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Response due	

8 August 2014

The Hon Ian Hunter MLC
Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation
GPO Box 1047
Adelaide SA 5001

Dear Minister

I am writing to you on behalf of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) and in my capacity as the Chair of the CSIRO SA Animal Ethics Committee with regards to the Premier's decision to reform SA government boards and committees and your letter of 1 August requesting our response.

The AEC Chairs and Executive Officers group (the Group) have met and considered the proposal and various options. There were areas where the Group were unanimous in their views to retain AECs and the services of the Animal Welfare Unit within DEWNR. Those views are presented in a letter to you being sent separately by Dr Geoffrey W Dandie, CEO of ANZCCART. CSIRO endorses the position expressed in that letter.

CSIRO is further of the opinion that we would be equally comfortable whether the AECs were constituted as statutory bodies (i.e. established by the Minister and members appointed by the Minister at the recommendation of the host institutions) or as institutional bodies (i.e. established by the institutions and members appointed by the institutions), or indeed that both options are kept alive via a suitable amendment to the Animal Welfare Act. CSIRO hosts AECs in most states as animal welfare comes under the jurisdiction of the states and we are continually looking for efficiencies across the organisation.

I would be happy to provide further information as required.

Yours sincerely

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