

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: INNOVATION, INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

TOPIC: Square Kilometre Array (SKA) Project

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Eggleston

QUESTION No.: BI-82

What role will the two new dish antennae being built at Tidbinbilla have in the SKA project or any projects outside of the New Horizons mission? Can they be used for any future Australian space program? (*Sydney Morning Herald* 24/2/2010).

ANSWER

The two new antennas (DSS-35 and DSS-36) being built at the Canberra Deep Space Communication Complex (CDSCC) will support the full suite of current and future NASA spacecraft, including the New Horizons mission to Pluto.

There are no specific plans for the CDSCC to support the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) project at this time, but as per current practice, CDSCC antennas can be made available on a non-interference basis to the radio-astronomy community as organised by CDSCC's parent division, the CSIRO Astronomy and Space Sciences.