

## EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

### SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2004-2005 ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING

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

#### DEST Question No. E574\_05

Senator Carr provided in writing.

#### Question:

Where did CSIRO find \$250,000 (or the total cost if it is different) to pay for this research?

Did CSIRO find the funding for this project by reallocating money from other programs?

Was this particular project in CSIRO's annual work program, either in the Environment and Natural Resources group or any other CSIRO section?

If yes, please provide proof that it was in the approved work program at the commencement of the year?

If no, then what projects were curtailed to fund this one?

If no, do you consider this to be a satisfactory way to prioritise research programming?

#### Answer:

CSIRO has provided the following response.

#### *Latrobe Aquifer Study*

The total cost of the project (\$54,616) was found within the Wealth from Oceans Flagship program.

There was no reallocation of funding from any other programs to fund the project.

The objectives of this particular project were determined to be closely congruent with one of focal points for investment within the fledgling Wealth from Oceans Flagship for 2003/04 i.e. Seabed Modelling and Responses, and in particular, Interactions of Submarine Groundwater and organic content with sea-bed sediments and discharges. The project was an opportunity that emerged during 2003/04 financial year and treated as a strategic investment for the Flagship.

No other projects were curtailed to fund this project as this investment formed part of a new Flagship Program initiative.

It is not unusual for CSIRO to align its science with emerging issues of national significance; nor is it unusual for projects to be scoped out and conducted in timeframes of several months. CSIRO's judgement was that the project was an opportunity to advance understanding of regional aquifer systems while fulfilling CSIRO's mission to deliver service from science on an issue of relevance to the new Flagship.