

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE – QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2004-2005 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: CSIRO
Output Group: - CSIRO

DEST Question No. E215_05

Senator Carr asked on 2 June 2004, EWRE Hansard page 75.

Question:

Senator Carr: What is the nature of the new capital investment at the Belmont research laboratories in Geelong?

Dr Garrett: I would have to get that information.

Mr Whelan: We have made provision in our capital investment plan for the next five years to do either a half-life refurbishment or a major maintenance program on that facility. I can get the dollar value of that.

Senator Carr: And the nature of the works that are proposed?

Mr Whelan: I think in broad terms it is a half-life refurbishment or a major maintenance program. I can check the details.

Answer:

CSIRO has provided the following response.

Belmont Research Laboratories

- CSIRO has been developing a two-stage Property Capital Infrastructure Plan for 2004-08.
- The main laboratory building (Building 6) at Belmont had been identified as in need of a half-life equivalent refurbishment, estimated at \$5 million, to correct OHS&E issues as well as to improve the functionality of highly serviced laboratories within the building.
- An accommodation planning study has been proceeding to evaluate and optimise the juxtaposition of activities across the Belmont site to alleviate the need to fully refurbish Building 6, as the building form and structure is not considered suitable for contemporary research needs.
- Funds had been approved for interim works up to \$2 million to ensure short term functionality and safe working conditions pending the outcome of the planning study.
- The planning study is almost complete and has identified that the \$5 million can be better directed to some rationalisation, consolidation and modifications to facilities on the site, which will more effectively service current and future research needs.