

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: Gas supply

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Carr

QUESTION No.: AI-137

1. In relation to the Australian Industry Group report issued 28 February 2017, Energy Shock: No Gas, No Power, No Future, which warns that energy-intensive manufacturers will be paying up to \$4 billion more per year on their energy bills:
 - a) From CSIRO's view, how will the energy crisis impact Australian manufacturers?
 - b) Has CSIRO held direct discussions on energy security with manufacturers or industry groups? What are they telling you?
2. What is the science telling us about the availability of more gas supply in Australia, both onshore and offshore, conventional and coal seam?
 - a. Do you agree that to secure baseload supply, we're going to need more gas field exploration and development?
 - b. What options exist to access more supply in light of current restrictions? What does the science tell us?

ANSWER

1.
 - a) CSIRO has not conducted an appropriate analysis of the impact of changes in the electricity and gas markets on various sectors to form a view on this matter. However, for energy intensive industries, CSIRO broadly agrees that higher energy prices and uncertainty about the continuation of supply creates operational challenges and increases costs.
 - b) No, CSIRO has not held direct discussions on energy security with manufacturers or industry groups.
2. CSIRO has not undertaken work on gas reserves or the availability of gas supply in Australia.