

From: Wonhas, Alex (Executive, North Ryde)

Sent: Monday, 8 August 2016 4:14 PM

To: O&A All Staff and Affiliates-DG <

Subject: Climate science update for O&A

Dear colleagues,

Following the recent media reports and the Minister's welcome announcement today at the Australian Academy of Sciences, I would like to provide you with additional information regarding the new climate science positions in CSIRO and the CSIRO Climate Science Centre (CSC).

CSIRO will invest \$37 million (on a fully costed basis) over 10 years to employ 15 additional staff to develop a proof of concept system to provide reliable decadal forecasts, a first for Australia. These new positions will be part of the new Climate Science Centre. To achieve our ambitious vision, we also aim to work even more closely than before with our key research partners.

This investment will deliver the key building blocks of a decadal forecast system, including: enhancements to the Australian Community Climate and Earth System Simulator (ACCESS); expansion of climate observing systems; development of a data assimilation system for initialisation of forecasts; and improved understanding of the decadal predictability of Australian climate.

We will work closely with all impacted officers in O&A to maximise re-deployment opportunities in the spirit of the Enterprise Agreement. If you are an impacted officer, your HR manager will contact you shortly. Please don't hesitate to contact your HR or line manager, should you have any questions in the meantime.

Following an extensive consultation process with internal and external stakeholders, we will merge Research Program 1 (RP1: Ocean & Climate Dynamics) and Research Program 2 (RP2: Earth System Assessment) to form the initial core of the CSC, as of 22 August. The CSC will utilise a program structure within O&A and report to me during the establishment phase.

The Centre will bring together the core of CSIRO's capability in climate modelling and projections, observations of the atmosphere and ocean, and delivery of climate information. As mentioned in the Minister's statement, Dr Steve Rintoul has kindly agreed to be the interim CSC Director while we undertake an international recruitment process for this role. In the short time Steve has been involved with the CSC, he has demonstrated strong leadership in the critical early stages of the Centre's development. I look forward to his continued involvement and leadership. Steve will also oversee the appointment of an interim CSC Program Leader to assist him in leading the centre.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge Peter Oke, Richard Matear and Wenju Cai for their leadership of RP1 and RP2, and the broader contribution of scientists in those two programs over the years. I acknowledge that while the recent establishment of the CSC represents a positive first step for the nation's climate research, this has also been a period of significant and difficult change for us and many of our colleagues.

It is my hope and expectation that the CSC will build upon the proud and longstanding scientific leadership of climate research in CSIRO together with key research partners. I firmly believe our work will deepen our understanding of climate change and variability in Australia, which is an essential underpinning of our climate adaptation and mitigation decisions. I look forward to working with you to make the CSC an enduring success.

Best regards,
Alex

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[Here's to the crazy ones.](#)

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