

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: CSIRO
Output Group: - CSIRO

DEST Question No. E979_04

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question:

You are in the process of transferring botanical reference material from the Atherton herbarium to Canberra.

- a) Can you confirm that other collections are also being moved to Canberra?
- b) For example, have soil profile collections from Townsville and Brisbane also been relocated?
- c) Is it also correct that timber profiles, or samples, have been transferred to Canberra?
- d) From where?
- e) When did these transfers occur, and what was the cost?
- f) What other collections have been removed to Canberra in the past three years?
- g) Is the transfer of any other collections under consideration? If yes, which ones?

Answer:

CSIRO has provided the following response.

Collections

- a) CSIRO Land and Water is in the process of establishing the National Soil Archive in Canberra. To this end, archived materials that were formerly housed at separate CSIRO laboratories around Australia will be relocated to the Bruce E. Butler Laboratory in Canberra.
- b) Yes, see (a) above.
- c) Samples from the wood collection have not been transferred to Canberra. All work on these is done at the CSIRO site in Clayton, Victoria.

No timber collections have been moved from the wood library (the Dadswell Wood Collection, based in Clayton) to Canberra. Last year, CSIRO rehoused its wood collection within Clayton to make it more central to research and more visible to users and researchers. This in turn produced an ongoing saving for the Division of \$80k p/a.

Wood density measurement using tree profiles occurs at both our Clayton and Canberra sites. Samples are collected from a variety of field sites around Australia and around the world. The samples are then retained or disposed of at the measurement site. These are not a 'collection', but are experimental samples.

- d) See (c) above.
- e) Measurements of tree profile samples take place throughout the year. When these samples are collected, the transport costs are less than \$1 per sample.
- f) No collections, other than the soil profiles mentioned above, have been relocated to Canberra in the past three years.
- g) CSIRO Exploration and Mining is currently considering the relocation of the A. B. Edwards – J. McAndrew Collection of minerals from North Ryde, NSW, to either the Australian Museum in Sydney or the Museum of Victoria. This will guarantee greater access for Australian geoscientists, and museum resources will be used to develop a digital catalogue.