**EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING**

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

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

**DEST Question No. E226_06**

Senator Carr provided in writing.

**Question:**

CSIRO: ARPANSA *Quarterly Report*, 1 October – 31 December 2004

Appendix A, A.54 mentions that CSIRO has shut down its Ion Accelerator Facility and is intending to sell the accelerator as a whole or in parts.

Why was the accelerator shut down?

Is this a result of a change in strategic direction?

What research is affected as a result of this decision?

Are there any staff redundancies, transfers to other departments or losses as a result of this action?

**Answer:**

CSIRO has provided the following response.

*Exploration and Mining – Ion Accelerator Facility*

The Accelerator Facility was used to develop and provide an electron beam to two significant, long term technologies – the AUSTRALIS Accelerator Mass Spectrometer (AMS) and a new design Nuclear Microprobe.

The AMS system development was continued to a stage where it was clear applications in the minerals area were limited and other technologies such as laser ablation ICP Mass spectrometry were more effective. Accordingly a strategic decision to discontinue this line of research was taken in 2003.

The accelerator continued to provide an electron beam to the Nuclear Microprobe until 2004 when a decision was taken to form an alliance with the University of Melbourne. The Nuclear Microprobe was transferred to an accelerator in the University's Department of Physics, where it is currently jointly operated by the University and CSIRO.

Three staff were retrenched, one of whom worked two days per week on the Ion Accelerator Facility. There were no transfers.