

INNOVATION, INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND RESEARCH PORTFOLIO
Budget Estimates 2008–09 (June 2008)

Written Questions on Notice

Q No	Senator	Agency	Question	Date answered	Date sent to Senator	Additional Information
<i>AIATSIS audiovisual material</i>						
<u>BI-1</u>	Eggleston	AIATSIS	The Australian Film Commission has started work on placing film, television and other audiovisual material available on line. The site, www.australianscreen.com, draws from the archives of AIATSIS, could you provide us with an overview of how that is going?	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
<i>AIATSIS audiovisual material</i>						
<u>BI-2</u>	Eggleston	AIATSIS	Were steps taken to ensure that the material that was digitised and made publicly available online was culturally suitable for this purpose?	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
<i>AIATSIS – areas of study</i>						
<u>BI-3</u>	Eggleston	AIATSIS	Lisa Strelein, Director of Research at AIATSIS, recently released a report on Native Title; could you explain how you decide on what areas to focus your studies?	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
<i>AIATSIS and ATSIC</i>						
<u>BI-4</u>	Eggleston	AIATSIS	During the 2020 summit there was discussion of the establishment of a peak Aboriginal organisation to replace the abolished ATSIC. How did AIATSIS's find their experience with ATSIC and what is AIATSIS's view of the re-establishment of a peak Aboriginal body and does it feel that such a move will help it achieve its agency outcomes?	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
<i>English language learning for indigenous Australians</i>						
<u>BI-5</u>	Eggleston	AIATSIS	Indigenous leader Warren Mundine has put forward his view that all indigenous children should be taught English. Such a laudable task obviously faces many barriers including barriers of a cultural nature, so could you tell me whether you have been approached by the education department on this proposition and what work has AIATSIS done in the area of English language learning for indigenous Australians?	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
<i>CSIRO funding</i>						
<u>BI-6</u>	Eggleston	CSIRO	Now, I have a quote here from a man by the name of Kim Carr of a statement he made 5	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	

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			years ago and it reads as follows: "The government does not understand how important CSIRO is to the future of this country. It's failed to fund it. It's seen massive job cuts. Morale is shot and as a result of this, CSIRO is facing serious problems". Now in light of the \$63 million dollars that you Minister have cut from the CSIRO, sources have already reported that staff morale has plummeted, that jobs will go, and that research programs will be culled. Could the Minister explain if the scientific work of CSIRO has become less important to Australia, or if the staff of CSIRO and their jobs is in any way less important than it was five years ago when these comments were made?			
<i>National Nanotechnology Strategy</i>						
<u>BI-7</u>	Eggleston	CSIRO	What was CSIRO's involvement in the National Nanotechnology Strategy that the Rudd Government axed? Was the CSIRO receiving funds from the Strategy and if so, how much? 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 then the government is claiming they are? Were there any other programs that CSIRO were receiving funding for that were cut and not attributed to CSIRO's budget cuts?	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
<i>Nanotechnology – health risks</i>						
<u>BI-8</u>	Eggleston	CSIRO	A study from the University of Edinburgh found that multi-walled nanotubes behaved like asbestos fibres. Now given the potential for nanotechnology to be applied to so many aspects of our day to day lives without the consumer necessarily being aware of it, what specific funding has been provided to the CSIRO to investigate the health risks and does this amount take into account the multimillion dollar pay outs that have resulted from asbestos related law suits?	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
<i>Nanotechnology research</i>						
<u>BI-9</u>	Eggleston	CSIRO	Moving beyond issues of health, the global market for nanotechnology was worth \$45 billion, a figure which could reach \$US1 trillion by 2020. How much funding is being spent within the CSIRO on research into this area and has that amount changed since the election?	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
<i>Media releases</i>						
<u>BI-10</u>	Eggleston	CSIRO	Earlier on this year the Minister sent out written instructions to CSIRO that all of its media releases were to be cleared through the Minister's office which some people had taken this as a grotesque attempt at gagging and scientific censorship, could you please advise us as to what involvement the Minister's office or the Department has in CSIRO media releases? Are they still able to veto them if they are not in line with the government's views?	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	

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CSIRO – Chief Executive's retirement						
BI-11	Eggleston	CSIRO	I have noted a strange coincidence here, Geoff Garrett, CSIRO's chief executive is, like the ANSTO's chief executive, soon to be leaving CSIRO for retirement. This raises the question as to why these senior officials are all abandoning their agencies. Did his decision to retire have anything to do with the cuts? Is he abandoning Australia's "sinking research flagship"?	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
CSIRO – income through partnerships with the private sector						
BI-12	Eggleston	CSIRO	CSIRO generates income through its partnerships with the private sector. What are the projected reductions in income that will result from these funding cuts or was any investigation carried out at all?	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
CSIRO – partnerships						
BI-13	Eggleston	CSIRO	Will CSIRO be withdrawing from any of these partnerships and what are the associated consequences for CSIRO, the relevant private sector partners, and society in general?	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
Square Kilometre Array						
BI-14	Eggleston	DIISR	When the Minister went to Europe to promote Australia's bid for the Square Kilometre Array telescope did he bother to tell anyone over there about his intention to axe vast sums of money from Australia's national science agency or did he keep this secret to himself? Was he concerned that his forthcoming budget cuts would look bad in the eyes of European officials?	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
Square Kilometre Array						
BI-15	Eggleston	DIISR	In February, Minister Carr went to Europe with the intention of promoting Australia's candidacy for hosting the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) telescope, through talks with Europe's science and research leaders. I ask; did the Minister raise the Government's intention to slash \$63 million from Australia's national science agency, CSIRO, during those talks?	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
Square Kilometre Array						
BI-16	Eggleston	DIISR	If not, was the Minister concerned that their knowledge of these massive funding cuts and consequent job losses, would have a detrimental affect on Australia's tender?	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	

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<i>Square Kilometre Array</i>						
BI-17	Eggleston	DIISR	I know that the previous Coalition government gave \$100.9 million for this proposal, but what funding has the current government provided?	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
<i>Square Kilometre Array</i>						
BI-18	Eggleston	DIISR	If Australia were to host the SKA telescope, what role would CSIRO play given their current debilitated state? Will they get an exemption from the 2% efficiency dividend if they did?	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
<i>Ministerial travel</i>						
BI-19	Abetz	DIISR	In relation to the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, have the Ministers travelled overseas on official business since appointment? (In relation to each Minister) If so, where was the travel and what was the duration? What was the total cost of: a) travel b) accommodation, and c) any other expenses? How many Ministerial staff or family accompanied the Ministers? For these staff/family what was the cost of: a) travel b) accommodation, and c) any other expenses?	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
<i>AusIndustry staffing</i>						
BI-20	Abetz	DIISR	For each of the AusIndustry offices around Australia, could you please provide the current staff levels at each office; and the projected staff levels at each office once the job cuts come into effect?	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
<i>Scottsdale Industry and Community Development Fund – Musselroe tourism development</i>						
BI-21	Abetz	DIISR	Is the Musselroe tourism development in Tasmania going ahead? If not, will the \$4.2 million upgrade for Musselroe Road go ahead?	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	

