



Australian Government
**Department of Agriculture,
Water and the Environment**

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

Dear Senator Bragg

Having reviewed the transcript of Supplementary Budget Estimates hearing conducted by the Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee on 25 October 2021, the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment would like to provide one factual correction to the Committee.

During the hearing Senator Hanson-Young said in relation to the protection of the southern emu wren and the impact on this particular bird given the proposed rocket launch in Whalers Way in South Australia.

‘It’s been on the threatened list since 2000. That is 21 years ago. It still hasn’t had a recovery plan, so now we’ve decided it could have a conservation advice, and we still don’t know whether it is actually considered to be endangered.’

In response Cassandra Kennedy said

‘It’s certainly already listed as vulnerable. But it is under reassessment by the TSSC for whether or not that uplisting might need to happen. That’s due in the next year. To clarify: in 2000 there wasn’t a requirement under the EPBC Act. Recovery plans weren’t an option then.’

I wish to correct this answer.

‘It’s certainly already listed as vulnerable. But it is under reassessment by the TSSC for whether or not that uplisting might need to happen. That’s due in the next year. To clarify, in 2000 the EPBC Act did not provide for the option of a Conservation Advice.’

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

Yours sincerely

Troy Czabania
Assistant Secretary
Governance and Parliamentary Business Branch
Corporate and Business Services Division

9 December 2021