

Senate Estimates CSIRO Opening Statement

Date: 26 October 2017

Delivered by: Dr. Larry Marshall, Chief Executive, CSIRO

Chair,

CSIRO is approaching the mid-point of Strategy 2020 which aims to solve Australia's greatest challenges with science - from environment, to social, to bridging the gap between science and business. Chair, may I very briefly update the Senate on our progress?

Predicting the future is difficult, but we are getting ahead of the nation's challenges by delivering market roadmaps, with five aligned to Industry Growth Centres. We've also invested in six Future Science Platforms which have the potential to reinvent existing, or create new industries for Australia, ensuring our nation benefits from the breakthrough science of the future.

The ON program is our national science accelerator, funded under the National Innovation and Science Agenda. ON Prime has graduated 152 teams, with a further 65 to finish in two weeks' time. Teams have come from 27 Universities, CSIRO, DSTG and ANSTO, and we have 30 universities as formal partners of ON. ON bridges the gap between science and industry by translating ideas from benchtop to beta. It has also delivered significant public good opportunities like water conservation, protecting the Great Barrier Reef and practical tools helping farmers manage climate variability.

Our mission, to be Australia's Innovation Catalyst, drives deep collaboration across research and industry, because CSIRO is a natural bridge. Last year we worked with 1,750 private industry customers, and collaborated with 41 Australian universities.

Our Global Outlook for National Benefit has delivered the national Climate Science Centre, the Centre for Southern Hemisphere Oceans Research in partnership with China's QNLM University, and the opening of our US office. We are also working with international customers including 173 of the Global Fortune 500.

This progress is a credit to the five and a half thousand extraordinary people who are committed to delivering solutions from science.

Science is an intrinsic part of policy and public debate. In this respect, the Minister has facilitated three meetings requested by Senator Roberts, where CSIRO presented our climate science, and I'm tabling the material from our last meeting. CSIRO's research has withstood scrutiny in multiple scientific forums, spanning many decades, and I stand for the integrity of our people.

Thank you.