

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: CSIRO
Output Group: - CSIRO

DEST Question No. E602_04

Senator Carr asked on 5 November 2003.

Question:

What is the total amount that CSIRO has invested in FSA; and what has been its total return?

Answer:

CSIRO has provided the following response.

Joint Ventures – Food Science Australia

CSIRO provides appropriation funding to Food Science Australia through the same mechanisms and on the same terms that it provides funds to all of its Divisions. CSIRO has contributed \$87.2 million in appropriation funding towards research conducted by Food Science Australia since the joint venture commenced on 1 December, 1997.

CSIRO's intent in establishing Food Science Australia, as expressed in the joint venture agreement, was to cooperate with the Victorian Government and other organisations to create a world-class research and development organisation that would be a long-term contributor to the international standing and competitiveness of the Australian food industry, through constant technological innovation.

The return to Australia on CSIRO's investment has been considerable. Food Science Australia has become an important partner to the food processing industry. This is evidenced by its success in capturing a large majority of the industry's external spend on food related research and development; its contribution to many innovations in the industry; and its leadership role in the vital public good area of food safety research. Food Science Australia is a key participant in two of CSIRO's Flagship programs, two National Food Industry Strategy Centres of Excellence and numerous cooperative ventures with Research and Development Corporations, CRCs and universities. CSIRO did not establish the joint venture with the objective of creating a profit-making entity.