

**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:** Climate change research

**REFERENCE:** Question on Notice (Hansard 1 June 2009, E37)

**QUESTION No.:** BI-48

**Senator ABETZ**—Would an increase in gas utilisation as a substitute for, say, coal be helpful in seeking to abate greenhouse gas emissions, and that is for producing energy?

**Dr Ronalds**—Yes, the basis of the modelling is to make different—

**Senator ABETZ**—So we do have studies that confirm that?

**Dr Ronalds**—We have studies that look at different scenarios, make a series of assumptions around each of those scenarios and go on from that to model what the most cost-effective energy mix would be. In certain scenarios, it shows a significant increase in gas because of its cost and CO<sub>2</sub> footprint relative to other opportunities in the mix.

**Senator ABETZ**—Are you able to provide on notice some of these studies?

**Dr Ronalds**—Absolutely.

**ANSWER**

CSIRO conducts techno-economic modelling of different future energy scenarios. Recent CSIRO reports based on this modelling provide insight into the potential role of gas in replacing other fossil fuels in both stationary and transport energy. Key reports to note are:

*The heat is on: the future of energy in Australia* (December 2006)

Available at <http://www.csiro.au/science/Energy-Futures-Forum.html>

*Fuel for thought - the future of transport fuels: challenges and opportunities* (June 2008)

Available at <http://www.csiro.au/science/Future-Fuels-Forum.html>