

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

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION

TOPIC: National Nanotechnology Strategy

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Eggleston

QUESTION No. BI-7

- (a) What was CSIRO's involvement in the National Nanotechnology Strategy that the Rudd Government axed?
- (b) Was CSIRO receiving funds from the Strategy and if so, how much?
- (c) Were these funds counted as part of the funding cuts to the CSIRO and if they were not doesn't that mean that the CSIRO cuts are actually worse than the Government is claiming they are?
- (d) Were there any other programs that CSIRO were receiving funding for that were cut and not attributed to CSIRO's budget cuts?

ANSWER

- (a) CSIRO is represented on the cross-portfolio Nanotechnology Inter-Departmental Committee (IDC), which is chaired by the Australian Office of Nanotechnology (AON); and CSIRO has observer status on the IDC's Health, Safety and Environment Working Group. CSIRO has also supported some of the National Nanotechnology Strategy's public communication activities administered through the AON.
- (b) In 2007–2008, CSIRO received a total of \$4313.78 from the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research. Of that \$1552.41 was full-reimbursement of expenses associated with a CSIRO staff member speaking in a series of public fora on nanotechnology organised by the AON in Australian capital cities. The remainder (\$2761.37) was for 50 per cent of the expenses associated with two CSIRO officers attending an OECD workshop on the Sponsorship Program for the Testing of Manufactured Nanomaterials held in Tokyo, April 2008. CSIRO funded the balance of the expenses associated with its officers attending this workshop.
- (c) See answer to question (b).
- (d) CSIRO was able to compete for funding, either directly or in partnership, from the following programs subject to 2008–09 budget savings measures: the National Food Industry Strategy – Food Innovations Grants program, and the Commercial Ready program. See also answer to BI-108.