

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: CSIRO
Output Group: - CSIRO

DEST Question No. E967_04

Senator Carr provided in writing

Question:

This has all the hallmarks of a badly thought through program designed to save on operational costs, irrespective of the costs to research. Isn't that the case?

Answer:

CSIRO has provided the following response.

Exploration and Mining

CSIRO Exploration and Mining (CEM) research restructuring was based on a strategic review of our role in the exploration industry. The Division will now be better placed to meet the demands of the future with a research portfolio closely aligned with industry needs.

Extensive consultation with industry commenced in February 2001 as to the relevance and performance of CSIRO exploration research, well before any action was planned or taken. (See also answers to questions E962_04 and E963_04.) The process of realigning our science to better address industry needs was very carefully thought out. Given the above drivers there have inevitably been some inescapable changes in research priorities and capabilities.