

## EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

### SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE – QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2005-2006 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

**Outcome:** CSIRO  
**Output Group:** CSIRO

#### DEST Question No. E170\_06

Senator Carr asked on 1 June 2005, EWRE Hansard pages 55 and 56.

#### Question:

**Senator Carr:** ...I am wondering why it was that officers of the CSIRO, particularly in the communications area, chose to refuse a copy of this policy to the Parliamentary Library claiming it was an internal document.

.....

**Senator Carr:** Can you explain to me what these technical issues are that required such secrecy?

**Dr Sandland:** I believe they related to – I will check this out in full for you – a publication having a proper publication number, which this one does not. This was prepared as an internal CSIRO document and therefore does not necessarily automatically satisfy the normal criterion that constitutes a publication.

#### Answer:

CSIRO has provided the following response.

#### *CSIRO Policy on Public Comment*

There is no secrecy in relation to the technical issues referred to by Dr Sandland. The Parliamentary Library requested a publication number for the policy documents supplied by CSIRO. The Library has a 'published or publishable' policy for items in their collection and needed to know if the CSIRO policy could be added to their collection (and have a citation visible to the public) or if they simply hold a copy of the document only making it available to those who specifically ask. However Dr Sandland misinterpreted this to mean that these issues had delayed the sending of these documents to the Parliamentary Library.