

## EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

### SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2005-2006 SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES HEARING

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

#### **DEST Question No. E750\_06 – Final**

Senator Wong provided in writing.

#### **Question:**

The 12 September 2005 internal document, titled, "Advice to Executive Management Council" states that CSIRO will shift away from basic agriculture research. See extract below:

"Plant based agriculture

*Reduce over time research supporting small incremental changes in agriculture. ... While overall resource levels in the area are envisaged to remain constant, investment in plant and forest based agriculture is likely to decrease as the outputs manifest themselves in a number of other areas (for example , further processing, manufacturing, health and the environment).*

Will scientists be made redundant? How many? What areas?

#### **Answer:**

*CSIRO has provided the following response.*

*Plant and forest based agriculture research*

CSIRO is refocusing its research effort in plant and forest based agriculture. It is currently engaged in an ongoing Science Investment Process to maximise the impact and relevance of its research outcomes. Therefore no decisions have been reached in relation to the final investment in this area of research.

Movement from one research area to another regularly occurs in CSIRO as part of normal business processes. In these circumstances CSIRO's first aim is re-deployment and/or re-training. The organisation has an established process around this and this is coordinated by the Corporate Group.

For the reasons provided above, CSIRO is not able to make reliable projections of the number and type of staff that might be impacted by future resource shifts.