This document was created in response to a Freedom of Information request made to CSIRO.

FOI Number: FOI2014/3

Date: 24/1/2014

Request: All correspondence, including e-mail, from Megan Clark of the CSIRO to the Industry Minister – since 8 September to 20 January 2014

Documents: 1-5

For more information, please refer to CSIRO’s FOI disclosure log at www.csiro.au/FOILog
Minister for Information
By 15 December - prior to commencement of acting arrangements

ACTING CSIRO CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Recommendation: That you note
- Acting CSIRO Chief Executive Arrangements during December 2013 to January 2014.

Key Points:
- To advise you of acting arrangements during my absence on leave during the period 16 December 2013 to 20 January 2014 inclusive.
- The CSIRO Board agreed at its meeting on 21 October 2013 that Mr Craig Roy, Deputy Chief Executive, Science, Strategy and People will be Acting Chief Executive during my absence.
- Mr Roy's office is located at the Riverside Corporate Park, 5 Julius Avenue, North Ryde, New South Wales and his contact details are Telephone: 02 9490 8561, and Mobile 0438 009 873.

Sensitivities:
- nil

Background:
- The CSIRO Board is required by Section 10G of the Science and Industry Research Act 1949 to approve acting arrangements for the Chief Executive.

Clearance Officer: Megan Clark
(02) 6276 6132 / 0408 465 508
Chief Executive
20 November 2013

Contact: Kimberley Shrives
(02) 6276 6682

Consultation: Nil
Activity: 

Slipstream version: 20 November 2013
18 November 2013

The Hon Ian Macfarlane MP
Minister for Industry
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Minister

Congratulations on your appointment as Minister for Industry.

Each year, CSIRO prepares for members of the Federal Parliament, an information pack to inform them on a small portion of our recent research successes as well to update them on where we are around the country. The 2013 pack has now been prepared and is attached.

Your CSIRO puts its excellent science into use to make a profound impact on the biggest challenges facing the nation across the areas of agriculture, resources, energy, food, biosecurity, oceans, manufacturing and the environment.

In providing this pack to all Parliamentarians this year, I have reaffirmed CSIRO’s commitment to continue our engagement with industry, continue to differentiate itself by focussing on the big, complex issues facing the nation, increase our partnerships and collaborations nationally and globally and to bring the very best of Australia together for the benefit of the nation.

I believe that the examples we have included in this pack are evidence of the value that CSIRO continues to create for Australia and I look forward to keeping you and your colleagues informed of our future successes.

Yours sincerely,

Megan Clark
12 November 2013

The Hon Ian Macfarlane MP
Minister for Industry
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Minister,
Yours sincerely,

Dr Megan Clark
Chief Executive
Attachment A: Australia Telescope National Facility (ATNF) Background

CSIRO's radio astronomy observatories are collectively known as the Australia Telescope National Facility, or ATNF. CSIRO operates the ATNF as a world-class radio astronomy facility for Australian and international researchers under guidelines originally established by the Australian Science and Technology Council. CSIRO has a long history of radio astronomy research dating back to the 1940s. In April 1990, the ATNF was formally created as a national facility. Until 30 November 2009 the ATNF operated as a CSIRO division in its own right. On 1 December 2009, ATNF activity became the responsibility of a new division, CSIRO Astronomy and Space Science (CASS), through which it is responsible via the CSIRO Executive to the Minister for Industry.

ATNF policy is shaped by the Australia Telescope Steering Committee (ATSC), an independent committee appointed by the Minister. The ATSC meets at least once a year to advise the ATNF Director on the broad directions of the ATNF's scientific activities and longer term strategies for the development of the ATNF. The ATSC appoints the Australia Telescope Users Committee and the Time Assignment Committee.

The telescopes
Parkes Observatory is home to the CSIRO Parkes 64-metre radio telescope. This telescope has been successfully operated since 1961. Upgrades to accommodate a 13-beam focal plane array have maintained its international standing as a state-of-the-art instrument.

CSIRO's Australia Telescope Compact Array is located at the Paul Wild Observatory near the town of Narrabri. Each of these antennas has a reflecting surface with a diameter of 22 metres. Another 22-metre antenna, known as the CSIRO Mopra telescope, is located near Coonabarabran.
A fourth CSIRO telescope, the Australian Square Kilometre Array Pathfinder (ASKAP), is located at the Murchison Radio-astronomy Observatory in Western Australia. ASKAP is made up of 36 antennas, each 12 metres in diameter, working together as a single instrument. Once complete, ASKAP will provide Australian and international astronomers with another world-leading instrument. It will also be operated by CSIRO as part of the ATNF.

