

## EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

### SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE – QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2004-2005 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

**Outcome:** CSIRO  
**Output Group:** CSIRO

#### DEST Question No. E228\_05

Senator Carr provided in writing.

#### Question:

- a. How long has the development of CSIRO's interactive website been underway?
- b. I have been led to believe by some within CSIRO that it is in a bit of a mess. Is that correct?
- c. When did it commence?
- d. How far behind schedule is this program?
- e. Can you confirm that currently it is intended to go on-line in July? Will this target be achieved?
- f. How often have the terms of the project and its timetable been altered? Why?
- g. How much has this project cost so far?
- h. Can you confirm that it has cost somewhere in the region of \$2.5 million so far?
- i. What will be the total cost by July this year?
- j. What was the original budget?
- k. Can you provide with a copy of the original budget, together with program objectives and timetable?
- l. How many CSIRO staff are engaged on this project? For how long have they been involved? At what cost?

#### Answer:

CSIRO has provided the following response.

#### *Website*

- a. Development of the CSIRO website was initiated in late 2001, and the development team commenced in February 2002.
- b. The development of a website that represents all the aspects of a complex organisation like CSIRO is difficult. The CSIRO Live team have progressed the CSIRO Live project through to the design stage, including the acquisition of the technology platform, with the Executive Team being briefed on the key elements of the website development such as "look and feel", information architecture and initial content development. The CSIRO Live team has now concluded.

- c. See response to question (a) above.
- d. The new program, building on the platform developed by the CSIRO Live team, is CSIRO.au, which is due to be delivered in April 2005. CSIRO.au will deliver a "oneCSIRO" web presence – a key element in delivering on the "oneCSIRO" strategic objective. (The detailed program objectives are listed at answer (k) below.) It is on track to deliver to the April 2005 deadline. The program has already delivered a pilot (on 1 May 2004) using the CSIRO ICT Centre as a model.
- e. See response to question (d) above.
- f. The terms of this project – "to deliver a unified web presence for CSIRO" have remained constant. The timetable for delivery has altered as the complexity of representing all of CSIRO within one information architecture and the technical infrastructure required to do so is now better understood.

The original timetable for delivery was November 2003; the technical infrastructure was delivered in May 2004 and the entire project is due to deliver a live site in April 2005.

- g. The project has cost approximately \$6,063,201 since 2001 (figures as at 31 May 2004). This includes: operational costs such as purchasing of Vignette, hardware and software, contract labour, and salaries and travel. As indicated in j. below these costs were within budget over the financial years involved.
- h. See response to question (g) above.
- i. The total cost at 30 June this year will be approximately \$6,439,918.
- j. The budget for 2001/02 was \$1,500,000 compared to actual expenditure of \$1,478,180 and for 2002/03 was \$2,732,947 compared to actual expenditure of \$2,354,748. The budget for 2003/04 was \$2,490,000 compared to actual expenditure at 31 May 2004 of \$2,230,273.
- k. See response to question (j) above.

Program objectives are as follows:

- Deliver a gateway to CSIRO reflecting what information customers want to know and how they want to access it
- Deliver improved business practices across CSIRO
- Support CSIRO in its aim to be a global research enterprise
- Support and promote One-CSIRO and e-CSIRO initiatives
- Support CSIRO's corporate plan, mission statement and marketing initiatives to build on our reputation and build a greater understanding of our value
- Expand employees' skill base
- Continuous improvement in delivery of flexible, seamless, responsive and timely content, products, services, transactions and functionality through effective use of CSIRO.au by divisions
- Supporting and enhancing the CSIRO brand through improved quality, consistent editorial voice and greater exposure of information and services
- Build a greater understanding of CSIRO and its value and build its reputation among stakeholders
- Support knowledge management, technology transfer, commerce, business development in CSIRO
- Encourage and facilitate research collaboration and knowledge.

- I. There are currently 6 CSIRO employees engaged on this project in a full time capacity. Total employment cost to CSIRO for a full financial year equates to approximately \$355,111.