

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio
Budget Estimates Hearing 2010-11
31 May 2010

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION

TOPIC: Early warning fire research

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard 31 May 2010, E25)

QUESTION No.: BI-13

Senator McGAURAN—What about fire detection research? What are you undertaking there?

Dr Johnson—You would have to be more specific. Fire detection research in what regard?

Senator McGAURAN—Early warning.

Dr Johnson—I will have to take that question on notice. I am not aware of any, but that does not mean to say we are not doing it.

ANSWER

CSIRO is not undertaking fire detection research per se. However, CSIRO is undertaking an independent evaluation of three automated video-based bushfire detection systems for the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department. The three systems under examination are FireWatch, Forest Watch and Eyefi SPARC.

The objective of this evaluation is to quantify the ability of these systems to detect the outbreak of bushfires against the benchmark of a trained human observer and to provide information about the behaviour of fire (i.e. size, rate of spread) if and when it is detected. A draft final report from this evaluation is due to be submitted to the Attorney General's Department by 30 June 2010.