

Martin Predavec

From: Alex Wonhas
Sent: 08 June 2016 13:53
To: president@rzsns.w.org.au
Subject: RE: Cuts to environmental science jobs in CSIRO

Dear Dr Predavec,

Thank you for your letter of 5 April 2016 regarding biodiversity research in CSIRO. Dr Larry Marshall has referred your email to me as the Executive Director responsible for our environment, energy and resources work. Apologies that it has taken us so long to reply.

Environmental science, including research on biodiversity assessment and conservation, remains a core area of research for CSIRO.

CSIRO is a mission directed research organisation and is responsible for supporting nine of the Government's science priorities – including environmental change – and the six Industry Growth Centres. It is tasked with delivering science and solutions that solve the biggest challenges facing Australia, across many fields and serving numerous stakeholders. With finite resources, growth in some areas necessitates reductions in other areas. Through our 2020 strategy, we are currently re-focusing our research investments across the organisation and one of the consequences of this is a reduction of biodiversity and environmental science capabilities in some areas. For example, we are working to more strongly focus our quantitative and modelling skills towards applications in systems ecology and scenario planning, particularly around northern development and resource intensification challenges. Environmental genomics will also be a focus of our future research efforts. However, these shifts will still have relevance to biodiversity research.

The number of full-time positions lost is now expected to be less than originally expected, and not all of these will, or were ever going to, be in the area of biodiversity.

We remain committed to delivering solutions for the sustainable development and stewardship of Australia's land, water, ecosystems and communities.

Should you require any further information about our biodiversity research capabilities and strategy, please contact Dr Ian Crosswell, Research Director – Biodiversity, Ecosystem Knowledge and Services or email

Thanks again for providing your thoughts.

Best regards,
Alex

Dr Alex Wonhas

Executive Director Environment, Energy and Resources
CSIRO