

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Legislation Committee**  
Answers to questions on notice  
**Environment portfolio**

**Question No:** 160  
**Hearing:** Supplementary Budget Estimates  
**Outcome:** Outcome 4  
**Programme:** Science  
**Topic:** CSG BORE WELL INTEGRITY  
**Hansard Page:** N/A  
**Question Date:** 29 October 2014  
**Question Type:** Written

**Senator Waters asked:**

The SKM report did not involve any new on the ground research of the risks to groundwater from CSG. Are you concerned that the Government is putting itself in a wilfully blind position, when on the one hand it accepts industry rhetoric Australia's so different that the CSG impacts on water and communities overseas won't happen here, and yet you're not funding the new on-ground work needed to understand what the real risks are here?

**Answer:**

Office of Water Science commissioned two bore integrity projects on the advice of the IESC. The published Background Review on bore construction, integrity, monitoring, reporting, decommissioning and legacy issues in Australia was intended to establish the current state of knowledge on the topic. The second activity has produced a detailed literature review on bore integrity monitoring and management, with a focus on water bores and CSG wells, and a methodology to assess and quantify bore integrity failure rate. These reports were produced to inform further stages of the project. The Department is now considering the need, feasibility and potential scope of future work.