Friends of CSIRO welcomes Minister’s action on CSIRO climate science

“Friends of CSIRO welcomes Minister Hunt’s announcement that climate science will be a ‘bedrock function’ of CSIRO,” said Kathryn Kelly, National Convenor for Friends of CSIRO.

“This is a good first step, but CSIRO needs more if it is to survive as a viable research organisation with a global reputation for excellence,” she continued. “The current job cuts process must be stopped and a proper review of CSIRO capacity in all areas must be undertaken. This should be an independent review,” she said.

“There are many areas, such as air quality which are also critical, not only for human health, but also for climate science, which won’t continue if the current job cuts are proceeded with,” Ms Kelly said.

“CSIRO has lost around 1300 jobs since the 2014 budget and over $100m was cut in that budget,” said Ms Kelly.

“These people with their vast knowledge and experience cannot easily be replaced. The job cuts must stop now,” she said.
“From 1994/95 to 2015/16, CSIRO overall staff numbers dropped from 7,380 to 4,970, an incredible loss of around 1 in 3 jobs,” said Dr Ross Gwyther, Queensland Coordinator for Friends of CSIRO. “Morale is at rock bottom and the jobs in areas such as Alice Springs, Armidale and other regional areas must be retained if CSIRO is to start on the track of rebuilding that morale and its overall research capacity,” he said.

“We hope Minister Hunt will take the further steps necessary to rebuild CSIRO,” said Dr Gwyther. “This long term public good research is essential for Australia’s future,” he concluded.

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