

# Senate Economics References Committee hearing: Inquiry into Funding and Resourcing for the CSIRO

## Australian Academy of Science – question on notice response

20 March 2026

### Government funding for CSIRO

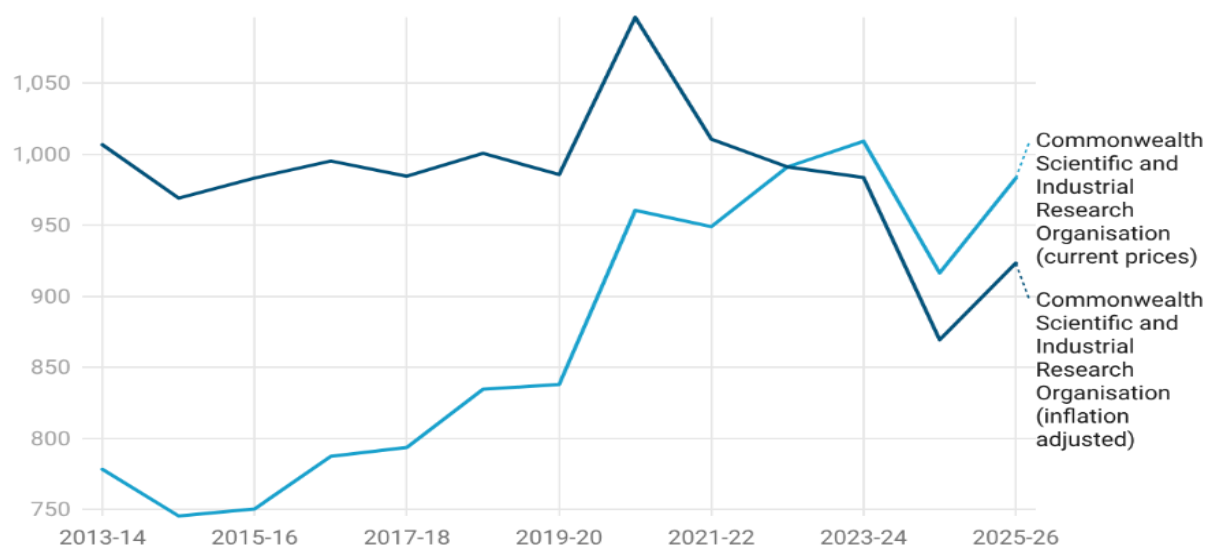
Source: [Science, Research and Innovation budget tables](#)

The 2025-26 Science, Research and Innovation (SRI) Budget tables indicate Commonwealth appropriation funding for the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) of approximately \$983 million in 2025-26, compared with \$916 million in 2024-25.

Appropriation funding has increased by roughly 1.3% per year over the past 15 years, while inflation has averaged around 2.7% per year over the same period. This means that CSIRO's funding has declined in real terms, despite nominal increases in the budget.

These trends are outlined in the **Australian Government investment in CSIRO table on page 2**. In this table 2024-25 is estimated actual and 2025-26 is the budget estimate.

### Australian Government R&D programs and activities valued over \$100million



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Graph: Australian government funding for CSIRO in current prices and inflation adjusted (2022-23 prices). Source: Science, Research and Innovation budget tables, large Government R&D programs and activities valued at over \$100m in 2025-26.

Note 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 are forecasted figures. [Science, research and innovation \(SRI\) budget tables | Department of Industry Science and Resources](#)

## Australian government investment in CSIRO

Australian  
Government  
R&D programs  
and activities  
valued at over  
\$100 million –  
CSIRO figures

	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Current prices (\$m, 2022,23 dollars)	778.18	745.27	750.28	787.27	793.55	834.56	837.87	960.54	949.04	991.13	1,009.24	916.46	983.12
Inflation adjusted (\$m, 2022-23 dollars)	1,006.70	969.14	983.33	995.28	984.55	1,000.67	985.73	1,096.50	1,010.69	991.13	983.66	869.33	923.33

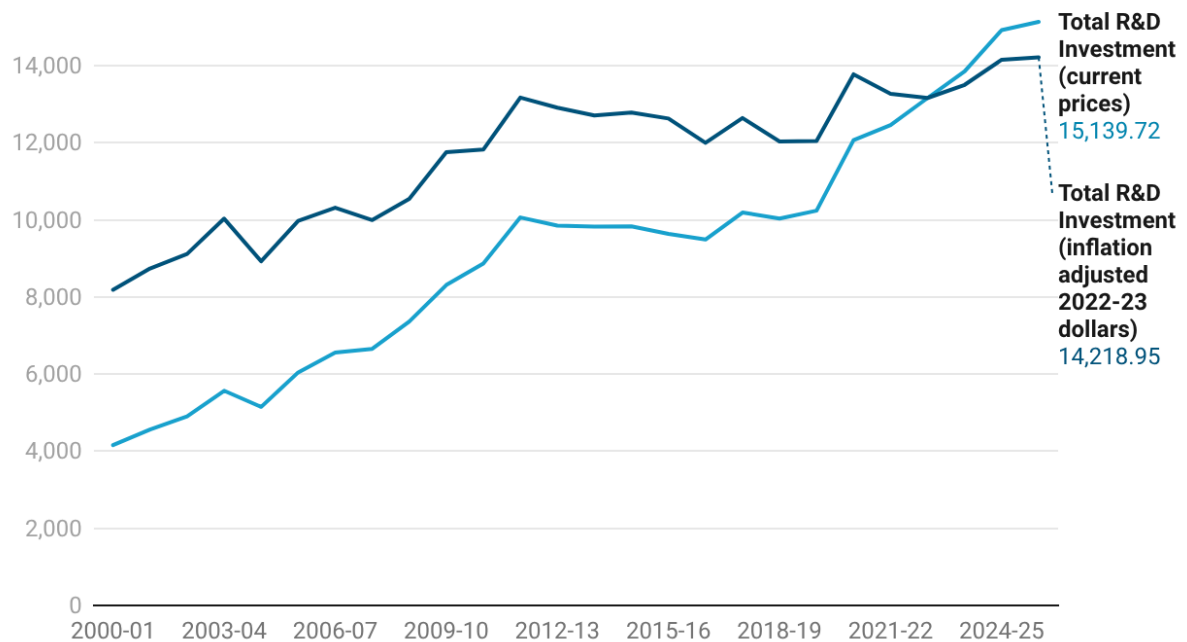
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## Total government investment in R&D

