

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: CSIRO
Output Group: CSIRO

DEST Question No. E475 _07

Senator Wong provided in writing.

Question:

31 May 2006, EWRE, p.13:

Senator WONG—*Without trying to put too fine a point on it, we have your office with annual costs of over \$1 million, with various components of that remuneration being housing, travel et cetera. Do you think the public and the organisation are getting value for money?*

Dr Garrett—*I think it must come back to what we are delivering. Looking at what this organisation is achieving, we have had 12 independent external reviews of our divisions in the last two years—independent international panels looking at the quality of our science and the impact of what we deliver—and we are shortly to release a flagship performance review, a copy of which we will obviously make sure you get at a very early stage. We want to be judged by the outputs of that program.*

What were the terms of reference?

Answer:

CSIRO has provided the following response.

Flagship Performance Review

Terms of reference

Taking into account the long-term focus of Flagships and the complexity of the goals that have been set for them, assess:

Appropriateness

1. The appropriateness of the goals of the Flagships and the extent to which the Flagships' research portfolios address:
 - a. those goals;
 - b. National Research Priorities; and
 - c. Government priorities.
2. The relationship between Flagship goals and other components of the national innovation system and the likely consequences if CSIRO is not provided with continuing funding for the Flagship initiative.

Effectiveness

3. The Flagship initiative's achievements against its current performance indicators and the progress made to date in addressing its suite of national goals;
4. The quality of the Flagships' scientific and technological outputs to date;
5. The progress that has been made in establishing the Flagships as multidisciplinary, multi-party research partnerships focused on long-term, national goals;

6. The quality of the governance and advisory mechanisms established under the Flagship initiative;

Efficiency

7. The extent to which efficient processes and practices have been established to enhance value for money.