

## EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

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

#### **DEST Question No. E539\_04**

Senator Carr asked on 5 November 2003.

#### **Question:**

- (a) What issues and options does the CSIRO currently have under consideration?
- (b) Given that Atherton hosts four divisions, who in CSIRO is managing the consideration of these issues and options?
- (c) What documents have been produced to date? Copies please?
- (d) When will a decision be made?

#### **Answer:**

CSIRO has provided the following response.

#### *Atherton*

- (a) Through its involvement with the Rainforest CRC, CSIRO is aware of discussions concerning the potential development of an Australian Tropical Forest Institute (ATFI) to be located at the James Cook University (JCU) campus in Cairns. Plans for the ATFI are still to be finalised, and at this stage CSIRO is not one of the potential partners in the ATFI. CSIRO will however examine any opportunities for increased collaboration, and to this end, informal discussions have been held to explore means by which the relationship between CSIRO staff in Atherton and researchers at JCU in Cairns might be strengthened.
- (b) Dr Steve Morton, Group Chair, CSIRO Environment and Natural Resources.
- (c) CSIRO has produced no documents concerning the potential development of the ATFI, given that the agreement continues to evolve among the potential partners (which does not include CSIRO at this stage).
- (d) Following the finalisation of plans for the ATFI, CSIRO would be in a position to consider its own options in light of any new opportunities.