

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation and Science Portfolio
2017 - 2018 Budget Estimates
31 May – 1 June 2017

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: CSIRO

TOPIC: CSIROs National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy and Education Investment Fund

REFERENCE: Questions on Notice (Hansard, 1 June 2017, page 3-4)

QUESTION No.: BI-12

Senator KIM CARR: Page 131 of the PBS says:

... due to the distribution of funds by the Science and Industry Endowment Fund and unfunded depreciation expenses relating to assets for which capital was previously provided by Government through the Education Investment Fund and the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy.

How much is involved with that?

Mr Munyard: With each particular item?

Senator KIM CARR: Yes, please. Would you go through the detail for me?

Mr Munyard: The unfunded depreciation for the Education Investment Fund and the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy for 2017-18 is \$26.3 million. The unfunded depreciation relating to property revaluations is \$22 million. That has been offset by costs for the expected sale of the Highett site and some externally funded capital purchases. The operating loss relating to the Science and Industry Endowment Fund is \$24.0 million.

Senator KIM CARR: How much were you expecting to get out of NCRIS? Was there an NCRIS allocation as well? That is referred to here.

Mr Munyard: The \$26.3 million relates to both NCRIS and the EIF.

Senator KIM CARR: You cannot disaggregate that for me?

Mr Munyard: Sorry, I do not have those figures in front of me.

Senator KIM CARR: Can you take that on notice, please.

Mr Munyard: I will.

Senator KIM CARR: The remainder will tell me what the decline in the EIF funding is.

Mr Munyard: Correct. That \$26.3 million is related to both those items.

Ms Bennett: It is not related to the funding; it is to the depreciation on the assets that were funded by those grants several years ago.

Senator KIM CARR: Perhaps you could tell me the specific projects that the CSIRO benefited from under EIF funding. Are you able to do that?

Ms Bennett: I would prefer to take that on notice, but in principle: Pawsey, ASKAP, National Geosequestration Laboratory—it would be those major landmark capital assets.

Senator KIM CARR: And the amounts?

Ms Bennett: I would definitely need to take that on notice.

Senator KIM CARR: Pawsey was quite a large investment, if I recall.

Ms Bennett: I believe that investment was in the order of \$35 million to \$40 million, but I am reaching back into my memory and would have to take that on notice.

Senator KIM CARR: If you could take those on notice, that would be helpful. Presumably this will add pressure to CSIRO's future budgets too, will it not?

Ms Bennett: We have an understanding with the Department of Finance that we will continue to receive loss approval for depreciation relating to EIF and NCRIS assets. In that regard it has given us relief so that we have an approved loss.

ANSWER

The operating loss of \$26.3 million in 2017-18 relating to depreciation costs for the Education Investment Fund and the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy funded assets consists of:

- \$17.9 million for depreciation costs for Education Investment Fund assets; and
- \$6.8 million for depreciation costs for National Collaboration Research Infrastructure Strategy assets.

CSIRO received EIF funding for the below projects over the period 2009-10 to 2014-15:

CSIRO led EIF funded projects	
Pawsey Centre	\$80m
Sustainable Energy for the Square Kilometre Array (SESKA)	\$34.1m
National Geosequestration Laboratory (NGL)	\$48.4m
Future Research Vessel (FRV)	\$120m
Plant Phenomics (Cropatron)	\$1.7m