

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: CSIRO

Output Group: CSIRO

DEST Question No. E751_06 – Final

Senator Wong provided in writing.

Question:

Is CSIRO concerned by the National Farmers Federation's comments in the Canberra Times on 1 November (The Canberra Times)?

"But National Farmers Federation chief executive Ben Fargher said the new agricultural research priorities outlined in the report were "too blue sky" and would not help Australian farmers gain a competitive edge in restricted international markets."

Has CSIRO consulted the NFF and other key stakeholders on these proposals?

Answer:

CSIRO has provided the following response.

Consultation – agriculture research

CSIRO believes that it is a consultative organisation and that gauging the views of stakeholders via Sector Advisory Councils, Flagship Advisory Committees, seminars and workshops (i.e. CSIRO's recent 'Horizon's on Livestock Sciences' Conference) is important.

CSIRO has consulted with a wide range of stakeholders, including sector and advisory groups (e.g. the Health Sector Advisory Council and the Food Futures Flagship Advisory Committee) comprising of external members and the CSIRO Board, on its future broad directions in agricultural research and will continue to do so.

CSIRO scientists have regular interactions at the 'farm level' with members of the National Farmers Federation (NFF); however, CSIRO has not yet formally consulted the NFF about the agricultural research priorities outlined in the Science Investment Process.