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			If not, with the money be available for other Scottsdale projects? Would this allow other projects that have missed out to apply again?			
<i>Review of Australia's Textile, Clothing and Footwear Industry</i>						
<u>BI-22</u>	Abetz	DIISR	In relation to the review into the textile clothing and footwear industry, how much is being payed to each of the panel members for their services? Please itemise for each panel member and include their allowances, travel and other services provided.	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
<i>Review of Australia's Textile, Clothing and Footwear Industry</i>						
<u>BI-23</u>	Abetz	DIISR	Will there be public hearings for the review into the TCF industry? Where will these hearings be held?	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
<i>Review of Australia's Textile, Clothing and Footwear Industry</i>						
<u>BI-24</u>	Abetz	DIISR	What is the detailed budgeted breakdown of the \$395,000 set aside for the review in 2008-09?	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
<i>Review of the Australian Automotive Industry</i>						
<u>BI-25</u>	Abetz	DIISR	How many days has Mr Bracks been working on the inquiry to date?	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
<i>Review of the Australian Automotive Industry</i>						
<u>BI-26</u>	Abetz	DIISR	Has he been paid? If so, how much?	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
<i>Review of the Australian Automotive Industry</i>						
<u>BI-27</u>	Abetz	DIISR	For each of the panel members, please detail: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • any stipend or allowance committee members may have received for the meeting; or remuneration in general • airfares • travel allowance • any other expenses 	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
<i>Hartz Mineral Water</i>						
<u>BI-28</u>	Abetz	DIISR	Why has the Minister not responded to my letter in relation to Hartz Mineral water dated 8 April?	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	

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<i>Hartz Mineral Water</i>						
BI-29	Abetz	DIISR	Has any member of staff from the Minister's office or the Department made contact with Hartz Mineral water?	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
<i>ACL Bearings</i>						
BI-30	Abetz	DIISR	Who initially approached the Minister regarding the request for the provision of financial assistance to ACL Bearings Ltd?	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
<i>ACL Bearings</i>						
BI-31	Abetz	DIISR	How much assistance was ACL initially seeking?	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
<i>ACL Bearings</i>						
BI-32	Abetz	DIISR	When was the payment to ACL finalised?	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
<i>ACL Bearings</i>						
BI-33	Abetz	DIISR	Was the payment to ACL a grant or a loan?	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
<i>ACL Bearings</i>						
BI-34	Abetz	DIISR	What requirements and milestones have been negotiated with ACL to secure the ongoing viability of the company into the future (as outlined in the Minister's press release, 7 th April 2008)	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
<i>ACL Bearings</i>						
BI-35	Abetz	DIISR	Has ACL provided a guarantee that no more jobs will be lost?	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
<i>Commercial Ready</i>						
BI-36	Abetz	DIISR	Who attended the two meetings of the grants advisory committee held between 28th April and 13 May? – please provide names	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
<i>Commercial Ready</i>						
BI-37	Abetz	DIISR	What was the total cost of holding these two grants advisory committee meetings? – please itemise airfares, travel allowance, room hire, catering and any stipend or allowance committee members may have received for the meeting.	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	

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<i>Commercial Ready</i>						
BI-38	Abetz	DIISR	Of the 10 grant applications considered at the grants advisory committee meetings, how many were approved and recommended for submission to the Board of Innovation Australia? What was the total value of these approved grants?	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
<i>Commercial Ready</i>						
BI-39	Abetz	DIISR	Will the \$12.2 million in grant applications accepted in the period 28th April – 13th May be honoured?	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
<i>Commercial Ready</i>						
BI-40	Abetz	DIISR	When was the decision made stop the Commercial Ready Program which applied as of the 28th of April, 2008?	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
<i>Review of the National Innovation System</i>						
BI-41	Abetz	DIISR	For each of the "international experts" brought to Australia to consult for the Innovation Review: Professor Alan Hughes Professor Richard Lester Mr Stan Metcalfe Please provide an itemised breakdown of costs - professional fees, airfares, accommodation, incidentals, any other costs.	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
<i>Cooperative Research Centres</i>						
BI-42	Abetz	DIISR	What CRCs are due to close on 30 June 2008?	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
<i>Cooperative Research Centres</i>						
BI-43	Abetz	DIISR	Which of these CRCs had their funding extended? For each of these CRCs, please indicate how much has been provided in funding?	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
<i>Cooperative Research Centres</i>						
BI-44	Abetz	DIISR	Will the Weeds CRC be closing? If so, on what date?	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	

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<i>Business Enterprise Centres</i>						
BI-45	Abetz	DIISR	What are the locations of the 36 Business Enterprise Centres (BECs) that will receive funding?	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
<i>Business Enterprise Centres</i>						
BI-46	Abetz	DIISR	Are all 36 already established BECs or are there some new centres that will receive funding? If so, what are their locations?	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
<i>Business Enterprise Centres</i>						
BI-47	Abetz	DIISR	The Minister has indicated 36 Business Enterprise Centres (BECs) will receive between \$100,000 and \$350,000 a year. On what basis has the exact yearly grant been calculated for each BEC?	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
<i>Business Enterprise Centres</i>						
BI-48	Abetz	DIISR	What was the total cost of the Small Business Field Officer programme over the course of its duration?	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
<i>Business Enterprise Centres</i>						
BI-49	Abetz	DIISR	What was the cost, on a yearly basis, of the Small Business Field Officer programme?	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
<i>Business Enterprise Centres</i>						
BI-50	Abetz	DIISR	What services were offered to small businesses through the Small Business Field Officer programme?	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
<i>Business Enterprise Centres</i>						
BI-51	Abetz	DIISR	What assessment has been undertaken of the SBFO programme's benefits?	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
<i>Business Enterprise Centres</i>						
BI-52	Abetz	DIISR	What are the services offered by Business Enterprise Centres?	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
<i>Business Enterprise Centres</i>						
BI-53	Abetz	DIISR	What services are offered by Business Enterprise Centres that were not offered through the Small Business Field Officer programme?	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	

