

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2006-2007 SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: CSIRO

Output Group: CSIRO

DEST Question No. E731_07

Senator Wong asked on 1 November 2006, EWRE Hansard page 16.

Question:

Senator WONG—Your document setting out the SIP broad direction.

Mr Whelan—Yes, we have a broad direction setting document. So you would like a copy of the update?

Senator WONG—Yes, please.

Mr Whelan—I will take that on notice.

Answer:

CSIRO has provided the following response.

Science Investment Process –Updated broad direction setting document

CSIRO's 2005 Broad Direction Setting (See DEST Question 1112_06) continues to provide primary direction for the 3-5 year horizon. In 2006 there have been some minor changes in these directions.

In particular the need for:

- Faster progress in transformational biology;
- Better integration in advanced materials;
- A generic technology platform to service sensor and sensor networks applications; and
- Strengthening of CSIRO's capability in computational science.

Other changes include:

- Greater detail as to how flagships might grow following the outstanding review by an independent panel in mid-2006;
- Confirmation of CSIRO's direction in energy, water and climate in line with national priorities;
- A changed emphasis from 'preventative health' to 'promoting' health' and addressing obesity within the Preventative Health Flagship; and
- A commitment to increasing our understanding of how R&D might contribute to the growth of service industries in Australia.