

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio  
Budget Estimates Hearing 2012-13  
28 May 2012

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**AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:** COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION (CSIRO)

**TOPIC:** AFPA Support and Funding

**REFERENCE:** Question on Notice (Hansard, 28 May 2012, page 25)

**QUESTION No.:** BI-16

**Senator RHIANNON:** Thank you very much. Since joining AFPA, what scientific projects has CSIRO commenced in partnership with AFPA? What funding has each project received from CSIRO?

**Mr Whelan:** Senator, I do know we do a wide range of research in the forestry sector, so I suspect there is a considerable amount of research I will have to go and review. I would have to take the detail on notice.

**Senator RHIANNON:** At this stage, you understand that there is interaction?

**Mr Whelan:** CSIRO has been doing research in the forestry sector since 1926. This is the peak forestry and paper products body in Australia. I would imagine that a significant body of the research we conduct in that space would be of interest to the association

**Senator RHIANNON:** Thank you very much. I was interested in the support the CSIRO has provided to AFPA. I am interested in any other payments—use of vehicles, use of facilities, equipment or staff. Could you take that on notice as part of your response to that question?

**Mr Whelan:** I can give you a response. It would be unusual for CSIRO to provide vehicles to an industry association. It would not be unusual to have members of an industry association possibly conduct a meeting on CSIRO premises. I am not going to be able to account for those separately if that has happened. As a general rule, I would imagine that memberships and sponsorships of relevant conferences would be the main contributions we make to those organisations, so I will look to answer your question on that basis.

**Senator RHIANNON:** So you can take that on notice?

**Mr Whelan:** I will.

**ANSWER**

CSIRO has commenced no projects in partnership with the Australian Forest Products Association (AFPA) since joining that organisation.

CSIRO has provided no support or payment to the AFPA other than the annual membership subscription paid for the 2011/12 membership year.