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<i>Business Enterprise Centres</i>						
BI-54	Abetz	DIISR	Has the Department undertaken any analysis or investigation as part of determining the exact grant given to each BEC?	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
<i>Business Enterprise Centres</i>						
BI-55	Abetz	DIISR	What analysis or investigations were conducted or undertaken by the Department to determine whether this programme would be effective?	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
<i>Business Enterprise Centres</i>						
BI-56	Abetz	DIISR	On what basis was the selection of the 36 (out of 110) BECs determined?	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
<i>Business Enterprise Centres</i>						
BI-57	Abetz	DIISR	What analysis or submissions did the Department conduct, receive or consider when determining how the amount of funding was to be provided to this programme?	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
<i>Business Enterprise Centres</i>						
BI-58	Abetz	DIISR	How many small businesses contacted the Department or Minister requesting the introduction of this programme?	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
<i>Business Enterprise Centres</i>						
BI-59	Abetz	DIISR	Did the direction for the funding, including the amount originate in the Minister's office? If not, where did it originate?	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
<i>Business Enterprise Centres</i>						
BI-60	Abetz	DIISR	What percentage of this \$42 million will be allocated to Departmental administration of this programme?	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
<i>Business Enterprise Centres</i>						
BI-61	Abetz	DIISR	What proportion of the \$42 million will be allocated to advertising or promoting this programme?	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
<i>Business Enterprise Centres</i>						
BI-62	Abetz	DIISR	What is the status of contracts between the Department and each BEC? Have the contracts been executed?	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	

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<i>Business Enterprise Centres</i>						
BI-63	Abetz	DIISR	What service obligations are imposed on BECs as part of contractual arrangements?	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
<i>Business Enterprise Centres</i>						
BI-64	Abetz	DIISR	Will these service obligations include a requirement to support small business growth within a certain proximity to the BEC's physical location?	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
<i>Business Enterprise Centres</i>						
BI-65	Abetz	DIISR	How will the success of this programme be measured?	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
<i>Business Enterprise Centres</i>						
BI-66	Abetz	DIISR	What relationship, if any, has the Department had with Business Enterprise Centres Australia in the preparation of service contracts?	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
<i>Business Enterprise Centres</i>						
BI-67	Abetz	DIISR	What relationship has the Department had with the Government's Small Business Working Group in the preparation of service contracts?	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
<i>Business Enterprise Centres</i>						
BI-68	Abetz	DIISR	What services are offered by BECs that were not offered through the Small Business Field Officer programme?	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
<i>Business Enterprise Centres</i>						
BI-69	Abetz	DIISR	Has the Department investigated staffing arrangements at the BECs that are to receive funding?	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
<i>Business Enterprise Centres</i>						
BI-70	Abetz	DIISR	Are there minimum skills and experience standards imposed by the Department for staff at BECs that will receive Commonwealth funding?	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
<i>Enterprise Connect</i>						
BI-71	Abetz	DIISR	For each of the proposed Enterprise Connect manufacturing centres, please provide exact location, funding and delivery timeframes:	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sydney • Melbourne • Adelaide • Perth • QMI Brisbane • Mackay • Alice Springs • Geelong • Creative Industries • Clean Energy <p>What is the estimated staffing of each of these centres?</p>			
<i>Appointments</i>						
<u>BI-72</u>	Fierravanti-Wells	DIISR	<p>What appointments have been made to boards, advisory committees, or any other quasi-autonomous non-governmental organisations (quangos) within the following departments and agencies within the responsibility of these departments since 24 November 2007:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovation, Industry, Science and Research 	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
<i>Quangos (government bodies, boards and committees)</i>						
<u>BI-73</u>	Fierravanti-Wells	DIISR	<p>Please list all quangos within the following departments and agencies within the responsibility of these departments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovation, Industry, Science and Research 	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
<i>Programs/initiatives in various electorates</i>						
<u>BI-74</u>	Fierravanti-Wells	DIISR	<p>In relation to the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research and agencies within its responsibility, please answer the following questions in relation to each of the Federal seats of Banks, Lowe, Bennelong, Macquarie, Cunningham, Throsby, Barton, Watson, Charlton and Werriwa:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) What programs, initiatives, or other undertakings of the Howard Government will be maintained under the Rudd Government? b) What programs, initiatives, or other undertakings of the Howard Government will be reversed under the Rudd Government? 	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	

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			c) c) What new programs, initiatives or other undertakings will be allocated to these seats under the Budget?			
<i>Election commitments</i>						
<u>BI-75</u>	Fierravanti-Wells	DIISR	<p>Please advise whether the list of items under the policy heading on the ALP website http://www.alp.org.au/ constitutes the total sum election "promises" made by the Rudd Government within the following portfolios:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Innovation, Industry, Science and Research <p>If not, please provide a comprehensive list which includes all promises referred to on the ALP website as well as those that were made but are not contained on the ALP website?</p>	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
<u>BI-76 to BI-107</u> see oral questions on notice below						
<i>Wandering Trad in the Dandenong Ranges</i>						
<u>BI-108</u>	Birmingham	CSIRO	In October 2007, prior to the election, the Australian Government allocated \$450,000 to the CSIRO for a three-year biological control into Wandering Trad in the Dandenong Ranges. Has the program for which this funding was allocated proceeded or been abandoned?	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
<i>National Weeds and Productivity Research Program</i>						
<u>BI-109</u>	Birmingham	CSIRO	To what extent will the expected outcomes of the program for which the \$450,000 was allocated to the CSIRO be achieved through the \$15.2 million to the National Weeds and Productivity Research Program in the Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry portfolio?	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
<i>ARC grants</i>						
<u>BI-110</u>	Fielding	ARC	Are applicants for ARC grants required to identify any other funding sources for their research when applying for a grant?	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
<i>Report on pornography</i>						
<u>BI-111</u>	Fielding	ARC	What was the total amount of funding provided by the ARC for research by Catharine Lumby, Alan McKee and Kath Albury for the recently published "Porn Report"?	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
<i>Report on pornography</i>						
<u>BI-112</u>	Fielding	ARC	If the authors were required to disclose other funding sources for this research, who were the	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	

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			other funders and what were the amounts cited?			
Report on pornography						
BI-113	Fielding	ARC	Does the Research Council examine the nature of the research and other possible funding sources to arrive at a view as to the likely statistical or evidentiary usefulness of research to shed light on an issue such as pornography consumption or markets? If so, please provide a copy of that assessment.	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
Promotion of grantees' work						
BI-114	Fielding	ARC	Do Research Council grantees have the right to promote their work using the Australian coat of arms together with text reading "Australian Government-Australian Research Council" and then "this research was supported under Australian Research Council's Discovery Project Funding Scheme" (see the use of the Coat of Arms and text at http://www.thepornreportbook.com/img/arc.gif)? Does the Department agree that it appears as though the report has the full endorsement of the Government as well as the ARC?	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
Promotion of grantees' work						
BI-115	Fielding	ARC	If grantees do have the right to promote their work in this way, how many do so? Are they encouraged to do so by the Research Council?	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
Promotion of grantees' work						
BI-116	Fielding	ARC	If grantees have this right or are so encouraged, does this reflect Australian Government policy support for the relevant research or grantees' interpretation of findings?	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
Research grant money						
BI-117	Fielding	ARC	Is research grant money awarded with consideration to the construction or implementation of federal government policy?	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
Research grant applications						
BI-118	Fielding	ARC	Does the Council routinely employ experts in research methods and ethics in consideration of research grant applications? Did the Council do so in the case of Lumby, Albury and McKee's application? Please provide copies of their assessments.	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
Enterprise Connect						
BI-119	Macdonald	DIISR	Senator IAN MACDONALD —Just before lunch we were talking about the Mackay skills	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	

