

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: CSIRO
Output Group: - CSIRO

DEST Question No. E962_04

Senator Carr provided in writing

Question:

CSIRO advised the Committee on 18th February 2004, in respect to the axing of CSIRO Mining and Exploration laboratories at North Ryde, that *"We have been having ongoing discussions with senior representatives in industry and we believe we have their support in this area."* (EWRE 94, 18 February 2004).

With which companies, and which staff within those companies has CSIRO been having discussions?

Over what period of time?

What CSIRO staff have been involved directly in these discussions with industry?

Answer:

CSIRO has provided the following response.

Exploration and Mining

- a) CSIRO initiated a high-level, strategic industry meeting involving CSIRO Exploration and Mining (CEM) and three other CSIRO divisions, major companies and professional organisations. The Mineral Resources Sector Advisory Council (whose members have wide-ranging industry connections) has been briefed several times over the past 18 months, and specific meetings have been held to discuss the restructuring with the Chair of the Council and other members.

Staff at all levels of the Division are routinely in contact with industry personnel. This occurs at conferences, workshops, through professional meetings, at formal meetings with companies, through industry associations and our Sector Advisory Committee. A large number of the major and mid-sized companies have been consulted formally and informally during this process.

- b) Consultation commenced in February 2001 with a major meeting, and has been ongoing throughout the change process.
- c) The process of consultation has been led by the CEM Executive team, although all CEM staff are encouraged to maintain close industry contacts. The Sustainable Minerals and Energy Group Chair, Dr Rod Hill, has also been involved with industry and staff discussions.