

## EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

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

#### **DEST Question No. E596\_04**

Senator Carr asked on 5 November 2003.

#### **Question:**

Is there any actual or perceived conflict of interests in these arrangements?

#### **Answer:**

CSIRO has provided the following response.

#### *Forestry – Dr Cotterill*

CSIRO believes that there is no actual conflict of interest. CSIRO acknowledges that there may be a perceived conflict of interest. The following points are relevant in this regard:

- Dr Cotterill has advised CSIRO that his company Gene Technics has not transacted any business since Dr Cotterill commenced his tenure at CSIRO.
- Gene Technics held a beneficial interest in Worrolong Eucalypts Pty Ltd, but this was divested on 21 November 2003. In the period between his appointment to CSIRO on 18 February 2002 and 21 November 2003, Gene Technics did not collect any income from Worrolong Eucalypts Pty Ltd.
- CSIRO believes that there is no overlap of CSIRO research with the operations of Worrolong Eucalypts Pty Ltd. Worrolong Eucalypts Pty Ltd is a company that sells genetically improved *Eucalyptus globulus* seed. CSIRO does not and has not sold genetically improved *Eucalyptus globulus* seed.
- Dr Cotterill has delegated any decisions associated with any potential future involvement in research or commercial activity associated with development of genetically improved *Eucalyptus globulus* to an Assistant Chief of the Division.