

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry Portfolio
Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing 2014-15
23 October 2014

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: Commonwealth Scientific & Industrial Research Organisation

TOPIC: Australian Animal Health Laboratory

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 23 October 2014, page 35)

QUESTION No.: SI-19

Senator KIM CARR: We were discussing the restructuring arrangements to deal with the budget cuts. Dr Clark, could you give me some advice as to what is happening at the Australian Animal Health Laboratory in Geelong?

Dr Clark: In terms of the animal health laboratories, the research part of that will be part of our Biodiversity Flagship and the management of the facility will be part of the national facilities. In regard to the leader, Kurt Zuelke will remain the leader of the facility, reporting through to Dave Williams on the national facilities, and also will be the head of the Biosecurity Flagship.

Senator KIM CARR: What is the employment situation within the laboratories?

Dr Clark: In terms of the laboratories, are you specifically asking around—

Senator KIM CARR: Have there been any changes in employment?

Dr Clark: We have around 250 people at AAHL. In terms of the changes to employment, we have had three reductions from the biosecurity area in Canberra. We identified eight in Geelong but we have now established funding for one of those and we have had reductions of two from the facilities. We have had no reductions in the area that relates to emerging infectious diseases.

Senator KIM CARR: So are there eight positions or seven positions to go?

Dr Clark: It is now seven.

Senator KIM CARR: What areas will those seven be drawn from?

Dr Clark: I can provide that detail on notice, Senator

ANSWER

Nine CSIRO staff at AAHL have been advised of their redundancy. Seven staff are from the Emerging Infectious Disease area and two staff from the Diagnosis, Surveillance and Response team with only one staff member working in the area of zoonotic disease.

Two of the redundancies occurred in October 2014, one in September 2014, five will exit in November 2014, and the remaining staff member will exit in January 2015.