

APRIL 2022 ESTIMATES OPENING STATEMENT

DR LARRY MARSHALL

Thank you Chair.

It's only been a couple of months since CSIRO was here at Estimates in February, but it's been a busy time for the national science agency.

In March we joined partners across industry and the research sector to launch our fifth nationally collaborative Mission, this time to End Plastic Waste. Under this mission, we aim to reduce plastic entering the Australian environment by 80 per cent by 2030. It follows the launch of earlier missions around drought, protein, agrifood exports, and hydrogen over the past year.

Last month we also launched a new national research lab for Australia, right here in Canberra. The National Bushfire Behaviour Research Laboratory will bring together partners across industry, research and government to harness the latest science and technology in the face of more frequent and more severe bushfire seasons.

Of course, while it's important to plan for bushfires in the future, our hearts go out to communities impacted by floods along the east coast. Under last week's Federal Budget, CSIRO will expand its existing expertise in flood modelling and mitigation to identify options and opportunities for mitigating risk and building resilience in the Northern Rivers Region.

Natural disasters will also be front and centre as part of the new National Space Mission for Earth Observation. CSIRO will bring more than 60 years of experience in space to the partnership led by the Australian Space Agency, along with Geoscience Australia, the Bureau of Meteorology, and Defence to design, build, and operate four new satellites.

Finally, CSIRO's key role in supporting Australia's commercialisation of world-class research will see us support our universities through the Trailblazer program, new investment in our Industry PhD program and additional investment in the Innovation Fund, Main Sequence, to support our nation's deep tech companies. CSIRO will now also expand our ON accelerator program to help researchers turn science into solutions and commercialise their inventions.

I'm incredibly proud of Team CSIRO and the role our scientists are playing in supporting Australia, and welcome your questions.

Thank you.