

## EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

### SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE – QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2003-2004 ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING

**Outcome:** CSIRO  
**Output Group:** - CSIRO

#### **DEST Question No. E770\_04**

Senator Carr asked on 18 February 2004, EWRE Hansard page 92.

#### **Question:**

*Refers to DEST Question No E644\_04.*

You are saying you have basically revised E644. What I would like is a table on consultancies committed under your cost code on consulting and professional services. If it is possible I would like it to include the information currently used by DEST – the various fields used by DEST in the answers they give to me – including in the years referred to in E644.

#### **Answer:**

CSIRO has provided the following response.

#### *List of consultancies*

As noted in previous answers on similar matters, CSIRO manages the majority of its procurement arrangements in a devolved manner through its Divisions/business units. Further, CSIRO does not currently categorise expenditure on the same basis as DEST and therefore there has been a significant amount of manual effort and interpretation of data required to provide the information in the manner requested. While every effort has been made to provide the Senate with accurate information, this cannot be guaranteed.

As requested, expenditure included in this answer is based on the DEST definition of a consultant, "A consultant is an entity, whether an individual, a partnership or a corporation, engaged to provide professional independent and expert advice or services". The data provided has been extracted from transactions recorded with a value greater than \$10,000 in the CSIRO general ledger between July 2000 and October 2003.

In applying this definition, CSIRO has recognised consultants as being typically engaged to:

- Investigate or diagnose a defined issue or problem;
- Carry out defined research, reviews or evaluation; or
- Provide independent advice, information or creative solutions to assist CSIRO in management decision making.

Further, CSIRO has applied a number of tests in interpretation of raw transaction data meeting this definition, including:

- Whether the engagement results in the production of a report for consideration and action by CSIRO;
- Whether the engagement relates to the provision of planning advice; economic assessments; financial/human resources advice and process improvement (included in the attached list);
- Does the engagement relate to legal advice, contracts in place of direct employment, contract waste removal, Intellectual Property Management services, contracts for repair and maintenance, executive search and recruitment agency fees and outsourced research and development including research project review (excluded from the attached list); and
- Where a matter has included an element of advice but has contained other elements that would exclude it then it has been included.