

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation and Science Portfolio
2016-17 Supplementary Budget Estimates
20 October 2016

AGENCY: CSIRO

TOPIC: Focus on climate science

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Carr

QUESTION No.: SI-92

1. How often has the CEO met with the Minister? On what dates?
2. When did Minister Hunt order the CSIRO Board and Executives to “put the focus back on climate science”?
3. In an answer to a Senate Chamber QON 18, the Minister says that he has “had discussions” with the CSIRO. How would you characterise these discussions?
4. What form did these discussions take place? Face to face? Over the telephone? Tele conference? Email? Other format?
 - a. On what topics?
 - b. On what date? With whom – the CEO, senior management, members of the board?

ANSWER

1. The CSIRO Chief Executive had scheduled formal meetings with the Minister on the following occasions:
 - 20 July 2016 – Meeting, accompanied by Hazel Bennett and Kimberley Shrives. Topic – incoming Ministers briefing.
 - 27 July 2016 - Meeting, accompanied by Alex Wonhas. Topic – CSIRO’s research activities, including climate.
 - 22 August 2016 – Black Mountain site visit, hosted by Larry Marshall.
 - 19 September 2016 – Minister Hunt gave a speech to the International School on Research Impact Assessment (ISRIA) Gala dinner, hosted by CSIRO at the Melbourne Town Hall. Larry Marshall and a number of CSIRO staff attended.
 - 11 October 2016 – Meeting, no other attendees. Topics – general update on CSIRO activity, Statement of Expectations and engagement with universities.
 - 19 October 2016. Meeting, including the CSIRO Chairman, CSIRO Board members and Kimberley Shrives. Topic – Statement of Expectations.There were also ongoing informal meetings and phone calls between the Minister and Larry Marshall, David Thodey, Board members and senior staff.
2. The Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science, Minister Hunt first instructed CSIRO that climate change was a government priority and asked for information about additional work that could be pursued in the climate area on 20 July 2016. The determination that CSIRO would make an additional investment into decadal forecasting resulted from this.
3. All discussions with the Minister have been cooperative, collegiate and productive.
4. There have been numerous discussions with the Minister covering all aspects of CSIRO’s activities.