

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Portfolio
Additional Estimates Hearing 2011-12
15 February 2012

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION (CSIRO)

TOPIC: CSIRO Board – Conflict of Interest

REFERENCE: Written Question –Senator Bushby

QUESTION No.: AI-80

Since 1 January 2008, at the beginning of how many Board meetings has any Board member declared and/or had documented any potential conflict of interest both generally and relating to an item to be considered at the meeting? If there have been any such instances, on what date(s) has this happened in each case – and what have been the subjects to which these conflicts of interest have respectively related?

ANSWER

There is a standing item at the commencement of all Board meetings that requires Board members to declare any potential material personal interests in relation to matters coming before the Board.

In addition, the agenda item provides an opportunity for members to have their standing declarations updated and recorded.

Board Members routinely advise amendments to their standing declarations between meetings and may note other, non-pecuniary interests such as memberships of government reviews.

Since 1 January 2008, Board members have declared and had documented on 16 occasions 34 matters that might potentially conflict with matters before the Board. Nineteen members also took the opportunity to update or confirm their standing declarations.

Date of Meeting	Number and subject of declarations related to a potential conflict of interest in relation to matters before Board	Number of amendments declared to standing declarations
8 Dec 2011	3 about a related commercial / research party	1 declaration (2 amendments)
12-13 Oct 2010	1 on a potential Board appointment	1 declaration (2 amendments)
25 Aug 2010	1 on a Science review	1 declaration (1 clarified expanded role)
23 Jun 2010	3 about a related commercial / research party	1 declaration (1 amendment)
28 Apr 2010		4 declaration (3 amendments – 1 clarified expanded role)
1 Dec 2009	3 about a related commercial / research party 1 on CSIRO providing scientific input	1 declaration (1 amendment)
15 Oct 2009	2 about a related commercial / research party	3 declaration (3 amendments)
19 Aug 2009	2 about a related commercial / research party 1 MOU between other parties with which CSIRO engages	
29 Apr 2009	1 about a related party's contractual relationship with CSIRO	
18 Feb 2009	1 about a related commercial / research party 1 on a commercial / research project awarded to CSIRO 1. on an Advisory role	4 declaration (5 amendments)
3 Dec 2008	1 about an ongoing commercial / research relationship 1 a Publication	1 declaration (1 amendments)
21 Oct 2008	2 an ongoing commercial / research relationship	1 declaration (1 amendment)
20 Aug 2008	1 about an ongoing commercial / research relationship 1 about funding awarded by CSIRO to related entity for research 1 about a related entity's involvement in astronomy	
25 Jun 2008	1 about an ongoing commercial / research relationship 1 on involvement on government review 1 on a Legal matter	
22 Apr 2008	1 about an ongoing commercial / research relationship 1 on involvement on government review	
27 Feb 2008	1 about an ongoing commercial / research relationship	1 declaration (1 amendment)
TOTAL	34 matters declared	19 declarations involving 22 amendments