

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: CSIRO
Output Group: CSIRO

DEST Question No. E211_04

Senator Carr asked on 4 June 2003.

Question:

- (a) What were the reasons for Dr Cotterill's decision to withdraw his Division from the CRC Tree Technology bid in mid -2002?
- (b) Why was the decision taken so late in the day such that the remaining parties had insufficient time to prepare a new bid and have it properly evaluated?

Answer:

CSIRO has provided the following response.

Withdrawal from CRC for Tree Technology

- (a) In early 2002 there were two separate CRC bids. By April 2002, with the assistance of CSIRO Forestry and Forest Products (CFFP), these became a united bid for a CRC for Tree Technology. However, the relationship between the different components of this single bid was problematic and the management of CFFP eventually decided that the partnership was not sufficiently stable and withdrew from the bid.
- (b) The management of CFFP decided to withdraw when it became apparent that the CRC was not going to be workable in its proposed form.

One of the two components of the original bid continued, and was evaluated through the usual CRC selection processes.