



THE HON CHRISTOPHER PYNE MP
MINISTER FOR INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND SCIENCE
LEADER OF THE HOUSE
MEMBER FOR STURT

4 MAY 2016

Mr Steve Pierson
spierson@amstat.org

MC16-002495

Dear Mr Pierson

Thank you for your email of 7 March 2016 attaching a letter to the Prime Minister, the Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP and myself from Professor Peter Diggle, President of the Royal Statistical Society and Professor Jessica Utts, President of the American Statistical Association concerning changes at the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO). I am responding as the Minister with portfolio responsibility for science.

While the CSIRO is an agency within my portfolio, they have full responsibility for their operations (including staffing), and for ensuring that its research efforts are aligned to its strategic priorities.

There have been no changes in government funding to the CSIRO. Any suggestion that this was a result of changes to the CSIRO Budget is incorrect.

I have been advised by the CSIRO that they will continue to invest in climate change and mitigation research with a stronger focus on researching strategies to reduce and lessen the impacts of climate change on Australian communities, and will continue to employ climate change scientists. Through their restructure, the CSIRO will also establish a National Climate Science Centre in Hobart, which will focus on climate modelling and projections for Australia, drawing on both national and international research expertise. This is additional to government support provided to climate change and adaption research outside of the CSIRO.

The CSIRO actively reviews its research portfolio and decisions that flow from this process are solely a matter for the CSIRO. They have advised that they will work with other relevant institutions to ensure that critical climate data collection and modelling activities will continue. I also note that they have said there will be no net job losses overall across CSIRO, and that they will be undertaking a consultation process over the next few weeks. These are all decisions of the CSIRO in their capacity as an independent statutory authority.

If you have any further concerns, you are best to raise them directly with the CSIRO, who are an independent authority with full responsibility for these matters.

Yours sincerely


Christopher Pyne MP