MC<sup>N</sup>

Melbourne Centre for Nanofabrication

24 January 2014

To: Committee Secretary
Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA  ACT  2600
By Email: pwc@aph.gov.au

Dear Committee Members,

**Re:          CSIRO Clayton Property Strategy**

I am writing to confirm that I am aware and supportive of CSIRO's Clayton Property Strategy.

The strategy proposes to achieve consolidation of CSIRO engineering and environmental science capabilities in South-East Melbourne through the relocation of staff and research activities to Clayton from the current site in Highett.  It also proposes the establishment of new buildings on the Clayton site to accommodate a Science Education facility and the Factories of the Future Innovation Centre (FoFi).

The organisation of research and development capabilities into major precincts is an essential factor for Australia's continued global competitiveness in scientific research and its translation to Australian industry. The Clayton precinct is already one of the world's leading R&D centres, and it will be further strengthened through this project.

Our centre, the Melbourne Centre for Nanofabrication (MCN) is Australia's largest nanotechnology fabrication facility and our mission is to facilitate the integration of nanotechnology techniques into the R&D activities that support Australia's innovation and manufacturing economies.

That means that we operate under the same open-access value proposition for industry that is being proposed for the FoFi.  I believe the Committee members can have significant confidence in the FoFi project based on our experience, as a comparable facility, which has seen strong industry adoption over the last two years.

Additonally, I believe the creation of additional open-access technology facilities within the Clayton precinct will increase the overall awareness amongst industry of the other supporting capabilities (such as MCN) in this location.

With kind regards,

Dr Dwayne Kirk    *BAppSci, ADMgmt, PhD, GAICD*
Managing Director