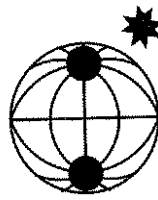
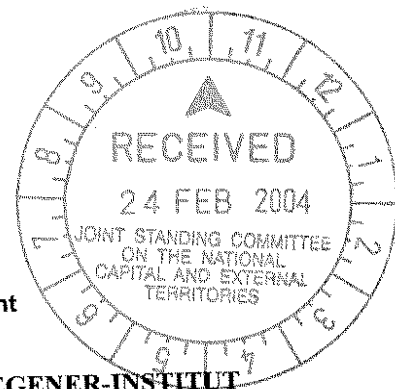


SUBMISSION 21



Prof. Dr. Peter Lemke
Deputy Head
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STIFTUNG ALFRED-WEGENER-INSTITUT
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Mr Quinton Clements
Inquiry Secretary
National Capital and External Territories
Committee
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Bremerhaven, 20 February, 2004

Dear Mr Clements,

Submission to the Inquiry into the Adequacy of Funding for Australia's Antarctic Programme

I have only recently learned of your Inquiry and, although this submission is made after your deadline, I hope that it can still be considered by your Committee.

In December 2002 I participated as an invited member of a committee of mostly international scientists established to evaluate the Australian Antarctic Programme on behalf of the Antarctic Science Advisory Committee (ASAC). I, and other members of the evaluation Steering Committee, were extremely impressed by the strength and breadth of Australia's research programme in Antarctica and the Southern Ocean. We found that Australia made a remarkable contribution to world science and, at a practical level, to an understanding of immediate issues, such as Australia's weather pattern and the productivity of Australia's agricultural and fishing industries. Major issues of worldwide importance such as climate change and the sustainability of ecosystems are impacted strongly by Australia's Antarctic research, and uniquely valuable information is coming from the Antarctic programme.

I am also the present Chairman of the Joint Scientific Committee for the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP). WCRP is sponsored jointly by the International Council for Science (ICSU), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO. The objectives of WCRP are to develop the fundamental scientific understanding of the physical climate system and climate processes needed to determine to what extent climate can be predicted and the extent of human influence on climate. Work towards these objectives is undertaken both within national programmes and through international collaboration. Through its Antarctic and Southern Ocean programme, Australia makes significant and very valuable contributions to the WCRP projects Climate Variability (CLIVAR) and Climate and Cryosphere (CliC). Australian

scientists involved in the Antarctic programme play leading roles in the development and implementation of these international programmes.

WCRP and other international programmes are developing new initiatives (for example the International Polar Year 2007-08) to advance understanding of climate change and variability, which is of the greatest economic significance. In the international climate research community we look forward to a continuing and enhanced contribution from Australia to this research.

Yours sincerely,

Prof. Peter Lemke,
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