

## EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

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

#### **DEST Question No. E585\_04**

Senator Carr asked on 5 November 2003.

#### **Question:**

- a) What is the explanation for the \$2.9 million turnaround in provision for doubtful debts? [Provision of \$2.25 million this year]. Is there any particular project or debtor this relates to?

#### **Answer:**

CSIRO has provided the following response.

#### *Write-down of Assets – Doubtful debts*

A provision is raised for doubtful debts based on a review of all receivables outstanding for more than 90 days at year-end and any other specific debt where the collection of the full amount is considered doubtful. As such provisions will vary from year to year.

As shown on page 119 of the annual report, the total provision for doubtful debts increased from \$0.346m to \$2.591m. This was mainly due to four debts totaling \$2.1m for which provision was made in 2002-03. These debts are:

- Ascentia P/L for \$1.3m – Debt was for R&D work performed by CSIRO Divisions.
- CMC Power Technologies P/L for \$295k – The company is attempting to raise additional capital and the prospects of recovering the debt are still considered doubtful.
- Boron Molecular P/L for \$277k – The debt is being pursued for recovery.
- Balayium Petroleum Company for \$175k – The debt is being pursued for recovery.