

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio  
Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing 2011-12  
19 October 2011

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

**TOPIC:** GM WHEAT

**REFERENCE:** Written Question – Senator Colbeck

**QUESTION No.:** SI-85

1. What is CSIRO's assessment of the full extent of the damage that was caused in July this year to the experimental farm at Ginninderra where GM wheat was being grown?
2. Has CSIRO been asked to co-operate with any police investigation in relation to that damage – and are you able to disclose whether action has been taken (or is being taken) against the people who were found to have caused the damage?

**ANSWER**

1. CSIRO's current estimates only cover certain categories of direct loss particularly loss of the research trial and its replacement, obligatory post-harvest monitoring etc. Those costs are estimated to be approximately \$568,000.

In addition to these costs, CSIRO is upgrading security on the site. Furthermore, should the projects involved eventually lead to a commercial release there would be costs associated with the year-long delay in reaching the marketplace. Such costs cannot be quantified at this time.

2. CSIRO has co-operated fully with the Australian Federal Police (AFP) in their investigation of the damage done at the Ginninderra Experimental Station on the morning of 14 July 2011. This co-operation has included the provision of written statements and other information to the AFP by CSIRO staff.

CSIRO understands that the AFP issued a summons to two individuals on Sunday 20 November 2011. The charges relate to trespass to Commonwealth land, damage to Commonwealth property and breaches of the Gene Technology Act 2000 (deliberate interference with a GM Trial). The matter has been scheduled for hearing on 12 December 2011 in Canberra.