

## EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

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

#### **DEST Question No. E551\_04**

Senator Carr asked on 5 November 2003.

#### **Question:**

In recent years CSIRO has overestimated revenue growth, with harsh consequences for staff and research. What will be the consequences for the organisation if, by 2006-07, you have committed to another round of funding new initiatives, but these revenue targets are not met?

#### **Answer:**

CSIRO has provided the following response.

#### *Budget targets – Revenue Growth Estimation*

An overestimate of revenue growth has not contributed to harsh consequences for staff and research. CSIRO planning processes do not commit resources for expenditure unless there is a high degree of certainty in attaining the revenue. For example we will not commit to the new investments included in the expenses identified in the Target financial scenario in the Strategic Plan unless there is a high degree of certainty in achieving the external revenue and there is a decision on the level of government revenue. The recent impacts on staff have been largely due to focusing the Organisation's research activities through the introduction of the Flagship and Emerging Science initiative in line with Board-approved strategic focusing of the organisation's R&D programs, together with the impact of the Enterprise Bargaining Agreement salary increases, agreed with staff in 2002.