

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: CSIRO
Output Group: - CSIRO

DEST Question No. E626_04

Senator Carr asked on 5 November 2003.

Question:

- a) In constructing the “Target financial scenario” on page 101 of the new strategic plan, you have assumed a continuation of current Appropriation arrangements.
- b) What contingency plans do you have if the current review into public research agency funding recommends a different model?
- c) In this financial planning process, what analysis have you conducted addressing the impact of a 10%, 20% or even a 50% reduction in baseline appropriation, with an equivalent demand to compete for the balance of the funding?
- d) What would be the impact on CSIRO’s forward planning if it lost between 10-20% of its block appropriation to competitive funding?

Answer:

CSIRO has provided the following response.

Review of research funding

- a) This is correct.
- b) CSIRO has not undertaken any formal contingency planning around this hypothetical situation. It should be pointed out that there is no specific “review into public sector research agency funding”, although various of the current reviews (e.g. Research Collaboration, Research Infrastructure) consider funding models.
- c) CSIRO has not undertaken any formal analysis of this kind. However, as the CSIRO Strategic Plan is based on an assumption of continued Baseline funding, if a significant cut to Baseline funding did eventuate, and there were no other funding mechanisms, this would generate a review of the planned strategic outcomes including research priorities and resource allocations.
- d) If CSIRO “lost” block appropriation then it is assumed that CSIRO would be able to bid, competitively, for new funding. The concomitant impact on CSIRO and its forward planning would depend on how the organisation could respond to any new system of competitive funding allocation, over what time scales such a system was introduced, and how successful the organisation was in securing funds from such a process.