

## EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

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

#### DEST Question No. E540\_04

Senator Carr asked on 5 November 2003.

#### Question:

- (a) Is it not correct that the transfer of Atherton assets to a James Cook University facility in Cairns is under consideration? Isn't that correct?
- (b) Can you confirm that both a science and a business case for such a transfer is being developed?
- (c) Who has been involved in this?
- (d) Has JCU made any formal or informal approach to CSIRO on this matter?
- (e) If such a decision were taken, what response would CSIRO give to the local and international environmental organisations that are now collaborating at Atherton with CSIRO tropical rainforest research staff?

#### Answer:

CSIRO has provided the following response.

#### *Atherton*

- (a) As explained in answering question E539\_04, the nature of the future relationship between CSIRO and JCU has been the subject of informal discussion through consideration of the potential development of the ATFI, but without a decision having been reached.
- (b) No. As explained in answering question E539\_04, no science or business case can be considered until the plan for ATFI is finalised.
- (c) Not applicable (see above).
- (d) As outlined above, informal discussion has occurred.
- (e) As outlined above, it is premature to anticipate any decision, but CSIRO would envisage that any future agreement would lead to an enhanced rather than diminished research capability.