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17 June 2013

Senator Mark Bishop  
Chair  
Senate Economics Legislation Committee  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator

On reviewing the Proof Hansard of the testimony that CSIRO provided at the Senate Estimates hearing on Monday, 3 June 2013, I have determined that there a number of pieces of information provided to the Committee which was out of context and which I would like to correct. These corrections are provided in addition to the information sent to you by our Deputy Chief Executive Operations, Mr Mike Whelan, on 5 June 2013.

In a discussion with Senator Colbeck regarding the attempts made to contact the Shadow Minister to inform her about my reappointment, page 15 of the Proof Hansard contains the following text:

**Senator COLBECK:** When was the attempt to make the phone call?

**Dr Clark:** The chair had been in contact with the shadow minister's office and then attempted to have a direct conversation with the shadow minister, so there were several levels of contact.

This statement requires correction. A CSIRO Officer had been in contact with the Shadow Minister's office, not the CSIRO Chairman. The Chairman did not contact any staff within the Shadow Minister's Office but rather attempted to make direct contact with the Shadow Minister.

On page 20 of the Proof Hansard, the text states that CSIRO's "costs are around 3½ times our staff costs" (relevant extract follows).

**Dr Clark:** In terms of our external revenue, we are budgeting for FY 2013-14 at \$491 million, which compares with the \$482 million we are currently expecting for this year. But in terms of our current investment and consulting revenue, we are expecting that to hold quite steady. As you are aware of course, our costs are around 3½ times our staff costs. In some cases our other costs are a little bit higher. So even holding steady in this environment, which is I think a very good endorsement by our external partners, does mean that we need to make some adjustment, which we will be doing.

This statement is incorrect. CSIRO's underlying salary costs are increasing by approximately three and a half percent per annum. Other costs including depreciation, are increasing at a higher rate than this.

On page 27 of the Proof Hansard, the testimony from our Chief Finance Officer, Hazel Bennett state that the e-recruitment project would be nine month project (relevant Hansard extract below).

**Ms Bennett:** I will go project by project. The e-recruitment one—and I will correct myself on the record if I am wrong—is a nine month one. With the one to significantly look at how we support the research model, we are still at the early concept design stage. We believe to the full extent that will take probably two years, but we are looking to do it through a milestone process whereby we can make certain improvements and roll them out and then move out.

This project will in fact take thirteen months to complete, not the nine months indicated by Ms Bennett.

Lastly, on page 29 of the proof Hansard there is a discussion with Senator Joyce regarding CSIRO's presence in Armidale (extract below).

**Dr Clark:** No, I am not leaving it up in the air. I simply want to provide you with the most accurate information on the field stations and what we are providing into that. Also, as I said, I was recently in Armidale to have discussions with the vice-chancellor and vice-chancellor of research, the head of research, of the university, in terms of what the needs are going to be around our field stations. My understanding is that there is going to be greater need for our field stations, so I would prefer all of that in detail to you.

During my recent visit to Armidale, I met with the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research) on this topic, but not the University Vice-Chancellor.

Should there be any concerns expressed by your colleagues in relation to the evidence that was provided by CSIRO to the Committee, please do not hesitate to let me know so that I may follow up the issues.

Once again, I'd like to apologise for any inconvenience that this situation may have caused to the Committee.

Yours sincerely,

Megan Clark