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26 February 2014

Mrs Karen Andrews MP
Chair
Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

By email: pwc@aph.gov.au

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Submission No. 01.4
(CSIRO Clayton)
Date: 04/03/14

Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) Clayton property strategy, Clayton, Victoria
Clarification to record of Hansard

Dear Mrs Andrews

On reviewing the Proof Hansard of testimony that CSIRO provided at the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation Clayton property strategy hearing on 17 February 2014, I have determined that some of the information provided by officers of CSIRO did not clearly reflect the facts.

In discussions regarding the allotment of open space at Highett as per local government planning laws, Mr Perrett asked: "So there will be fewer dollars going to consolidated revenue or to the CSIRO; I beg your pardon to offset future costs" (refer page 4 of the Proof Hansard).

Mr Wallis replied: "That is correct. However, prior to the 2013 federal election, a commitment was made by the now local federal member for four hectares of space, which includes conservation and heritage"; to which I added:

Ms Bennett replied: "Which was agreed to by the Special Minister of State at that point in time".

On reflection my evidence did not clearly reflect the fact that the agreement reached relating to public open space (POS) including conservation and heritage was for three hectares and not four hectares as referenced by Mr Wallis.

When this matter regarding meetings that took place from 2012 onwards was revisited later in the Hearing, the Chair asked:

"Were the people at that meeting then supportive of the proposal being put now that there will be designated space?" (refer Page 8 of the Proof Hansard).

Mr Wallis replied: "That is correct." (refer Page 9 of the Proof Hansard)

CHAIR asked: "So everyone there?"

Ms Bennett replied: "Yes"

The evidence provided by Mr Wallis and myself in response to the question from the Chair failed to adequately clarify that whilst “people at **that** meeting *[were]* then supportive” [CSIRO’s emphasis in bold], the matter under discussion was not “the proposal **now** being put” [CSIRO’s emphasis in bold]. At the time of that meeting in October 2012, the discussion was referencing three hectares of POS, conservation areas and possible heritage space whereas the current proposal is for four hectares of space to be set aside consistent with the decision by Government.

I apologise for any inconvenience that this may have caused to the Committee. Should there be any concerns or you wish to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Hazel Bennett
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Finance and Services

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