

Australian CSIRO report CSIRO letter to P Gowen 17 May 11

----- Original Message -----

From: [Naomi.Boughen@csiro.au](mailto:Naomi.Boughen@csiro.au)

To: [pat.gowen@ntlworld.com](mailto:pat.gowen@ntlworld.com)

Cc: [Joanna.Parr@csiro.au](mailto:Joanna.Parr@csiro.au) ; [Richard.Parsons@csiro.au](mailto:Richard.Parsons@csiro.au)

Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2011 7:20 AM

Subject: RE: CSIRO investigating on impacts of an expanding Australian seafloor mining industry.

Dear Pat,

Thank you for your response to the report that my colleague Gillian Paxton recently sent you. Gillian has just moved into a new position outside of CSIRO, and I have been travelling with work commitment so I apologise for the delay of this response. I am continuing research in this area alongside my colleagues Joanna Parr and Richard Parsons.

You are right; the research to date has not reported on the potential impacts involved with the process of near-shore seafloor exploration and mining. This was not the purpose of our research. The purpose of our most recent phase of research has been to investigate the range of stakeholder views and experiences aligned to the near-shore seafloor exploration and mining industry. This work feeds into a wider research program that is looking to explore the impacts of seafloor exploration and mining: the work we have done exploring stakeholder attitudes and experiences is the first step. It is important to note that the research to date has been 100% funded by the Australian government through CSIRO; no funding from industry or otherwise has been used for this research.

The report that Gillian sent to you is one of five studies undertaken as part of this research phase. This research was designed to capture the issues and concerns stakeholders have, as well as an understanding of what information stakeholders require to make an informed decision about the acceptability of a specific proposal and the expansion of the industry in general; and whether these views and expectations differ from other mining activities i.e. onshore mining. This information will be used to guide future CSIRO research, but it is also hoped that it can inform policy makers and industry about the varying views that stakeholders have and the information gaps that currently exist.

I have attached a synthesis report, which brings together the findings of all of our studies. The heart of our findings is around the need for independent research and working hard to ensure that good scientific data are being supplied to all stakeholders to help make informed and reasoned decisions. Our ongoing studies will involve desktop and field-based research using CSIRO's marine ecologists to help assesses the potential impacts of near-shore seabed mining, and more widely the process of dredging. We are also working with a range of other relevant CSIRO researchers to design a suitable methodology to more actively investigate any other impacts.

I hope I have been able to clarify the purpose of our existing research and also provide you with some insight to its future direction. Stakeholder views will be an ongoing

component of our research, so your input is valuable. Please let me know if you have any further queries.

Kind regards,

Naomi Boughen