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			<p>training centre. I had the opportunity of tracking it down. We are both sort of right, Minister. Central Queensland University applied for \$5 million in funding for the Mackay industry skills centre. It used the teleconferencing method to connect Kim Carr's office—it was not you, Minister; it was your office—in Canberra to ask about funding for a simulation research centre.</p> <p>Senator Carr—Yes.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—As we are talking about higher education and the Central Queensland University, I am wondering whether Central Queensland University is to receive funding for that simulation centre?</p> <p>Senator Carr—Senator Macdonald, if you contact my office you will find that that matter will be with the department of innovation and not the department of education. You are in the wrong estimates, but I will nonetheless say to you that it related to the Enterprise Connect centre. There has been some discussion with the Central Queensland University about receiving money from the department of innovation for an Enterprise Connect centre.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—So no thought or consideration has been given to funding Central Queensland University for a simulation centre?</p> <p>Senator Carr—The department of innovation funds research programs; I am not aware whether that particular measure met the criteria of any of the programs administered by the department.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—By which department?</p> <p>Senator Carr—My department.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Because of a subsequent media release, the applicants reread the submission and informed us that the current process for the centre was that funding would not be approved.</p> <p>Senator Carr—That fits in with my answer.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Yes. It is not being approved; you are confirming that?</p> <p>Senator Carr—I am saying to you that that is not an education department matter.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—I hear you, Minister. Because it is Central Queensland University—</p> <p>Senator Carr—Yes, I know. Central Queensland University has a series of issues relating to funding. I know that it is seeking funding from a range of sources. There has been some contact with my office but it was in relation to an Enterprise Connect centre.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Okay.</p> <p>Senator Carr—It was about an innovation program, not a university research program.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Minister, could I ask you or your department to take on notice the question of what it is you are going to fund in Mackay for \$14 million, which the</p>			

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			<p>local member has—</p> <p>Senator Carr—It is an Enterprise Connect centre. I have already answered the question.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—So that is—</p> <p>Senator Carr—It is an Enterprise Connect centre.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Could you take on notice where I could find that in the budget, please?</p> <p>Senator Carr—It is under the Enterprise Connect program.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—I am reading the Enterprise Connect things. I have two volumes of documents and I cannot see it anywhere.</p> <p>Senator Carr—It is a department of innovations program. Which PBS do you have in front of you?</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—I have Innovation, Industry, Science and Research. I also have Budget Paper No. 2—</p> <p>Senator Carr—You will find it under Enterprise Connect centre.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—for the Enterprise Connect innovation centre.</p> <p>Senator Carr—That is the funding source.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Okay. Minister, could you or your department take that question on notice for me and send it to me or the others where I would find it in the budget papers the moneys provided for the Mackay skills centre.</p> <p>Senator Carr—Senator Macdonald, I am not trying to be difficult. I will ask the officers here to take the question on notice. I will send it across to my department to draw attention to the relevant page in the PBS.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Where it mentions Mackay?</p> <p>Senator Carr—No, it does not. There are 10 Enterprise Connect centres around Australia.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Yes, I have seen what the document states.</p> <p>Senator Carr—That is all I can say to you.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—So there is no confirmation of anything for Mackay?</p> <p>Senator Carr—No. I have made a commitment to Mackay.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Where would I find that, Minister?</p> <p>Senator Carr—Under the Enterprise Connect centre you will find a description of the program. Mackay will be one of the centres.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Have you announced that by a media release that I could refer to?</p> <p>Senator Carr—It was an election commitment.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—I am not sure that it was.</p> <p>Senator Carr—It was. I made it. I can tell you that it was.</p>			

Q No	Senator	Agency	Question	Date answered	Date sent to Senator	Additional Information
			<p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Okay. Can you show me where it appears in the budget papers?</p> <p>Senator Carr—Under Enterprise Connect. You will find that the funding program is there.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—It is not under Enterprise Connect because I have the budget papers and—</p> <p>Senator Carr—We are going around in circles.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—it is not mentioned</p> <p>CHAIR—The problem I have, Senator Macdonald, is that this is not actually a matter for this committee.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—It is not. I concede that.</p> <p>CHAIR—We are trying to get some assistance for you.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—I concede that, but I am not achieving it because the question is too difficult to answer. It does not have an answer.</p> <p>CHAIR—If you put the question on notice we will ensure—and the secretary is annoyed with me now— that it goes to the right department.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Mr Chairman, I thank both you and the secretary for your willingness to assist me—and, to a degree, the minister. We will pursue that in other forums at a later date.</p>			
<i>Arable land</i>						
<u>BI-120</u>	Macdonald	CSIRO	<p>(a) Have there been any surveys done of arable land (i.e. land suitable for agriculture) across northern Australia?</p> <p>(b) Are details available?</p> <p>(c) If so, could I have the reference on where they may be found?</p>	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
<u>BI-121 to BI-122</u> see oral questions on notice below						

INNOVATION, INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND RESEARCH PORTFOLIO
Budget Estimates 2008–09 (June 2008)

Oral Questions on Notice

Q No.	Senator	Agency	Hearing date	Question	Proof Hansard Page	Date answered	Date sent to Senator	Additional Information
<u>BI-1 to BI-75</u> see written questions on notice above								
<i>AFP inquiry</i>								
<u>BI-76</u>	Abetz	DIISR	02/06/2008	<p>Senator ABETZ—In that case, the answer is no. It is very simple. But are you telling us now that the leak of Mr Ferguson’s letter is also subject to an Australian Federal Police inquiry?</p> <p>Senator Carr—As I understood it, that was the case.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—First we got the Ferguson letter and then, I understand, Mr Oakes got—</p> <p>Senator Carr—We will check that. I must say that I am not running Federal Police inquiries—</p>	E23	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
<i>Staffing – efficiency dividend</i>								
<u>BI-77</u>	Abetz	DIISR	02/06/2008	<p>Senator ABETZ—Can I refer you to a question taken on notice. It is question A1-3. I asked you to provide us with classifications and areas where those staff positions might not be filled. That was in relation to the—</p> <p>Mr Paterson—Efficiency dividend?</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—Yes, appointment 4s or appointment 3s. Then the Chair intervened, saying, ‘The committee would appreciate if you could provide as full an answer as you can on notice.’ You answered: ‘I am happy to do that.’ I then got a six-line answer that does not refer in any way, shape or form to the classifications and areas which were, in fact, the substance of my question. Can we have another go at that question, please, and take it on notice again?</p> <p>Mr Paterson—As I recall the quite extensive interchange we had on the last occasion in relation to the efficiency dividend and the</p>	E27-E28	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	

