

**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:** Snowy Hydro Expansion

**REFERENCE:** Written Question – Senator Carr

**QUESTION No.:** AI-139

1. Was CSIRO consulted or asked for advice prior to the Prime Minister's announcement on 16 March of the government's support for an expansion of Snowy Hydro?
2. Does CSIRO have any capabilities that would be useful in considering the expansion of Snowy Hydro, or other energy capacity issues?
3. Does CSIRO expect to be involved in the feasibility study? If so, what activities have you been asked to perform?

**ANSWER**

1. No.
2. CSIRO has capabilities such as modelling of the electricity system, streamflow forecasting and water availability projections, and managing aquatic ecosystems and environmental flows that may be relevant to the Snowy Hydro expansion proposal.  
  
CSIRO is also working on a number of alternative technologies relevant to the need for new flexible generation capacity in Australia. These include development of direct injection carbon engines, various applications for battery storage, demand management (e.g. air conditioning control systems) and concentrating solar thermal generation with storage. CSIRO also has capabilities in modelling of the electricity system which can provide insights into the timing, costs and market conditions required for each of the technologies to make a contribution.
3. Snowy Hydro Limited is conducting the feasibility study and will decide who is involved in the study.