

# THREATENED SPECIES SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

*Established under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*

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Senator Grogan  
Chair  
Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Grogan

On Friday 26 May 2023 I appeared as a witness before the Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee Estimates hearing and following review of the Hansard transcript, I would like to provide three factual corrections to the Committee.

**Correction 1:** During the hearing Senator Davey said in relation to in-person meetings with the Minister:

*“This was asked at the last estimates, and the answer to the question on notice showed that there hadn’t been any physical meeting. Have you had a meeting with the minister since March?”*

In response I said:

*“I met with Minister Plibersek, for quite a long meeting, actually, in July last year, and there was a second meeting, which was attended by my deputy chair because I was overseas, on I think it was 25 November last year.”*

I wish to correct this answer to: *“I met with Minister Plibersek, for quite a long meeting, actually, in July last year, and there was a second meeting, which was attended by my deputy chair because I was overseas, on I think it was 30 November last year.”*

**Correction 2:** During the hearing Senator Whish-Wilson asked in relation to the Maugean skate:

*“Dr Fraser said that she understands the very dire situation for the skate, especially following the interim report put out by IMAS a couple of weeks ago. Has the committee noted that report, Professor Marsh?”*

In response I said:

*“Indeed, I spoke this morning with the director of the marine and coastal national environmental science hub about this matter.”*

I wish to correct this answer to: *“Indeed, I spoke this morning with a director of the National Environmental Science Program Marine and Coastal Hub about this matter.”*

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**Correction 3:** During the hearing Senator Pocock said in relation to the Threatened Species Action Plan target 8: Feral cats and foxes are managed across all important habitats for susceptible priority species using best practice methods.

*“I’m interested in your assessment of where we’re at currently with that, and how much work is needed in that area.”*

In response I said:

*“There is a new feral cat threatened species action plan being considered at our next meeting, in two weeks time.”*

I wish to correct this answer to: *“There is a new feral cat Threat Abatement Plan being considered at our next meeting, in two weeks time.”*

I apologise for the error in my answers and trust this further information will be of assistance to the Committee. The remainder of my answers to the questions, given at the hearing, are correct.

Yours sincerely

Emeritus Professor Helene Marsh AO FAA FTSE FRZS FQA  
Chair  
Threatened Species Scientific Committee

16 June 2023