

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation and Science Portfolio
2017 - 2018 Budget Estimates
31 May – 1 June 2017

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: CSIRO

TOPIC: Locations

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Carr

QUESTION No.: BI-111

1. How many of the CSIRO's current functions and agencies are based outside of Canberra?
2. Has the CSIRO been asked to provide a brief on whether there are any functions or agencies that could be moved to regional electorates?
3. In regards to reports that agencies will be required to complete a "template" for business cases for decentralisation and that relevant Ministers will be required to report back to Cabinet with business cases by December:
 - a. What functions in CSIRO fit the "template" for decentralisation?
 - b. Has the template been distributed yet? Have you seen it?
 - c. Does it factor in the cost of losing local expertise?
 - d. If any functions were to be moved, would this constitute a change in employment that would trigger industrial negotiations with the workforce?
 - e. Has the CSIRO engaged its Workforce Change Committee?

ANSWER

1. 52 of CSIRO's 59 sites are located outside of Canberra (including Tidbinbilla as a Canberra site). All of CSIRO's 12 science business units as well as support services have staff outside of Canberra.
2. & 3. Through the Department, CSIRO is participating in the government's decentralisation information collection process in relation to its current functions. This process has not included consideration of any potential movements of functions.