

**the Senate**  
**Select Committee into the Scrutiny of Government Budget Measures**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE**  
Canberra Public Hearing  
27 April 2016

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**AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:** Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation  
CSIRO

**TOPIC:** Oceans and Atmosphere Staff Locations

**REFERENCE:** Question Taken on Notice (Hansard, 27 April 2016, page 2)

**QUESTION 1:**

**CHAIR:** Maybe you should wait and do it again when the cameras are set up! Thank you. Can I just ask a series of short questions and, if you cannot tell me the answer now, just take it on notice or provide it to us at some stage during the proceedings. Just to be clear, how many staff are currently at Oceans and Atmosphere in CSIRO at the moment?

**Dr Marshall:** I believe the total number is about 440, but Mr Roy will give you an exact number. That is approximately the number.

**Mr Roy:** We can get the number for that.

**CHAIR:** Could you give us a breakdown as to how many are at each location?

**Mr Roy:** Breakdown by location?

**CHAIR:** By location.

**Mr Roy:** I would have to take the location one on notice. I can give you an indication of where they are by location.

**ANSWER**

The breakdown of Oceans and Atmosphere staff by location at 1 May 2016 is as follows:

Site	FTE	Headcount
Aspendale	81.97	86
Black Mountain	3.92	6
Cairns	1	1
Darwin	1	1
Dutton Park	43.66	49
Floreat	29.78	33
Hobart	191.92	211
Kensington	3	3
Lucas Heights	3.22	4
North Ryde	1	1
St. Lucia	9	10
Yarralumla	20.68	22
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>390.15</b>	<b>427</b>

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**TOPIC:** Staff Levels

**REFERENCE:** Question Taken on Notice (Hansard, 27 April 2016, page 3)

**QUESTION 2:**

**CHAIR:** So you cannot say at this stage how many will be from each location, such as Hobart, Aspendale or other places?

**Dr Marshall:** No. With the process being driven by a number of factors—the deep dives, the science health report and sci com—we are trying to focus on the strategic issues and the science first and then after we have completed that process we will look at sites to see how they would be impacted.

**CHAIR:** Are you doing a capability assessment first and then—

**Mr Roy:** That is correct. To go to one of your previous questions—and apologies if I miss one out; you will pick me up if I do—we have 99 people at Aspendale and 298 people in Hobart, but that would also pick up people outside of Oceans and Atmosphere, such as the scientists in Data61, by way of example. Were there any other sites that you asked about?

**Senator RICE:** Black Mountain or Yarralumla.

**Mr Roy:** Yarralumla has 109. These include casuals as well.

**CHAIR:** Just to be clear, you cannot say how many will remain in those—

**Mr Roy:** Sorry, those 109 at Yarralumla include our information technology group as well. The subset of O and A there would be in the order of 15 to 20. We are happy to give you on notice a full explanation of what we have. In terms of the numbers, Senator Rice, we did speak previously about a reduction of 100 across the whole business unit of around 440. Dr Marshall's message of yesterday indicated that because of what we have done that would reduce itself to 70. We believe that across programs 1 and 2 that is approximately 40, and the rest would come across the other three programs.

**Mr Roy:** Sorry, those 109 at Yarralumla include our information technology group as well. The subset of O and A there would be in the order of 15 to 20. We are happy to give you on notice a full explanation of what we have. In terms of the numbers, Senator Rice, we did speak previously about a reduction of 100 across the whole business unit of around 440. Dr Marshall's message of yesterday indicated that because of what we have done that would reduce itself to 70. We believe that across programs 1 and 2 that is approximately 40, and the rest would come across the other three programs.

**ANSWER**

Staff numbers for Oceans and Atmosphere and other Business Units at Aspendale, Black Mountain, Hobart and Yarralumla at 1 May 2016 are as follows:

Site	Business Unit	Full Time Equivalents	Headcount
Aspendale	Oceans & Atmosphere	81.97	86
	Other	10.78	12
	<b>Total</b>	<b>92.75</b>	<b>98</b>
Black Mountain	Oceans & Atmosphere	3.92	6
	Other	715.75	775

	<b>Total</b>	<b>719.67</b>	<b>781</b>
<b>Hobart</b>	Oceans & Atmosphere	191.92	211
	Other	77.67	85
	<b>Total</b>	<b>269.59</b>	<b>296</b>
<b>Yarralumla</b>	Oceans & Atmosphere	20.68	22
	Other	77.78	78
	<b>Total</b>	<b>98.46</b>	<b>100</b>

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**AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:** Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation  
CSIRO

**TOPIC:** Research Areas of New Centre

**REFERENCE:** Question Taken on Notice (Hansard, 27 April 2016, page 26)

**QUESTION 3:**

**CHAIR:** Aren't you essentially selecting second class citizens within CSIRO climate science by putting some into a long term commitment and having others subject to the vagaries of what we have seen around this restructuring process already? Are you going to put the best and most capable 40 in that division? How are you going to select between the two?

**Dr Wonhas:** I would certainly not say that we are selecting based on capability. We are selecting on research area. I think that is what has been very clear in the announcement—it is around climate modelling and projection. CSIRO has been operating very successfully for a very long time by making investment decisions, on behalf of the nation, in its science capability. I reject the term of creating second class citizens. We wanted to create a very clear commitment towards climate science, and that was, frankly, one of the best ways we have seen to do that. Maybe there are better ways, but I think that is certainly where we have landed to date.

**CHAIR:** I am saying that is the potential perception if this is not managed properly.

**Senator SINGH:** You said that you choose not necessarily based on capability but on research area. Surely the two go together and it is the capability within those research areas that you would focus on in choosing scientists?

**Dr Wonhas:** That is correct, if I understand the correction question correctly. Within the areas that we have identified, we will make every effort to retain best possible capability that we believe the nation needs in the future.

**Senator SINGH:** Have you provided the committee today with a list of those research areas?

**Dr Wonhas:** At the moment what is probably in the public domain are the statements that I have just repeated around climate modelling, around projection capabilities and around the NESP hub. I think it is now part of the consultation process and of the work with our staff to define this in more detail.

**Senator SINGH:** Could you take on notice to provide the committee with a complete list of the research areas that this new centre will be focusing on.

**Dr Wonhas:** Yes.

**Mr Roy:** Just to clarify that, we are very happy to support where we can. Some of those staff have not yet been briefed, so we would not want to put them in a position where they are reading whether their role is there or not on a Senate website. We need to think of them, of their families and of their friends. We are very happy to do it, but only once we have briefed the staff.

**Senator SINGH:** I understand and I appreciate you taking that concern, because I am sure that finding out things in the media, as a lot of them have so far, is not very comforting either.

**ANSWER**

The specific details of research areas to be included in the new centre will be determined through a consultation process which is ongoing, so no list is available at this time.