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20 April 2016

Ms Lyn Beverley
Committee Secretary
Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee
Senate Select Committee into the Scrutiny of Government Budget Measures

Dear Ms Beverley

On reviewing the proof transcript of evidence I gave to the Committee at the public hearing into the Scrutiny of Government Budget Measures in Canberra on Thursday, 7 April 2016 I have determined that a piece of information I provided requires correction to make it complete and accurate.

CHAIR: When were you first aware of the role at CSIRO, the opportunity for CEO; and can you tell the committee how that came about? Were you approached by headhunters? Did you read about it in EthicalJobs? How did it happen?

Dr Marshall: I was made aware of it by Megan.

CHAIR: By who, sorry?

Dr Marshall: By Megan Clark, the current CEO—aware of her stepping down.

CHAIR: Can you tell the committee roughly when that occurred—when you became aware of that? Obviously, the chief's tenure was up so—

Dr Marshall: I think some time the year before.

CHAIR: In 2014, and you were in the US at that stage?

Dr Marshall: I was.

CHAIR: What was the process following that? Did the board ask you to apply or did the government ask you to apply; did you seek out CSIRO or did someone approach you about this?

Dr Marshall: No. There was a headhunter, and I did not think probably much about it apart from the conversation about Megan leaving. At some point in the year before, I called the headhunter and just sort of asked them about the position—what was going on.

I have recalled, since the Hearing, that the very first mention to me that the Chief Executive position at CSIRO had been advertised was a reference in passing by an ex-CSIRO employee, followed by forwarding of an email which apparently went to CSIRO alumni - which led me to call the recruiter (and others including the CEO) cited in the email. These events were in March 2014. CSIRO contacted the former staff member to follow up with them – that person doesn't have a specific recollection of that conversation, but does not demure from the possibility that it might have happened. I provided the email in question which was dated 6/3/14, to CSIRO for corroboration.

Yours sincerely

Dr Larry Marshall
Chief Executive, CSIRO