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A section of the Community and Public Sector Union



4 April 2016

Hon Christopher Pyne MP
Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science
429 Magill Road
St Morris, SA, 5068

Dear Minister,

On the 4th of February 2016, CSIRO CEO Larry Marshall announced 350 job cuts. Based on subsequent information provided by CSIRO, the total jobs now earmarked to go is actually 450: 100 in Land and Water, 100 in Oceans and Atmosphere, 70 in Data61, 40 in Agriculture, 40 in Manufacturing, 40 in Mineral Resources, 20 in Food and Nutrition and 40 in Research Support.

Since the 5th of February 2016, the CSIRO Staff Association has been in formal dispute with CSIRO on the basis of a lack of consultation and no evidence that staff or stakeholders have had a genuine opportunity to influence the proposal.

Dr Marshall has made inaccurate and inflammatory public comments about scientific research and has failed to engage staff and stakeholders in a professional manner. He has damaged CSIRO's reputation by proposing cuts to public good research in favour of work designed to generate short-term commercial gain.

The proposal has attracted widespread condemnation, nationally and internationally, even more than the outrage over the loss of 1300 jobs over the last two years. Massive petitions have been submitted to Government, public rallies have been held and a Senate committee has exposed gross failures in consultation and decision making.

Staff have lost confidence in the Executive management and governance of CSIRO and morale and trust is at rock bottom.

The CSIRO Staff Association has never formally requested that a Government or Minister intervene to stop a proposal of CSIRO's CEO or Executive, but we hereby do so.

We urge you to direct CSIRO to suspend this proposal until after a Federal Election is held this year. Let the Australian public consider if cuts to CSIRO jobs and the culling of public good research, including on climate change, are in their interest.

Further, we request you immediately instigate a fully independent inquiry into CSIRO's corporate management function, structure and processes. It's been nearly 30 years since a review has been undertaken and this layer of management has lost touch with our staff and with the functions of CSIRO as listed in the *Science and Industry Research Act*.

Yours sincerely



Sam Popovski
Secretary