

**Opening Statement by Dr Megan Clark  
Chief Executive, CSIRO**

**Senate Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing, 21 October 2009**

Thank you.

Last week CSIRO held its annual Awards Ceremony in which we celebrate outstanding contributions of our staff. The ceremony gave me pause to reflect on some of the amazing people that work in your national research organisation and the difference they are making on the national and global scale.

Since the last Estimates Hearing a tenth National Research Flagship has commenced. This Flagship is focused on reducing the carbon footprint of Australia's land use whilst achieving the productivity gains needed for prosperous and sustainable agricultural and forest industries.

We continue to deliver our science for the benefit of society by helping the community understand and make sense of complex issues such as energy and health through products such as the energy and kids well-being books.

We have also started working with Australia's remote communities to increase understanding of how current and future exploration and mining technologies may affect the land.

As the national research agency our approach to science is changing; we are facing up to the big challenges facing humanity. We are working collaboratively with the worlds best to provide the scientific framework to inform the choices society needs to make in a world where carbon, water and biodiversity will have value. An example of this is the work that we have done on the availability of water in the Murray-Darling and in Northern Australia.

I look forward to keeping you informed of our progress.

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By: DR MEGAN CLARK, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, CSIRO

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