Q No.	Senator	Agency	Hearing date	Question	Proof Hansard Page	Date answered	Date sent to Senator	Additional Information
				<p>impact on the portfolio, I indicated that there was a recruitment pause in place, that we had put that recruitment pause in place from the time that the outcome of the federal election was known because we knew that it was a commitment that we would have to honour and that we were doing a combination of things in reducing discretionary expenditure where that was possible, as well as holding back on recruitment to meet our obligations under the efficiency dividend. I did indicate at the time that it would be difficult to be precise in relation to the contribution of each particular element of meeting that efficiency dividend, that the obligation that was imposed upon me was to do so in the 2008-08 financial year, a year not yet concluded, but that I expected that we would meet our obligation. I continue to believe that we will meet that obligation. I indicated on the last occasion that at that time we had taken no decisions about how we would give effect to the obligation to meet the efficiency dividend in 2008-09 and beyond, on the basis that we had to await the outcomes of the budget process before we could reach any broad conclusions on that. I am happy to take you to the response to that issue now because I am in a better position to do so, but I think we answered that question to the best of our ability at the time the question was put. If you want me to reflect on that answer with the information we now have, because these are answers at a point in time—</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—Of course they are.</p> <p>Mr Paterson—I am happy to reflect on that question and the answer that I gave at the time and see if I can provide anything further to you.</p>				
Consultancies								
BI-78	Abetz	DIISR	02/06/2008	<p>Mr Paterson—Yes, Chair. There were questions that were raised this morning which I said we would endeavour to respond to today. Senator Abetz asked a question in relation to consultancies. Unfortunately the information that I have is consultancies from 1 July 2007 to 15 May and it is done by commencement date. You wanted us to provide a response on consultancies entered into since</p>	E43	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	Refer also to E28

Q No.	Senator	Agency	Hearing date	Question	Proof Hansard Page	Date answered	Date sent to Senator	Additional Information
				the election, so we will take it on notice rather than try to provide it today.				
<i>Staffing</i>								
BI-79	Abetz	DIISR	02/06/2008	<p>Senator ABETZ—In relation to the department and all the agencies in the minister's portfolio, I accept that you will need to take these questions on notice. Firstly, as at 26 November 2007 what was the total number of permanent staff employed on a full-time, part-time and part-time equivalent basis? Secondly, how many employees are employed on contract and what is the average length of their employment period? Thirdly, what are the base and top level salaries of APS level 1 to APS level 6 officers, executive level officers, senior executive services officers and equivalent officers? And, fourthly, how many officers are employed at executive level and SES level?</p> <p>Mr Paterson—Is that the end of that question?</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—Yes. Take it all on notice.</p>	E30	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
<i>Staffing</i>								
BI-80	Abetz	DIISR	02/06/2008	<p>Senator ABETZ—Minister, it is nice to know of your new-found interest in the smooth running of Senate estimates. Thank you for that. How many permanent staff have been recruited since 26 November 2007? Would you have that figure handy, or not?</p> <p>Mr Paterson—No, I would not.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—What level are these staff? How many temporary positions exist or have been created since 26 November? Since 26 November, how many employees have been employed on contract and what is the average length of their employment period? Once again, Minister, I would invite you to take that on notice for the department and all the agencies.</p> <p>Senator Carr—The simple process is that questions of that nature will be referred to the agencies</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—Thank you.</p>	E31	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	

Q No.	Senator	Agency	Hearing date	Question	Proof Hansard Page	Date answered	Date sent to Senator	Additional Information
<i>Staffing</i>								
BI-81	Abetz	DIISR	02/06/2008	<p>Senator ABETZ—How many employees are engaged in positions responsible for public affairs, media management, liaison with the media and media monitoring in the department?</p> <p>Ms McClusky—I will just have to come back to you. I do not have that number. I will come back to you on that shortly.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—Thank you. If we could be told what the APS classifications of these positions are, as well, it would be very helpful.</p> <p>Mr Paterson—Given the nature of that question, we will take it on notice.</p>	E31	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
<i>Board appointments</i>								
BI-82	Abetz	DIISR	02/06/2008	<p>Senator ABETZ—All right. Can we move on to board appointments? What appointments have been made by the government through executive council, cabinet and ministers to statutory authorities, executive agencies and advisory boards? I ask for that to be taken on notice for the department and for the relevant agencies, together with what the respective appointees' credentials are, how many vacancies remain to be filled at those various levels and how long those positions may have been vacant.</p> <p>Mr Paterson—We will take that on notice.</p>	E31	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
<i>Grants</i>								
BI-83	Abetz	DIISR	02/06/2008	<p>Senator ABETZ—Minister, are you able to tell us what grants have been approved by you and Minister Emerson within your portfolio for the past six months?</p> <p>Senator Carr—What grants?</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—Is there a list?</p> <p>Senator Carr—I do not believe that I personally approved any grants.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—Were there any grants of any nature? ACL springs to mind.</p> <p>Mr Paterson—We will take it on notice.</p>	E31-E32	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	

Q No.	Senator	Agency	Hearing date	Question	Proof Hansard Page	Date answered	Date sent to Senator	Additional Information
				Senator ABETZ —In taking that on notice for both yourself and Dr Emerson, can you tell us the companies, for how much and when.				
<i>Premier World Fair</i>								
BI-84	Abetz	DIISR	02/06/2008	Senator ABETZ —Can you tell us when you were first invited to attend this fair? You might need to take that on notice. Senator Carr —I will take it on notice but my recollection is that the invitation came in very late and—	E33	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
<i>Reviews</i>								
BI-85	Abetz	DIISR	02/06/2008	Senator ABETZ —I would ask for a list of all reviews and plans to review et cetera that are currently underway within this department? Mr Paterson —I will take that on notice.	E35	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
<i>Working groups</i>								
BI-86	Abetz	DIISR	02/06/2008	Senator ABETZ —So you have established a working group in relation to the issue of climate change? Senator Carr —It is in regard to steel. Senator ABETZ —No, in relation to climate change and emissions trading? Senator Carr —I have a different approach to you on this. I see this as being very much part of everyday activity, how to actually change the way in which industry responds to these questions of climate change, and my discussions with people directly engaged in industry suggests that is how they see it as well. There is no specific group entitled ‘Climate Change’; it is part of the ongoing dialogue about the future sustainability of industry in Australia. Senator ABETZ —You just indicated to us that you have this general consultation and you then had specific working groups for specific issues. Senator Carr —Sectors. There are discussions with the steel industry, for instance. I have had discussions with all the other sectors as well.	E36	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	

