

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio
Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing 2008-09
22-23 October 2008

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION

TOPIC: Belmont Facility Geelong

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 23 October 2008, E48)

QUESTION No.: SI-34

Senator ABETZ—Time is very short. Can I ask you take on notice to provide me an update on the wool scour at Belmont.

Mr Whelan—Yes.

Senator ABETZ—Can I then ask about the Belmont facility in Geelong—do you understand what I am talking about?

Mr Whelan—Yes.

Senator ABETZ—Can you detail how staffing numbers have changed there? Have they actually shrunk? If so, by what number?

Mr Whelan—I cannot give you that information. I will take it on notice. There has been a reduction in staff at that site, yes.

Senator ABETZ—Yes, take that on notice.

ANSWER

As at 13 November 2008 the tender for the sale of the scour has been finalised and a purchase contract is being negotiated with the successful tenderer.

As announced on 8 October 2007, CSIRO found it necessary to close the wool scour at Belmont in response to reduced funding from the wool industry and the resulting related decision by CSIRO to reduce appropriation funding for wool textile research. The closure of the scour has resulted in the loss of two staff.