

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Economics, Committee \(SEN\)](#)
Subject: Submission to Senate Inquiry: Funding and Resourcing for the CSIRO
Date: Monday, 19 January 2026 1:25:27 PM

Dear Senate Standing Committee on Economics,

I am writing to make a submission to the inquiry into the funding and resourcing of the CSIRO.

CSIRO plays a unique and irreplaceable role in providing independent, long-term scientific research in the public interest. Its work underpins Australia's ability to protect clean air and water, manage land and ecosystems sustainably, and respond to the accelerating impacts of climate change. This capability is especially critical in a country as environmentally vulnerable as Australia.

I am concerned that the proposed job cuts, particularly within the Environment Research Unit, risk permanently eroding sovereign scientific expertise that has taken decades to build. Once this capability is lost, it cannot be readily replaced by universities or private industry, which are not structured or funded to deliver the same long-term, public-good research mandate.

Strong and stable public investment in CSIRO's environmental science programs should be a national priority. Doing so is essential not only for environmental protection, but also for the resilience of Australia's economy, regional communities, and future generations.

Thank you for considering this submission.

Kind regards,
Liam Norton