Q No.	Senator	Agency	Hearing date	Question	Proof Hansard Page	Date answered	Date sent to Senator	Additional Information
				<p>Senator ABETZ—Can you tell us what those working groups are called, what the sectors are and how many of them there are?</p> <p>Senator Carr—We have a series of conversations. We will take on notice what groups have been established.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—I would appreciate it if you could tell us how many working groups there are, their sectoral names and the purpose of those working groups, because I would have thought climate change/emissions trading is something that excites the interests of the Bluescopes of this world potentially just as much as a small business. If you have a working group dealing with industry and another working group dealing with small business there may well be a disconnect if all the issues dealing with emissions trading are not brought together in the one working group.</p>				
<i>Printer cartridges</i>								
BI-87	Milne	DIISR	02/06/2008	<p>Senator MILNE—Do you have any idea how much you are spending on printer cartridges each year?</p> <p>Senator Carr—No, I do not. The officers will no doubt be able to help.</p> <p>Mr Paterson—That is a question we will take on notice.</p>	E37	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
<i>Doctorates</i>								
BI-88	Abetz	DIISR	02/06/2008	<p>Senator ABETZ—Whilst officials are coming to the table I would like to follow on from Senator Eggleston's question. If you can, please take it on notice whether the comparison between Australia and the United States is just a comparison of all those who claim to hold doctorates because, as I understand it, there are certain institutions from which one can obtain a doctorate and it, to be charitable, is less robust than it is in Australia. I just want to make sure that we have got a proper comparison.</p> <p>Senator Carr—The figures that I have been quoting are OECD figures.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—Does the OECD take into account the difference in robustness or ease with which one can get a doctorate? If somebody knows the answer to that, that would be good, but take it</p>	E46	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	

Q No.	Senator	Agency	Hearing date	Question	Proof Hansard Page	Date answered	Date sent to Senator	Additional Information
				on notice.				
<i>Commercial Ready – speaking notes</i>								
<u>BI-89</u>	Abetz	DIISR	02/06/2008	<p>Senator ABETZ—Under ‘Commercial Ready Abolition,’ on page 14 of the opposition’s speaking notes, it states: ‘We are told that the government has ceased funding for the previous government’s Commercial Ready program because the evidence shows that it was helping businesses that did not actually need help. Commercial Ready was public money that was badly spent. We undertook the decision necessary to cut wasteful spending.’ Did you authorise and approve that terminology that appears in the backbench speaking notes?</p> <p>Senator Carr—That is not the language that I have been using.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—I know; you go a step further, as you always do, and refer to millionaires but we have already canvassed that aspect. But did you approve of these speaking notes?</p> <p>Senator Carr—No.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—Were they submitted to your office for any input in any way, shape or form prior to the circulation of your backbenchers?</p> <p>Senator Carr—I would have to take that on notice.</p>	E50	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
<i>Commercial Ready</i>								
<u>BI-90</u>	Abetz	DIISR	02/06/2008	<p>Senator ABETZ—And I accept that and I am not critical that they did not know. I am sure this Judith McGarry acted with absolute integrity and without knowing that she was in fact misleading these people because, believe it or not, on 12 May, having been told their acceptance date and eligible project start was 12 May 2008, they celebrated only to be drowning their sorrows 24 hours later when they were told that the whole program had been axed. This is a shameful way to treat the innovation community in this country, especially when you made all those promises that you did before the election. But can I ask: how many other examples do we have of applicants spending money and being told that their application was progressing at a time when the department knew that the</p>	E53	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	

Q No.	Senator	Agency	Hearing date	Question	Proof Hansard Page	Date answered	Date sent to Senator	Additional Information
				<p>program was being axed?</p> <p>Mr Peel—The figures that I have are that there were 71 applications being considered at the time.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—How many were communicated with about the progress of their application between 28 April and 13 May 2008?</p> <p>Mr Peel—I would have to take that on notice.</p>				
<i>Review of the Australian Automotive Industry</i>								
BI-91	Abetz	DIISR	03/06/2008	<p>Senator ABETZ—Can I ask, in relation to the appointments of the chair, Mr Bracks, Nixon Apple and one other, whether they were handpicked by the government as opposed to being selected from a panel?</p> <p>Senator Carr—I am sorry, Senator. By definition the government selects people. The government has made a deliberative decision.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—Let us go straight to the point.</p> <p>Senator Carr—That would be good.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—In relation to the microeconomist Dr Elizabeth Webster, the government was provided with a list to choose from, was it not?</p> <p>Senator Carr—I would have to take that on notice. When you say ‘the government’, it may be another department is involved in a question of that type.</p>	E4	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
<i>Review of the Australian Automotive Industry</i>								
BI-92	Abetz	DIISR	03/06/2008	<p>Senator ABETZ—Part of it is a service that in fact has requests from your office seeking the telephone number of Dr Webster. Clearly, it seems that the microeconomist was selected from a panel within the 24 hours before the official announcement; the other people that had been handpicked had been chosen well before—that is correct, is it not?</p> <p>Senator Carr—I would have to take that on notice.</p>	E4	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
<i>Review of the Australian Automotive Industry</i>								
BI-93	Abetz	DIISR	03/06/2008	<p>Senator ABETZ—Can you also take on notice whether the letter that you wrote to Mr Bracks was a confirmation of appointment or</p>	E5	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	

Q No.	Senator	Agency	Hearing date	Question	Proof Hansard Page	Date answered	Date sent to Senator	Additional Information
				an invitation to accept appointment? Senator Carr —I will have to take that on notice.				
<i>Review of the Australian Automotive Industry</i>								
BI-94	Abetz	DIISR	03/06/2008	Senator ABETZ —It was on 20 February 2008 that I understand you wrote to Mr Bracks saying, ‘It is with great pleasure that I invite you to accept the appointment,’ et cetera, and ‘You should note that the appointment is conditional upon you accepting the offer of appointment and agreeing conduct,’ et cetera. You made the announcement on 13 or 14 February. You write a letter inviting somebody to accept an appointment and remind them that their appointment is conditional upon their accepting the offer of appointment. When did Mr Bracks accept the offer of appointment? Senator Carr —I would have to take that on notice.	E5	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
<i>Review of the National Innovation System</i>								
BI-95	Abetz	DIISR	03/06/2008	Senator ABETZ —Even earlier—22 January. Thank you very much. Do we know how many days Dr Cutler has sat thus far? If not, take it on notice. That is fine. Ms Berman —I would like to take that on notice.	E5	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
<i>Review of the National Innovation System</i>								
BI-96	Abetz	DIISR	03/06/2008	Ms Berman —It is Dr Terence Cutler’s company, and that is the contract by which we employ him. We are paying for his services. Senator ABETZ —We were told that he was paid \$2,000 per day and that that was an arrangement entered into on 22 January 2008. Ms Berman —He was identified and selected and announced on 22 January 2008. Senator ABETZ —Yes, and he was to be paid per diem or per day? Ms Berman —Yes, \$2,000 per day. Senator ABETZ —When was that finalised with him? Ms Berman —The contract involved a little bit of negotiation backwards and forwards. I will take on notice the exact date.	E5-E6	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	

