



SENATOR THE HON PENNY WONG
Minister for Finance and Deregulation

REF:C10/2389

Dr [REDACTED]

Dear Dr [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter of 16 September 2010, concerning potential contraventions of the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* (CAC Act) and other Commonwealth laws. The alleged contraventions you described raise complex issues regarding the operations of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) and as a result required my department to seek independent advice on what laws may have been contravened.

Based on the information you provided, there appears to be a need to investigate possible contraventions of:

- civil penalty provisions under the CAC Act;
- the *Corporations Act 2001* (Corporations Act); and
- occupational health and safety laws regarding the duty to provide a safe work environment and the duty on individual employees to not engage in behaviour that puts other employees at risk.

As the Minister responsible for the CAC Act, I have asked my department to investigate your claims regarding the potential contraventions of the CAC Act. Also, my department will write to the Australian Securities and Investments Commission advising it of potential contraventions of the Corporations Act and to Comcare advising it of possible contraventions of the *Occupational Health and Safety Act 1991*.

Please also note that I have provided a copy of your letter to Senator the Hon Kim Carr, Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, as CSIRO's responsible Minister.



Thank you for bringing your concerns to my attention.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Penny Wong', written over the printed name.

Penny Wong

30 NOV 2010