

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: CSIRO

Output Group: CSIRO

DEST Question No. E753_06 – Final

Senator Wong provided in writing.

Question:

The same leaked document says the following on renewable energy research:

“ET concluded the following:

- *We should maintain our investment in research into upstream exploration, extraction and processing of coal, gas (methane economy) and oil*
- *We should maintain our investment in electricity generation, distribution, and end use efficiency, subject to performance, and our commitment to longer-term transformational science through the Energy Transformed Flagship contributing to the development of the hydrogen economy.*
- *We should reduce our effort in intelligent transport systems*
- *We should reduce our effort in renewable energy restricting our activities to those in which we have competitive advantage and can have significant impact.”*

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

Answer:

CSIRO has provided the following response.

Renewable energy research

CSIRO is refocusing its research effort in renewable energy. 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.