



PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY  
TO THE PRIME MINISTER

- 4 SEP 2014

Reference: C14/66395

Dr Madeleine M Laming  
President  
Australian Federation of Graduate Women Inc  
PO Box 90  
NEDLANDS WA 6009

Dear Dr Laming

Thank you for your letter dated 29 July 2014 to the Prime Minister, the Hon Tony Abbott MP, regarding science funding. The Prime Minister has asked me to reply on his behalf.

As the matter you raise falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Industry, the Hon Ian Macfarlane MP, your correspondence has been forwarded to him for consideration.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Josh Frydenberg', with a stylized flourish at the end.

JOSH FRYDENBERG



**THE HON IAN MACFARLANE MP**

**MINISTER FOR INDUSTRY**

PO BOX 6022  
PARLIAMENT HOUSE  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

23 SEP 2014

MC14-003316

Dr Madeleine Laming  
President  
Australian Federation of Graduate Women Inc  
PO Box 90  
NEDLANDS WA 6009

Dear Dr Laming *Madeleine*

Thank you for your letter of 29 July 2014 to the Prime Minister, the Hon Tony Abbott MP, concerning funding for the Commonwealth Scientific Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) which has been referred to me as the Minister with portfolio responsibility for science.

The Australian Government recognises the value of scientific research to Australia and is investing around \$5.8 billion over the forward estimates for science and research in my portfolio, including over \$3 billion for CSIRO to continue its work across a range of industries. Advice about multiple decreases in CSIRO's funding is incorrect. The \$111 million savings measure has been offset by new funds of \$65.7 million for CSIRO to operate and maintain the new boat, *RV Investigator*.

I note your concern about CSIRO jobs and research. Staffing in CSIRO alters due to changing research priorities, industry demand for research and research support effectiveness and efficiency, as well as financial impacts. CSIRO is minimising the impact of funding cuts on radio astronomy particularly for the priority Square Kilometre Array (SKA) project, and will seek to restore the Bolton Fellowship in future. CSIRO is largely maintaining its research effort in key food and sustainable agriculture areas including in food processing technology and food safety.

The Government understands the importance of science, technology, engineering and mathematics to Australia's future prosperity. The Prime Minister has noted publicly that capacity in these disciplines lies at the heart of Australia's competitiveness. Accordingly, he has established a Ministerial Taskforce to develop an Industry Innovation and Competitiveness Agenda, which focuses on initiatives to promote national competitiveness and productivity, including options to encourage innovation and research and development.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian Macfarlane'.

Ian Macfarlane