

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: Land and water taskforce

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard 1 June 2009, E34)

QUESTION No.: BI-45

Senator IAN MACDONALD—The work you are doing for and on behalf of either the Land and Water Taskforce or the department of infrastructure et cetera, what does that constitute just at the moment?

Dr Johnson—To take a step back, earlier this year the chair of the task force, Joe Ross, wrote to CSIRO seeking its support to undertake a series of scientific investigations to support the task force's work plan. In other words, the task force is being asked to report to government by December this year. To assist it in its deliberations, CSIRO, on behalf of a number of scientific institutions in Australia, pulled together the latest information around a number of key issues, such as water availability, climate change, land use and so on. We are now working with colleagues in the state agencies and a couple of universities as well to bring that information together so that the task force can use it in its deliberations consistent with its terms of reference.

Senator IAN MACDONALD—Is this a paid job for CSIRO or are you—

Dr Johnson—There are three funding sources for the work.

Senator IAN MACDONALD—What are they?

Dr Johnson—CSIRO is committing some of its appropriation dollars to this activity. The department of infrastructure is also committing some dollars and the environment department is also contributing. Between the three of us we are pooling our resources to do the work.

Senator IAN MACDONALD—Is there a specific number of titled, separate projects?

Dr Johnson—There is a comprehensive scientific work plan between now and a very tight deadline, which is really the end of November. It is quite complex and lengthy. I would be happy to take that on notice and supply you with a copy.

ANSWER

A copy of the work plan is attached.