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Media Statement

### **CSIRO Job Cuts Undermine Australia's Future Prosperity and Security**

Independent MP Dr Sophie Scamps has expressed deep concern over the announcement of job cuts at CSIRO, warning that Australia's future prosperity and security are at risk if science continues to be undervalued.

"Science is the foundation for the jobs of the future," Dr Scamps said. "It underpins the technologies we need to tackle the climate crisis and energy transition and drive innovation across medicine, agriculture, minerals processing and recycling. Building sovereign capability in these areas is essential for our well-being, national security, future prosperity and economic competitiveness. During this era of unprecedented technology transition, it is essential that Australia invests and boosts our scientific capacity and workforce. Cutting it back will quite simply mean that Australia is left behind"

Dr Scamps said the cuts are the result of decades of underinvestment in Australia's national science agency.

"Successive governments have failed to adequately fund CSIRO, and these job losses are the inevitable fallout. CSIRO should be leading the way in innovation, but chronic funding shortfalls have left our leading scientific institution vulnerable."

She also called for urgent investment in STEM education from the earliest years.

"If we want to secure a strong future for Australian science, we must start with our youngest learners. High-quality, evidence-based STEM education in early childhood is vital. STEM is multifaceted - it teaches collaboration, creativity and critical thinking. Making early STEM education a national priority is the crucial first step in building the talent pipeline Australia needs."

**ENDS**

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