

## EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

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

#### **DEST Question No. E484\_07**

Senator Wong provided in writing.

Table 5.1 on **p 286 of the 2006-07 PBS** details employee expenses. A comparison with last year's figures (**p 265, 2005-06 PBS**) shows:

- CSIRO spent \$10.6 million **more** on salaries in 2005-06 than was budgeted.
- CSIRO plans to spend \$7.9 million **less** on salaries during 2006-07 compared to their estimates in the 2005-06 PBS.

Where was the \$10.6 million extra spent? Why was there an overspend?

#### **Answer:**

*CSIRO has provided the following response.*

#### *Employee Expenses*

The 2005-06 PBS estimate for salary expenses for 2005-06 was \$560.3m. The 2006-07 PBS estimate was \$570.8m. The forecast actual spend on salaries in 2005-06 is \$562.3m.

The anticipated increase in salary costs was based on available information on number of staff employed, the salary increases paid through the Enterprise Bargaining Agreement, and the flow on effects on employee provisions including recreation and long service leave. This anticipated increase was managed throughout 2005-06 with the result that the increase was approximately \$2m.

The 2005-06 PBS estimate for salary expenses for 2006-07 was \$597.9m. The 2006-07 PBS estimate was \$590.0m. This reflects tight management of salary costs including the likelihood of redundancies due to the reduction in staffing costs as a result of the Research Support Services Project.