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CSIRO Annual Report 2009–10

CSIRO

CSIRO – the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation – is one of the largest and most diverse scientific organisations in the world. It has over 6,600 staff located across 56 sites throughout Australia and overseas.

Our history

The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) was established in 1926 with its primary research devoted towards agriculture. In the late 1930s this was extended to include industrial research.

In 1949, the CSIR was reconstituted as CSIRO, and gradually expanded its activities so that its research was related to almost every field of primary, secondary and tertiary industry in Australia.

Today, CSIRO is a trusted source of creative ideas and practical technologies to deliver impact for the nation.

Our purpose

By igniting the creative spirit of our people, we deliver great science and innovative solutions for industry, society and the environment.

Responsible Minister



Senator the Honourable
Kim Carr
Minister for Innovation,
Industry, Science and
Research

Governing legislation

CSIRO is an Australian Government statutory authority constituted and operating under the provisions of the *Science and Industry Research Act 1949* (SIR Act).

This annual report is prepared in accordance with the requirements of the SIR Act and section 9 of the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* (CAC Act).

CSIRO Board

The CSIRO Board is responsible to the Australian Government, through the responsible Minister, for the overall strategy, governance and performance of CSIRO. Further details of the CSIRO Board are on pages 90–91.

What we do

CSIRO carries out scientific research in areas including energy, the environment, information technology, health, mining, manufacturing, agriculture, and natural resources. We seek to make a difference and generate impact by focusing on the nation's big challenges and opportunities. Our research delivers:

- integrated solutions to help address major national challenges
- technologies to transform or create new markets for Australian industry
- innovative technologies to improve the competitiveness of existing industries
- advice, information and research to meet specific community needs
- knowledge-based services to governments and businesses.

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Cover images: Scanning electron microscope image of an *Arabidopsis thaliana* leaf. *Arabidopsis thaliana* is used as a model organism in plant biology research and was the first plant to have its entire genome sequenced. ©Mark Talbot. A major study has provided new insights into the loss of structure in regions of the brain and its potential association with Alzheimer's disease. ©iStock. Australia's economic exclusion zone (EEZ) is illustrated on this globe map. Australia's EEZ is vast, some 11.1 million square kilometres. ©CSIRO

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Senator the Hon Kim Carr
Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research
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We have pleasure in submitting to you, for presentation to Parliament, the sixty-second Annual Report of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO). This report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Science and Industry Research Act 1949* and in accordance with section 9 of the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* (CAC Act).

Under section 9 of the CAC Act, CSIRO Board members are responsible for producing an annual report in accordance with the rules laid down in Schedule 1 of this Act, including a 'Report of Operations' prepared in accordance with the Finance Minister's Orders.

This report presents fairly the information required by the Minister for Finance and Deregulation as set out in the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies (Report of Operations) Orders 2008*.

The report has been approved for presentation to you, signed this 25th day of August 2010 in accordance with a resolution of the Board members.

The report includes an appendix comprising a report from the Chief Executive of CSIRO, as trustee of the Science and Industry Endowment Fund (the Fund), established under the *Science and Industry Endowment Act 1926*, on the operations of the Fund together with a report by the Auditor-General on the accounts of the Fund.

CSIRO is required to report developments since the end of the financial year. On 1 July 2010, the Divisions of Materials Science and Engineering, and Molecular and Health Technologies merged to form CSIRO Materials Science and Engineering and the Agribusiness Group was renamed Food, Health and Life Science Industries. Entomology merged with Sustainable Ecosystems to become Ecosystem Sciences within the Environment Group.

We commend the Organisation's achievements to you.

Handwritten signature of Simon McKeon in black ink.

Simon McKeon
Chairman of the Board

Handwritten signature of Megan Clark in black ink.

Megan Clark
Chief Executive

21 September 2010

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