

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: CSIRO
Output Group: CSIRO

DEST Question No. E209_04

Senator Carr asked on 4 June 2003.

Question:

- (a) Is the Forest and Forest Products Division planning to establish a new laboratory in Queensland?
- (b) What are the details?
- (c) How many CSIRO staff are expected to work there?
- (d) Will any other of the division's laboratories be closed or reduced to provide the resources for this expansion in Queensland?
- (e) Who are, or are expected to be, the commercial partners?

Answer:

CSIRO has provided the following response.

Proposed Queensland Laboratory

- (a) Yes. CSIRO Forestry and Forest Products (CFFP) has made a strategic decision to establish a presence in Southeast Queensland.
- (b) Initially, CFFP has established a small office in Cooroy, Queensland from which to develop both the relationships outlined in (e) below and with industry, all levels of Government and the community. CFFP is also working with the Queensland Forestry Research Institute (QFRI), and the Forest Policy Group of Queensland State Development Department (FPG) to create a Timber Precinct near Cooroy in which to conduct forestry and wood products research on tropical and sub-tropical forest tree species co-located with industry players.
- (c) As part of its business plan for the proposed Timber Precinct, CFFP has estimated that it could have a staff of around thirty located in the proposed Timber Precinct after ten years. The actual number of staff will depend on the research business that can be generated both in CSIRO's own right and in collaboration with its associates under the relationships outlined in (e) below.
- (d) None of the Division's research laboratories will be closed to provide the resources for establishing CFFP's presence in Southeast Queensland. Activities at the Division's existing laboratories may however be reduced as the strategic balance of research across all the Division's laboratories is determined over time.
- (e) Commercial partners will include Queensland Department of Primary Industries-Forestry (QDPIF), Queensland Forestry Research Institute (QFRI), and the Forest Policy Group of Queensland State Development Department (FPG), with whom the Division is forging strong relationships.