

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE – QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2005-2006 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: CSIRO
Output Group: CSIRO

DEST Question No. E203_06

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question:

- (a) How many staff are being made 'surplus to requirements' or redundant in the Forestry and Forest Products Division, either because of the *ensis* joint venture or any other changes in strategic directions?
- (b) Which research areas are they in?
- (c) How many staff affected are in research, administration and management in those Divisions?
- (d) What is the staffing profile of those affected?
- (e) In addition to the 9 redundancies outlined by Dr Garrett in Senate Estimates, 1 June 2005, are any more expected? Please provide details.
- (f) How many fixed term contracts will not be renewed? Which areas of research are affected?
- (g) Are any research areas being removed entirely or scaled back? Please explain why.

Answers:

CSIRO has provided the following response.

- (a) A total of twelve staff were identified as potentially redundant as an outcome of the planning process around the future operations of CSIRO Forestry and Forest Products (CFFP). No staff were identified as potentially redundant as a result of the decision to expand the *ensis* joint venture.
- (b) Of the twelve potentially redundant staff, twelve belong to research areas which include: Molecular Biology, Statistics, Bioenergy, Soil carbon under Afforestation, Biogeochemistry and Geospatial research.
- (c) Eleven of the twelve staff affected are in research areas and one is in an administrative role.
- (d) The staffing profile from these staff is:

Gender

Male	Female
9	3

Age

40 -44	45 – 49	50 -54	55 - 60	60 - 64
0	3	3	5	1

CSOF level

CSOF 3	CSOF 4	CSOF 5	CSOF 6	CSOF 7	CSOF 8
1	2	1	2	3	3

- (e) In addition to the nine staff outlined by Dr Garrett at Senate Estimates on 1 June 2005, there are twelve staff members that are expected to be affected by changes to the Division such as refocusing of specific projects including molecular biology, training and extension, seed testing, seed despatch and statistics.

Research in the area of Bioenergy has been scaled down over the past two years and no further research in this area will be undertaken by CFFP or ensis. The Bioenergy group consists of two staff and both have been informed that they are potentially redundant.

CFFP are also moving away from development of carbon accounting tools towards impacts and adaptations of climate change as applied to the forest industry. This research area contributes to the CRC for Greenhouse Accounting, but has no other significant external support. One staff member is affected by the cessation of this work.

The completion of projects requiring biogeochemistry expertise has meant that one staff member may become potentially redundant. It is hoped that this person can be redeployed successfully.

Geospatial research within at CFFP in Canberra has been closed and will be undertaken by staff on other sites. A technical officer who was a member of this group has been identified as potentially redundant.

A range of projects at CFFP's Mt. Gambier site have now reached a stage where all the experimental skills attached to them are no longer required. One staff member may be affected by this change.

- (f) The two contracts that were due for review prior to 30 June 2005 were retained. One was extended and one was translated into indefinite employment. Both term contracts are based within the Bushfire Group.
- (g) Please see answer to (e) above.