

## EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

### SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2006-2007 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

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

#### DEST Question No. E462\_07

Senator Wong provided in writing.

#### **Question:**

31 May 2006, EWRE, p.10:

*Mr Whelan—No, it is not at all. It is funding from the gains we have made in the past. We could have chosen not to run a deficit. We could have chosen, given increased costs, to have gone and cut science in the organisation—\$14 million worth of science. We think that would have been very short-sighted, given the two factors that were driving the deficit: that of increased depreciation costs and that associated with increased legal costs. We are very comfortable now. The department of finance have recognised that there is an issue to be addressed around the depreciation costs, and we have correspondence from them that suggests that matter will be addressed in the additional estimates for 2006-07. So our perspective on it is that a deficit was the totally appropriate thing to do in those circumstances.*

What has DOFA told CSIRO about changes to depreciation as mentioned above? Please provide the correspondence referred to by Mr Whelan above?

#### **Answer:**

*CSIRO has provided the following response.*

*Correspondence from DoFA to DEST on depreciation*

DoFA indicated in correspondence provided to the Department of Education, Science and Training, that the issue of depreciation will be reviewed in the context of the 2006-07 Additional Estimates.