



Building 702, Clunies Ross Street, Acton ACT 2601
GPO Box 1700, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia
T (02) 6276 6633 • ABN 41 687 119 230

8 June 2018

Senator Jane Hume
Chair, Senate Standing Committee on Economics
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Correction to Evidence – 2018 Budget Estimates

Dear Senator

In reviewing the Proof Committee Hansard of the Senate Economics Committee Budget Estimates hearing of 31 May 2018, two matters have been identified which require the record to be corrected. Corrected information in relation to these matters follow. In addition, there are three other matters in which I would like to provide additional information.

AAHL Funding

During Dr Dave Williams's testimony, he stated the 1984 Australian Animal Health Laboratory (AAHL) Cabinet Submission had an operational funding "as 50:50 between CSIRO and AHHL and that CSIRO would cover 100 per cent of the capital funding cost" (Hansard page 127).

We have confirmed that the Cabinet Submission referenced makes no mention of capital funding.

Submission to the Review of the *Defence Trade Controls Act 2012 (Cth)*

There was some confusion among CSIRO officers about whether CSIRO would be making a submission to the review of the *Defence Trade Controls Act 2012 (Cth)* directly or through its Department (Hansard page 133). CSIRO advised the Committee that CSIRO was making a submission to that review through the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science, however I now advise that CSIRO has made its own submission to the review, after consulting with the Department.

Defence Export Controls

In response to questions from Senator Carr regarding Defence Export controls, I indicated that I would provide additional information regarding a related historical matter (Hansard page 132). I wish to advise the Committee that this related to the proposed export of a piece of scientific equipment to the International Atomic Energy Agency for supply to the Pakistan Institute of Science and Technology in 2012. CSIRO was informed by the IAEA that the equipment was intended for use related to mining and exploration. The export was stopped by the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service and referred to the Defence Export Controls Office for technical assessment. Following discussion with and advice from officials, CSIRO did not proceed with the export.

GBIRd research project

During questioning from Senator Rhiannon regarding the GBIRd research activity, Dr Steele indicated that the value of CSIRO's contract for this research was less than \$100,000 (Hansard page 119). For completeness of the record, CSIRO's sub-contract is with North Carolina State University and is valued at \$USD74,664 for Phase 1, scheduled for the period that ends 30 April 2019. The contract also provides for incremental funding associated with prospective future project Phases (yet to be agreed) for an "Incrementally Estimated Total" of \$USD218,825 for the time period ending 30 April 2021.

Breakthrough Listen

In response to a question asked by Senator Carr regarding the value of Breakthrough Listen project, Dr Marshall indicated that "roughly \$10 million" was provided for this activity (Hansard page 125). For transparency, CSIRO's contract with the Breakthrough Prize Foundation provides them with 25 percent of the minimum number of hours scheduled for scientific observations with the Parkes radio telescope from 1 July 2016 – 30 June 2021, at a total contract value of \$7.5m on a full cost recovery basis.

It would be appreciated if you could please pass this information on to the Committee.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hazel Bennett', with a horizontal line underneath.

Hazel Bennett
Chief Operating Officer