

**Economics Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
Industry Portfolio  
Budget Estimates Hearing 2014-15  
2-3 June 2014

---

**AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:** CSIRO

**TOPIC:** Wine and Grape Research

**REFERENCE:** Question on Notice (Hansard, 2 June 2014, page 16)

**QUESTION No.:** BI-4

**Senator CARR:** The grapes and horticultural facility at Merbein?

**Dr Clark:** If you are referring to Merbein, that was closed in 2009.

**Senator CARR:** What has happened to the grape vine connection?

**Senator Ronaldson:** 2009 would have been under you?

**Senator CARR:** That is right.

**Dr Clark:** I would need to take that on notice, because I would need to revisit it. It was something we were covering in 2009-10. But what I can say is that our Waite facility in South Australia is undertaking much of our wine and grape research. It has recently been reviewed. It works with the wine industry. As you will be aware, at the Waite campus we have a major partnership with the wine industry and the wine research centres that are based there in South Australia.

**ANSWER**

Following the closure of the Merbein laboratory, research on wine grapes and grapevine rootstocks is now conducted from Adelaide, and the CSIRO Irymple research farm in Victoria is an important resource for that work, holding the grapevine collection and a number of trials on wine grapes and grapevine rootstocks. Evaluation of selections from the former CSIRO dried grape breeding program has been successfully transferred to industry and is run by Dried Fruits Australia (DFA) with funding from the dried grapes industry through Horticulture Australia Ltd. Evaluation of selections from the former CSIRO table grape breeding program has also been successfully transferred to industry, and is now run by the Australian Table Grapes Association (ATGA) with funding from the table grape industry through Horticulture Australia Ltd. The dried grape and table grape material for evaluation is held on the CSIRO Irymple research farm. The CSIRO provides advice to DFA and ATGA on the evaluation process.

Please also refer to AI-35 of 15 February 2012.