Q No.	Senator	Agency	Hearing date	Question	Proof Hansard Page	Date answered	Date sent to Senator	Additional Information
<i>Review of the National Innovation System</i>								
<u>BI-97</u>	Abetz	DIISR	03/06/2008	<p>Senator ABETZ—Of course it is now, and I would have thought very satisfactory to Dr Cutler, because we have \$8,000 that has been taken on notice in this contract. We will undoubtedly find out what that was paid for, given that it is on the website at \$280,000, not \$272,000.</p> <p>Mr Paterson—I am not sure that we did take that on notice. But I am happy to do that now.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—Can you please take it on notice, unless you have an explanation for us now?</p> <p>Mr Paterson—I will endeavour to get an explanation for you while we are having this conversation.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—Or was it the little bonus in relation to IP that helped resolve and smooth certain things?</p> <p>Mr Paterson—No, there was no little bonus in relation to issues, and we do not do that. I do not like the suggestion. We have indicated to you what the maximum payment—</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—If you do not —</p> <p>Mr Paterson—I will provide you with an explanation as to why we have published \$280,000. I said I am happy to take that on notice.</p>	E7	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
<i>ANSTO – advice relating to budget</i>								
<u>BI-98</u>	Abetz/ Eggleston	ANSTO	03/06/2008	<p>Senator ABETZ—When was Dr Smith advised of the budgetary cuts to ANSTO?</p> <p>Mr Paterson—He would have been consulted as part of the normal budget process. I cannot give you a discrete time.</p> <p>Senator EGGLESTON—So he would have been aware of them; that is the point we are trying to make. So he must have known they were coming?</p> <p>Mr Paterson—No, you cannot conclude that.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—In that case, can you tell us when he was told? You can take it on notice.</p>	E15	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	

Q No.	Senator	Agency	Hearing date	Question	Proof Hansard Page	Date answered	Date sent to Senator	Additional Information
				Mr Paterson —We will take it on notice.				
<i>Radioisotopes for medical purposes</i>								
BI-99	Eggleston	ANSTO	03/06/2008	<p>Senator EGGLESTON—Are there any nuclear medicine facilities around Australia that are particularly disadvantaged by the fact that you are not producing isotopes?</p> <p>Dr Cameron—I think in general terms we are doing very well, because we are working very hard to supply all the needs. But there are times when groups get disadvantaged. What the actual numbers and locations are I am not able to say at this stage. I could find out that information.</p> <p>Senator EGGLESTON—Who do you find make the most complaints about not receiving adequate isotope supplies?</p> <p>Dr Cameron—Sorry, could you repeat that?</p> <p>Senator EGGLESTON—Which centres complain most often about not receiving adequate supplies of radioisotopes for medical purposes?</p> <p>Dr Cameron—That is not information I have with me.</p> <p>Senator EGGLESTON—Perhaps you could take that on notice. Would you be good enough to do that?</p> <p>Dr Cameron—Certainly.</p>	E17	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
<i>OPAL reactor</i>								
BI-100	Milne	ANSTO	03/06/2008	<p>Senator MILNE—Can we just go to the OPAL reactor. What has been the capital cost of the OPAL nuclear research reactor in current dollars?</p> <p>Dr Cameron—I am not sure of the exact number but it is approximately \$400 million.</p> <p>Senator MILNE—Would you be able to provide a breakdown of the costs for each financial year since the project was given the go-ahead by the government?</p> <p>Dr Cameron—That information is available. It is also worth pointing out that we are funded for depreciation on our current OPAL research reactor. The decommissioning restoration relates to the other assets on our site.</p>	E18-E19 & E24	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	

Q No.	Senator	Agency	Hearing date	Question	Proof Hansard Page	Date answered	Date sent to Senator	Additional Information
				<p>...</p> <p>Senator MILNE—When you gave me a figure back then of what has been the capital cost of the OPAL nuclear reactor in current dollars, I understand that the initial amount that was projected in 1997 was \$286.4 million and in the 2006-07 annual report the reactor cost was cited at \$474.817 million. I asked a little while ago what was the capital cost in current dollars and I got approximately \$400 million. It cannot have reduced \$74.817 million in the last two years, so can you perhaps give me a more accurate figure as to what has been the capital cost?</p> <p>Dr Cameron—It might be better if we provided it, because the budget was made up of three different sections. When we talk about the reactor, there was the reactor construction itself, but then there are the neutron beam instruments that were going to be attached to it and they were considered separately. Sometimes the costs are given with the instruments and sometimes it is not, and that is why there is that variation.</p> <p>Senator MILNE—I would appreciate if you could provide me with the full capital cost in current dollars breaking down all the component parts so we get a sense of what the cost is in real dollars.</p>				
Bakers Hill facility								
BI-101	Abetz	CSIRO	03/06/2008	<p>Senator ABETZ—In a period where Australia is suffering one of its worst droughts and the livestock industry is doing it particularly tough in certain areas, we are seeing the cut or abolition of the Bakers Hill facility. Is that correct?</p> <p>Dr Garrett—That is correct in that instance.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—Were any upgrades made to the Bakers Hill facility in the last five years?</p> <p>Mr Whelan—We would have to take that on notice.</p>	E31	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	

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<i>Rendel facility</i>								
BI-102	Joyce	CSIRO	03/06/2008	<p>Senator JOYCE—There are very important issues there. How much does it cost to run the Rendel facility per year?</p> <p>Mr Whelan—I would need to take that on notice.</p>	E32	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
<i>Rendel facility</i>								
BI-103	Joyce	CSIRO	03/06/2008	<p>Senator JOYCE—What could be the possible loss to the Australian taxpayer by the placing of this facility in mothballs and what is the current value of the capital outlay on this facility on the books?</p> <p>Mr Whelan—I would need to take a couple of those questions on notice, but I will seek to give you an answer. The facility is not currently fully utilised. A substantial part of the facility is unoccupied, and that is a matter of concern for us. We have sought to have other people co-locate onto the site. To date that has not been successful. I cannot speculate as to what demand there may be for purchasing the site or leasing it from CSIRO if that is the way we go. That is one of the things we will look at as we move forward with the implementation of these issues. I would not want you to leave the hearing today thinking that this is an easy decision or somehow there will not be an impact. We do expect there will be a negative impact from the closure of this site, as we do from the closure at Merbein. What we are seeking to do is to try to minimise that.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator JOYCE—I understand what you are saying. I am really just going to the figures, because I think there should be an appropriation for a capital loss in your budget. The reality is that in a regional town there is not a great market for scientific laboratories, especially the biggest one of its kind in the southern hemisphere. What you are going to have is a great big white</p>	E33 & E34	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	

