

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

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**AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:** COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION

**TOPIC:** NALWTF

**REFERENCE:** Written Question –Senator Eggleston

**QUESTION No.:** BI-47

Why were dams not considered as part of the Northern Australia Land and Water Taskforce? Has the CSIRO considered re-examining the NALWTF to account for this? Now that Ord Stage 2 has had the turning of the first sod, when is Stage 3 likely to be examined for its viability? (*The West Australian* 13/2/2010 and 9/3/2010)

**ANSWER**

CSIRO was contracted to prepare a Science Review for the Northern Australia Land and Water Taskforce (NALWTF) which it delivered according to specification.

Responsibility for setting the specifications for the Science Review rested with the Taskforce and questions on the scope of the specification should be directed to the Taskforce. If it was decided that further examination of any aspect of the Science Review were to be required, CSIRO would need to be contracted to provide such examination. CSIRO would not consider re-examining the NALWTF independently of this process.

CSIRO has not received a request to examine the viability of Ord Stage 3, and does not usually undertake such studies of its own volition.