

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry Portfolio
Budget Estimates Hearing 2014-15
2-3 June 2014

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: CSIRO

TOPIC: CSIRO Laboratories

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Carr

QUESTION No.: BI-194

1. How does CSIRO plan to continue it's local, national and international irrigation research if the Griffith Laboratory is closed, will the affected staff be redeployed to other areas of CSIRO or will they be made redundant and how long has CSIRO been developing a plan to close the laboratory?
2. Is CSIRO is considering a plan to close down or reduce its presence at the Parkville Laboratories in Melbourne?
3. How does CSIRO plan to continue it's local, national and international marine and climate research if the Aspendale Laboratory is closed, will the affected staff be redeployed to other areas of CSIRO or will they be made redundant and how long has CSIRO been developing a plan to close the laboratory?

ANSWER

1. The CSIRO plans to continue nationally relevant irrigation research from other sites such as Canberra and Narrabri. The CSIRO has no plans for redundancies at its Griffith Laboratory in the 2014-15 financial year and will make every effort to redeploy staff from its Griffith Laboratory when it closes in 2016. The CSIRO has been considering options to close the Griffith site since late 2013.
2. The CSIRO has canvassed for some time the intention to consolidate our capital city footprints. This was in part originally motivated by the desire to ensure the most efficient and effective use of our property portfolio, but has been augmented by the development of the national precinct strategy, which includes consideration of collaboration with partners where appropriate. In this regard, CSIRO has proposed the development a Life Sciences Precinct in the Parkville area. However details regarding this, including any potential relocation from CSIRO's current Parkville location, have not been progressed at this point in time.
3. As noted in response to question 2, CSIRO has indicated for some time the intention to consolidate our capital city footprint in Melbourne to our Clayton site, including the relocation of the research undertaken at Aspendale to Clayton. The CSIRO is currently investigating both the strategic opportunities and the funding opportunities for this move but as yet no decision has been made on when that move may occur.