

## EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

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

#### **DEST Question No. E597\_04**

Senator Carr asked on 5 November 2003.

#### **Question:**

*Refers to Question E207\_04*

- a) Subsequent to her appointment to CSIRO on 1 July 2002, did Dr Sharmane MacRae make any contact with AQIS or its agents, to discuss the fate of eucalypt material, seedlings, propagules or germ plasm, which had been imported into Australia by one of the state forestry services?
- b) Was she seeking its release, and if so, to whom?
- c) On whose behalf was Dr MacRae acting?
- d) Did Dr MacRae play any role, direct or indirect, in the importation of eucalypt genetic material by a state forestry service?
- e) If so, who was the exporter of this material?

#### **Answer:**

CSIRO has provided the following response.

#### *Forestry – Dr MacRae*

- a) Dr MacRae did make contact with AQIS, but the material in question was not being imported by one of the state forestry services. See Answer d) below.
- b) Dr MacRae requested that AQIS retain the eucalypt material in quarantine during a period of discussion with the material owner, Stora Enso, as to whether they wished to transfer the material to CSIRO for the purposes of a joint research project. Stora Enso then advised CSIRO that they did not wish to proceed with the research, and asked that the material be destroyed. Dr MacRae then issued instructions to AQIS that the material be destroyed.
- c) As of 1 July 2002, Dr MacRae was acting on behalf of CSIRO.
- d) No. Dr MacRae imported the eucalypt material referred to above in a private capacity to complete a research project with Stora Enso as part of her exit arrangements with that company. Dr MacRae arranged this import while she was in Sweden and since she did not have a contact address in Australia, used State Forests of New South Wales (her new employer) as her contact address on the import certificate. State Forests of NSW was not a party to the import of the material.
- e) Stora Enso, Sweden.