CSIRO also manages the astronomy use of the Canberra Deep Space Communication Complex 70-m and 34-m antennas at Tidbinbilla. NASA/JPL makes approximately 5% of 70-m antenna time available to astronomical research programs.

In addition to operating independently, the ATNF radio telescopes can be used together (and sometimes in conjunction with other antennas in Australia and New Zealand) as a long baseline array for a technique known as Very Long Baseline Interferometry (VLBI).

Technical research and development supporting upgrades of the ATNF, as well as for the new ASKAP instrument, are conducted at CSIRO Astronomy and Space Science headquarters at Marsfield.

The Telescope Users
Each year the ATNF is used by about 400 astronomers from around 20 countries. Observers use the ATNF without charge in keeping with the general practice of the worldwide astronomy community, in which telescope users from different countries gain reciprocal access to facilities on the basis of merit. Observing time is awarded to researchers by a Time Assignment Committee (TAC). The TAC is appointed by the Australia Telescope Steering Committee. Telescope users are represented by the Australia Telescope Users Committee.
Attachment B: ATSC Current membership

Australia Telescope National Facility
Steering Committee Members 2013

CHAIRMAN

Prof Rachel Webster, University of Melbourne

MEMBERS

Ex-officio

Prof Warrick Couch, Director, Australian Astronomical Observatory
Dr David Williams, Group Executive, CSIRO Information Sciences Group
Dr Bronwyn Harch, Chief, CSIRO Computational Informatics (CCI)

Astronomers

Prof. Steven Tingay, Curtin Institute of Radio Astronomy
Prof. Brian Schmidt, Research School of Astronomy & Astrophysics, ANU

International Advisers

Dr Di Li, National Astronomical Observatories, Chinese Academy of Sciences
Prof Raffaella Morganti, ASTRON, the Netherlands
Prof Neal Evans, University of Texas at Austin, USA

Broader Community

Mr Noel Wainwright, Lockheed Martin
Mr Jim Noble, Department of Defence (retired)
21 October 2013

The Hon. Ian Macfarlane MP
Minister for Industry
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister


The Annual Report was provided to you on 2 October 2013 and you have subsequently approved the Report. However, CSIRO will not be able to table the Annual Report before the 31 October tabling deadline due to time constraints related to printing. CSIRO proposes a new tabling date of 13 November 2013.

For further information please contact Ms Kimberley Shrives, Manager CSIRO Ministerial and Parliamentary Liaison, on 02 6276 6682 or kimberley.shrives@csiro.au.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

Dr Megan Clark
Chief Executive
18 September 2013

The Hon Ian Macfarlane MP
Minister for Industry
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

On behalf of CSIRO, I am writing to congratulate you on your appointment as Minister for Industry.

As Australia’s national research organisation, CSIRO’s aim is to deliver profound and positive impact for Australia. We are proud of our 85 year record of science excellence and support for Australia, Australian industry and the Australian people.

I look forward to sharing with you more about how we are continuing to deliver solutions to the challenges and opportunities faced by society and how we are working to better place Australia for the challenges of the future.

I believe that CSIRO can continue to make an important contribution across the Federal Government in support of achieving positive outcomes for Australia. To this end, we stand ready to support you and your colleagues in the delivery of Government priorities and the attached briefing document provides more information on the depth and breadth of our research activities available to support this. In preparing this letter, I am particularly mindful of our long track record of research in support of Australia’s north, which I believe will be of value in the development of the Northern Australia White Paper and in the activities likely to be pursued by the proposed new Northern Australia Cooperative Research Centre. We will also work with the relevant parts of the new portfolio to support the development of the new Energy White Paper amongst other matters.

I would also like to take this opportunity to specifically thank you for the commitment the Government has made to the Sense-T project we are leading with the University of Tasmania in Tasmania and for the ongoing support of our southern ocean and marine research.

I look forward to meeting with you to provide a further briefing about CSIRO in the near future, but if there is anything that my team or I can assist with outside of this process, including organising visits to any of our sites around Australia, please do not hesitate to let me know.

I look forward to working with you.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Megan Clark