

**Opening Statement by Dr Megan Clark
Chief Executive, CSIRO
Senate Budget Estimates Hearing, 1 June 2009**

I have now visited 51 of CSIRO's 54 sites and continue to be impressed by the passion and dedication of our people. Their enthusiasm for exploring new horizons and making a difference is a truly important asset for Australia's future.

CSIRO has been involved a number of important achievements since the last Estimates hearing, some of which I would like to share with you today.

- CSIRO reached settlement in its litigation with fourteen companies over the use of CSIRO's patented wireless local area network technology. This takes our total active licences to 160. Each of the companies involved in the litigation has now agreed to pay CSIRO in return for the right to use CSIRO's patented invention.
- The Australian Telescope National Facility has demonstrated that Australia has the national network coordination needed for the international Square Kilometre Array (SKA) radio telescope by transferring data across Australia at rates up to 500 times faster than those of consumer broadband.
- The Australian Telescope National Facility has also completed a A\$12 million upgrade to the Australia Telescope Compact Array in Narrabri, increasing the bandwidth the telescope can receive from 128 MHz to 2 GHz (a sixteen fold increase).
- CSIRO scientists working at the Australian Animal Health Laboratory (AAHL) have made a major breakthrough in better understanding how Hendra spreads from infected horses to other horses and humans.
- The Energy Transformed Flagship has discovered that under ideal conditions it is possible to produce algal biodiesel at a lower cost and with less greenhouse gas emissions than fossil diesel.
- Researchers at the ICT Centre have developed software (Snorocket) that will be used to standardise the clinical descriptions of patient symptoms, treatments and outcomes used in electronic health records around the world. The software is up to ten times faster than other classifiers.
- The Division of Exploration & Mining has developed new automation technologies that locate and guide coal cutting equipment in longwall mines delivering productivity and health and safety gains.
- The Future Manufacturing Flagship is using world leading polymer technology research to develop flexible, cost-effective, printable plastic solar cells which could lay the ground work for a world leading Australian industry in printable electronics.
- The United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) recently identified Australia's Northern Prawn Fishery as a "global model" for fisheries management. CSIRO has partnered with Government and industry for over 45 years to achieve this standard.

This is a small snapshot of the many things that we have achieved since our last meeting. I look forward to sharing more with you.

Thank you.

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