

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio  
Budget Estimates Hearing 2008-09  
2-3 June 2008

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**AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:** COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION

**TOPIC:** CSIRO

**REFERENCE:** Question on Notice (Hansard, 3 June 2008, Page E39)

**QUESTION No.** BI-105

**Senator ABETZ**—Is CSIRO sometimes tasked and funded by recipients of Commercial Ready program grants?

**Mr Whelan**—Yes.

**Senator ABETZ**—Yes, it is. In drawing up your budget for external revenue coming into CSIRO, were you made aware that the Commercial Ready program was going to be cut?

**Mr Whelan**—No. The normal practice for a budget process is that we are aware of the measures that relate to our agency. We await budget night to find out the matters that relate to other agencies.

**Senator ABETZ**—Therefore, the cut to the Commercial Ready program will have flow-on consequences for less external revenue beyond the \$40 million that you have identified.

**Mr Whelan**—Indeed it may do. We are yet to calculate what that impact will be.

**Senator ABETZ**—When you calculate that further impact of the Federal Government's budget cuts across this portfolio, I would be interested if you could report to the committee.

**Mr Whelan**—Yes.

**ANSWER**

The impact of the Government's budget savings measures on CSIRO's ability to generate external revenue, beyond the direct impact noted at the hearing, is unclear because of the uncertainty about new programs that may be introduced as part of the Government's response to the policy and program reviews that are underway. CSIRO expects to have a clearer understanding of the external revenue situation by mid-financial year (towards the end of the calendar year).