

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry Portfolio
Budget Estimates Hearing 2014-15
2-3 June 2014

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: Geoscience Australia

TOPIC: Geoscience Research

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Carr

QUESTION No.: BI-164

1. Is the continuation of Geoscience's research work with the CSIRO threatened by lack of resources?
2. Is it the view of Geoscience that research programs looking into earthquakes, bushfires and other natural hazards (such as the Sentinel program for example) warrant ongoing Government support?
3. Are any of Geoscience's research programs looking into natural hazard risks and impacts undermined by the Government's funding cuts in the recent Budget? What are the ramifications of any reduction in Australia's capacity in these areas?

ANSWER

1. No Geoscience Australia-CSIRO research collaborations are currently not threatened by lack of resources.
2. In accordance with the Department of Industry portfolio budget statement, Geoscience Australia monitors and maps natural hazards, such as earthquakes. Geoscience Australia operates the recently redeveloped Sentinel bushfire system which uses data from international satellites to detect and map 'hot-spots' from bush fires.
3. Geoscience Australia's natural hazards programme continues to be supported by appropriation together with income from other departments.