

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation and Science Portfolio
2017 - 2018 Budget Estimates
31 May – 1 June 2017

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: CSIRO

TOPIC: FTE in CSIROs Climate Change capability

REFERENCE: Questions on Notice (Hansard, 1 June 2017, pages 10-11)

QUESTION No.: BI-15

Senator KIM CARR: There has been criticism that the restructure of CSIRO has, effectively, reduced CSIRO's climate change capability by about half. Are you familiar with that line of argument?

Dr Cleugh: There are many lines of argument out there. It depends on how you define the capability, but, as you know, we have just talked about the numbers. We have lost staff, yes, and we are now rebuilding and reshaping.

Senator KIM CARR: So you do not think it is true that CSIRO's climate change capability has been reduced by half?

Dr Cleugh: CSIRO's climate capability in terms of its staffing has been reduced. I couldn't tell you whether it is by half.

Senator KIM CARR: What do you expect its reduction to have been? If it is not a half, what is it then, in your opinion? You are the director of the division.

Dr Cleugh: I do not really like to delve in opinions. I prefer to stick with the facts.

Senator KIM CARR: Yes, that is right. It is all we want here.

Dr Cleugh: And at the moment I do not have numbers in my head, but it has been reduced. I just reiterate that we are rebuilding that capacity.

Mr Roy: I might be able to help a little bit on this, but we will have to take some of the detail on notice. I know that Hobart is not just a brown climate science. You mentioned the changes: on 30 June 2015, we had 307 FTEs—so, 21 months ago. Today, we have got 309 FTEs. That is about the same number over that period of time.

Senator KIM CARR: They are all scientists, are they?

Mr Roy: No. They are a mixture of scientists and people who support scientists, but they are all focused towards CSIRO delivering science for the country.

Senator KIM CARR: How many scientists of the—how many did you say?

Mr Roy: 309 FTEs. I could take that on notice.

Senator KIM CARR: How many of those are scientists?

Mr Roy: I can give you an enterprise level, Senator, but I cannot give you a breakdown for Hobart or Tasmania.

Senator KIM CARR: It would be good if you could.

Mr Roy: We definitely can. We can do that on notice. The number of 50 per cent does not ring true to me. I am not sure where that has come from, but we can provide an accurate answer on notice.

ANSWER

| | CSIRO Employees in Tasmania - FTE | | |
|------------------|--|--------------------|--------------|
| | Research Scientists | Other Staff | Total |
| 30-Jun-15 | 95 | 212 | 307 |
| 30-Jun-16 | 102 | 218 | 320 |
| 31-Mar-17 | 92 | 217 | 309 |