

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE – QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2003-2004 SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: CSIRO
Output Group: - CSIRO

DEST Question No. E492_04

Senator Carr asked on 5 November 2003.

Question:

Please provide an update on the wheat streak virus escape from CSIRO facilities.

Answer:

CSIRO has provided the following response.

Wheat Streak Mosaic Virus

Wheat streak mosaic virus did not escape from CSIRO facilities.

The National Management Group (NMG), convened by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, and including representatives from State and Territory Agriculture departments, industry, Plant Health Australia and the Grains Council of Australia, agreed on Friday 30 May 2003 that based on the available evidence, the Wheat Streak Mosaic Virus is established and widespread in south-eastern Australia and has been for a long time without causing noticeable production losses.

The original source of the virus is unknown. The NMG also considered advice from the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics that the costs of eradicating the virus would be greater than the likely benefit.