

## RE: Funding and Resourcing for the CSIRO

I continue to be baffled by the disregard the Australian government has shown towards scientific research in Australia and in particular the CSIRO.

I am an early career researcher (finished my PhD in 2017) who was co-supervised at CSIRO, and briefly was employed there following graduation. The work being done there is some of the highest quality research I have witnessed. And they continue to do so with increasingly fewer staff and resources.

This is despite the numerous studies showing that the return on investment from research spending is high<sup>1,2</sup>.

At a time when there is global insecurity, I believe it is more important than ever to fund the very thing that will provide Australia with long term competitive advantage, and to build industries and capabilities that allow us to be more independent from global influence. This is only possible with long term, secure research funding.

It is also worth keeping in mind that many commercialised and highly profitable inventions did not start that way. They grew out of fundamental research. These early stage discoveries can only happen if there is sufficient funding for exploratory work – not just for upscaling of already established ideas.

It takes time for research to develop. From grant writing, to initial experimentation through to resolution may take several years. Continuous budget cuts, restructures and loss of staff (and therefore knowledge and expertise) interrupts this process and reduced the effectiveness of the organisation.

CSIRO is an organisation to be proud of, and it seems as though the federal government doesn't realise this.

1. <https://scienceandtechnologyaustralia.org.au/three-fold-return-on-investment-shows-value-of-research/>
2. <https://www.csiro.au/en/work-with-us/services/consultancy-strategic-advice-services/csiro-futures/innovation-business-growth/quantifying-australias-returns-to-innovation>