

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: CSIRO
Output Group: CSIRO

DEST Question No. E209_06

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question:

- (a) What is the proposed timeline for the merger of Marine and Atmospheric Research Divisions?
- (b) Where are preparations up to?
- (c) How many staff will be affected by the merger?
- (d) How many staff will need to be relocated as a result of the merger?
- (e) Does CSIRO expect job losses through this process, either through retrenchment, redundancies or rendering people surplus to requirements? Which research areas are expected to see job losses and how many losses are expected in each area? How many research, management and administrative and support staff will face losses?

Answer:

CSIRO has provided the following response.

Merger of Atmospheric Research and Marine Research - staff

- (a) The merger of Atmospheric and Marine Research Divisions will come formally into effect from 1 July 2005.
- (b) A process involving working groups of staff from both Divisions to consider structure, roles and functions required in science and research support areas, has led to a series of recommendations, which are now being considered by senior management.
- (c) The Atmospheric Research division has approximately 144 staff and Marine Research 360 staff, therefore approximately 500 staff will be affected by the merger.
- (d) There will be no forced relocations because of the merger; however some staff have already approached management to see if voluntary relocation is possible.
- (e) CSIRO does not expect these changes to impact greatly on staff numbers. Due to the design processes for the science and support functions of the new Division not being finalised, it is not yet possible to specify job losses. However, CSIRO does expect that some efficiency gains will be realised through a small reduction in the number of support staff positions required for the new Division. Redeployment and non-renewal of term employment will be the primary means of managing any reduction. Redundancy will only be used as a last resort. Final decisions will be made in July.