

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE – QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2003-2004 SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: CSIRO
Output Group: - CSIRO

DEST Question No. E970_04

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question:

How can CSIRO continue to bleed such experienced staff and not suffer in the process?

Answer:

CSIRO has provided the following response.

Exploration and Mining

The purpose of the changes in CSIRO Exploration and Mining (CEM) was to strengthen CSIRO's exploration research to better meet the needs of the exploration industry. Moving close to the major stakeholders in Western Australia, and focusing on developing more highly rated and industry relevant research capabilities is intended to achieve this.

As detailed in answers to questions E963_04, E966_04 and E967_04, CEM has had to address the performance issues and research deliverables identified by its major customers and stakeholders.

In order to ensure CEM retained as much of its experience and expertise as possible, four of the Division's eight exploration research groups, including two at North Ryde, were not affected by the restructure. The internal transfer or promotion of key research staff from groups that were closed down has supplemented the experience of the research staff in the affected groups.

The process of aligning staff expertise with the Division's strategic research is an essential component of responsible management.