Outrage over plans to sack foremost expert on sea level rise

“The news that Dr John Church has been asked to show reason why he should not be shown the CSIRO door has outraged Friends of CSIRO organisation and friends of CSIRO internationally who see the environmental vandalism represented by this action”, said Kathryn Kelly, national coordinator for Friends of CSIRO.

“Thousands of scientists from around 60 countries and organisations such as NASA have protested these cuts. Belgian Professor Jean paul Van Ypersele, a Vice Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has said “Please Australia, reverse this ridiculous decision to sack your best sea level scientists”.

“Dr Church is recognised as the foremost global expert on sea level rise. Why would CSIRO want to get rid of him unless it is to demoralise all those working on public good research in CSIRO?” Ms Kelly continued.

“Public good research, while recognised by the Productivity Commission as giving a return of 10:1 in dollars invested, is being destroyed for ideological reasons by this government. It makes no sense economically, and is certainly not in the national interest”, said Dr Ross Gwyther, a former CSIRO scientist. “The appointment of Dr Larry Marshall and the cuts he is implementing is clearly to make sure CSIRO moves away from research which is publicly funded and in the public interest, but which may have no immediate financial return, to working on short-term, high risk profit seeking ventures,” he said.

“We mustn’t allow this to happen, it would be to Australia’s great detriment. Friends of CSIRO will be campaigning in this election and in selected marginal seats to seek the election of a government which recognises the value of public good research and which is not hell-bent on destroying Australia’s foremost research organisation” said Dr Gwyther.

Friends of CSIRO (ACT) will be there to welcome Mark Butler and Greg Hunt to the Press Club tomorrow morning to let them know people care about CSIRO jobs!

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