

**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:** INNOVATION, INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

**TOPIC:** Funding for Telescope

**REFERENCE:** Written Question – Senator Brown

**QUESTION No.:** BI-6

Will the government commit to funding for the telescope that will allow Australian scientists a 10% share of time on the telescope? If so, when will this funding begin? If not, what is the level of funding the government will commit to and what will this translate to in usage time for Australian scientists?

**ANSWER**

On 20 July 2009, the Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research announced the Government will provide \$88.4 million to ensure that Australia is a major partner in the Giant Magellan Telescope (GMT), a next-generation telescope to be constructed by an international consortium of institutions from the United States, South Korea and Australia.

This funding will comprise \$23.4 million to upgrade Australian infrastructure, including the Australian National University's Mount Stromlo Observatory, and \$65 million for the construction of the GMT itself.

This funding will give Australian astronomers a 10 per cent share of the total GMT observing time.

This Commonwealth funding for the GMT will be provided to the Australian National University starting in the 2009-10 financial year.