

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: CSIRO
Output Group: CSIRO

DEST Question No. E226_04

Senator Carr asked on 4 June 2003.

Question:

Refers to DEST Question E771_03.

In answer to E771, you provided a list of people contracted overseas to work on CSIRO commercial projects.

- (a) Can you explain the rationale behind the requirement that only one of the eight identified so far is performance based while the seven largest take no risk and receive a set fee and reimbursement of expenses?
- (b) You are imposing a competitive model within the organisation for researchers yet commercial consultants seem immune from these demands. Why is that?

Answer:

CSIRO has provided the following response.

People Contracted to Work Overseas

- (a) The seven contracts between CSIRO and service providers listed in the answer to E771 were for short term specialised functions in relation to specific commercialisation projects. As such, the terms and conditions of the contracts fit to a standard method of engagement of a service provider (fee for service plus reimbursement of expenses). CSIRO is contemplating the inclusion, in future contracts with overseas service providers, of provisions for a portion of the payment being on a performance-based basis.
- (b) The engagement by CSIRO of service providers for commercialisation services is done on a competitive market basis, in that CSIRO seeks the best service provider within a competitive market.