

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

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: CSIRO

TOPIC: Shark-related research

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 11 February 2016, page 64)

QUESTION No. AI-5

Senator WANG: I welcome the announcement that CSIRO is going to change its focus from pure science to innovation and that it will deliver that science and invention to places where it can actually have an impact and turn into true innovation. My first question is: does CSIRO have a budget for shark-related research?

Senator MARSHALL: For shark-related research? I believe Dr Wonhas is the expert in this area.

Dr Wonhas : We do not have a dedicated budget towards shark research but I think we are a significant contributor to shark research in Australia.

Senator WANG: You do not have a budget, but do you a measure of how much money you have spent on shark-related research?

Dr Wonhas : I do not have the information at hand but I am very happy to take that on notice.

Senator WANG: Yes, please. What are the focuses of the shark-related research to date?

Dr Wonhas : What we are trying to do with regard to shark research is actually understand the movement and biology of sharks. We have a very successful tagging program of sharks that has helped us understand, and greatly enhanced our understanding of, shark movements around Australia.

ANSWER

CSIRO has invested approximately \$5.4 million over the last 7 years in research projects specifically related to sharks. Of this, approximately \$2.4 million was contributed by external sources. Note that these projects cover CSIRO research on white sharks as well as other shark species.

Spending on shark-related research by CSIRO 2009-10 – 2015-16

| | 2009-10 | 2010-11 | 2011-12 | 2012-13 | 2013-14 | 2014-15 | 2015-16* | Total |
|-----------------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|-------------|
| CSIRO appropriation | \$625,282 | \$474,644 | \$298,654 | \$271,134 | \$440,324 | \$315,281 | 546,967 | \$2,972,286 |
| External contribution | \$610,207 | \$468,797 | \$273,950 | \$259,498 | \$465,752 | \$377,994 | 642,670 | \$2,461,376 |
| Total | \$1,235,489 | \$943,441 | \$572,604 | \$271,134 | \$906,076 | \$315,281 | \$1,189,637 | \$5,433,662 |

* Figures for 2015-16 only include currently confirmed projects