

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation and Science Portfolio
2016 - 2017 Additional Estimates
2 March 2017

AGENCY: COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION

TOPIC: Pawsey NCI merger

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Carr

QUESTION No.: AI-133

1. Has CSIRO been involved in discussions regarding the future of the Pawsey Supercomputing Centre?
2. Has CSIRO responded to calls in the draft national research infrastructure roadmap for governance integration of Pawsey and ANU's NCI?
3. What is the level of investment required over the next ten years in CSIRO's supercomputational capacity to retain our capacity?

ANSWER

1. Yes. CSIRO is actively committed, as Centre Agent and as a member of the Unincorporated Joint Venture (UJV), to the future of the Pawsey Supercomputing Centre.
2. The draft 2016 National Research Infrastructure Roadmap makes recommendations to further optimise Australia's national research infrastructure system. Draft recommendation nine is to 'Urgently Address National High Performance Computing (HPC) needs coupled with a review of existing governance arrangements to ensure future positioning is strategic and accessible'.

The Roadmap also states that 'to maintain a nationally coordinated Tier 1 HPC capability, national governance arrangements must be addressed. This should increase integration, enhance collaboration and share best practice and expertise'.

CSIRO has taken an active part in the National Research Infrastructure road mapping exercise, supporting the need for Australia to continue to support two research peak computing centres, the National Computational Infrastructure and the Pawsey Supercomputing Centre.

CSIRO supports the establishment of appropriate national level governance for investments in peak computing for Australian research. CSIRO is supporting both the Pawsey and NCI Board Chairs who are working to develop greater alignment and a model for national governance between the two centres.

3. CSIRO invests on average some \$7.5 million per annum in capital in our own internal high performance science computing infrastructure, and approximately \$10 million annually (labour and operating) across our own internal high performance science computing infrastructure, which is CSIRO's partner share of the operating costs of NCI, and Pawsey, and for access by CSIRO researchers to Monash university's MASSIVE and the University of Queensland's Queensland Cyber Infrastructure Foundation. This does not include capital expenditure for major upgrades.