

**EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING**

**SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
2005-2006 ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING**

**Outcome:** CSIRO

**Output Group:** CSIRO

**DEST Question No. E944\_06**

Senator Stott Despoja provided in writing.

**Question:**

On *Four Corners* (February 13) and on ABC radio, Dr Steve Morton, Group Executive, drew a distinction between informing policy and writing policy.

Please define in specific terms with examples, the distinction between informing policy and writing policy.

**Answer:**

*CSIRO has provided the following response.*

*Informing Government Policy*

One of CSIRO's roles is to inform the development of government policy by providing independent, impartial and authoritative, scientific advice and analysis.

As an example, scientists might provide advice on the environmental consequences of different water flow rates down the Murray River. However, in making a decision about which rate they will strive to achieve, policy makers may take into account economic, social, regional and other factors.