

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

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**AGENCY:** COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION

**TOPIC:** External Funding

**REFERENCE:** Written Question – Senator Carr

**QUESTION No.:** AI-135

- (1) In reference question on notice SI-118 on external funding which reveals that external funding has fallen considerably in recent years. What has been the major causes of that deterioration?
- (2) What percentage of total revenue, and external funding comes from the private sector?
  - a. Does this amount include overseas companies?
  - b. What proportion of total revenue and external revenue comes from Australian companies?
  - c. Has that changed markedly in recent years?
- (3) Looking forward, what is the external revenue outlook for the current financial year – 2016/17?
- (4) What is the outlook for external revenue in future years?
- (5) Is it true that Oceans & Atmosphere is expected to beat its external revenue targets this year?
  - a. By how much?
  - b. Are any other divisions beating their targets?
- 6) Where does the Climate Centre sit in your structure? Who does it report to?
  - a. How many staff sit under the Climate Centre now?
  - b. Where are they based?
  - c. It has been reported that the centre has been successful in winning a contract to set up a Centre for Southern Hemisphere Ocean Research. Is that true? What amount of money is that worth to CSIRO? What is the level of CSIRO's involvement and co-investment?

**ANSWER**

- (1) The reduction in total external revenue from 2011/12 to 2015/16, shown in the response to question on notice SI-118 reflects the recognition in 2011/12 of \$228.6 million attributable to Wireless Local Area Network licencing agreements (noting that in SI-118 the breakdown of total external revenue by source (A) to (F) excluded IP revenue). The balance of total external revenue is primarily from co-investment and consulting services which is highly dependent on market fluctuations impacting the industries that CSIRO works with (such as the mining and resources sector) and funding priorities by individual customers.
- (2) Please refer to response to SI-118 for total revenue, total external revenue, and private sector figures.
  - a. Yes.
  - b. Please refer to response to SI-118 for total revenue, total external revenue, and Australian private sector revenue.
  - c. No.
- (3) At the 2016/17 Mid-year Economic and Fiscal Outlook update, CSIRO, excluding any subsidiary entities, is estimating total external revenue of \$457.7m

- (4) At the 2016/17 Mid-year Economic and Fiscal Outlook update, CSIRO, excluding any subsidiary entities, is estimating total external revenue of the following:

	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Total external revenue	\$482.7m	\$529.0m	\$543.3m	\$545.0m

- (5) The CSIRO Executive Team is consistently monitoring all Business Units against their financial targets and adjusting as required, including revenue and expenditure, with the fundamental principle that CSIRO achieve an underlying operating result within Government approved parameters. The final financial position of the Oceans and Atmosphere Business Unit is monitored and adjusted in this way.
- (6) The Climate Science Centre is part of CSIRO Oceans and Atmosphere (O&A). The Climate Science Centre Director is a member of the CSIRO O&A leadership team and reports to the Executive Director, Environment, Energy and Resources.
- As at 13 February 2017 the headcount for the Climate Science Centre was 114.
  - The Climate Science Centre staff are based at Aspendale (Melbourne, Victoria), Canberra (ACT), and Hobart (Tasmania).
  - Yes. In December 2016 CSIRO signed a contract with the Qingdao National Laboratory for Marine Science (QNLN) to establish the Centre for Southern Hemisphere Ocean Research (CSHOR) in Hobart. QNLN will provide \$2 million per annum cash for five years, matched by co-investment by CSIRO, the University of NSW and the University of Tasmania. CSIRO's co-investment is mostly in the form of science support costs.