

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: CSIRO
Output Group: CSIRO

DEST Question No. E841_05

Senator Stott Despoja provided in writing.

Question:

CSIRO – Policy on Public Comment
How does this differ to the previous guidelines on public comment?

Answer:

CSIRO has provided the following response.

Communications - CSIRO – Policy on Public Comment

The original CSIRO Guidelines on Public Comment were developed to ensure that staff understood their obligations in relation to public comment. These guidelines had not been updated since June 2002.

These guidelines have since been replaced by the Public Comment Policy, which was approved by the CSIRO Board in 2004.

The Public Comment Policy which is referenced is simply a revised version of a previous organisational policy that has been in place for a number of years.

Whilst the wording contained in the original document has been updated, the intent remains the same.

The current policy on public comment is a well balanced policy that outlines the expectation that CSIRO staff will talk publicly about their work (and that they are encouraged and have a right so to do) but that there are nevertheless some circumstances where care is needed and indeed it may be inappropriate to make public comment.