



Senator Chris Evans

Leader of the Government in the Senate
Minister for Tertiary Education, Skills, Science and Research

Senator Lee Rhiannon
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Dear Senator Rhiannon

Thank you for your letter of 6 September to Mr Mike Whelan, CSIRO Deputy Chief Executive, Operations regarding a number of matters that were discussed during the Budget Estimates hearing of the Economic Legislation Committee on 28 May 2012.

A number of the matters you raise were taken as Questions on Notice (QoNs) during the hearing, the answers to which have been tabled. I would refer you in particular to answers to BI-14 to BI-17 inclusive.

With regard to CSIRO's membership of the Australian Forest Products Association (AFPA), this was reviewed in June this year as part of CSIRO's process of annual renewal of the membership. Taking into account a number of factors including access to conferences, opportunity for member engagement, value or benefit to the relevant areas of science, access to industry knowledge and business opportunities a decision was taken by CSIRO to not continue membership into 2012-13.

The broader review of CSIRO's membership policy is ongoing and should be completed by the end of the year. This review does not focus on particular memberships or classes of memberships but rather on CSIRO's internal processes for the approval of new, or, renewal proposals for various classes of memberships. Once this review is complete CSIRO will make any necessary changes to internal policies and procedures and communicate those across the Organisation.

I trust the information provided is helpful.

Yours sincerely

CHRIS EVANS