

## Opening Statement – Additional Estimates 2016

As we come to the end of significant transition period, which has allowed us to put in place the best foundations to deliver on our Strategy 2020, I continue to be humbled and inspired by the amazing people of CSIRO.

Together, we are committed to helping Australia (and the world) address the challenges of today and tomorrow. We want a great future for this country and my team and I believe that Strategy 2020 will help contribute to this future, by focusing our research efforts on areas of increasing need, including cybersecurity, agriculture, climate mitigation, data research, health, biosecurity and much more.

I have acknowledged on many occasions that the transition period has been difficult for staff. I commissioned EY to carry out an independent review of our Science Prioritisation process, which we made publicly available on 9 September.

I have acknowledged to staff that aspects of the findings are uncomfortable to read, but as a learning organisation we – the Board & Executive - accept the recommendations, and commit to improving our processes.

Whilst parts of the Science Prioritisation and Implementation processes require improvement, the Board and the Executive firmly believe the reprioritisation decisions have put CSIRO on a more sustainable financial footing to ensure CSIRO can continue to deliver great science and solutions for the nation. This includes enabling new investment in Science such as our Future Science Platforms, and Mitigation & Adaptation research including seasonal and decadal modelling.

I am proud of what Team CSIRO and Strategy 2020 have delivered so far such as ...

- New investment of \$17m in Future Science Platforms to plant seeds for our future
- Creating a health group led by a physician passionately committed to solving national health challenges
- Creating the National Science Accelerator, now joined by over 20 universities and public research agencies
- Increasing global and industry revenue by \$28m

I continue to be both humbled & inspired by our amazing people who, despite many challenging years, continue to focus their efforts on delivering science and solutions that benefit all Australians - for example:

1. We've helped a small SME in regional Australia, Padula Serums Pty Ltd, to produce a safer more effective antivenom to save dogs from deadly snake bites.
2. Following the discovery of distinctive chemicals in the breath of patients infected with malaria, we are now leading trials in Malawi and Bangladesh, for early detection of malaria.
3. To help reinvigorate the metal production industry in Australia, CSIRO and Enirgi Group are collaborating to create an affordable low-emission technology for producing magnesium metal domestically

I am honored to work alongside our great people who make CSIRO a national treasure.