



SENATOR THE HON JAMES MCGRATH
ASSISTANT MINISTER TO THE PRIME MINISTER
ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR IMMIGRATION

Reference: MC16-022397

Professor Barbara Norman
ACT Climate Change Council
GPO Box 158
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Professor Norman

Thank you for your letter dated 2 March 2016 to the Prime Minister, the Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP, regarding the CSIRO. The Prime Minister has asked me to reply on his behalf.

The CSIRO is re-prioritising its research portfolio to reflect the new CSIRO Strategy 2020 "Australia's Innovation Catalyst". As an independent statutory agency governed by a board of directors, CSIRO's priorities are set by CSIRO senior management in conjunction with the board.

The CSIRO chairman, David Thodey, issued a media release on 19 February indicating that CSIRO will continue to operate the RV Investigator, work with partners to ensure no break in atmospheric measurements at Cape Grim, continue to contribute to the international Argo floats programme, and deliver on key contractual commitments, such as leadership of the Earth System Science and Climate Change Hub under the National Environmental Science Programme and contributions to the Integrated Marine Observing System.

In addition, the CSIRO has committed to continuing its significant contribution to research on major environmental priorities for Australia including climate change mitigation and adaptation research. The Government will work with the CSIRO to understand the implications of its recent decisions. The Australian Government is committed to continued research on climate science and climate modelling through significant funding for the National Environmental Science Programme, climate-related Antarctic research and Bureau of Meteorology climate activity.

Under the National Environmental Science Programme, \$23.9m is provided over six years to establish the Earth Systems and Climate Change Hub. The Hub is furthering our understanding of the drivers of Australia's climate, how the climate system has changed in the past, and how it may change in the future. More information on the National Environmental Science Programme can be found at: www.environment.gov.au/science/nesp

Yours sincerely



JAMES MCGRATH

19 / 4 / 2016