Source: [Science, Research and Innovation budget tables](#)

The below graph shows total Australian government investment in R&D in current prices and adjusted for inflations (2022-23 dollars). Total government investment includes the R&D Tax Incentive.

### Aust. Govt. investment in R&D, 2000-01 to 2024-25 (\$m inflation adjusted, 2022-23 dollars)



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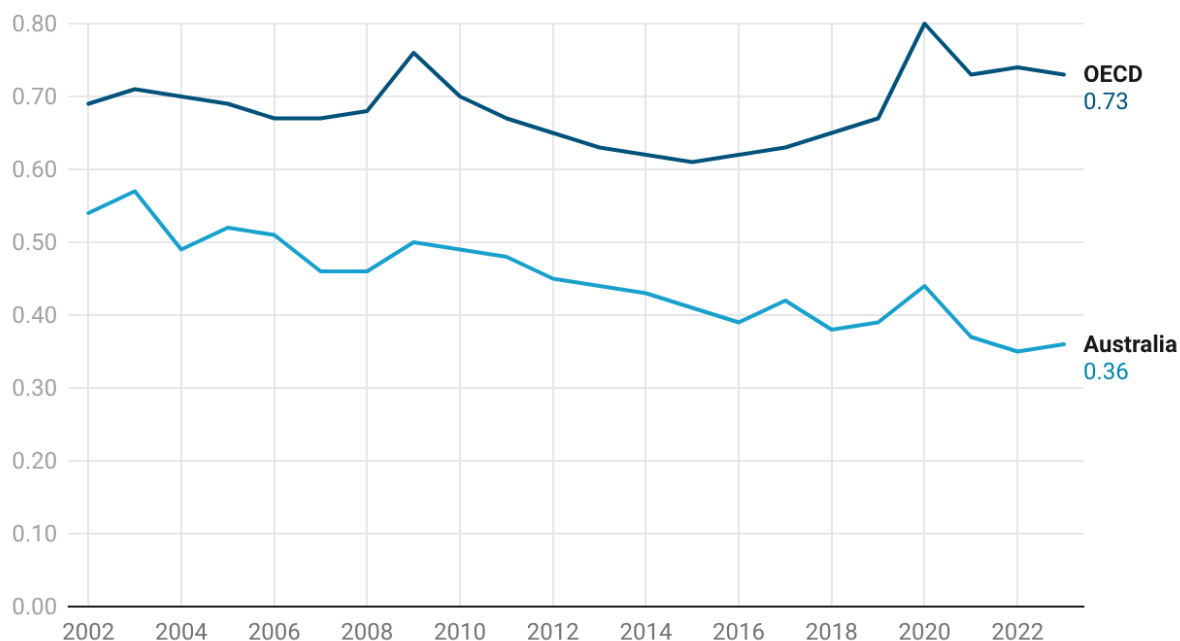
Graph: Total Australian government investment in Research and Development (R&D), 2000-01 to 2024-25 (\$m inflation adjusted, 2022-23 dollars). Note 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 are forecasted figures. Source: [Science, Research and Innovation budget tables](#) [Science, research and innovation \(SRI\) budget tables](#) | [Department of Industry Science and Resources](#)

## Australian government budget allocations for R&D

Sources: [Science, Research and Innovation budget tables](#), [OECD Main Science and Technology Indicators](#)

The below graph shows Government Budget Allocations for R&D (GBARD) as a percentage of GDP, compared to the OECD average. GBARD includes R&D expenditure from departmental funds and R&D support from administered funds. This expenditure is spread across government, business and higher education sectors depending on where the R&D activity takes place. It does not include tax incentives. It shows a sustained decline in Australian Government budget allocations for R&D (GBARD) as a percentage of GDP over the past decade.

### Aust. Govt. Budget Allocation for R&D (GBARD) and OECD Average as a percentage of GDP, 2002-03 to 2023-24



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Graph: Government budget allocations for R&D compared to the OECD average. Australian data for 2023 onwards are forecasted. Sources: [OECD Main Science and Technology Indicators](#), Department of Industry, Science and Resources (DISR), [Science, research and innovation \(SRI\) budget tables 2024-25](#),