

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation and Science Portfolio
2015-16 Additional Budget Estimates
11 February 2016

AGENCY: CSIRO

TOPIC: Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Written, Senator Di Natale)

QUESTION No.: AI-32

1. What is the annual cost for Australia as a party to the agreement for the Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International (CABI)?
2. Has there been an assessment of the benefits that Australia receives from its membership of CABI? If yes, what was the result of that assessment?
3. Can you confirm if there are plans to withdraw from membership of CABI? If yes, what is the justification for withdrawal?

ANSWER

1

- CSIRO is currently responsible for Australia's CABI membership costs.
- CSIRO has not received the invoice for the current year, CABI has advised that this will be in the order of A\$295,000. The previous invoice paid in June 2014 was \$86,250GBP (approximately A\$160,000).

2 No assessment has been conducted.

3 CSIRO is exploring the possibility of transferring the treaty obligations to a more appropriate Commonwealth entity. Due to changes in CABI's operational model since the late 1990s there is a strategic misalignment between CABI's operations and CSIRO's own activities. Most of CABI's pursuits are in the Overseas Development Assistance Sector.