such there is no such thing as ‘one best biochar’. CSIRO’s research aims to provide the opportunity to producers to tailor biochar to their specific soil, crop and carbon needs.