Q No.	Senator	Agency	Hearing date	Question	Proof Hansard Page	Date answered	Date sent to Senator	Additional Information
				<p>elephant sitting out there. That should be on the books, and I would like to know why it is not on the books?</p> <p>Mr Whelan—As I indicated to you, the value of the facility is on the books, and I will take on notice its current value.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator JOYCE—If there are capital losses on the books, are you going to reach deeper into your so-called efficiency dividend to take more money out of the CSIRO?</p> <p>Senator Carr—You have made an assertion. We will start from that proposition and we will take it from there.</p> <p>Senator JOYCE—I will put it on notice and next time you present yourself here I will ask you again.</p>				
<i>Forest biosciences</i>								
BI-104	Abetz	CSIRO	03/06/2008	<p>Senator ABETZ—The livestock and the agricultural sector, broadly speaking, has taken a huge hit with these budget cuts. In relation to the forest biosciences capability, will CSIRO be able to fully continue its research at the level it currently is at into alternatives to 1080?</p> <p>Dr Daly—I do not understand the question. Can you clarify please?</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—There is a change being made to the forest biosciences capability. I say ‘change’; it is going to be lessened. With that lessening of capacity or capability, will the CSIRO forest biosciences division still be able to work on the phase-out of 1080 poisoning at the same level at which it has previously been operating?</p> <p>Dr Daly—I would have to take that question on notice. Let me assure you that we are not reducing the scientific capability associated with forest biosciences. We are adding that capability to other research divisions in CSIRO and retaining it in large research groups. We do not envisage a reduction in—</p>	E38-E39	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	

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<i>CSIRO – external revenue</i>								
BI-105	Abetz	CSIRO	03/06/2008	<p>Senator ABETZ—Is CSIRO sometimes tasked and funded by recipients of Commercial Ready program grants?</p> <p>Mr Whelan—Yes.</p> <p>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?</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Mr Whelan—Indeed it may do. We are yet to calculate what that impact will be.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Mr Whelan—Yes.</p>	E39	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
<i>Budget balance sheet</i>								
BI-106	Joyce	AIATSIS	03/06/2008	<p>Senator JOYCE—This is a question for Mr Paterson. I have some queries regarding some items that were noted on the additional estimates. I have one reply on notice back, and it was well set out. I thank you for that. It diligently pointed out where the amounts arrived from. However, I refer you to your answer of how this \$110,000 disappears off the budget department balance sheet and then miraculously reappears in the forward estimates. Your answer was: A variance of \$110,000 relates to the acquisition, disposal and changes in valuations heritage and cultural assets. It does not give a reference to the particulars of what make up that amount. Why is that? Is this just a qualitative statement like, ‘I will get to the end of the week and I will pay you what I think is appropriate.’?</p>	E40-E41	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	

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				<p>Mr Paterson—Just as a point of clarification, it is not in relation to the department’s balance sheet and it was not a response from the department, but from the agency.</p> <p>Senator JOYCE—It is a budgeted departmental balance sheet.</p> <p>Mr Paterson—But it is in with the agency for AIATSIS, which is an independent statutory authority. The officers are here to respond to your question. I am not ducking your question, but just making the point for the record that it is not about the balance sheet of the department.</p> <p>Senator JOYCE—I would like to look at that. All I want is the answer.</p> <p>Dr Taylor—I will have to ask our chief financial officer.</p> <p>CHAIR—Can you repeat that?</p> <p>Senator JOYCE—What happened to the \$110,000?</p> <p>Dr Taylor—I will ask the CFO to answer that.</p> <p>Mr Hobson—I am sorry, I did not hear your question.</p> <p>Senator JOYCE—What does it pertain to? In any amount that you have on a set of books there has to be a quantifying calibration or a list that pertains to what makes up that amount. In this one I do not see that. All I see is a discussion piece on what that amount relates to. To be quite honest, I think it is just a simple mistake, but if it is a simple mistake people should just say so and not try to beat around the bush.</p> <p>Mr Hobson—The issue relates to the fact that it is to do manuscripts and paper documents, which we obtain and put into storage. We have put some value on them. Until such times as they are sorted and indexed by people back at the institute, we are unable to give a proper figure as to what that relates to.</p> <p>Senator JOYCE—It relates to the fluctuation in the valuation. When you came up with the figure for the initial valuation you would have had a list or an inventory of the items that came to that amount, then you would have had another inventory of items that came to a different amount and then you would have had another inventory of items that came to the third amount, which</p>				

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				surprisingly enough was exactly the same as the first amount. The differentiation between those two inventories of items is the detail that I want. Mr Hobson —I will have to take that on notice and get that information for you.				
Science research								
BI-107	Milne	Office of the Chief Scientist	03/06/2008	Senator MILNE —Can you give me an idea of what work you have been preparing since the last estimates then—what papers you are working on to provide to government apart from the nanotechnology one you have just cited? Dr Peacock —In the first place I will give examples of 10 areas of science research that I think are key for Australia's future. The minister has asked me to prepare draft business plans for two of those at the moment. One is in the area of nanotechnology and nanostructures and the other is in epigenetics. Senator MILNE —What are the other eight? Dr Peacock —I do not know that I can list them all here for you but they would include solar energy, including solar thermal and photovoltaics and matters to do with water security and climate adaptation, things that are clearly of great importance. There is also molecular resistance to virus diseases that applies to all organisms from plants to humans. There are very exciting developments in science in regard to that. I think I have suggested the Antarctic and Southern Oceans; also tropical marine systems are things that I believe the government needs to know where we are at this stage. I am not sure I have given you all eight but I can provide you with a list— Senator MILNE —I would like to have those topics, if I may— Dr Peacock —They are personal views of mine, but I can do that.	E45	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
BI-108 to BI-120 see written questions on notice above								

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<i>Implementation of efficiency dividend</i>								
<u>BI-121</u>	Abetz	DIISR	02/06/2008	<p>Senator ABETZ—In relation to the two per cent dividend, did Finance make any suggestions as to where cuts or savings could be made, or is that completely left to you and the department?</p> <p>Mr Paterson—It is a matter for the agency.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—But did Finance make any suggestions as to how the two per cent dividend might be implemented?</p> <p>Mr Paterson—None that I recall.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—In any event, can you check and take that on notice, please.</p>	E30	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	
<i>Commercial Ready</i>								
<u>BI-122</u>	Abetz	DIISR	02/06/2008	<p>Senator ABETZ—When we move from the board to the delegate, I assume there was 100 per cent approval?</p> <p>Mr Peel—We would have to check. Could you give us a time period that you are looking at?</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—Since the inception of the Commercial Ready program. But I would be happy if you wanted to truncate that to the last two or three years or something like that. If there is a convenient place for you to start looking at these figures that are still representative, I would be happy to accept your judgement as to what a good starting point would be.</p> <p>Mr Peel—Okay.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—Thank you for that.</p>	E47	01/08/2008	01/08/2008	