



The Hon Christian Porter MP

Minister for Industry, Science and Technology

MC21-002904

The Hon Bob Katter MP
Member for Kennedy
PO Box 1638
INNISFAIL QLD 4860

Dear ~~Mr Katter~~ 

Thank you for your letter of 27 April 2021 concerning CSIRO's facilities between Townsville and Darwin. I appreciate and share your interest in the quality research CSIRO produces that benefits industries and communities in northern Australia.

By way of background, as Australia's independent national science agency, CSIRO has a significant property footprint in northern Australia, with sites in Townsville, Atherton, Cairns and Darwin. CSIRO is required to actively manage all of its sites at arm's length from Government, with decisions about its property footprint made periodically and for the purpose of ensuring that it is able to continue to deliver the best possible science, from facilities in locations that allow it to achieve the greatest impact.

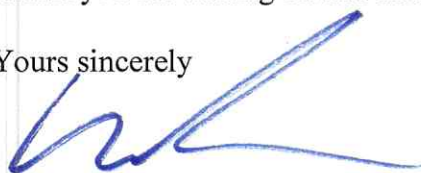
In line with this approach, I am informed that CSIRO is pursuing the continued expansion of the Australian Tropical Sciences and Innovation Precinct (ATSIP), located at James Cook University (JCU) in Townsville. I am advised that as part of this expansion, CSIRO made the decision to close its Atherton site by mid-2022, with work and staff from Atherton to be consolidated at the ATSIP. This includes offering permanent staff from Atherton a transfer to the ATSIP in Townsville. Throughout this process, I have been assured that staff wellbeing is front of mind, with staff being supported and kept up to date through regular communication and site visits. CSIRO has further confirmed that the Townsville, Cairns and Darwin sites will not be otherwise affected by the ATSIP expansion work.

Delivering for northern Australia – and the issues of particular interest to the region – remains a priority for the Australian Government and CSIRO.

CSIRO has recently re-appointed a Northern Australian Research Leader based in Darwin, who will continue to drive CSIRO's expansion across energy, minerals, service delivery, agriculture, digital futures, environment and sustainable resource development. It has also renewed its joint venture with JCU and the Queensland Government to deliver the Australian Tropical Herbarium through to 2025, and invested in Northern Agricultural Futures, with research leaders based in Townsville.

Thank you for writing on this matter.

Yours sincerely



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