

**Economics Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
Industry, Innovation and Science Portfolio  
2015-16 Additional Budget Estimates  
11 February 2016

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**AGENCY:** CSIRO

**TOPIC:** Farmers to dowse or divine water

**REFERENCE:** Written Question - Senator

**QUESTION No.:** AI-163

When Dr Marshall was appointed, he gave an interview in which he expressed an interest in the potential for farmers to dowse or divine for water.

- a. Is this going to become a new area of research activity following the changes announced on 4 February?
- b. Is there any scientific evidence to support this as an area for productive research in the national interest?

**ANSWER**

- a. No. Dr Marshall said in the interview that he wondered whether it would be possible to build instrumentation that could detect water underground. There are currently two techniques for doing this being used by CSIRO's researchers, but no new research planned in this area.
- b. Yes, potentially, see answer at (a).