

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: CSIRO
Output Group: - CSIRO

DEST Question No. E963_04

Senator Carr provided in writing

Question:

On what do you base your belief that you have the support of industry in making this decision?

Do you have written support from mining companies or industry organisations expressing their endorsement of this decision?

Answer:

CSIRO has provided the following response.

Exploration and Mining

The specific plans for changes in CSIRO's exploration research effort, including the plan to close research areas and, over time, to close the North Ryde activities, were tested with the relevant members of the CSIRO Mineral Resources Sector Advisory Council (MR SAC). (See also answer to question E962_04.) These members endorsed the need for change, and endorsed the refocus of some core activities in Perth nearer to the exploration industry, which involved the plan to close CSIRO Exploration and Mining (CEM) activities at North Ryde over time.

Industry advice and opinion was sought on an informed basis with respect to the relevance and performance of CSIRO's exploration research effort. This was done at meetings, conferences and Sector meetings. The industry response indicated that the CSIRO's exploration research effort had room to improve and that change was essential for future success of the research programs. For example, at the 2001 Biennial AMIRA Exploration Managers meeting in South Australia, AMIRA International stated that CEM had problems delivering upon its research. The statements were made in front of representatives covering more than 60% of the world's exploration activity, and none chose to dispute the comment. Discussions with specific companies confirmed this opinion. The MR SAC was kept informed as changes were implemented by Divisional Management.