

Submission

to

Senate Employment, Workplace Relations and Education
References Committee

Inquiry into the Office of the Chief Scientist

Submission no: 21

Received: 11/06/2004

Submitter: Mr Hutch Ranck
Managing Director

Organisation: DuPont Australia and New Zealand

Address: 168 Walker Street
NORTH SYDNEY NSW 2060

Phone: 02 9923 6111

Fax: 02 9923 6011

Email: Hutch.Ranck@AUS.DuPont.com



The miracles of science™

Du Pont (Australia) Ltd
ACN 000 716 469
168 Walker Street, North Sydney
NSW 2060 Australia
PO Box 930, North Sydney
NSW 2059 Australia
Telephone: 02 9923 6111
Facsimile 02 9923 6011

June 11, 2004

The Secretary,
Senate Employment, Workplace Relations
And Education References Committee
Suite SG.52, Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Sir/Madam,

With Reference to Potential Conflicts of Interest to the position of the Chief Scientist in a part-time capacity, I wish to submit my comments as follows.

I have been a member of the Prime Minister's Science, Engineering & Innovation Committee (PMSEIC) for three years, commencing March 2001. As a member of the PMSEIC, I have been involved in numerous meetings with Dr Robin Batterham, including Working Group sessions, one on one meetings, full PMSEIC meetings with Cabinet and PMSEIC Standing Committee meetings. I would estimate, in the three year period, that I have attended 20 meetings with Dr Batterham.

During all of these meetings, Dr Batterham represented the Office of the Chief Scientist and represented the interests of Australia.

At no time, did I observe or hear any comment that would have lead me to believe, that Dr Batterham was also employed by Rio Tinto.

I have also observed on several occasions Dr Batterham's focus on ensuring that all proceedings, notes, discussion items, topics and content were consistently dealt with in a professional, ethical and balanced way. At no time did I observe any behaviour or comment that could be construed as reflecting a conflict of interest.

Yours sincerely,

J H Ranck
Managing Director
DuPont Australia & New Zealand

Telephone 02 9923 6273
Facsimile 02 9923 6029
Email Hutch.Ranck@AUS.DuPont.com