

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio
Budget Estimates Hearing 2010-11
31 May 2010

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH COUNCIL

TOPIC: ARC Funding

REFERENCE: Written Question—Senator Milne

QUESTION No.: BI-19

Senator MILNE—That is where I was coming to. It is very difficult to see how much of the overall research dollar is going to carbon capture and storage, compared with sustainable agriculture production, for example. You say you do not prioritise, but there is likely to be a bias. I would like to look at where the money goes when those grants are allocated to one of the four priorities. Let us have a look at where the money is going.

Prof. Sheil—We can provide that data for you. We routinely provide data like that to a whole range of organisations that ask for that information. All the information coded by national research priorities is available on our website, where people can download it and so on. We can provide something if you have a specific query.

Senator MILNE—I have a specific query in relation to carbon capture and storage, but I will give you that notice.

Prof. Sheil—Sure.

ANSWER

Senator Milne wrote to the Department to ask the following, which relates to the Financial Years 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10:

1. What is the total research amount? (*total ARC funding for research*)
2. How much of the above amount went to carbon capture and storage?
3. How much of the above amount went to each other of the priority areas in dollars? (*can we do a breakdown by National Research Priority?*)

The Australian Research Council's (ARC) response to each of the above is as follows:

- (1) Refer to table below for the National Competitive Grants Program (NCGP) budget in 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10.

	Financial year		
	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
NCGP budget	\$571.08 million	\$585.886 million	\$652.858 million

Source: ARC strategic plans

- (2) Refer to table below for ARC funding awarded to research projects related to carbon capture and storage.

	Financial year		
	2007–08	2008–09	2009–10
Funding awarded to carbon capture and storage related research	\$4,307,152	\$6,540,644	\$9,140,439

The funding figures provided are an estimate based on funded projects extracted from ARC databases using the search criteria outlined below with the subsequent listing of projects then vetted for relevance.

To identify possible projects involving carbon capture and storage research the following search criteria were used:

- **FOR Codes:** 050301 - Carbon Sequestration Science; 090703 - Environmental Technologies; 040311 - Stratigraphy (incl. Biostratigraphy and Sequence Stratigraphy); 040312 - Structural Geology
- **Keywords:** "Carbon Capture"; "Sequestration"; "Carbon"; "Greenhouse gas" (in project fields Title, Project abstract, and National benefit text)
- **RFCD Codes:** 300199 - Soil and Water Sciences not elsewhere classified; 291104 - Environmental Technologies; 00102 - Soil Biology; 300104 - Land Capability and Soil Degradation; 260110 - Biostratigraphy; 260111 - Other Stratigraphy (incl. Sequence Stratigraphy)
- **SEO Codes:** 760101 - Global climate change adaptation measures; 660199 - Energy Transformation not elsewhere classified

- (3) Estimates of ARC funding allocated to research projects in areas of national research priority are difficult to extract on a financial year basis.